

September 2016 Notes from the Presbytery of Nevada
Presbytery Pastor Hilda Pecoraro

GULF FLOODING 2016

*THE PICTURE AND ARTICLE BELOW ARE FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE
WEBSITE. PLEASE VISIT THE SITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.*



Coast Guardsmen rescue stranded residents from high water during severe flooding around Baton Rouge, LA on Aug. 14, 2016. — Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Giles

Situation

Starting August 11, 2016, regions in Louisiana and Mississippi experienced 10-20 inches of rain. FEMA reports that there were 6 fatalities, over 8,000 people in shelters and over 10,000 residential and commercial structures affected.

PDA Response

PDA has reached out to the Presbytery of South Louisiana and the Presbytery of Mississippi to offer assistance. Six National Response Team members will deploy to the Presbytery of South Louisiana to do assessments, and two will deploy at the request of the American Red Cross to provide Disaster Spiritual Care. An initial grant and a church damage grant has been sent to the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

PDA deploys trained National Response Team members soon after a disaster 1) when it is safe to do so, and 2) upon invitation from the Presbytery. However, the responsible thing for us to do is wait until Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) are organized and ready for outside volunteers before we open a PDA host site. It can sometimes take several months to reach this phase of the recovery. The PDA National Call Center has information on initial response partners with volunteer opportunities, and/or you can be added to a list to be notified when a PDA host site is ready for volunteers. You can contact the Call Center at pda.callcenter@pcusa.org or 866-732-6121

I know that we often feel overwhelmed by the disasters we hear about and see on the news. We wonder, "What can I do? How can I help?" If you would like to make a donation to assist the flooding victims, there are several ways you can give.

- Donate on-line from the PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) website. Follow directions on the site.
- Donate through your local church. Designate your check for PDA, Fund #DR000191
- Mail a check to Presbyterian Church (USA), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Remember to designate your donation with the Fund #DR000191 (US Flooding).
- Call and make a donation by credit card. 1(800) 872-3283.
- Text "PDA" to 20222 to donate \$10.

Another way we can all help is by praying for those impacted by the floods. The **PDA Website** reminds us that, "Our best response is prayer. Pray that through the response of the faith community, survivors and those offering assistance will be reminded of the hope that is found in Christ."

A PRAYER WHEN THE WATERS ARE RISING

*Lord, all around us the waters are rising.
I feel so helpless, for I cannot stop the rain from falling or the waters from rising.
I feel so powerless, for the current is strong and my body is tired.
I feel so empty, for our possessions are floating away or anchored in the muddy water.
Lord, all around us the waters are rising.
Grant me your strength, since mine is somewhere downstream.
Grant me your patience, since mine is drowning.
Grant me your perspective, since my loss is in replaceable things, not irreplaceable grace.
Give me eyes to see how precious your gifts are: family and friends, faith and mercy.
And Lord, when the waters rise around me in my spirit, and my faith and hope are swept downstream,
help me to remember how you got me through this flood.
In Your Son's name. Amen.*

(Prayer written by The Rev. John G. Hamilton, FPC, Rochelle, Ill. Copied from PDA Website)

Congratulations

*We congratulate the members and friends of the **First Thai-Laotian Presbyterian Church** on their 14th Anniversary as a congregation in the Presbytery of Nevada. **Rev. Prachuab Dechawan** and the members invite all who can to join them on Sunday, September 4, 2016 for a Thanksgiving Worship and Celebration at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner and fellowship at 6:30 p.m. The guest preacher is a familiar face in our Presbytery, the **Rev. Byron Nelson** (former staff member of the Sierra Mission Partnership). First Thai-Laotian worships at Westminster Presbyterian Church (4601 W. Lake Mead). We extend best wishes for God's continued blessing on this congregation and its ministry. * Please pray especially for God's guidance in finding the right property for a church facility.

*Congratulations to **Mountain View Presbyterian Church** on hiring a new Director of Family Ministries, **Chris Kirschman**. Chris, along with his wife Sara and daughter Kenzie are excited to be part of the Mountain View family. Chris started his ministry at MVPC on July 1. May God bless him, his family and the entire congregation as they grow together in Christian love and service.

*Congratulations to two of our churches in NE Nevada that are doing great things in their “neck of the woods.” **Lamoille Community Presbyterian Church** had 50 kids turn out for Vacation Bible School! Much of the VBS program was conducted by the Lamoille youth group! Well done! And, kudos to the **Wells Presbyterian Church** for raising around \$2,000 during Heritage Days by providing Breakfast in the Park. Though it was a lot of work, it resulted in a very successful fundraiser to support the on-going mission of Wells Presbyterian Church. Well done, small but mighty WPC!

A Very Special Invitation

The Presbytery of Nevada will be gathering on Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at the **Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church** for the Installation Service of the **Rev. Robert “Bob” Kelley** as Pastor. All are welcome to join Bob, his family and the members of LTCPC for this special worship service and celebration. The Church is located at 2733 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. Let us join together in praying for God’s abundant blessing on Bob and the Lake Tahoe congregation.

Warm Welcome

We extend a warm Presbytery of Nevada welcome to the **Rev. Tom Holslag**, who is serving as Interim Pastor at **First Presbyterian Church, Elko**. Tom comes to us most recently from an Interim at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Uniontown, Pennsylvania but he has lived all over the country and brings a great wealth of ministry experience. Tom’s first Sunday in Elko was August 28. We are very happy for First Presbyterian and for Tom. We will “officially” welcome him at the Fall Presbytery meeting! Be sure you take a moment to meet him and offer the “right hand of fellowship.”

Prayer Request

RE Bill Tankersley, member of **Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church** and spouse of the **Rev. Joanie Tankersley** is part of an eight-person mission team heading to Zimbabwe, August 25-Sept. 9. Bill – along with team members from Menlo Church (formerly the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church) – invite us to partner with them through our prayers. We look forward to hearing a report from Bill about the trip at the Fall Presbytery Meeting. Bill writes the following:

“On August 25, 2016, eight of us will be departing San Francisco Airport bound for Harare, Zimbabwe for another Kingdom Adventure! We will be serving approximately 50 orphans in a camp run by our ministry partner, Hands of Hope, by leading a Vacation Bible School. We would covet your prayers for this third MC mission to Zimbabwe. We are trusting that God has great things in store for us (as has been the case in previous trips) as we come alongside these kids who have been orphaned, most commonly due to the death of their parents from HIV/AIDS. Hands of Hope partners with local churches to run homes for these kids, steering away from the traditional orphanages, and providing them a more “family” oriented living situation, with adults in the homes.”

Partners in Ministry

I would like to acknowledge two very special pastors who are providing leadership, pulpit supply, care and a loving presence to three of our congregations. First a huge thanks to the **Rev. Rick Glass**, who regularly provides pulpit supply at both the Lamoille Community Presbyterian Church and the Wells Presbyterian Church. He is much loved and appreciated by both of these congregations for his faithful ministry over many years. He is also greatly appreciated by the Presbytery of Nevada. Rick and his family are long-time residents in the Lamoille area and Rick is retired from the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Thank you, Rick!

The second person is The Rev. Calvin “Caddy” Jackson who is serving as supply pastor for Valley Presbyterian Church, Bishop, CA. Caddy is a retired United Methodist pastor and is a blessing both to the congregation at Valley and to the Presbytery of Nevada. Thank you, Caddy!

Presbytery Pastor September Preaching Schedule

September 4 preaching at Valley Presbyterian Church, Bishop, CA
September 11 preaching at Reno Korean Presbyterian Church, Reno, NV
September 18 preaching at Community Presbyterian Church, Lee Vining, CA
September 25 preaching at Grace Presbyterian Church – West Campus, Las Vegas
(October 2 preaching at Green Valley Presbyterian Church)

Presbytery of Nevada Fall Meeting – September 12-14 - Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center
I look forward to seeing many of you at the Fall meeting of Presbytery. If you would like to arrange a time to meet one-on-one during our stay at Zephyr Point, please contact me and we can plan a time to get together! You can call me (702-610-7123) or email at hilda50@cox.net.

I look forward to hearing from you with any joys, concerns, questions, updates, etc. Let me know how I can pray for you, for your family and for your congregation. It is a great privilege for me to serve you as Presbytery Pastor. I thank you for your trust and wait on your openness to be in touch with me!
In Christ, Hilda