



# The Monarch Messenger

## The Newsletter of The Presbytery of San Jose

Serving Presbyterians in San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties

The Monarch butterfly is the symbol of the Presbytery of San Jose

888 No. First St., Suite 320, San Jose CA 95112 • (408) 279-0220 • www.sanjosepby.org • Vol. 33 • Issue 1 • Jan., 2012

### JOIN US for the NEXT Presbytery Meeting

Sat., January 28  
9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

### Covenant Presbyterian Church

670 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto 94306

Plenty of parking

[www.covenantpresbyterian.net](http://www.covenantpresbyterian.net)

Child Care is available **IF** reservations are made by calling the church office at 650-494-1760 by Mon. Jan. 23

Lunch will be served after the meeting

DOCKET: Go to the Presbytery website: [www.sanjosepby.org](http://www.sanjosepby.org)



The Rev. John Kelso, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of San Jose

### The Rev. John Kelso, New Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of San Jose

When asked how he became passionate about Presbyterian Polity, our new Stated Clerk told of an opportunity at Princeton Seminary when he studied polity as presented by then Stated Clerk of PC (USA,) William Phelps Thompson who also served on the Princeton

Seminary faculty. "Thompson made the pages of the Book of Order come alive," said Kelso, "And it was then that I realized that this book of rules and regulations enabled church leaders, even with differing views, to come together on the common ground of mutual respect and cooperation. The Book of Order expands horizons; and allows Presbyterians to come together prayerfully and more closely."

About his new post John replied that, "This new job gives me the opportunity I've been looking for to use Presbyterian Polity in my ministry."

John is married to Paula Kelso, also a Minister of Word and Sacrament (they met at General Assembly in 1983). He has spent the last 25 years in ministry at churches in the Presbytery of San Jose. Together, John and Paula have four grown children and 6 grandchildren. Currently the Kelsos live in Santa Cruz county.

Before taking on the post of Acting Stated Clerk during long-time Stated Clerk John Lococo's medical leave and then retirement, Kelso served as Interim pastor at St. Andrew Church in Aptos.



### 2012 Presbytery Meetings

(All on Saturdays beginning with worship at 9 a.m.)

1. **January 28**, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto
2. **March 31**, First Presbyterian Church of Monterey
3. **June 2**, Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, San Jose
4. **September 22**, Morgan Hill Presbyterian Church
5. **November 17**, United Presbyterian Church, Watsonville

### Elections for General Assembly Commissioners

The theme for General Assembly 220

### Walking, Running and Soaring in Hope

*"..but those who hope in the Lord, will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint."*

~ Isaiah 40:31

At the January 28<sup>th</sup> Presbytery meeting, we will elect two teaching elder commissioners, two ruling elder commissioners and a youth advisory delegate from our presbytery to attend the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, to be held in Pittsburgh PA, June 30 - July 7, 2012. Those interested in serving our presbytery and our denomination as GA commissioners or youth advisory delegate should check the Presbytery web site ([www.sanjosepby.org](http://www.sanjosepby.org)) for information.

Applications should be addressed to: the Rev. John Kelso, Stated Clerk, and be mailed (Presbytery of San Jose, 888 N. First St, Ste. 320, San Jose 95112) in time to reach the Presbytery office by **Friday, January 20**, or emailed to: [johnkelso@gmail.com](mailto:johnkelso@gmail.com) by that same date.



## From The Rev. Joey Lee Executive Presbyter

Happy New Year!

Happy - adjective,

1. delighted, pleased, or glad, as over a particular thing: e.g. to be happy to see a person.
2. characterized by or indicative of pleasure, contentment, or joy: e.g. a happy frame of mind.

3. favored by fortune; fortunate or lucky: e.g. a happy, fruitful land.

New - adjective

1. of recent origin, production, purchase, etc.: e.g. a new book.
2. of a kind now existing or appearing for the first time; novel: e.g. a new concept of the universe.
3. having but lately or but now come into knowledge: e.g. a new chemical element.
4. unfamiliar or strange (often followed by to ): ideas new to us; e.g. to visit new lands.
5. having but lately come to a place, position, status, etc.: e.g. a reception for our new minister.

These definitions come from Dictionary.com. Did you notice that last example under "New?" No doubt you have read the various articles introducing the new pastors in our presbytery. I do not know a time when we have had more PNCs at work in our presbytery than over the last year. We have welcomed Craig Roberts (El Estero, Monterey), Mike Hogg (First, Hollister), Mark Peake (First, Monterey) Anne McAnelly (St. Andrew, Aptos), Hsein-Chang Lai (TAPC), Don Hammond (Trinity, San Jose), David Moore (Union, Los Altos) Bryan Franzen (Westminster), and Cheri Holland (hospice chaplaincy). And if we add Sharon Hare (First, San Jose), Margret Boles (Covenant Palo Alto) and Matt Gough (associate, Sunnyvale), who are still relatively new, that makes for a lot of what dictionary.com defines as "having but lately come to a place, position, status, etc.: e.g. a reception for our new minister."

So it is with much happiness that we welcome the many new members to our presbytery. Please join me in extending the hand of fellowship, collegiality, and friendship. Happy new year!

*Joey Lee*

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (NIV Psalm 133:1)



## From The Rev. Stephanie Lutz Allen Moderator

*"I hate coming into the church office, and seeing the white board covered with numbers of the new members we want for this year. The church shouldn't be about numbers! The church*

*should be about mission!"*

This comment came from a long-time member when I served as Associate Pastor at the Gilroy church. I understood the frustration. The white board covered with numbers was our way of trying to articulate ministry goals and bring them to fruition in the midst of challenging realities. But to this member it did not motivate, but detracted from the purpose for which the church exists. Many moments like these sent me on a journey of asking: "What does it mean to BE the church in the midst of a changing world?" This question led me to various streams of thought, one of which is *missional* church.

One definition is a church seeking to be involved in God's mission in the world. The people of God are those sent on a mission versus those who send others. All of church life is a participation in this calling: worship, Christian formation, evangelism, and works of social justice.

**What do you think it means to BE the church...in a changing world?**

*Stephanie Lutz Allen*

Moderator



## Two NEW Pastors join our Presbytery



**Westminster Church, San Jose: Bryan Franzen** is a graduate of SFTS with an emphasis in World Christianity and just completed a DMin in Gospel and Culture from Columbia Theological Seminary. He has served, in various capacities, congregations in California, Illinois, North Carolina, Iowa, and New Jersey. Through his ministry he has also led many mission trips, including those to Cuba, Jamaica, and Ghana. Says Bryan, "I'm excited to join the San Jose Presbytery!"



**Union Church, Los Altos: David Moore:**

David Moore, serving Union Presbyterian Church of Los Altos, said, "I feel very blessed to be at Union, and I'm very excited to be a part of the ministry that happens at the church. I've seen myself always as not the focus of every ministry, but someone who is alongside those who minister, even as I minister myself. Union has a number of great ministries that I am learning about. I am excited and blessed to be a part of a faith community shaped by the gospel who wants to make a difference for Christ."



## Help Create "Immanuel House" in our Presbytery

### Team Immanuel House Update:

Definition: "Immanuel House" (noun: ih-man-yoo-uh'l houz) A future dream....begun by a \$200,000 legacy fund bequest and continued through ongoing fund development...the dream for a house dedicated to housing refugees the first day they set foot in Silicon Valley. Tangible evidence that God is with us all, and is especially with those for whom there is no room at the inn.

Our team has been setting up dates to visit with congregations during worship, mission committee, and Session meetings to share about the refugee ministry in our Presbytery and, more particularly, to invite participation in the ongoing fund development for the Immanuel House. Thank you to the churches that have responded to the invitation for a visit from our team, and thank you to those that have already given to this exciting new project.

**Want a visit from our team?** Contact "Team Immanuel House" leaders **Stephanie Lutz Allen**: lutzallen@gmail.com, (408) 391-2055 or **Melissa Kreisa**: kreisa@yahoo.com, (408) 250-2224.

### From Peacemaking Advocate

#### The Rev. Geoff Browning



#### California Initiative to End Capital Punishment

The Presbyterian Church has taken a prophetic stand on the issue of capital punishment since at least 1959, stating that "capital punishment cannot be condoned by an interpretation of the Bible based upon the revelation of God's love in Jesus Christ," and it called on Christians to "seek the redemption of evil doers and not their death" and noted that "the use of the death penalty tends to brutalize the society that condones it." Successive General Assemblies have continued to reaffirm this position in 1977, 1978, 1985, 2000, and 2010. For a fuller explanation of those actions, go to: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/101/capital-punishment/>

The people at **Safe California** are placing an initiative on the California ballot in November of 2012 that will stop death sentences in our state. I encourage you to peruse their website and get the facts about this initiative and why it makes sense if the goal is to make our state safer for all our citizens. [www.safecalifornia.org/home](http://www.safecalifornia.org/home)

### Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho & Overtures

#### "Breaking the Barriers to a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine"

When we think of Christmas, we think of Bethlehem and imagine the beauty of that clear night with a bright star over Jesus' birth. When we think of Jesus teaching, we think of Jericho near the Jordan River. When we think of Christ's death and resurrection, we think of Jerusalem - His prayers at the Mount of Olives, His crucifixion, and His resurrection from the tomb. These are real places, located now in what many call Palestine.

Since 2004, overtures, submitted at PC (USA) General Assemblies, have recommended divestment from companies that support the ongoing occupation of Palestine, where these holy sites are located. These overtures have engendered debates, some heated. Many are concerned about the implications of divestment.

**What are those implications? Why do some churches support divestment? What is the situation in Palestine that arouses**



## Presbyterian Women

### Claudia Hamm, PW

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of San Jose invite you to join us for our Spring Gathering:

### "One Blessed World: The New Face of Slavery"

Saturday, March 17, 2012 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church.



We are so pleased that **The Rev. Noelle Damico** will be our guest speaker on the topic: "**The New Face of Slavery**." (Please see the May 2011 issue of *Presbyterians Today*) Noelle is the Associate for Fair Food within the Presbyterian Hunger Program. She coordinates the PC(USA) Cam-

campaign for Fair Food, the church's partnership with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to advance human rights for farmworkers and socially responsible purchasing in the food industry. She was a keynote panelist at the US Department of Justice's National Conference on Human Trafficking in May of 2010 and the keynote speaker at the Freedom Network USA's National Conference on Human Trafficking in March of 2009. Noelle was a reviewer for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe's paper on human trafficking. Noelle sits on the PC(USA) General Assembly Mission Council human trafficking roundtable, facilitates human trafficking awareness trainings for the PC(USA) and writes and speaks on the church's role in advancing a human-rights based approach to addressing modern-day slavery.

We are delighted to present a program on such a timely and important subject. Our gathering is open to all, so please invite members of your congregation and other friends to join us. This will be a luncheon gathering. Reservations will be required and there will be a donation requested to cover the cost of the luncheon. More details on lunch and reservations will be available later on the Presbytery website and/or from **Claudia Hamm** at [jnchamm@gmail.com](mailto:jnchamm@gmail.com).

#### such passion?

Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church is hosting a conference on the weekend of March 23 & 24 that hopes to shed light on the situation in the Holy Land today. "**Breaking the Barriers to a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine**" offers two full days of educational talks, workshops, food, and entertainment. **The goal is to inform you of: the existing barriers; consequences of them; people challenging them; and what you can do.** A wide range of topics will be covered including divestment (why do it, what's the impact), physical barriers, economic restrictions and developments, along with what the media says and what it omits.

All are welcome. Please come with open hearts and minds. **We continue to update our web site for more information and registration: [www.barriers-conference.org](http://www.barriers-conference.org). For more information, contact Susan Brooksbank: [at:sbrooks@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:at:sbrooks@sbcbglobal.net)**

## Presbytery of San José



888 N. First St.,  
Suite 320

San José, CA 95112

Office: 408 279 0220

Fax: 408 279 5261

Toll Free: 877 537 5100

Website:

[www.sanjosepby.org](http://www.sanjosepby.org)

### STAFF:

Joey Lee

Executive Presbyter

John Kelso

Stated Clerk

Diane Case

Staff Accountant

Pat Plant

Administrative Assistant &  
Hunger Action Advocate

Natasha Jackson

Program Support

Jane Odell

Safe Church Practices  
Coordinator

(408) 279-0220

Geoff Browning

Peace and Justice Advocate

(650) 365-9720

Elsa Amboy

Refugee Ministry Advocate

(408) 733-9828

Melissa Kreisa

Refugee Ministry Advocate

(408) 250-2224

Coleen Hausler

Refugee Ministry Advocate

(408) 245-3515

The Monarch Messenger, the newsletter of the Presbytery of San Jose, is published 5 times each year: January, March, May, September, and November, for the 43 congregations located in this four-county area.

**NEXT DEADLINE:** The deadline for submission of articles for the NEXT issue (March 2012) of the *Monarch Messenger* newsletter is Wednesday, March 7, 2012.



## Safe Church Practices

### Jane Odell, Coordinator of Safe Church Practices

#### NEW SAFETY LAWS ABOUT BABY CRIBS

At the September, 2011 Presbytery meeting I spoke about the new federal regulations regarding baby cribs. By the end of 2012 it will be illegal to have cribs with drop sides in church nurseries. In purchasing new cribs, look for tags which state that the cribs are compliant with the Consumer Product Safety Act. Non-compliant cribs may not be sold or given away but should be destroyed. (For a complete list of legal issues related to the new baby crib regulations, go to: [www.sanjosepby.org/BabyCribs.htm](http://www.sanjosepby.org/BabyCribs.htm))



## From Refugee Ministry Advocates

### Melissa Kreisa, Elsa Amboy, and Coleen Hausler

**YEA, ELSA!** We congratulate our own **Elsa Amboy** as she has been nominated as the chair of the Refugee & Immigrant Forum of Santa Clara County. This group of social service agencies, non-profit, faith and community based organizations meets once a month to collaborate on ways in which to better serve refugees and new immigrants resettling in Santa Clara County.

**Refugee Transitions Training and Orientation events** : Each month, Refugee Transitions, the organization that trains volunteers to be English as a Second Language tutors, hosts an orientation evening at their office in San Jose. This is a chance to ask questions you have about their programs and learn about the steps involved in becoming a volunteer. They address questions about client needs, the role of the tutor, community resources, and cultural awareness. For more information, call 408-775-9707 or email [elsa@reftrans.org](mailto:elsa@reftrans.org).

## From Hunger Action Advocate

### Pat Plant

**PMX/ Pacific Mission Exchange:** The Synod of the Pacific has a special website "PMX" on which you can list mission activities your church is doing, or mission partners that you may have. People visiting this website may find your project and be willing to fund or contribute towards your good idea. If you go to: [http://pacificmissionexchange.org/our\\_projects](http://pacificmissionexchange.org/our_projects) you can see two projects from our Presbytery. To add your project, contact Kathy Trott at: [kathytrott@e-trott.com](mailto:kathytrott@e-trott.com).



**Thanks for coats and funding for rain ponchos:** Thanks to the generosity of our churches and members, more than 500 warm coats, 2,500 rain ponchos, and thousands of pounds of canned and packaged food was delivered to local social service agencies before Christmas.



## From Presbytery Accountant

### Diane Case

To our churches: Please remember when cutting checks for any mission giving collection, please send them to the Synod of Pacific with the mission giving form (200 Kentucky Street, Suite B Petaluma, CA 94952; [ani@synodpacific.org](mailto:ani@synodpacific.org)).

The forms can be found on the Synod of the Pacific website ([www.synodpacific.org/synod-mission-forms.html?bpid=1645](http://www.synodpacific.org/synod-mission-forms.html?bpid=1645)) ; under mission forms look for presbytery of San Jose. Please make checks out to the Synod of Pacific.



## Apply for a Communities of Theological Friendship Grant

The Office of Theology and Worship and the General Assembly Mission Council is accepting applications for two grant programs designed to help pastoral leaders in the PC (USA) form "communities of theological friendship." These grants help pastoral leaders meet together over a sustained period of time, worshipping and engaging in theological conversation. For complete information about this funding go to: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/theologyandworship/theological-friendship-grant/>