

Greetings to the Saints of Mission Presbytery!

Y'all continue to amaze me. From the vantage point of this office, I get to see young leaders being developed through the Midwinters Planning Team and Youth Coordinating Committee. I get to be part of deep conversations regarding the futures of our congregations and pastoral leaders. I get to watch dozens of volunteers give of their energy, intelligence, imagination and love to further God's mission in the southern fifth of Texas. I get to visit, pray, drink coffee, break bread, counsel, be counseled, and laugh a lot with you all. I get to think and dream and write. I get to work with some amazing colleagues, both here in the office and among our congregations. And every so often, I catch a little glimpse of what God may be bringing to pass among us. Amazing!

I also get to witness the talent among us - which means that today I want to tell you about a couple of new books produced by our colleagues.

Bob Lively, whose family I have known since before I can recall, has a new book called *So What's The Point? A Primer for True Spiritual Awakening*. I commend it to you because of Bob's gift for storytelling, because of the true portraits he paints of some of the loved ones in his life, and for the spiritual awakening it may provide for you. As usual, it's good wisdom from our good friend.

You also need to know about Carolyn Browning Helsel's new book, *Anxious to Talk about it: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism*. What could be more timely? It's being released any minute now, and there's a free study guide available. Plus, mark your calendars now for an event on Saturday, March 10 with Carolyn at Crossroads Presbyterian Church in San Antonio. More information to come!

PRESBYTER SIGHTINGS

January 29-31 - On study leave to attend Midwinter Lectures at Austin Seminary

February 3 - Meet with General Council

February 4 - Worship with Boerne St. Mark

February 5 - Meet with Committee on Ministry

February 7 - Meet with Pastoral Care committee

February 9 - Meet with Committee on Preparation for Ministry

February 11 - Installation for Holly Hoppe, Round Rock Grace

February 14 - Meet with Fiscal Oversight committee

February 15-17 - Meet with Board of Presbyterian Outlook, Richmond

February 18 - Preach for Fredricksburg Memorial

February 18 - Installation for Katheryn Barlow-Williams, Austin Central

February 21 - Meet with H.M. King Trustees