

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

....and more!

July 28,



LAS NOTICIAS



On Being Presbyterian Partners in Mission

What does it mean to be "Presbyterian"? Some will answer this question based on a shared theological consensus reflected in the Book of Confessions: from Nicaea to Barmen and beyond our perspective on the Faith is that all things belong to God - first, last and always! Others will answer this question based on a shared polity reflected in our Book of Order: there is much truth to the old saw about Presbyterians liking to do it decently and in order (but what is "it"?). I want to answer this question based on shared

mission.

Did you notice that in each of the above responses, we find the word "shared"? To be Presbyterian is to be connected with others: proclaiming a shared theological heritage, governed by a shared polity, expressing ourselves in shared mission.

One of the reasons Presbyterians have "shared mission partnerships" is theological. In John 17:20-21, Jesus prays,

I pray...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

I hear in these verses both Jesus' expressed ideal for our unity, that it may reflect the Triune Oneness of God, and Jesus' intention that our unity may be expressed in our mission, that our "sentness" by Jesus in John 20:2 reflect his own mission of redemptive love, salvation and shalom, justice and joy.

Within the Presbytery de Cristo we have seven shared missions: two ministries work on the border (Frontera de Cristo and Companeros en Mision), two ministries work with young adults (YAVs or Young Adult Volunteers, or PCM, or Presbyterian Campus Ministry), and three ministries work as immigrant or racial-ethnic congregations (Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship, the Korean Presbyterian Church of Tucson, and the Papago United Presbyterian Church of Sells). Each of these our shared mission partnerships have at least two things in common: they minister Christ's love to economically fragile communities and are themselves financially fragile.

The fragility of all our mission partners is mirrored by the fragility of our congregations, which bear the burden of helping our partners minister God's love to others. You and your congregation enable our mission partners to speak Christ's love, discern the Spirit's guidance, and enact the will of God in the lives of their people. At least, this is the ideal: your congregation sending our mission partners into the world.

The reality is somewhat different. The reality of our congregation - mission partner relationships are that they appear to be tenuous, underdeveloped, and uneven. Some congregations connect with YAVs or PCM while other congregations connect with our border ministries, and still others have no connection at all. Congregations with robust relationship with a mission partner support that partner, while other partners languish. What, then, shall do?

I have no desire to cast blame but an intense interest to respond helpfully to the fragility experienced by our mission partners. What shall we do? What should "they" do? What can you do? I have some ideas about how to answer these questions, but prefer first to hear your ideas. What do you think needs to happen to express our unity in faith through unity in mission with these our brothers and sisters?

Grace and peace,

Brad Munroe

THE **Big** EVENT

REGISTRATION DEADLINE AUGUST 1st
Over 20 Workshops from which to choose!

**Saturday, August 12 in conjunction with the
Stated Presbytery meeting**

*Valley Presbyterian
6947 E. McDonald Dr.
Paradise Valley*

[List of Workshops](#)

[REGISTER](#)

(Deadline August 1)

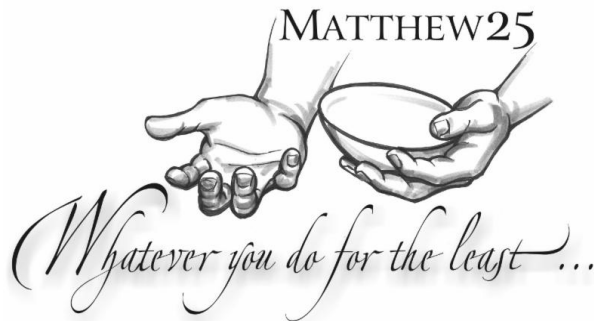
**A Three Year Cycle of Workshops
Aimed at Initiating
Congregational Renewal**

Ignite the Spark



**Friday, August 11
Valley Presbyterian 6947 E. McDonald Dr., Paradise Valley**

This daylong workshop, conducted by communications professionals on the Presbyterian Mission Agency staff, will give you tips and techniques to better reach your audience. We'll offer insights and guidelines on creating a communications plan for your congregation, discuss the "do's and don'ts" of media relations and "pitching" stories to your local media. You'll learn proven techniques for using social media tools like Facebook and Twitter and leave with tips that will make your communications more effective and help increase your reach. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



**ANNUAL MATTHEW 25 OFFERING
TO Benefit Border Ministries
August 12 at the Presbytery
meeting**

Food Packs
Socks Adult and Children (Children ages 6-12)
Hygiene Packs
Cleaning Supplies

CHURCH NEWS

NORTHMINSTER

is celebrating Christmas in July by taking up a Special Offering - The Christmas Joy Offering is traditionally received during the Advent Season, but to help sustain the important PC(USA) ministries and programs that are supported by the Christmas Joy Offering they are inviting members to make a gift this Sunday.

ST. ANDREW'S

The St. Andrew's Orchestra will begin rehearsing for the year in a few weeks. If you have played an orchestral instrument, consider leading God's praise through music with this ensemble. 2017 appearances of the orchestra in worship are: September 10, October 22, the Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 9, and December 24. If you have questions or for a list of rehearsal dates and times, please contact Mark Gary at markg@sapctucson.org or visit our webpage sapctucson.org/orchestra.

TRINITY

will host Elmarie & Scott Parker at a Mission Coworker Luncheon on Wednesday August 23 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Elmarie is the regional liaison for Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. The luncheon will be a catered lunch. RSVP to office@trinitytucson.org by Monday August 14 so that they will have the number for catering.

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

The Rev. Georges Bitar leads worship in
Arabic each Sunday for the Middle
Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship



They meet at Northminster Presbyterian Church.

[Our Mission Partners](#)



PRAYERS

- YAV volunteers as they complete there service here

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Click on each event for more info)

AUGUST

[11-Ignite the Spark- Communications Workshop](#)

12- [The Big Event- Valley. Paradise Valley](#)

OCTOBER

28- Nov 4- [Border to Border Event- Frontera de Cristo](#)

[Click to see Jobs](#)

JOBS/OPPORTUNITIES

[St. Mark's Facilities Coordinator](#)

[St. Andrew's- several positions](#)

[Hymnals to give away](#)

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

HELPFUL LINKS

[Donate to MEPF](#)

[Board of Pensions- July](#)

[La Prensa- PW Newsletter](#)

[Weekly PC\(USA\) News](#)

[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
Presbytery de Cristo | pbyoffice@gmail.com | 602-468-3820 | www.presbyterydecristo.org

Subscribe to Las Noticias

Presbytery of Grand Canyon/de Cristo, 4141 E. Thomas Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85018

SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by pbyoffice@gmail.com in collaboration with



Try it free today

