

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. 30 • Issue 4 • September, 2009



### From The Rev. Joey Lee Executive Presbyter

#### Giving Thanks

Fall is a favorite time of the year. It is a season of change. The air is crisp; the colors vibrant, the sweaters soft and warm. Fall is filled with anticipation. The holidays are coming and already here, with joy and family and food.

Fall is a time of transitions. We wrap up a year with Tom Coop as our moderator, who stepped in with grace and wit as the Presbytery needed his leadership. Changes on committees as well, as chairpersons and members rotate in and out. I am grateful for the ways in which so many give of their time and effort for the good of the Presbytery. Each of you could focus attention on your own church home, and could not be faulted for such. But instead you gave your time and talent to the body of Christ that is the Presbytery of San Jose.

During the march of festivities in the fall, I think Thanksgiving needs lifting up. Halloween (not a holiday to be sure) is quickly becoming the behemoth that is Christmas. But Thanksgiving seems reduced to a BIG meal, football, and the gateway to the holiday shopping season. Defiantly not enough *thanks* or *giving* are involved.

It's a tough year to give thanks, given the news abroad and at home. Yet as people of faith we still give thanks. "I bring you good news of a great joy" cried the angel (Luke 2:10). The Apostle Paul reminds us to "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice." (Philippians 4:4). Hard to do in tough times, harder for those depressed, beaten down, cynical or jaded. And yet rejoicing and giving thanks in tough times is exactly what followers of Jesus are called to do.

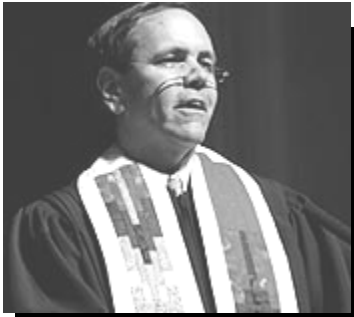
*In remembering, believers receive and trust the love of Christ present to them and to the world; they manifest the reality of the covenant of grace in reconciling and being reconciled; and they proclaim the power of Christ's reign for the renewal of the world in justice and in peace. (W.2.4004)*

This is what the Directory of Worship says about the Lord's Supper... the Eucharist... thanksgiving. As you journey from Thanksgiving to Advent and Christmastide, may you be blessed, and may you give thanks.

-Joey



**JOIN US** for the next  
**Presbytery Meeting**  
**Sat., November 21, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
**Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church**  
**5370 Snell Avenue, San Jose, CA 95123**  
**Child Care available IF** reservations are made prior to Nov. 16. Call Marilyn Goode at the STHPC office Tues.-Friday (408) 629-5906 or email: office@sthpc.org



### From the Rev. Tom Coop, Moderator

#### Last Muse and Testament

I'm sure many of you have heard (or read or watched the video of) the LAST LECTURE, by Randy Pausch. He was dying of cancer and gave a stirring "last lecture" to his students. The lecture, followed by a book, were international hits.

Let me start off by telling you all I am not dying. But this is the last edition of my *Moderator's Musings* as I end my term as your Moderator. And I thought about what my last Musings should include.

Certainly I would want to thank all those who have been so gracious to me during my unexpected run as Moderator.

Thank you for looking past my foibles and politely enduring my semi-frequent attempts at humor. Thank you also for treating one another with respect and dignity during our Presbytery meetings.

It is a sign that we are being sensitive to the Spirit when we can come from such different viewpoints and theologies and still deal with the issues of the day with Christ-like love for one another. We didn't always agree, but I think it can be said that we loved each other well.

*(Continued on p. 2)*

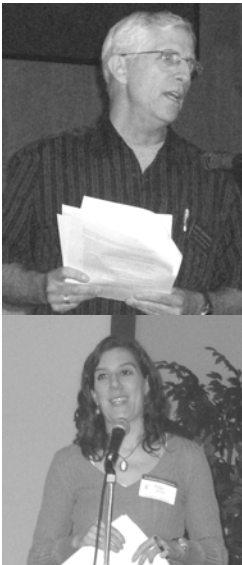
**NOTES:** To receive the MONARCH MESSENGER..via.email:...Contact.Natasha.at.natasha@sanjosepby.org  
The next Presbytery meeting after the Nov. 22 meeting, is Jan. 23, 2010 at the Northminster Church in Salinas

## Moderator Musings (continued from Page 1)

I would be remiss if I didn't also say a word about how we showed that love outside of our churches. More and more I am convinced that if Jesus was here today (physically), he wouldn't be spending much time in church. Now I didn't say he wouldn't spend any time within the walls of our churches – just not the majority. The majority of the time he would be out with those whom he asks us to serve (love): the poor, the hungry, the prisoner, the disenfranchised, the downtrodden ... well, you get the idea. I think if we are really serious about following Jesus, then we need to be engaged in serving (loving) those whom he calls us to serve (love). Just my two cents!

If I had a charge to leave you with as my term comes to a close, it would be the following. It is one that I actually read online and so I take no credit for its authorship. Still it is a powerful message to all of us. It goes like this: May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart. May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace. May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war so that you may reach out a hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy. And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that, through your love, you can make a difference in this world so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen!

- Tom



### 2010 Presbyterian Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study available

The 2010 edition of the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study features stories collected around the theme, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38).

The page on our Presbytery (p. 267; Sept. 22) features two of our college Chaplains: the Rev. Geoff Browning who serves Stanford University students; and the Rev. Aimee Moiso who serves the interfaith community at Santa Clara University.

To order Mission Yearbooks go to:  
[www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook](http://www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook) or call 1 888 728 7228 x 5689.

### Read Aimee's blog: One Church, indivisible

Once every five years or so, a group of about 120 men and women, pastors, laypersons, academics, and church leaders get together to talk about the issues that still divide the churches. It's called the Faith and Order Plenary Commission, and it met in early October at the Orthodox Academy of Crete, Greece. This year Aimee was invited to attend.

Read her blog on her adventure at:  
[www.scu.edu/cm/about/creteblog.cfm](http://www.scu.edu/cm/about/creteblog.cfm)



## Jane Odell, Coordinator for Safe Church Practices

### Training Models

One directive for implementing the recommendations of the Administrative Commission regarding safe church practices states:

"That the training model adopted by each church and Presbytery committee or task force be submitted to the Presbytery appointed staff and COM for approval within six months following the orientation session in 2009, and that a copy of each model be kept on file at the office of the Presbytery."

#### Training models should include:

- Resource/training material used
- What will be covered
- Length of training
- Frequency of training
- Who will be trained (elders, deacons, paid staff, volunteers?)
- Is on-line training offered as an option?
- Plan for record keeping

Persons who attend training offered by the Presbytery will see and experience training models which can be used with congregations. Remember, too, that the Presbytery office has training materials to loan.

### Mandated Reporter and Abuse/Misconduct Prevention Training

For: Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Elders, Deacons and Youth and Children's Ministry Directors

**Saturday, November 14, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.**

**West Valley Presbyterian Church**

8191 Bollinger Rd., Cupertino 95014

Lunch provided

**RSVP** to Natasha Jackson at [Natasha@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Natasha@sanjosepby.org), or phone (408) 279-0220 by Nov. 12

and also:

**Saturday, January 9, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church**

5370 Snell Avenue, San Jose, CA 95123

Lunch provided

**RSVP** to Natasha Jackson at [Natasha@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Natasha@sanjosepby.org), or phone (408) 279-0220 by January 6

### 2010 YOUTH TRIENNIUM

Opening Registration begins December 1, 2009 for the **2010 Youth Triennium**. This important event will take place at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana July 20-24. The theme for the gathering will be, "For Such A Time As This" from Esther 4:14. Cost per person will be \$409.00 which includes housing, meals, conference t-shirt and all programming. Contact Natasha Jackson at the Presbytery office for more information: (408)279-0220, [natasha@sanjosepby.org](mailto:natasha@sanjosepby.org).

## From the Refugee Ministry Advocates Elsa Amboy and Melissa Kreisa

Dear Presbytery Family:

We are deeply humbled for the recognition and support over the past few months. Please know that in receiving the awards as Volunteers of the Year for Catholic Charities USA, the honor is shared with the churches of the San Jose Presbytery. Many of you have also joined in the journey as individual volunteers and we thank you. Through this ministry, many of you have embraced the challenges and celebrations of assisting new refugees and continue to witness God's love and grace.

### The work continues...



In 2010, roughly 600 refugees will be legally resettled to the San Jose area. For the past two years the majority have been coming to us fleeing conflicts in Bhutan and Burma. This next year most will be arriving from Africa and Iraq. Some will be coming highly educated with excellent English skills; others will come from rural villages having little in the way of formal schooling. All will be leaving behind homes, friends and family to begin their new lives here. We as a Presbytery are helping to provide hospitality and sense of community to our new neighbors.

### Opportunities for Involvement:

**Sunnyvale & San Jose Transitional House:** Help with grocery shopping and produce pick up twice a month.

**Tutor / Mentor:** Visit Refugee Transitions at [www.reftrans.org](http://www.reftrans.org) to learn how you can be a literacy coach and mentor for two hours a week. The next orientation will be held November 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Fare hikes for bus passes took effect in October from \$62 to \$70.** Please consider helping with this need especially for the children who rely on public transportation to get to school.

*With Gratitude,*

**Elsa Amboy and Melissa Kreisa**, Refugee Ministry Advocates

[refugee@sanjosepby.org](mailto:refugee@sanjosepby.org)

## From the Mission Advocate Judi Pogue



### WORLD MISSION CHALLENGE 2009

The Presbytery of San Jose hosted both a Mission Co-Worker and an International Peacemaker as part of **World Mission Challenge 2009**. Commendations to those of you who provided a wonderful welcome to our International Peacemaker, the **Rev. Delia Leal**, and the Central American Mission Liaison, **Tracey King**, when they visited our Presbytery September 25-October 2.

Special thanks go to **Sue and Stephen Coates** who provided housing, sightseeing and hospitality to the team. Sue also planned and organized a dinner at the Los Gatos First Presbyterian Church, which offered an opportunity to anyone in the Presbytery an opportunity to hear the visitors' stories.

**Trinity Church in Santa Cruz** offered their pulpit to Rev. Leal, who presented her sermon in Spanish, which was translated expertly by Tracey. The service was followed by a potluck lunch hosted by the church mission team.

Other churches that hosted this team for presentations or small group discussions include **San Jose First Presbyterian, Covenant in Palo Alto, Felton Presbyterian** and **Sunnyvale Presbyterian**.

We were blessed to have such a dynamic team share the story of the partnership that PC (USA) has with the Evangelical Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America.



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

## "Rejoice with Thanksgiving" - Thank Offering 2009

Since 1888 when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America as a "thank offering to her Lord," Presbyterian Women have continued to give generously to what is now known as the Thank Offering.

Each year the Creative Ministries Offering Committee meets to review project grant applications and to choose the recipients for the current year. Grants totaling \$684,900 will fund the twenty-seven projects chosen from the sixty-nine proposals received.

CERVS' INTERFAITH CARE COMMUNITY, a Veterans Family Reunification Program in Medford, Oregon, will receive \$30,000 for their program that works to transition homeless vets back to productive lives through self-empowerment programs. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Food Bank, also in Medford, Oregon, will receive \$15,000 for their program to fight poverty and feed economically deprived individuals and families in the Rogue Valley area.

This Fall, Presbyterian Women in our local congregations will hold gatherings where the Thank Offering will be received and dedicated. The Thank Offering goal for 2009 is to raise one million dollars...one dollar at a time!

To learn more about the Thank Offering, visit [www.pcusa.org/pw/thank](http://www.pcusa.org/pw/thank) or contact **Claudia Hamm**, Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of San Jose at [jnchamm@gmail.com](mailto:jnchamm@gmail.com).

### MISSION TRIP TO HOUMA POSTPONED

Although the planned mission trip to Houma, Louisiana, will not take place this month, an opportunity for those interested in doing recovery work in Galveston, Texas for survivors of Hurricane Ike is being planned for the spring. Informational meetings will be scheduled in January.

Please watch for details.

## Presbytery of San José



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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 (January, 2010) of the Monarch Messenger newsletter is January 4, 2010.

## How to unwind following the Christmas holidays: Kayak in the Sea of Cortez Dec. 26-Jan. 3



With all the busyness of the Christmas season behind you and the joy of God's love still within you, travel to the Sea of Cortez to begin the New Year from a completely different perspective. You will set out on a kayak and for the next several days paddle, pray, camp, and rest! This is a leisurely journey of the spirit to a barren yet beautiful part of the world. Stunning sunrises, austere terrain and a rhythm of life set by the cycle of the sea are part of this wilderness adventure.

**Rev. Dr. Steve Harrington**, pastor at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, is a master wilderness guide and inspirational retreat leader. His December sea kayaking and camping trip in the Sea of Cortez, Mexico is open to everyone in the Presbytery. **For more information** visit <http://www.svpc.us/groups/seacortez.php> or contact Steve at [steve@svpc.us](mailto:steve@svpc.us), 408 739-1892.

## For thou shall honor... *walking alongside our loved ones at the end of the journey*



**Sat. Nov. 14, 2009, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Westminster Church**, 1100 Shasta Ave., San Jose 95126

\$15 per person, \$30 per couple

• Walking the road in sickness and health - **Dr. Gary Lee**, MD, Internal Medicine, Geriatric Specialist

• Walking alongside on the spiritual journey - **Rev. Nancy Schell**, MDiv

• Assisting in the physical journey - **Janet Johnson**, PT

**RSVP** to reserve lunch space: (408) 294-7447

## Hunger Action Advocate, Pat Plant

In the Presbytery of San Jose, much like the night when our savior was born, there is sometimes no room in the inn and no food on the table. But, **THANK YOU** for all the things you and your congregation do to help people in need in your area.

For **more ideas** of things to do and/or **people/groups to help**, visit my web page on the Presbytery site:  
[www.sanjosepb.org/Hunger.HomelessAgencyLinks.htm](http://www.sanjosepb.org/Hunger.HomelessAgencyLinks.htm)

Bless you, *Pat*

*"...be doers of the word, not hearers only." - James 1:22*



## The Mission and 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.