



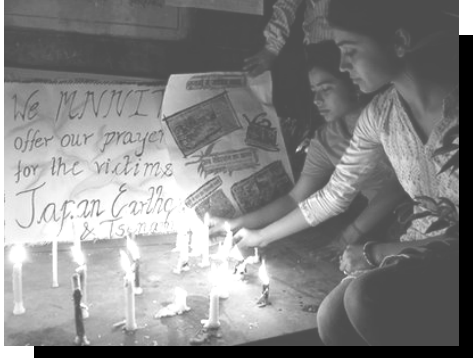
The Monarch Messenger

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. 32 • Issue 2 • April, 2011



AP wire photo

A Call To Pray For Japan

“As a hart longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for thee, O God” (Ps. 42:1).

The Psalmist’s words of lament resonate deeply during this season of Lent, but especially this day as we witness the destruction from the devastating earthquake and resulting tsunami in Japan. The magnitude of this kind of tragedy is difficult to grasp. Yet, our faith leads us to affirm that in even greater measure is the presence of God in the midst of the devastation.

Please join us in praying for those affected by these events – the victims and their families, those who wait for word from loved ones, those offering aid and comfort now and in the days and weeks to come, civic and national leaders, and faith communities in Japan that offer hope in a seemingly hopeless time. The Psalmist’s final words are, “Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise God, my help and my God” (Ps. 42:11).

May it be so, Cynthia Bolbach, Moderator of the 219th General Assembly (2010), Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Linda Valentine, Executive Director of the General Assembly Mission Council

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is already at work sending needed support to Japan. To send a special donation for this effort go to: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/give/DR000117/>

Contemplative Prayer Ministry Begins



Westhope has created a Labyrinth in front of their church for their members, friends, and passers-by to experience this form of contemplative prayer

In the small congregation of Westhope Presbyterian Church a life-changing ministry is being born. The **Contemplative Center of Silicon Valley** is being born out of the prayer and discernment and dreams of many people. **The vision of the Center is to be a place where all God’s people can gather in sacred space to deepen their relationship with God, find healing for themselves, and deepen relationship with others.**

We have been thrilled to watch the Spirit draw together 11 trained Spiritual Directors who are envisioning a sacred space where people are intentionally accompanied in a covenant relationship to deepen in their relationship with the Holy One. We have heard over and over again of the spiritual hunger of this valley, and this Center seeks to feed that hunger in deep and beautiful ways. We respond to that hunger by offering the sacred art of Spiritual Direction for both individuals and groups, supervision for other Spiritual Directors, Ignatian Exercises, regular retreat times, an outdoor labyrinth, monthly Taize services and on-going teaching in

traditional prayer practices to the larger community. For those of us who haven’t heard of Spiritual Direction before we offer this explanation: spiritual direction is a form of holy listening and attending to the Spirit of God in daily life. It is an intentional relationship where a trained listener companions another along the spiritual journey.

If you have a heart that longs to deepen your connection to the Holy, allow us to draw alongside you to walk the journey with intention and beauty. You can contact us at westhopepres@yahoo.com or 408-255-0955. We certainly are excited about what God is birthing in our midst and invite you to come and see what God is doing.

Experience a Taize Worship Service every 3rd Tuesday of the month (April 21) and every 2nd Thursday (April 14) at noon.

JOIN US for the NEXT Presbytery Meeting

Sat., April 2,
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Presbyterian Church of
Los Gatos,
16575 Shannon Road, Los
Gatos, CA 95032 ;
www.pclg.org

- Plenty of parking
- Child Care is available
IF reservations are made by calling the church office at (408) 356-6156 by Mon. March 28.
- Lunch will be served after the meeting prepared by church volunteers
- DOCKET: Go to Presbytery website: www.sanjosepby.org

Future Meetings:

F.Y.I. 6/4 at Trinity Santa Cruz;
9/24 at First Santa Clara; 11/19: Westminster, San Jose



From The Rev. Joey Lee Executive Presbyterian

Prepositions can make all the difference. (I can hear all you going “Huh?” even as I write). For example, we all know it makes a world of difference if someone is speaking *at* you, versus them speaking *to* you. And walking *near* someone is very different than walking *with* someone. From that tiny word one can sense a difference in

meaning, relationship and attitude.

It is with the belief that little things make a big difference, I share with you that the Presbytery Council is taking a small step to engage in conversation with one another, over the common concerns that both unite and divide us. As voting on the proposed amendments to the Book of Order continues with the very real potential for substantial change (<http://oga.pcusa.org/pdf/votes.pdf>); and as “white papers” and “open letters” are circulated across the church (www.fellowship-pcusa.org), while others hold conferences wondering what next for the future of the PC (USA) (www.secondchurch.org/next), we find ourselves in anxious times around the future of our church. In a recent letter from the leadership of the General Assembly, Moderator Cynthia Bolbach, Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons and Executive Director Linda Valentine wrote:

“We encourage ministers and elders; churches which are large or small; immigrant communities, men, women, and young people; established churches and innovative worship and mission communities to join in prayer and conversation, vision and leadership for the church in this exciting time.

We thank those who put before the church challenges, aspirations and ideas in commitment to God and to the church, for this will contribute to the conversations going on across the church. We appeal to those who do so to participate and engage with, that ongoing conversation...”

Of all the questions ask of Deacon, Elders and Ministers of Word and Sacrament at the time of ordination and installation, perhaps my favorite is “Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?” There is little doubt that we have brought much energy and intelligence to our discussions so far. Let us remember to add to those imagination (creative possibility) and love (philia and agape) as we talk *to* and walk *with* one another.

“Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.” - 1 John 4:11

Joey



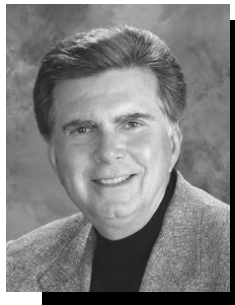
El Estero Art & Wine Festival

Saturday, April 30 from 12p.m.-4p.m.

Asian arts display, handmade crafts, and traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony.

Bento Box (Japanese Lunch) \$10 Pre-event lunch tickets on sale (call the office to reserve some) with limited quantities available day of event.

El Estero Presbyterian Church 490 Camino El Estero, Monterey, 93940 (831) 375-6622



From Rev. Jack Longley Moderator

Don't ever lose sight of the goal! The writer of the Book of Hebrews wrote...

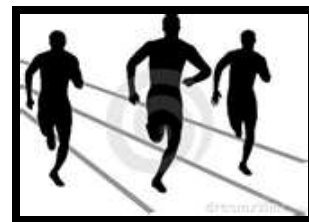
“Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus...!” (Hebrews 12:1-2a, NIV)

In his book, *“The Perfect Mile,”* Neal Bascomb gives an account of what became known as the race of the century between Roger Bannister and John Landy.

On May 6, 1954, Bannister was the first man to officially run the mile in under four minutes. In less than seven weeks on June 21, 1954 Landy became only the second man in history to reach this goal that many had alluded so many through the ages.

This set up what was probably one of best known races during the 20th century—a race between the two fastest milers on August 7, 1954 in the British Empire Games in Vancouver, British Columbia It was billed as *“The Miracle Mile—The Race of the Century—The Dream Race!”*

Landy had the reputation of being a fast starter...Bannister for being one who came on strong in the end. By mid-race Landy led Bannister by about fifteen yards and the crowd in the stands was convinced that the race was over. But as the race continued Landy started to tire just a bit and Bannister began to gain on him.



Bascomb describes the race from the final turn to the finish line...*“Bannister closed the gap between them. As they neared the home straight, Bannister marshaled his ‘finishing kick’...this was his final chance. Bannister swung his arms high and lengthened his stride. He urged his tired muscles into action...”*

“Coming out of the bend, Landy thought he had finally shaken Bannister. He could no longer see Bannister’s shadow...so, he looked over his left shoulder to make sure he had succeeded... and...exactly at that moment Bannister hurled himself around Landy on the right in two long strides...and never relinquished the lead...he sped down the homestretch and won the race!”

A larger than life sculpture of the two men at this moment was crafted and for many years was displayed at the entrance of Empire Stadium in Vancouver. Upon seeing the sculpture, Landy quipped that *“While Lot’s wife was turned into a pillar of salt for looking back, I’m probably the only one ever turned into bronze!”* Landy took his eyes off the goal...lost the momentum...and the race!

In Matthew 28, Jesus set before His disciples the goal that we are to fix our eyes upon...***“Go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...” (Matthew 28:19-20a)***

It’s so easy to take our eyes off the goal to make disciples, to be obsessed with a cause, an overture and/or amendment, and to become overwhelmed by the tyranny of the urgent and lose sight as to why we exist and forget our commission.

The *Book of Order* is very clear as to God’s purpose for the church.....

(Continued on page 3)



Safe Church Practices

Jane Odell, Coordinator of Safe Church Practices

Dates for Safe Church Training this spring:

April 16--Gilroy, 6000 Miller Gilroy, CA 95020

May 21--Los Altos, 858 University Ave, Los Altos, CA 94024

Register with Natasha Jackson at the Presbytery office--408-279-0220, Natasha@sanjosepby.org.

Every Church Needs This Training!

The following churches have not had anyone participate in Safe Church training to date: Gilroy, Lincoln Avenue, San Martin, Bonny Doon, Santa Cruz 1st (Vintage Faith), Westhope, TAPC, GKI

REMINDER: All Ministers of Word and Sacrament, currently serving Elders and Deacons, paid staff members, and volunteers who work in any capacity with children and youth are required to attend Safe Church Training.



Rev. Don Hammond New Pastor at Trinity, San Jose

"I dream Trinity will become a vibrant six - generation church and a safe community becoming even more like Christ in all that we do," said **Don Hammond** in a recent conversation.

Don was baptized a Presbyterian at a young age he was raised in Hanford, CA. He graduated from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI. He has served at several churches throughout California, Chula Vista Community Church, Church of Chimes and, Community of Hope both in San Jose.

Don is a widower with 5 kids and 10 grandkids, all under the age of 7, with another on the way. In his free time Don enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren who all live locally. To welcome Don to the Presbytery email him at donhammond07@comcast.net

Moderator Jack Longley (continued from page 2)

"The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel of salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world." (G-1.0200)

...The Church is called to undertake this mission even at the risk of losing its life, trusting in God alone as the author and giver of life, sharing the gospel, and doing those deeds in the world that point beyond themselves to the new reality in Christ..."(Excerpts from G-3.0200-G-3.0400)

John Landy lost the race of the century because he took his eyes off the goal! We must never lose sight of the goal set before us as followers of Jesus Christ! Making disciples is *not* an option—it is mandated by our Lord! That must be our primary focus.

May the peace of our Lord be with you all...

Jack



Presbyterian Women

Claudia Hamm, PW Moderator

April 30, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Santa Teresa Hills, 5370 Snell Ave, San Jose 95123

PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Spiritual Nurture Retreat—"Letting Scripture Read You: Experiencing God Through Guided Meditation"

The Rev. Kim Englemann, pastor at Cupertino West Valley, will do guided imagery and scripture with music. Says Kim, "It is a meditative/contemplative thing, putting yourself into scripture. It's about letting scripture read you."

Registration \$30 before April 9 \$35 after April 9. For more information contact Claudia Hamm at jnchamm@gmail.com

From Hunger Action Advocate

Pat Plant



Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through **One Great Hour of Sharing** to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communi-

ties. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

Where does the money go? The **Presbyterian Hunger Program** receives 36 percent of undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, while the **Self-Development of People** and **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** each receive 32 percent. **When is the offering received?** Most congregations receive the offering on Easter Sunday, Palm Sunday or both, while many receive it throughout Lent.

Need ideas on how to promote the offering? A speaker for a meeting, a worship service? Contact **Pat Plant** at the Presbytery Of-



Rev. Irene Pak sorts clothing

Our Churches Help Homeless Agency

Recently, volunteers from six of our churches made up a robust group of fifty volunteers of all ages, who worked on sorting and organizing a mound of clothing and other donations that had been piling up at

InnVlision's Georgia Travis Cen-

ter. This agency serves poor and homeless people in San Jose. In small task groups the hard-working people transformed a cluttered warehouse into a clean, neat, and highly organized place to store Christmas decorations, gifts, and miscellaneous supplies. We also sorted countless king-sized garbage bags full of useful clothes for men, women and children and hung them all neatly in their Donation Depot for clients to "shop" for needed items. If you'd like to participate in future workdays, contact Pat Plant at pat@sanjosepby.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 45 congregations located in this four-county area.

NEXT DEADLINE: The deadline for submission of articles for the NEXT issue (May, 2011) of the *Monarch Messenger* newsletter is Fri., May 6, 2011.



Thai Performers coming to Felton Church

On the evening of Monday, April 4th, a team of dancers from **Payap University** in Chiang Mai, Thailand will perform at **Felton Presbyterian Church** as part of their trip along the West Coast of the United States. **Dr. Esther Wakeman**, Presbyterian Church USA missionary and director of the **Christian Communications Institute (CCI)** of the University, and her husband, **Rev. Rob Collins** (PCUSA missionary retired), will lead the seven professional dancers and actors. The program will feature a number of dances from the various regions of Thailand, as well as a traditional Thai melodrama (Likay), with English translation. The drama is a touching true story about a gangster whose life is changed in an

amazing way.

The CCI was founded 33 years ago. Its purpose is to communicate Christian truths through the use of Thai cultural expressions. Throughout the year the Institute's performers lead spiritual renewal programs in schools and communities of this rapidly developing Southeast Asian country. The programs includes traditional and modern dance, drama, and music.

The program provides an excellent opportunity for Americans to experience the beauty and drama of Thai classical art. "We have appeared in the United States several times already," says Rob, "and folks usually comment, 'If we'd known how good this was going to be, we'd have worked harder to promote it.'" All of the Presbytery is invited to attend so please save the date and bring your friends. The performance is free, but there will be an opportunity to contribute to the troupe's expenses in making this tour. Any questions please call the church office at 831-335-6900.

From Refugee Ministry Advocates

Elsa Amboy, Melissa Kreisa, and Coleen Hausler

Meeting with Small Groups

We have been meeting with Mission Teams and **JustFaith** small groups around town to share what we have learned about the refugee resettlement process as well as special needs of newcomers. Please let us know if you would like to schedule a time to meet with your small group.

Backpacks

Many refugees arrive to this country with little more than the clothes on their backs. We invite churches, schools and individuals to help welcome our new neighbors by stuffing backpacks with supplies which can be presented as a gift on your behalf at the airport. Bags can be organized as part of an educational awareness event or scheduled as a one-time collection. *A big thank you to Santa Teresa Hills for the 23 backpacks you provided this month!*

Art & Awareness Event

April 1st we will be hosting a free Art and Refugee Awareness Exhibit during the **South First Friday Art Walk in San Jose**. The show will be at the Downtown Yoga Shala Gallery, at 450 South First Street from 7:30p.m. – 11 p.m.. We hope you will join us for this fun and festive evening.



Peacemaking: Kairos Palestine Study

Kairos: "the right or opportune moment;" "the appointed time in the purpose of God."

Kairos Palestine is an open letter to the world, written by Christian Palestinians, to inform and enlighten all who read it about the situation of the Palestinian people. It is modeled after a similar call to the world by South African Christian leaders in 1985. PCUSA has published a 3 week study guide called "KAIROS PALESTINE: a moment of truth," outlined for congregational study. The guide covers basic facts with maps and summarizes 2010 General Assembly actions regarding Palestine. It then delves into the actual text of the document in 3 steps: "A Word of Faith, Hope, and Love"; "The Reality on the Ground"; and "What Does the Lord Require of Us?" One free copy of the study guide is available for each church in the Presbytery, and will be distributed at the April 2 Presbytery meeting. **A brief summary of the document and study guide will be presented during lunch along with Q&A session for all who are interested.** This is a call to see the face of God in each one of God's creatures and overcome the barriers of fear or race in order to establish a constructive dialog. (To find this report on the web go to: www.kairospalestine.ps/?q=node/1)