



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

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JOIN US for the NEXT Presbytery Meeting

Sat., November 20, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of San Jose
49 N. Fourth St., San Jose 95112 (www.fpcsj.org)

- Park in church parking lot OR, if full, across the street at the City of San Jose lot which is free on the weekends
- Child Care available **IF** reservations are made by Wed. Nov. 17. Call First pres. at (408)297-7212
- Lunch will be served after the meeting at Town Park Towers Senior Housing Center next to the church by church volunteers

FYI: Future Meetings: 1/22: Sunnyvale; 4/2: Los Gatos; 6/4: Trinity Santa Cruz; 9/24: First Santa Clara; 11/19: Westminster, San Jose.



The Rev. Mark Peake new Co-Pastor at Monterey First

"I felt at home right away here in Monterey... it's so beautiful. Since we're by the water, it reminds me a little of where we've just served, a small town named Pleasantville near Atlantic City, New Jersey. We are blessed to move from one

coast to the other," said the Rev. Mark Peake in a recent phone conversation.

Monterey First Church called Mark to be the Co-Pastor with Jay Bartow and to succeed Jay after his retirement in June. Mark and Jay have become friends and are enjoying serving together. They are jointly meeting with all the groups of the church to decide how to divide duties and responsibilities as Mark settles in.

Mark is married with one small son and another child on the way. We welcome Mark to the Presbytery of San Jose!



From The Rev. Joey Lee Executive Presbyter

The World Champion San Francisco Giants! As many continue to bask in the glow of the series, playoffs and the entire season, it has been great fun to watch a group of individuals who exemplify what it means to be "a team."



While I tend to shy away from sports analogies for fear of losing those who don't share the same passion, this team warrants the exception. Much has been written about the nature and character of this team of "outcasts and misfits." Even the team manager called them his "Dirty Dozen" referring to the 1967 movie starring Lee Marvin, about a group of military convicts sent on a mission. These comparisons and descriptions have come about because this team is an interesting assortment of young rookies, aging veterans, and players cast by from other teams. No superstars. No prima donnas. No egos or media hogs. They are a team of characters for sure (a freak, a panda, and a beard?), but a better description would be they are a team *with* character. The players that no team wanted have become MVPs, the young ones speak and act with wisdom beyond their years; the old veterans have a bounce and spring like kids, because after all, they are playing a game. And in so doing, they seem to have united the entire Bay Area.

I cannot help but think this is a great image for the church. Whether the first disciples that Jesus called or the current bunch in your congregation, we are best when we acknowledge that we are a group of "misfits and outcasts," young rookies and aging veterans, no superstars or egos, on a team we call the Body of Christ. And we are best when we do our part, support and encourage others in theirs, and play with determination and joy. It's contagious too, because when others see that, they want to join in. And if you wanna add a beard or a panda hat, go for it!

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many."

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

- Joey



We are grateful to God.



From Charlotte Powers Moderator

Connecting with God and Each Other

Part 5

“Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, you of little faith, why did you doubt?” - Matthew 14:31

How quickly the year has gone by. The Moderator has much to learn and do. It's already time to say "good-bye." Didn't the year just begin? Didn't I just say "hello"? Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as the Moderator of Presbytery this year. It has been an exciting year filled with visits to sister churches, working with fellow Presbyterian brothers and sisters, moderating Presbytery meetings and participating in the installation of four pastors to the Presbytery, one of them being the pastor for my own church. It has been a wonderful and inspiring experience.

Connecting with God and each other has been the central theme for my articles and the Presbytery meetings. Sharing faith journeys and local church histories and current activities has been a way for us to connect and begin to know each other better. Several pastors and elders were willing to risk getting out of the boat to share their personal faith journeys as well as their church happenings. I always return to Ortberg's book, "If You Want to Walk on Water You've Got to Get Out of the Boat." Walking on water provides the opportunity to experience the power of God in your life to do something you would not ordinarily do on your own. Thank you to those who were willing to step out of the boat.

Connecting with each other also means walking and talking with others outside our faith. The Council of Churches is beginning a series of Living Room discussions with members of the Christian and Muslim communities. Members of each community will gather together to get to know one another, learn about each other's religions, discover similarities and differences and gain respect and understanding for each other. If you are interested in taking this walk please let Chuck Rawlings or myself know. We would be happy to have you join us.

Being one in the body of Christ also means reaching out to others who do not share the same theological views as we do. I was talking with a pastor several weeks ago and telling him what the Council of Churches is planning to do. We then talked about the differences in our own church and he commented that the conversation with our Muslim brothers and sisters would probably be easier to accomplish than to heal the differences within our own church. Why is that? What would God think about our inability to respect and understand each other's theology and beliefs? Is our particular point of view the only true theology? Do we feel the same about other denominations and churches? What is this inability to respect our differences, but to reach out to one another? Can we not get out of the boat and embrace one another in love as Jesus would have us do?

I end with this quote by John Ortberg, "When human beings get out of the boat, they are never quite the same. The master of the sea is waiting for you."



- Charlotte

Safe Church Practices

Jane Odell, Coordinator of Safe Church Practices



I continue to receive questions about the Presbytery's expectations of churches endeavoring to be Safe Churches.

These are the expectations of our churches:

1. A Safe Church Policy--the Presbytery has sample policies.
2. Training in safe church practices for all employed staff, current elders and deacons, and volunteers who work with children and youth. The names of those who have received training are to be recorded in the session minutes. Training should include: guidelines for mandated reporters, and prevention of child and older adult abuse and neglect. The Presbytery has training materials to loan and offers training monthly.
3. A Safe Church Training Plan including the frequency with which it will be conducted.
4. Background and reference checks on all employed staff and volunteers who work with children and youth. Fingerprinting is strongly encouraged.
5. Appointment of a Safe Church Coordinator - The name of the Safe Church Coordinator, and copies of the Safe Church policy and Training Plan, should be reported to Jane Odell at the Presbytery office.

Fingerprinting and background checks may be done through your local police or sheriff's department or through **Livescan** in Santa Clara County. Livescan is located at 1735 North First Street, Suite 104 in San Jose--408-993-0924. Background checks can also be done through Insurance Board - 800-437-8830.

We have three more **Mandated Reporter/Abuse/Misconduct Prevention Trainings** planned for early in 2011. We will post the locations and date info on the Presbytery website soon.

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@sanjosephby.org)

- Jane

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



HOST A BACKPACK DRIVE
Can your church or your small group host a backpack drive or "Giving Tree" over the Holidays? We can help with the details. Please email us at refugee@sanjosepby.org.

Thank you to **Santa Teresa Hills** for inviting us to share with your mission team and during your service! We appreciate your willingness to learn more about our new refugee neighbors and the process that brought them here.



Refugee Transitions (RT) will be hosting their annual volunteer appreciation / fundraising dinner at the Adobe Lodge at Santa Clara University on November 17th. This is a great way to learn more about the organization and hear inspirational stories from the students and volunteers. RT also holds an ongoing volunteer training for mentors and tutors on a monthly basis. To learn more about the dinner or training, please see their website at www.reftrans.org or contact Elsa Amboy, elsa@reftrans.org or 408-838-1331.

United Presbyterian
Church circa 1860



**Watsonville United
Celebrates Its 150th
Birthday !**

The Watsonville United Presbyterian Church celebrates its **150th** birthday (established Dec. 2, 1860) on Nov. 14 starting at 9:30 a.m. and continuing through and after the 10 a.m. worship service. **What a cause for celebration!**

It's an amazing fact that our Presbytery has had a presence in Northern California for so long (First Pres. San Jose is the oldest congregation, established in 1849, then Mountain View in 1851, Gilroy in September of 1860).



**Our Tri-Presbytery SDOP
Committee Needs
a Few Good Members**

Every year the **Presbytery of San Jose**, with its **partner Presbyteries, San Francisco** and the **Redwoods**, approve grants to organizations trying to correct long-term conditions keeping people bound by poverty and oppression by establishing control over their lives through training, advocacy, and education. The funds come from the **One Great Hour of Sharing** donations of our church members.

In the past we have supported the Day Worker Center of Mountain View in its "Victoria Verde" community garden, developed so day workers can find employment opportunities, acquire new job skills, and do outreach to the larger community; the 9to5 Bay Area, working to strengthen low-wage women's ability to win economic justice; and Peer PALS, helping mentally ill patients become less isolated and more engaged in their recovery and wellness and as self-sufficient as possible. Our Tri-Presbytery committee represents the ethnic diversity of our overall population, and we are currently seeking ethnically-diverse people to join us.

We meet yearly in Berkeley, at least, and will use email to make decisions as needed (our three Presbyteries cover most of Northern California). **Please** contact committee chair **Greg Plant**, at gregplant@comcast.net, for more information..



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Presbyterian Women

Claudia Hamm, PW Moderator

PW: Making Our Mark

If you attended the Mission Fair at the September Presbytery meeting, you undoubtedly met members of the Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women walking around with blue boxes filled with information and with thumbprint cookies (yum!). We were "Making Our Mark", letting you know about Horizons magazine, Alternative Gift Fair, Cents-Ability, Emmaus House and the Roma Project along with passing out copies of our new program calendar. The highlight of our walking exhibit was a drawing for two baskets made by the Roma women in Carpath-Ukraine, a one-year subscription to Horizons magazine, and a copy of the 2010-2011 Horizons Bible Study, "Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today." The lucky recipients of these items were:

- Travis Hyatt - Roma basket
- Chris Williams - Roma basket
- Ted Brown - Horizons Bible Study
- Cille Emery - Subscription to Horizons magazine

*Presbyterian Women in the
Presbytery of San Jose
invite all women to An Epiphany Tea*

"Come and Follow the Star"



*A Winter Gathering:
Begin the new year
with food for body and soul.*

*Featuring a candlelit experience of worship
in the style of the Taizé Community, using chanted
song/prayer and meditation on scripture and sea-
sonal readings*

**Sunday afternoon, January 9, 2011;
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

*The Stone Church of Willow Glen
1937 Lincoln Avenue at Clark Way, San Jose*

**Reservations by January 4, 2011
To Claudia Hamm
(408) 356-6665 or e-mail jnchamm@gmail.com**

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 (Jan., 2011) of the *Monarch Messenger* newsletter is Dec. 20, 2010.

From Peacemaking Advocate The Rev. Geoff Browning



Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders

There is a **Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders** sponsored by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center of Lombard, Ill on Nov. 15-16 at the First Presbyterian Church of Fullerton, Fullerton, CA. For more information and to register, go to their website at: www.lmpeacecenter.org or you can call 1-630-627-0507

The Mediation Skills Training Institute presented by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) is designed to equip church leaders with the skills necessary to deal effectively with interpersonal, congregational, and other forms of group conflict. The five-day institute also includes a component on congregational intervention and consultation, placed within the context of family systems theory. Although focused primarily on the church setting, the skills learned are directly transferable to other settings. Thus, managers in business, attorneys, experienced mediators and others in leadership will be enriched by the training as well, gaining skills in a transformational model of mediation.

For more information and to register, go to their website at: www.lmpeacecenter.org or you can call 1-630-627-0507.

From Hunger Action Advocate Pat Plant



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For many years the City of San Jose and Santa Clara County have worked together on annual **Project Homeless Connect** (PHC) one-day events in downtown San

Jose in which homeless people could connect with all the agencies they may need in one place to get back to normal life (health and dental care, housing, employment, legal issues, haircuts, clothing, new shoes, etc.). Last year **Destination Home**, the county's effort to end homelessness, established two permanent **One Stop Centers** open weekdays (at the Georgia Travis Center and the Boccardo Reception Center).

So the PHC leaders this year have spread the idea of Project Homeless Connect to various areas of San Jose and other cities in the county. They are looking for volunteers for these one-day events and **Katherine Naszradi** is the person to contact if your church can field some helpers on these days. Contact her at: (408) 975-4486, Katherine.Naszradi@sanjoseca.gov. **Event dates are:**

Southwest San Jose: Nov. 17, Loaves and Fishes Dinner program, St. Maria Goretti Church, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Gilroy: Nov. 29, 1-4 p.m., First Baptist church, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
East San Jose: Dec. 15, Loaves and Fishes Dinner program at the Eastside Neighborhood Center, time TBA
Los Gatos: December 17, St. Luke's Church, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Cupertino: January 5, West Valley Community Services, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Milpitas: January 19, Milpitas Food Pantry, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sunnyvale: Feb. 3, National Guard Armory, 2 p.m.-6 p.m.
Southeast San Jose: Feb. 18, Loaves and Fishes, St. Maria Goretti Church, 1:00 - 6 p.m.

STONE ORGAN CELEBRATION



On November 21 **Stone Church of Willow Glen** will celebrate the 25th year of the installation of their specially designed Schoenstein organ. Church organist **Joyce Rhodes**, who will celebrate her 40th year as church organist will give a recital at 3 pm. Earlier in the day during their regular worship service, member **Janice Goertz** will do the Children's Sermon and, while Ms. Rhodes plays, lead a tour of the organ parts and how all the interesting sounds the organ makes are possible.

Stone Church artist **Lynden Johnson** has also created an assemblage of organ parts and related artistic elements obtained from the Schoenstein Organ Company in Benicia, CA to commemorate this event and celebrate the church's appreciation of their organ.



First Pres. Palo Alto member **Ellen Forbes** directs clients looking for services at the recent **Project Homeless Connect** event at the **Opportunity Center in Palo Alto**