

March 31, 2017



LAS NOTICIAS



Cultivating Justice Owning Our Story

John Calvin famously begins his Institutes of the Christian Religion in a surprising way, (for one whose reputation is rooted in dogmatic beliefs), by positing that there can be no knowledge of God without knowledge of self, and no knowledge of self without knowledge of God. This surprising beginning to our Reformed theological heritage sounds almost modern; could Calvin have predicted our culture's turn toward the psychological?

What fascinates me in Calvin's premise is the necessary interplay between God and self. Too often we assume that our beliefs are "objective," "logic driven," and "without bias." In such moments, we fool only ourselves. The reality is that social and spiritual often merge, ethical and theological blend, our practice is driven as much by pituitary concerns as principle.

One of my favorite metaphors for spiritual formation is the comparison of the mirror and the window. It is easier to gaze out the window at your sin, your faults, your brokenness than to glance in the mirror at my sin, my faults, my brokenness. Even to glance into the mirror requires me to recognize that my beliefs are not as objective as I suppose, that my emotions play as large a role as logic, that my biases are children of my experiences.

Let me suggest that both a stare into the mirror and a searching look out the window are necessary components of cultivating a just society. Unless and until I own my story I cannot embrace our story or their story. Unless and until I own that my "privileged" childhood implanted into me unseen biases never will I be able to acknowledge the struggles endured by others raised without food security, without parents who read to them every night as children, without the multiple and myriad ways I have been blessed.

One of my formative experiences in owning my story was when I taught a children's Bible club in inner-city Philadelphia as a college intern. I cannot forget the moment we resumed the club after a man had been shot at the other end of the open-air courtyard, after the police had come, after the ambulance had taken a man's body to the morgue. Seven-year old Nathan sat on my lap as my co-teacher resumed telling the story of King David; Nathan was hardly listening. "Mr. Brad," he said with tears filling his eyes, "I am only seven years old and already that is the second man I seen shot." This was the moment I began to see that I had more to learn about God, life and the way of Jesus than I had previously imagined.

I continue to need to remember that my own perception of the good and just life is limited, finite, imbalanced because of the paltry amount of personal experience I have lived. It is because of this that I continue to need to hear others in their perceptions of the good and just life, to listen as others tell their stories of seeking dignity, searching to live honorably, hoping to provide for their families in ways that Jesus would affirm. Unless and until I look out the window to see them in their humanity, I can never fully participate in cultivating justice according to the way of Jesus.

What on earth are we doing for heaven's sake,
Brad Munroe



Registration continues for the upcoming Arizona Benefits Connection to be held on Thursday, April 27th at Valley Presbyterian Church in Paradise Valley. The goal is to gather between 40 and 50 pastors, administrators, and personnel committee members (and Presbytery Staff!) for this important offering. Pat Haines, Executive Vice President for Benefits, and Andy Browne, Vice President for Church Relations will be joining Clayton Cobb for the day. [To register, click here.](#)

CHURCH NEWS

NORTHMINSTER

Northminster invites you to come party!
Neighborhood Easter Party

Saturday, April 8, on the campus of Cragin Elementary School.
This FREE Easter celebration is open to everyone and is sure to be a blast! Fun games and activities for all ages! The Gospel Rescue Mission' Red Shepherd will be providing hot dogs! Plus, face painting, music, and more! Special feature-Live Butterfly Release at 11am! Grab your friends and come out to play!
[For more information, click here](#)

ST. ANDREW'S

The Youth Ministry is currently accepting applications for Volunteer and Paid Interns this summer! Interns will spend the summer learning and serving in the Youth Ministry while growing in their own personal faith! High School students who have completed their sophomore year are invited to apply to be a Volunteer Intern. Young Adults who graduated from High School qualify to apply to be a Paid Intern. More information and applications are available online at www.sapcyouth.com. Applications are due Thursday, May 4.

CHRIST

Market on the Move Saturday March 25th 8:00 am-11:00 am will be located in the front parking lot. \$10 buys up to 60 lbs of fresh produce.

MOUNTAIN SHADOWS

welcomes all to two upcoming Wednesday Lenten Series, led by Pastor Rachel Srubas

Want your church's activities promoted? Add us to your newsletter mailing list!
pbyoffice@gmail.com



The YAV Steering Committee needs YOU! Please contact Ali at
tucsonborderlandsyav@gmail.com to talk about serving.

[Our Mission Partners](#)

PRAYERS

Blessings to our churches during this Easter Season

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Click on each event for more info)

APRIL

- 8- CWU honors Alison Harrington
 - [21- Ignite the Spark](#)
 - 22- Presbytery- Christ Presbyterian
 - 25- Board of Pensions Retiree luncheon, Trinity
 - 27- Arizona Benefits Connection- Phoenix
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MONTLURE

It's time to register your kids for summer camp at Camp Colton, Flagstaff.

Sr Hi 1 6/19-6/24
Jr Hi 1 7/10- 7/15
Jr Hi 2 6/12 - 6/17
Juniors 6/25 -6/29
www.montlure.org

[Click to see Jobs](#)

JOBS/OPPORTUNITIES

Immanuel Office Manager

Click the link above for a listing of jobs and other opportunities

HELPFUL LINKS

Donate to MEPF

Board of Pensions- [March](#)

La Prensa- **PW Newsletter**

Brad Munroe, Presbytery Pastor

Bob Schulz, Assoc/Stated Clerk

Carolyn McBurney, Office Manager

Harry Tuck, Finance Manager

Beth Kath, Admin. Assoc.

Revs. Bob Seel and Lee Sankey, Presbytery Executive Emeritus

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