



EFOCUS

Weekly Missive



Thrive Project Update...

Robert Frost wrote about two paths diverging in the woods and how taking the road less traveled made all the difference. If I may borrow from Mr. Frost, our Thrive Project for congregational renewal has encountered such a fork in the woods, and the Thrive Project facilitators, in conjunction with the Leadership Team, have suspended our work in order to conduct a 30-day administrative review. To borrow from other literary greats: It is the best of times (to thrive), it is the worst of times (to thrive). To thrive or not to thrive, that is the question.

[Continue reading](#)

CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES ELDER/DEACON WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 23rd at 9am-11am
Westminster Presbyterian Church
4735 N. 19th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85015

Two classes will be offered:

Elder Workshop - whether you are a new or seasoned Elder, it's always good to refresh your knowledge and learn new things of what it means to be an Elder and represent your church. Lead by Rev. Gale Watkins, Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Deacon Workshop - whether you are a new or seasoned Deacon, learn new things and be refreshed in your ministry to your church community and beyond. Lead by Mary Saylor, Honorably Retired.

Walk away with the key knowledge you need to enhance Christ's work through you and carry it on into your ministry to your church family, community and others. Share this information with your church clerk!

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE AND REGISTER](#)



THE BOARD OF PENSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

To help PCUSA pastors address the growing financial challenges to ministry, the Board of Pensions has developed Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations. This initiative, designed to help ministers and congregations work together for financial stability, provides education and financial resources. This program combines pastor and congregational leader education with grants up to \$10,000 to qualifying pastors.

[Click here for a brochure with more info](#)

Lenten Devotion by Brad Munroe

Matthew 5:1-2

Jesus' greatest ethical teaching began with seeing. Jesus saw the crowds – for who they were and what they were, in their beauty and blessing as well as their longing and need and fallen humanity. So Jesus went up on a mountainside, where, in Matthew's Gospel, God-events happen. Jesus sat, taking the posture assumed by a rabbi. Jesus' disciples came to him, and Jesus began to instruct them about living toward a sacred openness before God.



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THE EFFECTS OF RACISM ON CHILDREN

The effects of Racism on children are many and harmful to them. To cite a few; depression, health issues, and school performance.

Louise Derman-Sparks states (Racism and Young Children, What does Research Say?) Questions and confusion about racial issues begin early. Though adults often talk about the “colorblindness” of children, the fact is that children as young as three do notice physical differences such as skin color, hair texture and the shape of one's facial features. (Tatum 1997,p.32)

Depression: Studies have shown that encountering racial bigotry can lead children to suffer from depression and behavioral problems. A 2010 study of 277 children of color presented to the Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in Vancouver revealed a strong link between racial discrimination and depression. Study lead Lee M. Pachter asked the youths if they had been discriminated against in 23 different ways including being racially profiled while shopping or called offensive names. Eighty-eight percent of the kids said they had indeed experienced racial discrimination.

Health issues: According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, new research illustrates the unhealthy effects racism can have on children with reported exposure to discrimination tied to higher rates of attention hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) anxiety and depression, as well as decreased general health.

School Performance: Minorities are suspended more and less likely to be pegged as gifted. Children of color face bias in schools. They are disciplined more harshly and, less likely to have access to quality teachers.

[Click here for more resources for use in your church](#)



Please keep these people in your prayers:

Those digging out from the record-breaking snowstorm
Welcome Rev. Bob Leivers to Pinetop Community PC!

Upcoming Events and other Resources

To access information below, click on text that is underlined!

FEBRUARY

9- Third Thirty: Finding Fulfillment After 60- Faith, Sun City

15- Taste of Chiapas- Frontera de Cristo- [info](#)

MARCH

9-Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering - Emmanuel- [info and Registration](#)
9- Presbytery meeting- First, Sun City

APRIL

11- Senior Service Awards- Valley Presbyterian- [Nomination form](#)

[Presbytery calendar](#)

[THIS WEEK'S PCUSA NEWS](#)

Board of Pensions- [Board Bulletin](#)

[Presbyterians Today](#)

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

[MONTLURE DATES AND REGISTRATION](#)

Take a Look! Several new Job postings to explore! Feel free to share with friends!

[JOBS and GOODS](#)

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