



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

The Monarch Messenger

The Newsletter of The Presbytery of San Jose

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

888 No. First St., Suite 320, San Jose CA 95112 • (408) 279-0220 • www.sanjosepby.org • Vol. 32 • Issue 5 • Nov., 2011

JOIN US for the NEXT Presbytery Meeting

Sat., November 19,
9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1100 Shasta Avenue. San José,
95126

Plenty of parking

www.westpres-sj.org/index.html

Child Care is available **IF** reservations are made by calling the church office at 408-294-7447 by Wed. Nov. 16.

Lunch will be served after the meeting

DOCKET: Go to the Presbytery website: www.sanjosepby.org



Exciting Proposal for an "Immanuel House" in our Presbytery



888 North First Street Suite 320,
San Jose, CA 95112

The Rev. Joey Lee, Executive Presbyter • The Rev. John Kelso, Acting Stated Clerk

Dear Pastors, Stated Clerks, Mission Chairs, Deacons and Presbyterian Women:

We are writing to you as the newly formed "Team Immanuel House," to inform you of our formation as a team and how your church can be involved in the exciting process of our Presbytery purchasing a Refugee Transition House.

You may or may not know that one of the churches in our Presbytery, Immanuel, closed June 12, 2011. This congregation discerned God's leading to designate the "legacy fund" of \$200,000 toward the purchase of a house for refugee ministry, to be called the *Immanuel House*. This was one of those powerful God-moments. Up to that point, Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church had supported rent of the refugee transition house for several years from a special fund set aside for this purpose; that fund was exhausted in June 2011. So the need is great to purchase a house, and no longer be dependent on the ongoing need to raise rent money.

We invite your participation in this process. We are currently raising funds to add to the \$200,000 toward this purchase. We also seek to raise awareness and participation in this ministry that has blessed so many. Our own Presbytery Executive, Rev. Joey Lee, came from China with his family as refugees, and has spoken often in our midst about the Presbyterian Church in Colorado that sponsored his family in coming to the U.S.

We would like to make a presentation to your church, inviting participation in the efforts to raise the remaining funds needed to purchase this Refugee Transition House. We have several who can come to your church to present a DVD and make a short presentation to your Session, Missions Committee, or entire congregation (at either a fellowship event or as part of your weekly worship service). One of us from the team will be contacting your church, to see if there is interest in considering this request and/or scheduling a visit. Our team consists of the Refugee Advocates on the staff of our Presbytery and former Immanuel Presbyterian Church members and interim pastor. We invite you to be looking in the Presbytery's newsletter, "The Monarch Messenger," for updates of our progress.

Thank you for considering this request.

Team Immanuel House

Melissa Kreisa, Elsa Amboy, Coleen Hausler, Jo & Gordy Apel, Donna Perry, Terri & Jerry Dias, and John & Stephanie Lutz Allen.





From The Rev. Joey Lee Executive Presbyter

As a way to stay focused and maintain clarity, I frequently ask myself these two questions: "What is the mission of the congregation?" and "What is the purpose of the Presbytery?" Fortunately, our Book of Order is a helpful resource in these matters

What is the mission of the congregation?

The congregation is the church engaged in the mission of God in its particular context.

The triune God gives to the congregation all the gifts of the gospel necessary to being the Church. The congregation is the basic form of the church...contributing their strengths to the benefit of the whole, and are called, collectively, the church.

Through the congregation God's people carry out the ministries of proclamation, sharing the Sacraments, and living in covenant life with God and each other. In the life of the congregation, individual believers are equipped for the ministry of witness to the love and grace of God in and for the world...

(G-1.0101 The Mission of the Congregation, emphasis mine)

What is the purpose of a presbytery?

...Congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), while possessing all the gifts necessary to be the church, are nonetheless not sufficient in themselves to be the church. Rather, they are called to share with others both within and beyond the congregation the task of bearing witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the world...The particular responsibility of the councils of the church is to nurture, guide, and govern those who witness as part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to the end that such witness strengthens the whole church and gives glory to God.

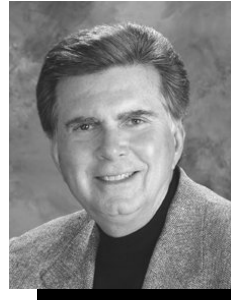
...Councils of the church exist to help congregations and the church as a whole to be more faithful participants in the mission of Christ.

(G-3.0101 Councils as an Expression of Unity of the Church, emphasis mine.)

The use of the term *Councils* to describe session, presbyteries, synod and the General Assembly, is an old one now made new again for us. Don't think "city council" but rather "Council of Nicaea." This is a change from the previous *Middle Governing Bodies* and the even older *Judicatories*. I do not believe that this change in terminology was simply for the sake of change, but an effort to more faithfully capture the nature of the church and better communicate the purpose of our being. And we should not only be about governance, or about judicial process, but in fact we should focus on helping one another to be "more faithful participants in the mission of Christ."

Joey Lee

"Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries." (1 Corinthians 4:1)



From the Rev. Jack Longley

This has been a tumultuous year for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and as we approach our final Presbytery meeting of 2011 I find myself personally distressed by the divisiveness within our presbytery and our denomination. One of our major strengths—our diversity—is

in jeopardy by factions that are ripping us apart.

We are hearing of those who are calling for a new reformed denomination—there is even a gathering scheduled in Florida for this express purpose; there are discussions of withdrawing from the presbytery and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and joining another reformed body; and, there are voices seeking to divide us and talking about the late great Presbyterian Church! I find this all very troubling. Our denomination may be sick and in need of healing but I'm not ready to declare the ailment as fatal. We MUST seek every remedy possible...and we MUST do it together!

In my last letter to you I wrote about our big umbrella that includes all who proclaim Christ as Savior. *"Where Christ is, there is the true church..." (B.O. F-10203)*. This being true, why are there so many divisions among us?

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth...*"I have a serious concern to bring up with you my friends...I'll put it as urgently as I can: You MUST get along with each other. You MUST learn to be considerate of one another, cultivating a life in common.*

"I bring this up because of a most disturbing report—that you're fighting among yourselves. You're picking sides, going around saying, 'I'm on Paul's side,' and 'I'm for Apollos,' or 'Peter is my man,' or 'I'm in the Messiah group.'"

This sounds like some of the rhetoric that is dividing our denomination and destroying the unity that is ours in Christ according to the scripture! I see and hear people asking about who is on the progressive "side" and who represents the evangelical-conservative "side" and it's distressing that we're not really talking to...and listening to...one another. *(I do commend the Presbytery Council for attempting a dialog with people of various theological persuasions participating; however, this needs to be a presbytery-wide dialog where we leave our agendas at home and come prepared to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to us.)*

We need to be reminded of the words of that 19th century hymn...

"Like a mighty army moves the Church of God;

Brothers/Sisters, we are treading where the saints have trod.

We are not divided, all one body we:

One in hope and doctrine, One in charity..."

We need to regroup...regain our focus...our sense of mission...and, we need to seriously call upon God on our knees to heal our divisions and mold us together...as one...!

May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,

Jack Longley

Moderator



Safe Church Practices

Jane Odell, Coordinator of Safe Church Practices

Next Safe Church Training:

This month I want to talk about older adults in our congregations--not only about ways to keep them safe but also about responding to their unique needs....

- Do you know which older adults in your congregation are no longer able to drive or may be afraid to drive? Could you arrange transportation to worship and other church events for them? Congregations with adequate financial resources might consider purchasing a van with a hydraulic lift to accommodate wheel chairs and walkers. A driver with the appropriate class license would be needed also.
- Are your church buildings--including restrooms--truly accessible? When did you last check for anything that might cause an older person to trip and fall--torn carpet--uneven pavement --doorways with high ledges? Do you have enough handicapped parking spaces?
- What support groups do you have or are considering having --for caregivers--for newly widowed or divorced--for those living with cancer or other illnesses (debilitating or chronic)?
- Speakers: a health care professional on the difference between dementia and depression--a police officer to speak about scams--a lawyer on the importance of making a will and how to do it. Advance directives and memorial service plans are also good adult education topics for all adults.
- Do you have hearing assisted devices in your sanctuary? How about large print Bibles, hymnals, and bulletins? Having words projected on screens is not enough. Looking up to read Scripture and hymns is uncomfortable for short folk (trust me, I speak from experience!) and for those with neck and shoulder pain.
- Do you know the phone number for Adult Protective Services in your county?
 - Monterey-831-755-4466
 - San Benito-831-636-4190
 - Santa Clara-408-975-4900 or 800-414-2002
 - Santa Cruz-866-580-4357

What have I forgotten?

Jane Odell

P.S. OH YES!



NEXT SAFE CHURCH TRAINING:

Sat., January 21, 2012 at First Pres. Palo Alto, 1140 Cowper Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301; **10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Please RSVP with Natasha at the Presbytery Office by Monday, Jan. 16, Natasha@sanjosepby.org, (408) 279-0220



Presbyterian Women

Claudia Hamm, PW

Celebrating "One Blessed World..." with Presbyterian Women

**WINTER GATHERING
EPIPHANY TEA**

"One Blessed World: Let There Be Light"

January 8, 2012, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Stone Church of Willow Glen, San Jose

Begin the new year with a Taize worship experience of music, chanting, and reading in the candle-lit sanctuary of Stone Church.



Peacemaking Conference

**Breaking the Barriers:
A Just Peace in Israel/
Palestine**

March 23 -24, 2012 at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church

Palestine has been in the news often in the past few months, most recently its submission for recognition of statehood through the UN and now the UNESCO vote. Most of us know some aspects of the situation, but have you ever wondered about getting more in-depth knowledge? Have you spoken to a Palestinian or heard stories about daily life in the West Bank or Gaza? What does it all mean to us as Christians, who ache to see turmoil in the land of Jesus?

As a place for gathering and learning together, the Sabeel Conference in March 2012 will be a great resource to help navigate through the issues of our time. At the conference, you can learn about existing barriers to peace and the consequences of those barriers, who are challenging the barriers, and what actions can be taken to overcome the barriers. Several renowned theologians, including Dr. Marc Ellis, Director of the Center for Jewish Studies of Baylor University, will provide thoughtful leadership in explaining core issues and offer workshops for interactive discussions to answer your questions.

Topics of discussion range from the ordinary (life on a daily basis, the economy, high tech businesses) to the philosophical (ideological differences, theological interpretations, influence of the media). Add in a sprinkling of fun with excellent food, music, film and poetry, and it will be two days of dynamic growth for body, mind and spirit.

Jesus calls us to take care of our neighbors, love one another, and live in peace. The conference will be an extraordinary opportunity for opening hearts and minds to learn how.

The Sabeel Conference will be held March 23 and 24, 2012, at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church. For further information on the conference, visit the new web site (it will be updated periodically as details evolve) or contact **Susan Brooksbank:** sbrooks@sbcglobal.net , www.barriers-conference.org

Information about Sabeel can be found at www.sabeel.org and www.fosna.org.

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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 (January, 2012) of the *Monarch Messenger* newsletter is Thurs., January 5, 2012.



Christmas Joy Offering

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC(USA) provides this timely opportunity for congregations to support causes specifically designed to bring *Good News of Great Joy* to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Alongside the message

of promise and fulfillment in Luke's Gospel, we hear the clear call to God's people to respond in faith as Christ calls us: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded" (Luke 12:48).

Fifty percent of the receipts from the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides support to both active and retired church workers and their spouses and families. The other 50 percent supports scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges through the General Assembly Mission Council. The Christmas Joy Offering is usually received the Sunday before Christmas but may be received anytime during the Advent season.



Milagros 66
by Lynden Keith Johnson

Weekend Art Display and Sale

Sat., November 26 (10am-6pm) and Sun., November 27 (10:30am-4pm)

Stone Church of Willow Glen, 1937 Lincoln Ave.,
San Jose, 95125

Mark your calendars! Stone Church artist, **Lynden Johnson**, paints an original painting for the bulletin cover each Sunday, coordinated with pastor **Ken Henry's** sermon. Some of these covers were paintings of crosses and other religious subjects which make wonderful art to hang in churches and homes. These works and other paintings by this artist will be on sale at the show. In addition there will also be original Christmas cards and ornaments created by Johnson.

From Refugee Ministry Advocates

Elsa Amboy, Melissa Kreisa, and Coleen Hausler



Refugee Transitions

'World of Difference' Benefit Dinner

On October 27th, the Presbytery partnered with non-profit Refugee Transitions to host a dinner

at the beautiful Adobe Lodge at Santa Clara University. Volunteers and refugees shared their inspirational stories about the positive impact Refugee Transitions has made in their lives. Thank you to the Presbytery and those of you who were able to attend this lovely event!

Family Co-Sponsorship

Thank you to teams from St. Timothy's Church in Palo Alto and the Highway Church in Mountain View who have volunteered to co-sponsor newly arrived refugee families. St. Tim's has a large group of 30+ volunteers who are assisting a large extended family from the Congo. A smaller team of 5 young professionals from the Highway Church have been trained and are in the process of being matched with a new family. Large and small groups of volunteers can make a huge difference in the lives of refugee families who are new to the Bay Area. Please contact us at refugee@sanjosepby.org for more information on how you or your congregation can help.

Backpacks, Bus passes and Christmas Giving Tree

We are always encouraging mission teams and youth groups to consider hosting a backpack drive, donate bus passes or organize a Giving Tree for Christmas. Please contact us at refugee@sanjosepby.org if you are interested in organizing any of these activities during the upcoming holiday season.



Blessings,

Coleen Hausler, Elsa Amboy & Melissa Kreisa