



EFOCUS

Weekly Missive

The Power of Immersion

I grew up on the beach in San Clemente, California. I swam and played water polo from junior high through college (and a little club polo during my first call) and lifeguarded during the summer. I have a love-hate relationship with water.

Too many mornings were spent in the pre-dawn light, standing on a pool deck, watching the mist rise from the water, a cloud of unknowing that promised to shock my body's system. Standing on the deck in just a suit (not a pretty image, I know – sorry for the visual) was cold but was it worse than actually plunging into the icy depths?

[Keep reading](#)



HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR GATHERING WITH THRIVE'S PC(USA) ORGANIZER KATHRYN THREADGILL? [Click here to register for your spot on Thursday, May 24 at 3 p.m. at Memorial PC.](#)



Please keep these people in your prayers:

Rev. Ken Page as he recovers from heart surgery

Board of Pensions Benefits Consultations



The Board of Pensions
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Join Clayton Cobb, your Regional Church Consultant for this gathering for Pastors, Church Administrators and Benefits Decision Makers, Presbytery Staff, COM, CPM, and Key Leaders. Agenda will include:

- Review of the theological values that shape our Benefits Plan and our work
- Preview of coming changes, including a **Dues Reduction Program** for churches willing to call and ordain a new seminary graduate under age 40, a new **Education Debt Relief Program** for Pastors, and beginning in 2019 a new High Deductible Health Plan option, group term life insurance, and other new benefit options
- Review of our current benefit offerings
- Share feedback and questions with our Board of Pensions staff
- Meet other benefit decision makers

Noon, May 16th at Valley Presbyterian Church

6947 E. McDonald Dr., Paradise Valley, 85253

Besides a better understanding of the benefits plan, all will take away suggestions and solutions for churches and employers of all sizes – small and large – to be the best employers they can be.

This event is open to all who wish to attend, please forward this notice to all who might be interested.

To RSVP for either gathering contact Clayton Cobb at ccobb@pensions.org, 267-844-2411

The discounted registration deadline for the POAMN Conference has been extended until May 18, 2018

POAMN still has funding for partial scholarships to retired pastors, their spouses or surviving spouses; small church leaders; or first time attendees at a POAMN Conference. Download scholarship applications for [Small Church Leaders](#) or [First Time Attendees](#). Applications can also be found online at www.poamn.org at the Association Events page.

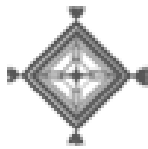
If you are a retired pastor, spouse or surviving spouse, contact Ginny at: gnyhuis@frontier.com to request a scholarship.

The Thrive Project Registration is Now Open!

Take a look at the opportunities this exciting program has to offer. There is no cost and the possibilities are vast! Share with those in your congregation who might want to take a step toward a new genesis in the life of your congregation. [Click here to preview.](#)



Synod Kaleidoscope 23: JULY 23 - JULY 29



The Synod of the Southwest will be presenting a week-long preaching event with the Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence, July 23-29, 2018 at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, NM. Anna's theme will be "Preaching Difficult Texts in Difficult Times". The total cost to attend is \$100, which includes room (double occupancy), board, transportation and seminar registration. The grant which makes this event possible for the Synod of the Southwest is donor-restricted to include pastors serving within the bounds of the Synod only. Registration is available [Here](#). For questions, contact Robin Thomas at robin@synodsw.org or 520-791-9600.

DID YOU KNOW?



Registration is Open!

Have your campers registered for Montlure? Camp will be here before we know it and preparations are at full speed.

Unplug, and connect with us this summer! More details at: Montlure.org or [Facebook.com/Montlure](https://www.facebook.com/Montlure)

Overnight Camps

Senior High Camp: June 10th-15h
Juniors Camp: June 17th-21st
Junior High Camp: June 24th-29th

Register at: Montlure.CampbrainRegistration.com

Traveling Day Camps

Orangewood: June 4th-8th (Contact [Orangewood](#) to Register)
Phx East Valley, hosted at Chandler Pres: June 11th-15th (Contact [Chandler](#))
Casa Grande: June 18th-22nd (Register at Montlure.CampbrainRegistration.com)

Upcoming Events

MAY

16- Board of Pensions Luncheon, Valley Presbyterian
22- [Spirituality and Mental Wellness](#)

JUNE

2- [Pentecost Extravaganza- Orangewood Presbyterian 4- 7 p.m.](#)
5-8- [Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network Annual Conference- Zephyr Point](#)

[Presbytery calendar](#)

[THIS WEEK'S PCUSA NEWS](#)

[Board of Pensions- May](#)

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