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Montlure, Presbytery meeting and more!

April 14, 2017



LAS NOTICIAS

Good Friday

Excerpted and adapted, with permission, from the Rev. Bart Smith

I appreciate what the Jesuit liberation theologian, Jon Sobrino, wrote about the cross:

What does Jesus' cross really say? It says that God has irrevocably drawn near to this world, that he is a God "with us" and a God "for us." And to say this with the maximum clarity he lets himself be a God "at our mercy... There can be no logic, only faith."

This story-the whole story, all parts of it-hold up a mirror to us. In its harsh light, we see the truth of what humanity is capable. We can see ourselves in Pilate washing his hands saying, "I'm just doing my job."

We can see our reflection in Peter's betraying a friend because of his fear. We can see ourselves in the other disciples, as they flee; in Mary, who faces the agony of losing a child. We can see our reflection in the fickle crowds who shout "Hosanna!" one day and "Crucify him!" a mere few days later. It's all there: disloyalty, dodging responsibility, mob rule, persecution, blaming, bloodshed... you name it. I'll quote Jon Sobrino again: "the cross of Jesus points us to the crosses that exist today." The cross points to other crosses. Like other deaths, Jesus' death says, "Don't look away."



- Don't look away from the crosses that our mission partners down at Frontera de Cristo lift up along the border Tuesday evenings at sunset, shouting "Presente!" after the names of people who have died crossing the desert are read aloud.
- Don't look away from our coworker or classmate who is constantly made to feel like an outsider, to the sneers of others.
- Don't look away from the face of that person holding a cardboard sign by the exit ramp.
- Don't look away from the young women who are victims of human trafficking, around the globe and down the street
- Don't look away from the statistics of disproportionately incarcerated people of color or young men of color who are killed with impunity.
- And thinking specifically about this week, don't look away from the photos of Syrian children killed by chemical weapons, the same faces of children who wouldn't be welcomed as refugees to the country that fired missiles in their defense. Don't look away from the dark irony of that.

Examples of other crosses are limitless. There's no need to name them here; we know them all too well. We don't want to look into these "mirrors" because they're overwhelming, and shameful. The cross gives us an unvarnished look, not at sin in the abstract, but at the specific harm we cause one another, the violence of our systems of domination, the scapegoats we have the need to blame. I'm speaking of this in a collective sense, but it applies to our interpersonal lives as well.

The cross is a mirror for all the ways that we break God's heart-a heart that still, somehow, has enough love in it to try to coax the world into being better than it is. Yet, somehow, as the Apostle Paul wrote, "The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God."

It's Friday...and we shall not look away,
Brad Munroe

HAVE YOU REGISTERED ON LINE?

**Stated Meeting of Presbytery
Saturday, April 22
9:00 am**

Christ Presbyterian Church

[Please pre-register by clicking here.](#) This is required of anyone wanting to eat lunch. Thanks!

- Worship and Celebration of the Lord's Supper
 - Voting on GA Amendments
 - Examination of Inquirer
 - 223rd GA Commissioner nominees
 - Young Adult Volunteer reports
 - Celebration of Ordination Anniversaries
- NOTE: Please register here with your plans to attend to help us get an accurate food count
- Ignite the Spark on Friday will feature David Ezekiel, Ford Fellow at San Francisco Theological Seminary's Center for Innovation in Ministry. [Register for Ignite the Spark here](#)



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

ST. ANDREW'S

The Moonlight Dinner & Auction is the Youth Program's biggest fundraiser of the year. Funds raised go to Youth Missions, Youth Scholarships, and our Youth Intern Program. It will be held April 29 at 6:00 pm in Friendship Hall.

FAITH

May 7th is the next "Church has left the building" pilgrimage. They will be visiting the local (Sierra Vista area) organizations that members' donations of time and money support, including the Good Neighbor Alliance, St Vincent de Paul (Food Bank and the Assistance Office), and the Nursing Homes we support. The Forgach House will make a presentation to the entire church at Fellowship Hour after the "Pilgrims" return.

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



Rev. Mark Adams, Mission Co-Worker with Frontera de Cristo has been in Washington, DC as part of the Southern Border Communities Coalition. The delegation is sharing what is really going on at the border, so lawmakers can be prepared to make informed policy decisions.



[Our Mission Partners](#)

PRAYERS

- Easter blessings to all of our congregations!

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Click on each event for more info)

APRIL

[21- Ignite the Spark](#)

22- Presbytery- Christ Presbyterian

[25- Board of Pensions Retiree luncheon. Trinity- RSVP](#)

[27- Arizona Benefits Connection- Phoenix](#)



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

[Montlure also has jobs! Click here for more info](#)

[Click to see Jobs](#)

JOBS/OPPORTUNITIES

[Frontera de Cristo Office Manager](#)

[Immanuel Office Manager](#)

[Hymnals to give away](#)

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

HELPFUL LINKS

[Donate to MEPF](#)

Board of Pensions- [April](#)

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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