

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

****A Litany for Independence Day****

by the Rev. Rick Morley

“The following is a litany composed to give thanks, and pray for The United States. It would be appropriate on Independence Day, the Sunday nearest Independence Day—or for any service of worship taking place near a national holiday. Users may amend as they see fit.”

Rick Morley, July 2013

(Fr. Rick Morley is an Episcopal priest and Rector at St. Mark's in Basking Ridge, NJ. He is an author – among other things – and has a blog at rickmorley.com.)

Officiant: As we remember the birth of our nation, and the gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, let us offer our thanks and prayers to God, the giver of all good gifts.

Intercessor: For the women and men who braved the long journey by sea to come to this new world,
We thank you Lord.

For the tribes and nations who inhabited this land for generation upon generation,
We thank you Lord.

For patriots who dreamed of, and fought for, a free nation,
We thank you Lord.

For the men and women who laid the foundation of our democracy, and who pledged liberty and justice for all,
We thank you Lord.

For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town,
We thank you Lord.

For the brave soldiers who have fought for our country, for all who paid for our freedom by their service, and those who paid by their sacrifice,
We thank you Lord.

For the innovators and artists, poets and teachers, farmers and factory workers; for all who labor and provide for the common good,
We thank you Lord.

For this land, with its peaks and valleys, coasts and deserts, fields and meadows,
We thank you Lord.

For our own community, for those who came before us in this place, and for our
neighbors near and far,
We thank you Lord.

Lord, we pray for The United States, that we might always be a nation which defends
and promotes liberty and freedom, truth and justice.
We pray to you Lord.

That we might always be a nation where all are free to worship and pray,
We pray to you Lord.

That we might be a beacon of freedom to all those who live under the shadow of terror
and hopelessness,
We pray to you Lord.

That those who are elected to govern and lead, would be guided by you, and be ever
aware of the trust that has been given them,
We pray to you Lord.

That we would be a people who repent from our sins, and who always return to you and
to your grace,
We pray to you Lord.

Intercessor Gracious God, Father of all nations, bless and defend us and our land;
prosper the work of our hands, and increase in us your grace and compassion, and our
offerings of thanks to you, our rock and our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that I announce the death of the **Rev. Joseph Song, HR**, a member of the
Presbytery of Nevada since 1996. Rev. Song died on June 16, 2016, and will be remembered
with gratitude and love as a faithful minister of the gospel and a leader among Korean
Presbyterians in our presbytery and beyond. Our prayers are with Rev. Song's family and with
all who grieve his passing. May God grant comfort and the hope of eternal life through Christ
Jesus our Savior.

A Memorial Service to celebrate the life and ministry of Rev. Song will be held at 4:00 p.m. on
Sunday, July 10, 2016 at the **First Korean Presbyterian Church** of Las Vegas. All are
welcome to attend and to honor this dear brother in Christ.

Transitions Around the Presbytery

The **Rev. Scott Trevithick**, a member of Nevada Presbytery since 1995 and most recently Designated Pastor at Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church from June 2014 to May 2016, has accepted a new position as a pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Reno. Good Shepherd is an ELCA congregation, a Full Communion partner denomination with the PC(U.S.A.). Scott will continue to be active in the Nevada Presbytery and will serve Good Shepherd as a Presbyterian in a Lutheran congregation according to the *Formula of Agreement* between the two denominations. A great thanks to Scott for his leadership and caring ministry at TLPC and blessings on Scott and his family as he undertakes this new ministry, and prayers for TLPC as they enter into a time of transition and discernment.

Congratulations to the **Rev. Bob Kelley and Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church!** After a long search process the congregation of LTCPC voted unanimously on June 5, 2016 to call Bob Kelley as their new Pastor! Bob recently retired from the State of Nevada after 20 years of service. He has been an active member of the Presbytery of Nevada since 1997 and has served on a number of committees and special appointments. Bob and his wife Margie are very excited about this call to serve a wonderful congregation in a beautiful setting. A special thanks to the PNC for their good work! May God bless Bob and the members of LTCPC as they begin their new ministry together.

Midsummer Lunch and Gathering for Southern Nevada Pastors

All Presbytery of Nevada pastors in southern Nevada are invited to a Clergy Lunch and Get-together on Thursday, July 28, 2016 at Green Valley Presbyterian Church (1798 Wigwam Pky). We will meet at noon, and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by July 25, 2016 to Presbytery Pastor Hilda Pecoraro by email hilda50@cox.net or by phone 702-610-7123. (Spouses are welcome to attend – let me know when you RSVP!) Looking forward to a great time of fellowship!

FYI for all Pastors: Assistance Program Available

Did you know that there is help available for pastors who face financial needs through the Board of Pensions Assistance Program? The following article is from the Board of Pensions website (www.pensions.org). Check out the website on a regular basis for helpful information – especially with upcoming changes to the 2017 Benefits Plan.

The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provides critical financial assistance to eligible workers in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and their families, and to qualifying retired church workers and their families. The Assistance Program also sponsors grants for vocational training of clergy.

Rooted in a nearly 300-year-old tradition, the Assistance Program embodies the connectional Church at its best. As the Assistance Program relies on voluntary gifts, legacies, endowments, and one-half of the Christmas Joy Offering — not dues — for its funding, it provides a way for caring Presbyterians to support those who serve the Church during their times of need. Assistance is granted for needs that lie beyond the scope of the Benefits Plan.

In 2015, the Assistance Program distributed 1,294 grants and approximately \$5 million to qualifying pastors, missionaries, other church workers, and their families.

The Assistance Program offers nine distinct programs in one of these three categories:

- *retired church workers with financial and housing needs*
- *church workers with urgent financial needs*
- *pastors with vocational leadership needs*

Who's Eligible

Each program has its own eligibility criteria, and generally, you must participate, or have participated, in the Benefits Plan to qualify. Some programs work in cooperation with mid councils and employing organizations, which may recommend individuals for assistance and share in the costs.

The Board considers each applicant's financial, health, and personal needs when considering requests for assistance. Applicants must complete the appropriate forms, most of which are available on this website.

While not expected to repay any grants received, recipients are encouraged to promote support for the Assistance Program in their congregations and mid councils.

How You Can Help

The need for assistance by church workers and their families is real and growing. To join in supporting the ministry of the Assistance Program:

- *Encourage your congregations' support of the Assistance Program.*
- *Increase your support of the Christmas Joy Offering.*
- *Make a personal gift. You can securely make a gift online or send a check to the address listed under Contacts. Your contribution will help people who have dedicated their lives to the PC(USA).*

Contacts

*Attn: The Assistance Program
2000 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-3298
800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN)*

Just for Fun!

What could be nicer on a hot summer day than to find a cool shady place for rest and relaxation?
A special thanks to the **Rev. Milton Nolin, HR** for providing us with this “mini vacation!”

“I had fun spinning this bit of doggerel! Childhood memories and images of fishing in Stony Creek while sitting under a willow tree came into play!” ~ Milt Nolin

The Crawdad Hole

Off down yonder is the crawdad hole.
I meander down there to refresh my soul!
It's where the fish swim by
And the crawdads crawl.

I take along my fishing pole
And can of slimy bait,
And sit 'neath the willow tree
To shade my pate.

I slip a worm on the hook
And drop in a line,
Watch the sinker sink down
And think of good times.

I'd like to catch one
For the record book,
Get a whopper on there
With the bait on my hook!

Watch the bobber plunge down
And the fish make a run,
Then jerk back the pole
And settle in for fun!

Watch the fish swim fast
Toward the deep, dark pool,
Where they all like to hide
As a fishy, fish school!

Ease back on the line
And bring him on in,
While my eyes bug out
And my mouth wears a grin!

It's a whopper all right!
I can tell by the feel,
And imagine myself
With a new rod and reel!

I flip him on up
On the bank in the grass,
And he keeps floppin' round,
A fish full of sass!

Oh, he's going to taste good
From the frying pan!
I'll taste, and I'll savor,
And mutter, "Oh, MAN!"

And reflect on my time
At the crawdad hole,
And feel mighty good
In the depths of my soul!

In Appreciation

Special “shout out” to the **Rev. Christy Ramsey**, Webmaster for the Presbytery of Nevada website, for doing such a great job keeping us all in touch and informed! If you haven't checked the website lately, you are missing out on some great information and helpful resources.

Remember: user id: elder password: 2gG&2eh4e (“to glorify God and to enjoy him forever”)