



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 1 • Jan., 2011

JOIN US for the NEXT Presbytery Meeting

Sat., January 22, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church
728 W. Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale 94087 (www.svpc.us)

- Plenty of parking
- Child Care available **IF** reservations are made by Tues. Jan. 18. Email childcare@svpc.us
- Lunch will be served after the meeting prepared by church volunteers
- **DOCKET:** Go to Presbytery website: www.sanjosepby.org



Future Meetings: 4/2 at Los Gatos; 6/4 at Trinity Santa Cruz; 9/24 at First Santa Clara; 11/19: Westminster, San Jose

The Rev. Matt Gough, new Pastor at Sunnyvale Church



The Rev. Matt Gough

A Bay area native, Matt Gough graduated from U. C. Davis and Princeton Theological Seminary. He served an Interim position in Novato, a solo pastor in San Rafael, and as Program Director at Westminster Woods Camp and Conference Center. His passion is serving youth and young adults

Matt is married and a father of a young son.



The Rev. Joey Lee

From The Rev. Joey Lee Executive Presbyter

Why do bad things happen to good people? That sentiment, and title of well known book by Rabbi Harold Kushner, has been a question for people of faith through the ages. It is perhaps especially acute now as the nation mourns the tragedy of the shootings in Tucson, Arizona.

Among those killed in the shooting was Phyllis Schneck, a member of Northminster Presbyterian Church in Tucson. Schneck's pastor, the Rev. Andy Ross, described her as "vibrant, fun, and a devoted woman of faith. Her smile, her commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ, and her friendship to so many will long be treasured." Presbyterians have already been reaching out in this incident through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and de Cristo Presbytery. (<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2011/1/10/pcusa-member-among-those-killed-arizona-shootings/>)

Like you my heart sank at the news. Too quickly the news outlets and blogosphere attempted to lay blame, draw conclusions or understand the motive. Perhaps if we understood it, then we could make sense of the senseless. Such is the course for reason and logic. But this seems to defy both. No doubt in the days and weeks to come, as the investigation unfolds, and as more is known about the perpetrator, there will continue to be the search for answers to the persistent question, why do good and innocent people suffer.

Rabbi Kushner suggests that perhaps God allows bad things to happen because, by not intervening through say a miracle, God is leaving room for human beings to act. Therefore Instead of asking why bad things happen, Rabbi Kushner quotes Dorothee Soelle who said that "why?" is the wrong question to ask about suffering. The question we should be asking is, in fact, what can we do about our suffering that gives meaning to it, to create good from the evil we must each endure.

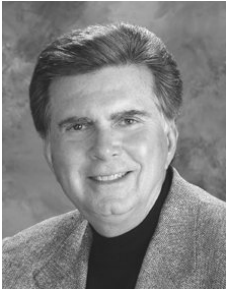
It is the question to ultimately ask, but not yet. Now is a time of grief, and mourning, and prayer.

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

- Psalm 46:1-3

- Joey





From Rev. Jack Longley

Moderator

It is indeed an honor and privilege to serve as your Moderator in 2011. I thank you for your confidence and covet your prayers and support throughout my term.

I have been a member of the Presbytery of San Jose since September, 1978. We were then part of the Golden Gate Mission Area.

We didn't have a Presbytery Office and our only officer was the Stated Clerk—none other than John Lococo. Nearly three years later a full-time Presbytery Administrator was called to serve and the Presbytery of San Jose leased their first office at Calvin Presbyterian Church. Much has happened these past 32 years and I sincerely look forward to the challenges of the New Year.

Our Past Moderator **Charlotte Powers** concluded our last meeting by requesting us to form a circle, join hands, and sing together the song written by Carol Cymbala, "Make Us One..."

"Make us one, Lord, make us one; Holy Spirit, make us one. Let Your love flow so the world will know we are one in You!"

That is my prayer for our Presbytery this year - that in the midst of our diversity we will also recognize our oneness in Christ Jesus. The Book of Order states...

"The unity of the Church is a gift of its Lord and finds expression in its faithfulness to the mission to which Christ calls it. The Church is a fellowship of believers which seeks the enlargement of the circle of faith to include ALL people and is never content to enjoy the benefits of Christian community for itself alone.

"Visible oneness by which a diversity of persons, gifts, and understandings is brought together, is an important sign of the unity of God's people..."

"Our unity in Christ enables and requires the church to be open to ALL persons and to the varieties of talents and gifts of God's people...(comprised) of all racial ethnic groups, different ages, both sexes, various disabilities, diverse geographical areas, different theological positions consistent with the Reformed tradition, as well as different marital conditions (married, single, widowed, or divorced)—ALL shall be guaranteed full participation and access to representation in the decision making of the church." (G—40201; 40203; 40402; 4.0403)

We won't always dot our I's the same way or cross our T's alike; nonetheless, ALL who profess Jesus Christ as Lord are part of the family of God. We are diverse because that is the way God designed us. The Apostle Paul made this clear for us in First Corinthians...

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts, and though all its parts are many, they form one body...(and)...there should be no division in the body...its parts should have equal concern for each other...(because)...you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it..." (I Corinthians 12:12-13a; 25; 27, NIV)

Because of our diversity we will indeed have differences. But our differences need NOT divide us.

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Moderator Column (continued)

There are times when as the Body of Christ we must agree to disagree...but at the same time we can still maintain the unity which is ours within that one body!

Therefore, as we enter 2011 I call upon the good people representing the 44 churches of our Presbytery to unite together as one...to recognize our uniqueness and our diversity...and to be the people of God who set an example for all to see! This will happen when we have a common vision...when we pray unceasingly for God's leading...and...when we love one another as Christ has loved us.

I enter this New Year with incredible confidence... because WE are ALL part of the family of God!

Affectionately yours in Christ,

Jack C. Longley, Moderator

From Refugee Ministry Advocates

Elsa Amboy and Melissa Kreisa

In 2007 Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church provided the seed money for the San Francisco-based non-profit **Refugee Transitions** to expand their services to assist new refugees here in the South Bay.



Refugee Transitions

We are excited to report that this generous

donation has allowed Refugee Transitions to grow and strengthen to the point where they are now able to move to their own office space in the United Way building in downtown San Jose. They have partnered with 6 other small, focused non-profit agencies who are committed to helping immigrant and refugee families, in the San Jose area. Volunteer training for tutors and mentors will be held monthly in this new space. Please contact Elsa directly for more information elsa@reftrans.org



Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County has established a new bike partnership with the local non-profit, 'Good Karma Bikes'. They will be donating gently used bikes and helmets to new refugees.

They are asking for a \$25 donation per bike to cover some of the supplies needed for repairs. Please let us know if you or your mission team are interested in helping sponsor a bike or are interested in learning about volunteer opportunities-- refugee@sanjosepby.org or goodkarmabikes.org.

Thank you, Elsa, Coleen, & Melissa Kreisa

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

~ 2 Corinthians 5:17



Safe Church Practices

Jane Odell, Coordinator of Safe Church Practices

Several people have questioned why taking the presbytery's safe church training is preferable to taking on-line training:

- The presbytery training uses DVDs which are theologically based and which suggest ways to protect your congregation legally. Real victims and abusers interviewed in the DVDs.
- The presbytery training emphasizes the role of elders and deacons as well as clergy as mandated reporters which the on-line training does not.
- Participants have the opportunity to hear what other congregations are doing to create a safe church.
- Participants have the opportunity to ask questions and to benefit from the questions and answers raised by other participants.
- The presbytery training looks at the relationship between child abuse, abuse of older adults, and domestic violence.

What is expected of Safe Church Coordinators in congregations?

- Encourage all paid staff, volunteers who work with children and youth, and current elders and deacons to attend Safe Church Training.
- Make sure that background checks are done on all the above persons. Fingerprinting is highly encouraged.
- Give the names of those who have attended Safe Church Training and the dates of training to the Clerk of Session so that they can be recorded in the session minutes.
- Remind the session of their responsibility to develop a Safe Church Policy.
- Design a training plan for your congregation and present it to the session. The training plan may suggest that all those to be trained attend presbytery training. If developing a plan just for your congregation it should include: who will be trained, how often training will be offered, the length of the training, what the training will include, what resources (DVDs, books, etc.) will be used
- Safe Church policies and training plans should be submitted to Jane Odell and the presbytery's Safe Church Task Force.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING is required by the presbytery for all minister members and current elders and deacons and all who work with children and youth .

√ Saturday, **January 29**, Location TBA

√ Saturday, **February** (exact day and location TBA)

√ Saturday, **March 12**, Location TBA

(All trainings are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. RSVP to the Presbytery office at 408 279 0220 one week ahead of training)

Call or email me if you have questions regarding any of this - (408) 279-0220; email me at jane@sanjosepby.org) - *Jane*



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women

Claudia Hamm, PW Moderator

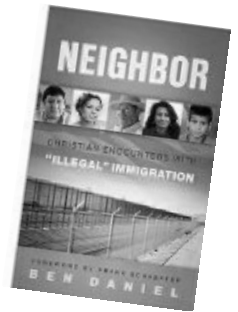
March 12, 2011

2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Foothill Church, 5301 McKee Road, San Jose

SPRING GATHERING

"Come and Encounter Immigration."

The Rev. Ben Daniel, pastor at Foothill church and author of *Neighbor: Christian Encounters with 'Illegal' Immigration* (released in August 2010) will introduce his book and discuss the controversial issues that surround undocumented migration in the USA through the spiritual, legal, and geographical front lines of the immigration debate. Ben's book will be available for purchase (also available from Amazon.com)



Please RSVP to **Claudia Hamm**, (408) 356-6665 or e-mail jinchamm@gmail.com



The Rev. Maury Mitchell

The Rev. Maury Mitchell, long-time member of the Presbytery of San Jose, passed away on Dec. 28, 2010. A Memorial Service was held at Foothill Presbyterian Church with a private internment service at the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos.



"Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them."

~Isaiah 42:10

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 (March, 2011) of the *Monarch Messenger* newsletter is Mon., March 9, 2011.

Palo Alto First Goes With the F.L.O.W.

Faith Lived Out in the World (F.L.O.W.) is a fresh initiative of First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto. Begun with a November visit to Pescadero to worship and help paint in the facility for migrant workers there, FLOW seeks to reach out into the community and meet needs of all kinds of people in need. Following November's work with the migrant laborers, FLOW comes to East Palo Alto, to St. Stephen's church and The Lord's Gym, a "warm shelter" housing homeless folks from September through June. Helping the facility with food, clothing and cots, First Pres. will also worship at St. Stephen's in a service led by resident minister Paul Bain. First Pres. pastor Rob Martin facilitated the connection between congregation's Social Justice Ministry and the people in need, by collaborating with the First Pres.' *Just-Faith* group. Three or four FLOW Sundays are planned for 2011.



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 communities.

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.

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
and the conviction of things not seen.*

~ Hebrews 11:1

The Vision and Mission of the Presbytery of San José



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.