



LAS NOTICIAS

Bending with the Wind New Dollars for New Ideas for a New Day



I have a willow tree in my back yard. It is a rather extraordinary tree, providing shade while we have breakfast on our patio, sprouting bright, pink blossoms at a certain time of the year, and offering shelter to a menagerie of birds. Our willow doesn't look like the strongest tree in the desert, nor would one guess that it is extraordinary upon first glance. It simply withstands all manner of challenge: strong winds, brutal heat, home owner neglect, to name a few.

Our willow reminds me of the church. We're not always much to look at, though we have our seasons when we blossom. Our branches are thinner than they used to be, but we continue to offer shelter to all manner of God's creation. We encounter strong winds and endure, bending but not breaking before challenges that tempt to overwhelm us. When faced with the challenge of overwhelming winds, the Church is aided by new winds of the Spirit.

Last year at this time I began to talk about congregational revitalization; what we are calling the Thrive Project. The work of revitalization continues still, as the need to confront new challenges remains and God's Spirit never stops leading and guiding. There are seven churches between the two presbyteries who have officially covenanted to participate in the Thrive Project, and still others who, unofficially, are adapting parts of the Thrive Project resources for their ministries. That's not a huge number, only a bit of leaven, so the question arises: "What about the rest of us?"

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Registration is open for the January Presbytery meeting

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE PRESBYTERY MEETING

- Worship and Celebration of the Lord's Supper
- Installation of Moderators-Jim Nelson (de Cristo) and Carol Gerlach (Grand Canyon)
- Commissioning of: Triennium participants, CREs, Thrive congregations
- Dedication of Pledges
- Rev. Bill Brown and Rev. Tom Letts- Congregational Renewal
- Annual meetings of the Presbyteries



[CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION ON AMENDMENTS TO BE VOTED UPON](#)
(Can be found under Presbytery link on website)

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

CALL FOR OPEN SPACE DISCUSSION GROUPS FOR PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

If your church-related group would like to be a part, complete and return an application form by January 15 to be included. Discussion roundtables would take place on Friday afternoon of Presbytery.

IGNITE THE SPARK! Wonder & Sacrifice Embracing for Ministry



Friday, January 25, 2019

9 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 161 N Mesa Dr., Mesa

Dr. Bill Brown, is the William Marcellus McPheeters Professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary and, more importantly, a member of Presbytery de Cristo. Dr. Brown's most recent book is *Sacred Sense: Discovering the Wonder of God's Word and World*, (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2015). He will present on the connection between our theology of wonder and the work of discernment for ministry.

The Rev. Tom Letts is a Presbyterian pastor, church consultant, and 1,001 New Worshipping Communities coach. As both a church pastor and church planter, the Rev. Letts seeks to engage parishioners in reality-tested decision-making. He will present on how data and demographics lead us to define ministry targets and get real about our commitments.

[Click here for more information and to register](#)



A new way to support Triennium online!

There is a link on the de Cristo homepage WWW.PRESBYTERYDECRISTO.ORG along the right-hand edge. Click on the Link "Donate to Triennium 2019" or [CLICK HERE!](#)

SAVE THE DATE! A TASTE OF CHIAPAS

Friday, FEBRUARY 15, 2019

5-8 p.m.

St. Pius X Catholic Church, 1800 N Camino Decimo, Tucson



[More Information](#)

CHURCH NEWS

FIRST, CASA GRANDE

Seeds of Hope made a difference in over 1,000 people's lives last year. Make plans to join the 5K walk/run/vendor fair on Saturday, January 5. The church will also be hosting the annual fundraising dinner again at Robson Ranch on February 16 at Robson Ranch. Individual tickets are \$50 or \$450 for a table of 10. Contact the church office for details. (520) 836-5981

THE HOLY WAY

Winter Study: Half Truths This 5 week study by Rev. Adam Hamilton compares common Christian clichés with the wisdom found in scripture. We'll use DVD segments and scripture to engage each week's saying. This class will meet Tuesdays at 1:00pm in the Conference Room, beginning January 22 and ending February 19. If you plan to attend, please sign up in the narthex!

COMPANEROS EN MISION

Refugee assistance is happening in Nogales. Refugees have arrived at the Dennis Deconcini Port of Entry and are waiting quietly and patiently for their cases to be heard. Compañeros en Misión and its Nogales church, Iglesia Presbiteriana Sol de Justicia (Sun of Justice Presbyterian Church) have joined other humanitarian aid organizations such as Kino Border Initiative, to feed them. Pastor Jorge Pazos writes that they are mostly women and children. Pastor Jorge thanks God for those who make food preparation possible. If you are interested in helping with purchasing food for this mission you can send a check to Compañeros en Misión and mark it "Immigrant Project" at 249 N. Rodriguez, Nogales, Arizona 85628.



Please keep the following in your prayers:

- The Presbytery de Cristo in the new year
 - Each of the congregations of the presbytery
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Calling all Congregations!

HAS YOUR CHURCH PRAYERFULLY
CONSIDERED YOUR CHANCE TO THRIVE? [Click
here for more information](#)

Job Opportunities

Church Pews for Sale

Upcoming Events

JANUARY

- 25- Ignite the Spark- [Register here](#)
25-26- Combined Presbytery meeting Mesa First- [Register here](#)

THIS WEEK'S PCUSA NEWS

[Board of Pensions](#)

[Lenten Study- Lighten Up with the Humor of Jesus](#)

Visit our Website

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