

*November 2016 Notes from the Presbytery of Nevada*  
*From Presbytery Pastor, Rev. Hilda Pecoraro*

**Thanksgiving Prayer**

Thank you, Lord, for making all things beautiful in their time, and for putting eternity into our hearts.

O most high Almighty, good Lord God, creator of the universe, watch over us and keep us in the light of your presence.

May our praise continually blend with that of all creation, until we come together to the eternal joys which you promise in your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God our Father, we would thank you for all the bright things of life. Help us to see them, and to count them, and to remember them, that our lives may flow in ceaseless praise; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

J.H. Jowett

**Be Thankful**

*Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire.  
If you did, what would there be to look forward to?*

*Be thankful when you don't know something,  
For it gives you the opportunity to learn.*

*Be thankful for the difficult times.  
During those times you grow.*

*Be thankful for your limitations,  
Because they give you opportunities for improvement.*

*Be thankful for each new challenge  
Because it will build your strength and character.*

*Be thankful for your mistakes.  
They will teach you valuable lessons.*

*Be thankful when you're tired and weary  
Because it means you've made a difference.*

*It is easy to be thankful for the good things. A life of rich fulfillment comes to those  
who are also thankful for the setbacks.*

*GRATITUDE can turn a negative into a positive.  
Find a way to be thankful for your troubles and they can become your blessings.*

Author Unknown

### Southern Nevada Clergy Luncheon a Good Time of Fellowship

On Wednesday, October 26, nineteen people gathered in the Fellowship Hall at Westminster Presbyterian Church for the Fall quarter **Southern Nevada Presbyterian Clergy Luncheon**. As October is Ministry Appreciation Month, it was a joy to open the gathering with words of thanks for the pastors who serve so faithfully – whether in congregations or in supportive positions providing pulpit supply and other assistance – throughout our Presbytery. Rev. Ross Doyel, acting Moderator of the session at Westminster gave the opening prayer. The blessing over the food was a sung grace, prepared and taught by Rev. Prachuab Dechawan and his wife Gloria. After a lunch of hearty beef stew, crusty bread and salad – with cake for dessert – the program was a Reformation Day themed devotional centered on grace and gratitude, followed by discussion around the tables about what it means to be the “*church reformed, always being reformed.*” After a time of discussion, each person was invited to give updates and announcements regarding personal or church happenings, as well as any joys or concerns. The luncheon closed with prayer and words of blessing. Special thanks to the Dechawans for assisting with set-up and clean-up as my very gracious co-hosts, and thanks to Westminster PC, Sharon Hedges, and Denis Pecoraro for their assistance and support!

### Warm Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to the **Rev. Jeanie Shaw** who will be serving as part-time Interim Pastor for the **Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church**. Jeanie brings a wealth of skills, knowledge and experience from her service to the PC(USA) in the areas of New Church Development and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, as well as her years of experience as both pastor and interim pastor. Pastor Shaw officially began her ministry on October 24, 2016. Let us pray for this wonderful congregation and their pastors – Rev. Jeanie Shaw and Rev. Joanie Tankersley - as they begin their ministry together.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to **Mountain View Presbyterian Church** on receiving a \$5,000 grant from the Synod of the Pacific’s Hilda V. Thompson Medical Ministry Fund. This fund is set-up for assisting churches who have established a medical ministry – such as a Parish Nursing program – in their congregation. Contact Mountain View to learn more about what they are doing to promote health, wellness and support for their members.

### A Special Invitation

The **Taiwanese American Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas (NCD)** would love the honor of your presence for the ceremony and celebration of the appointment of the Rev. Po-Chih “Paul” Chen, as the new Pastor. All are welcome on Sunday, November 27, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel of Grace Presbyterian Church (1515 W. Charleston Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89102). Let us join together in celebration and support of this wonderful congregation and Pastor Paul! For more information, contact Raymond Pan at [estherrypan@yahoo.com](mailto:estherrypan@yahoo.com).

## Prayers for November 2016, A Particularly Contentious Election Year

### ***At the Time of an Election***

Under your law we live, great God,  
and by your will we govern ourselves.  
Help us as good citizens  
to respect neighbors whose views differ from ours,  
so that without partisan anger,  
we may work out issues that divide us,  
and elect candidates to serve the common welfare;  
through Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**  
*Book of Common Worship, 817*

### ***For Responsible Citizenship***

Lord, keep this nation under your care.  
Bless the leaders of our land,  
that we may be a people at peace among ourselves  
and a blessing to other nations of the earth.  
Help us elect trustworthy leaders,  
contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare,  
and thus serve you faithfully in our generation,  
to the honor of your holy name;  
through Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**  
*Book of Common Worship, 822*

## Political Activity Advice for Churches from the PC(USA) website ([pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org))

In this Presidential election year, questions regarding permissible activities from churches have been raised. As a federal tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), at all levels (i.e., General Assembly, synod, presbytery and particular congregation), is permitted to engage in a limited, insubstantial amount of witnessing or lobbying activities which attempt to influence legislation or issues. It is strictly prohibited, however, from engaging in political activity which includes, but is not limited to, participating or intervening, directly or indirectly, in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for elective public office. Violation of these limits may result in the revocation of tax-exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes.

For more information, see the following resources:

□ The Pew Forum's article *Preaching Politics from the Pulpit*.

Link: <http://www.pewforum.org/Church-State-Law/preaching-politics-from-the-pulpit-2012.aspx>

□ *The Legal Resource Manual for Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Middle Governing Bodies and Churches'* Taxation Section. Link: <https://www.pcusa.org/resource/legal-resourcemanual/>

Please see pages 90 and 91 of 187 of the pdf document found using the link.

□ The Internal Revenue Service publication *Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations*. Link: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p1828.pdf>

□ Additional Information from the Internal Revenue Service Related to Political Campaign Intervention by Tax-Exempt Organizations. Link: [http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Charitable-Organizations/The-Restriction-of-Political-Campaign-Intervention-by-Section-501\(c\)\(3\)-Tax-Exempt-Organizations](http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Charitable-Organizations/The-Restriction-of-Political-Campaign-Intervention-by-Section-501(c)(3)-Tax-Exempt-Organizations)

### **Prayer Requests and Praises**

\*Special thanks to all who have been praying for **Dorothy Fry and Pastor Al Fry**, during Dorothy's hip replacement surgery early in October, and for her recovery. Al reported, *"Dorothy is indeed recovering well from her surgery and will soon challenge you to a race. Please let the Presbytery know that their prayers are being answered."*

\*Please continue to pray for **Tom and Peggy Hall**, active members of Spanish Springs Presbyterian Church, whose home was burned to the ground during the terrible Little Valley Fire in Washoe Valley a couple of weeks ago. Thankfully they are safe and are living in a condo they own in Reno. Prayers for continued comfort and strength.

\*Prayers for **Grace Presbyterian Church** (Central campus), as Project Neon – expansion of I-15 – continues to present challenges, both in access to the Church and questions about the future.

\*Prayers for the **Thai-Laotian Presbyterian Church** as they are hoping to close on a piece of property on which to build their future church home. Prayers that the City of Las Vegas will approve submitted site plans.

\*Prayers for the following churches in transition with active Pastor Nominating Committees and/or Interim Pastors: First Presbyterian Church, Elko; Green Valley Presbyterian Church; Westminster Presbyterian Church; St. John's Presbyterian Church; Truckee Lutheran/Presbyterian Church. May God bless these congregations and their leaders as they seek God's will for their future leadership and ministry.

### **Employment Opportunity**

Green Valley Presbyterian Church is searching for a Part-Time Administrative Assistant to work 25 hours a week, Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A high school diploma is required with five years' management preferred. This position provides administrative support and secretarial support to the Pastor, Financial Manager, church staff and officers of the church. Please submit your resume to Diane Schurr, Personnel Committee at [diane.schurr@yahoo.com](mailto:diane.schurr@yahoo.com).

Remember to regularly check out the great Presbytery of Nevada website at: <http://www.nevadapresbytery.org> for news stories and resources! Submissions to the website are welcome. Send to webmaster, Rev. Christy Ramsey at [christyramsey@nevadapresbytery.org](mailto:christyramsey@nevadapresbytery.org).