

---

# Linkage Linkage

---

February 2010

Please join

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE PRESBYTERY OF SAN JOSÉ**

at their

**SPRING GATHERING**

Come for a simple lunch to be followed by the program:

**"BEYOND BOUNDARIES ... BREAKING BARRIERS"**

***Women and Religion in America***

*featuring*

***The Rev. Dr. James B. Bennett***

Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Santa Clara University  
and Parish Associate at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church



Jim says this about his presentation: ***"American Christianity, like most religions around the world, is shaped by a fundamental paradox: a majority female membership is led by a predominantly male clergy. Too often, history has focused on the male clergy and ignored the ways that women--both as participants and as leaders--are central to the story of American Christianity. But when viewed through the lens of women's experience, religion in America takes on a very different shape. In the end, it turns out that Women's history is American Religious History."***

Sounds intriguing, doesn't it? Please come and bring along members of PW, friends, neighbors, pastors ... everyone is welcome!

**Saturday, March 13, 2010**

at

**SANTA TERESA HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

5370 Snell Avenue, San José

**12 noon - 3:00 p.m.**

**Because we are having lunch, please let us know that you are coming by Monday, March 8, 2010.**

**Respond to:**

Linda Hagan at 408-255-5879/e-mail [ljhagan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ljhagan@sbcglobal.net)

or

Claudia Hamm at 408-356-6665/e-mail [jnchamm@gmail.com](mailto:jnchamm@gmail.com).

---

---

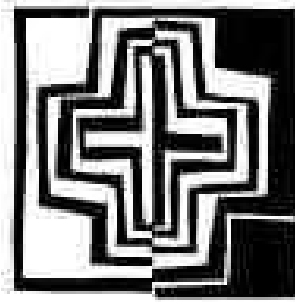
## *LENT*

“You are dust and to dust you shall return” – so begins the 40 days of Lent, that period of time in the liturgical calendar when we examine our lives and our relationship to our Savior, Jesus the Christ. For many of us, it is a time for the practice of one or more spiritual disciplines not practiced at other times during the year.

One of my colleagues in the Synod of the Southwest, The Rev. Robert Williams, enriched my understanding of the practice of fasting with the following:

*Lent should be more than a time of fasting. It should also be a season of feasting. Lent is a time to fast **from** certain things and feast **on** others. It is a season in which we should:*

*FAST from discouragement;  
FEAST on hope.*  
*FAST from complaining;  
FEAST on appreciation.*  
*FAST from negatives;  
FEAST on affirmatives.*  
*FAST from discontent;  
FEAST on gratitude.*  
*FAST from anger;  
FEAST on patience.*  
*FAST from suspicion;  
FEAST on truth.*  
*FAST from pessimism;  
FEAST on optimism.*  
*FAST from worry,  
FEAST on God’s providence.*  
*FAST from problems that overwhelm;  
FEAST on prayer that sustains.*



Last year I received a sheet of devotional readings from Mercy Center in northern California. Father Thomas Hand, S.J. also speaks of fasting...

*“Lenten fast” conjures up un-enticing visions of skipped or skimpy meals. For sure, daily fasting from food was the great Lenten discipline in the Christian church. I would suggest that it should still be so, but only in line with the original meaning of “fast.” To fast in its root signification has nothing to do with diet. We find its primary meaning in steadfast or to hold fast. Lent is, above all, a time to hold fast to our faith – faith in its scriptural meaning of entrustment. Lent: a time to hold our attention fast on Christ, each day, all day.*

I pray that Lent will be for each of us a time of steadfast faith, of repentance and of renewal.

**+Jane Odell**  
**PWP Vice-Moderator for Spirituality**

---

## Justice and Peace: WATER - Everywhere, to drink?

So our reservoirs are filling locally, and we seem at peace with this valuable resource. But? Water is the new 'oil' – a commodity that is being bought and sold, most obviously these days in plastic bottles. But we do not always have good information on the processes by which we get this water, and do not always see the impact on local communities of water removed from local systems. "FLOW" is a good movie which covers the really global span of the industry. Consider: our Earth is 70% water, but only 2.5% of that is salt-free, drinkable.

As we go about our daily lives, trying to live in a sustainable way, what are our attitudes toward water? How do we use, conserve, be aware of water's value? On March 20, 2010, 7:00 pm at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church (728 West Fremont Avenue), we will be showing "TAPPED" the movie which focuses on water use, bottled water implications. Come challenge and be challenged.

[www.TAPPEDTHEMOVIE.COM](http://www.TAPPEDTHEMOVIE.COM) has a good website which discusses WATER/Bottle issues if you can't attend our showing at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church.

When vacation times come up this year– long trips or staycations – how do we prepare for these trips? HINT: remember glass, steel! Take your own cups. Buy a PW Water Bottle.

Thinking of vacations, beyond water, our care as we travel should be to consider justice too. We can be informed observers and share our experiences, knowledge, as we go and come home.

A TASSA TAG is a great way to carry the message and care about child exploitation, sexual abuse. These are bright, heavy, hand-woven cotton luggage tags which can help reclaim children's lives. While you wait for your luggage with its bright tags, you could be surprised about questions from fellow travelers. Great gifts for Graduations, too.

Staying at home? No problem, nicer in some ways. You can still act by checking out:

[www.TASSATAG.ORG](http://www.TASSATAG.ORG) – which will let you order these tags for gifts. And, at the bottom of the web page you can connect to ECPAT for a wealth of information, actions to be taken.

Feel too 'small' to act? Think you can't possibly have an impact?

**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."  
Margaret Mead**



**Linda Hagan  
PW/CT – Justice and Peace**

---

## Ecumenical Media Resource Center

At the regular meeting of the PWP Coordinating Team, the group voted to give a gift of \$500 to the Northern California Ecumenical Media Resource Center. This is a "Co-op Library" of media to be used by local churches in Christian Education and Mission. It serves primarily Northern California and Nevada, although its reach has expanded through its presence on the internet.

The Center was founded by long-time California Christian Educator Donald Griggs, as well as by Jane Odell, a Christian Educator and Presbytery Executive, who is currently a staff member in the office of the Presbytery of San Jose (and Vice President for Spirituality of the PWP). Its first location was in First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto; in 1972 it moved to the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Clara. Currently it is housed in the United Methodist Church of Campbell.

Support for the Center comes from local judicatories of three denominations: Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, and United Methodist. Support also comes from local congregations, through memberships tailored to the size of the congregation. An ecumenical board of directors comes from sponsoring denominations, as well as representatives of the local Roman Catholic diocese. It is served by two part-time staff.

Several founding principles have guided the Resource Center through the years:

- Open to all churches/denominations
- Strong support for ecumenical projects
- New library resources added on a regular basis
- Members suggest new materials for purchase
- Low cost to become a member church
- Flexible due dates and no late charges

In addition to being a lending library, the Center hosts learning events for Christian Educators

The Center is currently searching for funding to fulfill pressing needs:

- Acquire new media resources (\$3,000 per year)
- Acquire updated equipment such as computers and management software (1 laptop, 1 desktop)
- Offer more teacher training and enrichment events (\$500)
- Provide Continuing Education funds for staff to attend professional conferences related to their responsibilities (\$1500 per year)
- Hire a Director to coordinate current services and provide leadership in expanding the availability of services.

In further explanation of the first point, acquiring new media, the Center also needs to convert much of its VHS (tape) library to newer DVD's.

**Visit the Web Site:** [www.emrclibrary.org](http://www.emrclibrary.org). **Visit the Center:** 1675 Winchester Blvd., Campbell.

For further information, contact Charlotte Dickson through the Center. 408-378-2532.

---

## **NetWorkers Program Focus Broadens**

The Mother's Day Project, which previously benefited PC (USA)'s NetWorkers Malaria Prevention Program, is being expanded to assist a variety of programs that improve the health of women and children, including malaria prevention. The new Healthy Women Healthy Families Mother's Day Project will help church partners in Africa provide preventive health services and medical care to women and children.

Special Mother's Day cards given in exchange for donations will help to fund this expanded program. Cards are available from Gail Bingham: gailbingham@pcusa.org, phone 888-728-7228, ext. 5573. There is no cost for the cards.

---

## **PW Uses New Fund Raising**

Readers of *Horizons* may have noticed a large yellow envelope stapled to the center of the magazine. Both PW and the PC (USA) are focusing on a new emphasis on individual giving, and the envelopes are designed **to encourage giving by women who are not involved in a local PW or circle, or who want to give above and beyond their local pledge.**

Each envelope may highlight a different cause: the January/February envelope is designated for the "Presbyterian Women 2010 Birthday Offering."

---

## **Save the Date**

May 1, 2010 is the date for PWP's Spiritual Nurture Retreat. The retreat leader will be Mary Elva Smith, currently the Interim Executive of the Presbytery of Sacramento. She has studied the Art of Spiritual Direction at SFTS, is a Spiritual Director and an occasional staff member for the SFTS "Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction."

The Retreat will be held at St. Andrew, Aptos.

---

## **Birthday Offering 2010**

A church-run kindergarten and childcare center in Iraq, and a project to serve at-risk families in Kentucky will be the recipients of the annual Birthday Offering taken by Presbyterian Women.

The Iraq kindergarten and childcare center provides education to children of all faiths, though approximately 90 percent of the students come from Muslim families. Requests for enrollment far exceed the present capacity of 150 children. The Birthday Offering grant will enable purchase of properties for expansion into the primary grades.

The program sponsored by Peace Presbyterian Church, Louisville, Kentucky provides services to children, youth, adults and families identified as at risk or in need of support during a transition in their lives. The grant will allow for expansion of programs.

See *Horizons*, January/February 2010.

***The Linkage is the newsletter of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of San Jose and connects women in the counties of Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz.***

You may receive ***Linkage*** by email by sending your email address to the editor. Or, look for ***The Linkage*** on the web site of the Presbytery of San Jose. [www.sanjosepby.org](http://www.sanjosepby.org).

***The Linkage*** is also available through "snail mail." It costs \$1.00 per person per issue (\$4.00 per year) for printing and postage; currently there are about 125 people on the mailing list. Donations to help defray this cost are welcome. Checks payable to Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of San Jose (PWPSJ) and marked "Linkage" may be mailed to Linda Hagan, 7940 Fall Court, Cupertino, CA 94014-4114.

***The Linkage*** is published 4 times a year. Editor is Alice Thorn, phone (408) 267-7584 or email [alice\\_in\\_blue@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alice_in_blue@sbcglobal.net).

---

---

## Remember

**March 13: Spring Gathering, Santa Teresa Hills, San Jose; 12:00 (lunch) to 3:00 p.m**

**May 1: Spiritual Nurture Retreat, 9 am to 2 pm, St. Andrew Presbyterian, Aptos.**

**June 6: Annual Meeting, 2 to 4 pm, Los Gatos Presbyterian.**

**September 11, Bible Study Day at SFTS, with Barbara Rossing.**

---

**Presbyterian Distribution Service is the place to order most Presbyterian Women materials.**

**800-524-2612.**

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN  
In the Presbytery of San Jose  
1711 Harte Drive  
San Jose, CA 95124**

## 2010 Synodwide Gathering

The 2010 Gathering of PW in the Synod of the Pacific has as its theme "River of Life: Journeys into Hope." Keynote speaker will be Sister Marilyn Lacey, director of Mercy Beyond Borders, and author of *This Flowing Towards Me*, an account of her work with refugees.

Dr. Judy Yates Siker, Vice President and Professor of New Testament at SFTS's southern California campus, will introduce the 2010 *Horizons* Bible study on Revelation.

The dates are April 16-18, 2010 and the place Best Western Grosvenor Hotel, South San Francisco.

Registration forms are available from Claudia Hamm or Alice Thorn.