

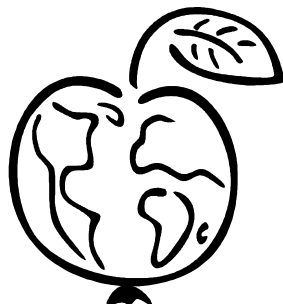
The Monarch Messenger

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. 30 • Issue 2 • March, 2009



Presbytery Going "Greener"... going to e-news

We are going to attempt to save some trees and begin to email our *Monarch Messenger* newsletter.

But, for the next few issues, we will "snail" mail the newsletter in hard

copy and send enough copies of each issue to each church for Elders, Deacons, staff and a small number for members as long as they are needed.

We hope each church will put an article in their own newsletters asking members who want the newsletter via email to send us their email address and we'll add them to our growing number of email addresses. We will be switching to emailed news via Constant Contact, which allows for photos, color and visual interest, as we have tried to do with our printed newsletter. Our long term goal is to email the news to everyone and print far fewer copies. The *Monarch Messenger* will continue to appear on the Presbytery website.

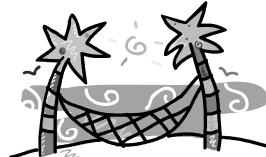
To receive the *Monarch* online, email us TODAY with your address. Email your address to: pat@sanjosepby.org.



THE LADDER PROJECT... PW helps Habitat for Humanity Train Incarcerated Women in Construction

On March 16, many, including our Rev. David McCreath and Lea Lawrence of our Presbytery PW organization, gathered at the Santa Clara County Office Center to celebrate the graduation of the first five women from Elmwood Correctional Facility in Milpitas. The Ladder Project is a joint

program of Habitat for Humanity and the County Commission on the Status of Women with an initial grant of \$15,000 from Presbyterian Women. Women were trained to do basic carpentry skills and mentored in their search for that important first job.



2009 Pastor's Retreat May 4-7

Pastors are encouraged to attend the annual Presbytery Pastor's Retreat to be held at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville. The guest speaker will be Sam Hamilton Poor, the Director of the Program in Christian Spirituality at SFTS. Sam is the author of *Earth Gospel: A guide to Prayer for God's Creation*. Go to <http://www.sanjosepby.org/events.html> for more information.



New Presbytery Resource Center

By Natasha Jackson, Presbytery Program Support

The Presbytery office Conference Room is an newly organized Resource Center. We also have a new Resource Catalog which is on our website at: www.sanjosepby.org/ResourceCenterBooksandFilms.htm

If you see something you want just call or email us about getting it and, of course, you're all welcome to visit the Resource Center to browse and check out books, DVDs, CD' and VHS cassettes. Categories range from the Bible, Children, Christian Education, Church & World/Mission, Congregational Life, Family Life to Stewardship.

The Resource Center is very easy to access (there are no long lines...yet). We offer extended use of any material you check out. The Resource Center is cheaper than Amazon.com (you can't beat free). We hope to see many of you visiting the new Resource Center soon.

Contact **Natasha Jackson** at the Presbytery Office: 408-279-0220; email Natasha@sanjosepby.org.

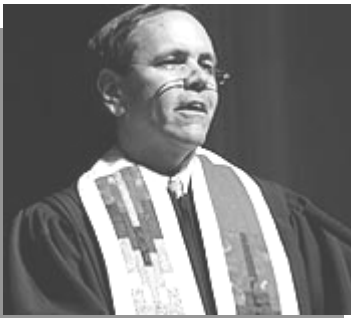
Peacemaking and Social Justice Film Resources

Our Peace and Social Justice Ministry Taskforce has a new film list on our Presbytery website (<http://www.sanjosepby.org/PeaceandSocialJusticeTaskforce.htm>) of films on the Israel Palestine situation and other justice issues including environmental concerns. To borrow any of these films, contact **Jim Hagan** at jimhagan@sbcglobal.com.

EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING in our Presbytery



- **Our NEXT Presbytery Meetings:** Saturdays, (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.): April 4 at the **Los Gatos Church**, June 6 at the **Gilroy Church**, Sept. 19 at the **Sunnyvale Church** (includes the Presbytery Mission Fair), Nov. 21 at the **Watsonville United Church**
- **Presbytery Mission Trip to Houma, Louisiana** April 19-25
- **Presbyterian Women Spiritual Nurture Retreat**, Sat. May 2, 9 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. at Los Gatos Pres. (Details, page 2)
- **Community Action Poverty Simulation**, May 2, 10 a.m.—2 p.m., Palo Alto First Pres. (details on page 4)
- **Pastor's Retreat:** May 4-7 at San Damiano Center in Danville; details on our website at: <http://www.sanjosepby.org/events.html>
- **PW Women's Gathering**, Louisville, KY—July 11-15



**From The Rev.
Tom Coop
Moderator**

**MODERATOR'S
MUSINGS**

"So how would you like to be the 2009 Moderator of San Jose Presbytery?" That was the question posed to me about three days before the January Presbytery meeting when the "new" moderator was to be installed. Yikes! I have to admit I never really paid much attention to what a moderator did. I did notice when they stumbled. I did notice when John Lococo, our esteemed stated clerk, had to bail them out. But that was about it. As I reflected on the "opportunity" with fear and trembling, I realized I could stumble with the best of them, John was still going to be there to rescue me when necessary, AND it might just give the presbytery a chance to practice patience, forgiveness, and tolerance. So I said yes.

NOW WHAT??? Well, God is good and God is faithful. As I write this I am reminded that my sermon for Sunday is going to be on Abraham. Hey, as great a man of faith as he was, he still sold his wife to Pharaoh in order to save his own skin. How much worse can I do than that? The truth is, we all are faced with "opportunities" that we don't feel prepared for. We all have and will continue to make mistakes in this life. It is never about being perfect – it is all about being faithful.

We will be making important decisions regarding the direction of this denomination at the next presbytery meeting. Not everybody is going to be happy with the results. That is understandable. There are very deep and committed feelings on all sides. But as important as how we vote is, the manner in which we demonstrate our faith during and after our time together is as important. Will people be able to look at us and say, "Wow, how they disagreed and yet how they continued to love each other!?" God is bigger and stronger and more loving and more faithful than any decisions we will make on April 4th. Can we be?

Be blessed, my friends ... I am looking forward to a great year together. And always feel free to call me at 408-629-5906 or email me at stoyltr2@aol.com.

Tom Coop



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Spiritual Nurture Retreat

"Called by the Spirit . . . To Energy, Intelligence, Imagination and Love"

The Retreat will be held on **Saturday, May 2, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos.** This will be a day with time for quiet reflection, spiritual nurture, and conversation with other women. Registration materials will be available soon or by contacting **Claudia Hamm** at jlhamm@earthlink.net or 408-356-6665.

The facilitator for this annual event will be the **Rev. Aimee Moiso**, Chaplain for Protestant and Interfaith ministries at Santa Clara University by the Presbytery of San Jose to the ministry at Santa Clara University.

**From The Rev.
Joey Lee
Executive Presbyter**

Mystery Worshipper

Let me share with you a fun website that makes me think, laugh and gives me ideas about church. The website is: www.ship-of-fools.com. In their own words, they say:

"We're here for people who prefer their religion disorganized," says the Ship's editor and designer, [Simon Jenkins](#). "Our aim is to help Christians be self-critical and honest about the failings of Christianity, as we believe honesty can only strengthen faith."

Ship of Fools' co-editor is Stephen Goddard, who met Simon Jenkins at theological college in London in the late 70s. "As committed Christians ourselves, we can't help laughing at the crazy things that go wrong with the church, and we're also drawn to those questions which take us beyond easy believing. In the end, we want to make sense of the Christian faith in today's complex world."

What I really enjoy reading is their feature, "The Mystery Worshipper." Like mystery shoppers, they have individuals who go to churches across the country and around the world, attend worship, and then write a review of the experience. All follow the same format, answer the same questions. They identify the church and denomination, there is a brief description of the building, the neighborhood, the worship leaders, date and time.

Some of the questions they respond to are:

- Did anyone welcome you personally?
- Was your pew comfortable?
- How would you describe the pre-service atmosphere?
- Exactly how long was the sermon?
- What happened when you hung around after the service looking lost?
- How would you describe the after-service coffee?
- Did the service make you feel glad to be a Christian?
- What one thing will you remember about all this in seven days' time?

The responses are of course totally subjective, and not a guide for which church to visit when you are traveling. For me it is a helpful, simple and frankly amusing way to think about what a guest/ visitor experiences when they visit church...our church. How hard is the pew? How cold is the coffee and how warm is the welcome? Let your worship committee look at a couple of reviews, have a laugh and then think about how we can create a welcoming and meaningful experience at church.

Joey Lee



SFTS Seminary for a Day

You can try "Seminary for a Day" on Friday, May 1! Travel to San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS) and enjoy a welcome coffee, morning Worship with the students, two lectures by professors, and lunch with a seminary update. Cost is \$15 with registration due April 23 to Sarah Campbell at 415-451-2830. Lecturing professors will be the Rev. Dr. Gregory Love, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, considering "Who is God," and the Rev. Dr. Judy Siker, VP for the SFTS Southern California and professor of NT and Christian Origins, with her presentation on "Sassy Women of the Gospels."

By **Melissa Kreisa**, Presbytery Refugee Ministry Advocate

We first met **Sister Marilyn Lacey** right after she had left Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Division to go on a sabbatical to write a book. She told us the book would be about how she had come to meet God through the refugees. We, ourselves, had just fallen into the chaotic world of refugee resettlement and had asked to meet with her because we felt like we needed some grounding -- some balance. We had been working with refugees for all of 2 months and were already feeling overwhelmed! That day she did provide the direction and support we needed...



Elsa and I both came away from the meeting affirmed that we were being called to help this ministry. We felt that Sr. Marilyn (and many others along with her) had paved a solid path which we could follow to welcome and assist newly arrived refugees to our area.

In her book, Sr. Marilyn writes that she believed her own call to work with refugees was "God showing her a new way of loving." In the eighteen months since that meeting, we have seen for ourselves that this is the great blessing that refugees bring with them. That this is the gift we receive when one 'welcomes the stranger.'

This article in the **Monarch Messenger** is a recommendation for this beautiful book. The title is "**This Flowing Toward Me: A Story of God Arriving in Strangers**" by Sister Marilyn Lacey and it is available at Amazon.com.

Please contact us to talk about how your church can become more involved with this exciting and important ministry: melissa@sanjosepby.org, and elsa@sanjosepby.org



A New Model of Youth Ministry

In February, three churches in our presbytery held a combined youth event with great success. Youth from Immanuel Pres, First Pres Santa Clara and Westminster Pres met for an evening of fun and fellowship. This is the first step in exploring a new model of youth ministry. The idea is to pool youth and church resources as a way for smaller churches to expand and improve their outreach to youth.

The current plan is to have a series of monthly events so the youth and leaders can get to know each other. If all goes well, the groups will have weekly meetings together and eventually hire a youth leader to direct and lead the shared youth ministry. If other churches in our presbytery would like to learn more about this model of youth ministry or become part of the group contact Rev Steve Norman at steve@revnorman.com.



What do WE BELIEVE? By Rosaleen Zisch

How do we deepen our faith and help answer faith questions so everyone can understand? Christian Education committees are challenged with these questions every year. The cost in time & money is frequently prohibitive. To address these concerns, Congregational Publishing has released exciting NEW resources this year. I recently returned from the Presbyterian Association of Church Educators Conference where I got to examine samples of the materials. There are a lot of options and flexibility while maintaining that biblical foundation. For example, the one page "coffee house" for youth or adults centers on one faith question. It is inexpensive but relevant to our busy lives. The Church has listened to our concerns and has addressed them with these accessible resources. The scope and sequence is available on line and samples of all levels can be downloaded from www.pcusa.org/webeleve.

I hope you'll consider using our Presbyterian materials, which include a revised **We Believe** and an all-new **Wee Believe** for preschoolers. They are thoughtfully prepared and consistent with our reformed theology. They also tell our unique Mission stories beautifully. As an appointed **POINT** (Presbyterians Organized in Nurture & Teaching) delegate from our Presbytery, I am happy to meet with your committees, provide you with a DVD introduction or answer questions via e-mail. Feel free to contact me at 408-723-8456 or rozisch@aol.com. Additional CE assistance is available locally at the **Media Resource Center** 408-378-2532 with **Pat Strandburg** (emrcvideos@aol.com) and with Miriam Kishi, APCE Board member, (miriamekishi@yahoo.com).



15 People Going on April Mission Trip to Houma, LA

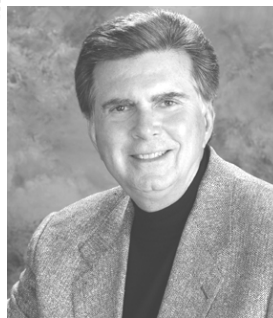
NOT TO LATE TO JOIN!

Fifteen members of the Presbytery of San Jose will fly to New Orleans on April 19. From New Orleans the team will travel by van to Houma, where they will spend five days bringing hope to the residents of that Gulf Coast community, which was devastated by Hurricanes Rita and Gustave. The team will be helping to rebuild houses that were damaged in these storms. They will be staying at the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Village known as Good Earth.

Elder Gary Ruschke of the Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church will be the team leader. Other team members include Maureen Chandler from Stone; Robert Blair, Gene Gilman, Gail Lee, Gail McCaffrey and Michael and Sheueling Shantz from Sunnyvale; Audrey Christensen from Los Gatos; Julie Kiefer, Mark McPherson and Zack McPherson from Gilroy and Linda Walker from Northminster. Three additional people, who are not affiliated with the presbytery, are joining the team.

To join this team for the April 19-25 trip. Contact **Judi Pogue**, Worldwide Mission Advocate at judi@sanjosepby.org if you would like to be part of this exciting mission.

Church/Pastor News



Pastor Jack Longley is retiring after 50 years in Ministry - the last 30.5 years at Trinity Presbyterian, San Jose. The church is celebrating Jack's long service and retirement on Sat. April 18 at 3:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend. RSVP to 408.356.2306. Trinity is located at 3151 Union Ave., San Jose 95124.

AND...

We welcome the **Rev. Andy Rausch** who was Installed as the new pastor at Northminster Church in Salinas at a service at the church on March 22. Pastor Rausch, a Princeton grad, has been Assoc. Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Marion, Iowa as well as serving as a Chaplain in the California State Military Reserve.

Presbytery of San José

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The Monarch Messenger, the newsletter of the Presbytery of San José is published 5 times each year: January, March, May, September, and November, for the 45 congregations located in this four-county area.

NEXT DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of articles for the NEXT issue of the Presbytery Newsletter is May 10, 2009 for the June, 09 issue.



2009 Congressional Accompaniment Project (CAP) Tour to Israel/Palestine



A Peacemaking Mission Trip

From August 8th. to August 18th. 2009, you can be a part of a group of peacemakers who will leave for an 10 day trip to Israel-Palestine, accompanying several U.S. Congressional Senior Staff Aides on a mission of peacemaking and fact-finding. This an unparalleled chance to accomplish two important goals: 1. expand and deepen your own knowledge of the Holy Land and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict through direct experience, and 2. influence the political climate of Washington toward fair & balanced policies that will help enable a just peace in the region for both the state of Israel and the people of Palestine. An additional advantage is the unforgettable experience of traveling through the "Holy Land:" Jerusalem, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the Contemporary Way of the Cross, the Dome of the Rock, the Western Wall, Nazareth and much more.

The cost is \$1,495 which includes hotel, 2 meals per day, tour guide and entrance fees, transportation, tips. This does not include airfare, lunch, souvenirs, personal expenses or travel insurance. Please let us know if you are interested in group travel possibilities. Prices based on double-occupancy. Supplement for single room is \$325. Prices are based on a minimum of 12 travelers, and subject to changes due to circumstances beyond our control. Travelers must have a passport that is valid six months beyond date of re-entry to U.S. Confirmation (completed application) is needed by April 30, 2009.

For more information or to apply as an "Accompanier," contact: Darrell and Sue Yeane, National Coordinators of the 2009 CAP Tour Members of the Presbytery of San Jose and the PC (USA) Israel/Palestine Mission Network suedy2@comcast.net, www.middleeastawareness.org, 831-600-7088.



The Campaign to Cut Poverty

For the past year an exciting, robust, taskforce has been meeting to strategize and plan what it would take to reduce poverty significantly in Santa Clara County. This movement, "**Step Up Silicon Valley: The Campaign to Cut Poverty**" has been spearheaded by Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County and is comprised of everyone with a stake in the plight of the poor, plus poor people themselves. Did you know that one out of every four people in Santa Clara County lives in poverty?

One aspect of the campaign is a sincere interest to educate all residents about the issues related to poverty and what can be done to alleviate it. To that end we have obtained a great learning tool, a poverty simulation activity that is both educational and fun. Join us for this simulation or one in the future.

JOIN US FOR A LIFE-CHANGING LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Community Action Poverty Simulation

Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. (Lunch is included)

First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, 1140 Cowper Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301

You must pre-register by emailing: povertysimulation@ccsj.org

(we can accommodate up to 80 people for this event)

Questions? Contact Hunger Action Advocate, **Pat Plant**; (408)279-0220; pat@sanjosepb.org or **Geoff Browning**, Peacemaking Advocate: (650) 868-4241; geoff@sanjosepb.org

The Mission & Vision of the Presbytery of San Jose

Called by God as a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Presbytery of San José exists to serve and be a resource for the health and growth of the Presbyterian congregations within our four counties.

Our Vision is:

- To support our congregations in reaching out to all people in the name of Jesus Christ
- To challenge a diverse community to hold fast to the foundations of our faith
- To build a diverse community unified by the unique gifts of the Holy Spirit for the great work of the church.

Visit us at: www.sanjosepb.org

