



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. 31 • Issue 4 • Sept., 2010

JOIN US for the next **Presbytery Meeting** and Mission Fair

Sat., September 25, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Christ Community Church, 1000 S. Park Victoria Drive, Milpitas 95035 (www.cccmilpitas.org)

- Child Care available **IF** reservations are made by Fri. Sept. 17. Call the Presbytery office at (408) 279-0220.
- Lunch will be served after the meeting by church volunteers

Annual Mission Fair 2010



Sat., Sept 25th, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.
(approximately, follows Presbytery Meeting)

This year's theme remembers this summer's General Assembly:

"Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

- John 7:38

The **Mission Fair** will run from 11 a.m. (approximately) with a presentation by Presbytery Executive Rev. Joey Lee on the Mission Fair theme which will include short testimony from some members of churches who are actively engaged in mission in their community.

During and after the lunch hour, attendees can tour the **Mission Fair** tables and discuss various forms of Presbytery Mission.

- Christ Community Church, our host
- The Presbytery Mission Advocates: Hunger, Peacemaking, and Refugee Ministries
- Presbyterian Women
- Disaster Preparedness Taskforce
- Safe Church Practices Taskforce
- Church Health and Growth Taskforce
- Spiritual Formation, Nurture and Discipleship Ministry
- Peace and Social Justice Ministry Taskforce
- College Ministries: Stanford and UC Santa Cruz Universities
- Thai Fellowship
- Indonesian Church of San Jose
- Westhope Presbyterian Church
- San Francisco Theological Seminary
- Presbyterian Foundation
- Media Resource Center
- Presbyterian Point Curriculum
- Pacific Mission Exchange

Two New Pastors Join the Presbytery



The Rev. Sharon Hare First Church, San Jose

"First Presbyterian Church of San Jose really steps up to serve the community; this is the church that I have dreamed about for the last 26 years," Sharon Hare said recently about her new church.

Sharon, a California native, grew up in Concord. Growing up, Sharon wanted to be a minister's wife, but as she got older she felt a calling to become a pastor herself. She began her pastoral studies at SFTS but was drawn to urban ministry, so finished her studies at McCormick Seminary in Chicago. She served the Salvation Army and other agencies that focused on homeless, troubled and impoverished people... many who felt they had no place in the church. From Chicago she moved to upper state New York serving several small congregations before hearing the call to San Jose. Sharon is the mother of one adult daughter.

Sharon already loves her new congregation because, "they are a congregation that is not afraid to go into the community and work for justice; they "walk by faith." When she has spare time she enjoys cooking, swimming and reading novels. Sharon is looking forward to being installed on September 19 at 3 p.m and a week later, to celebrate 26 years in ministry.



The Rev. Dr. Margaret Boles, Covenant Church, Palo Alto

Coming west from serving the First Church of Temple, Texas, Margaret Boles is delighted to be at her new post at Covenant Church, Palo Alto. "The congregation at Covenant is filled with creative folk who have great energy and an enthusiasm that is inviting. I feel privileged to be joining them on the journey!" said Margaret.

A church leader since the age of 16, Margaret started her ministry as a choir director for two congregations in her home town on the Texas Gulf Coast.

(Con't on page 2)

From The Rev. Joey Lee Executive Presbyter

Recently there have been a number of articles and programs on the topic of clergy burnout.

From the New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/02/nyregion/02burnout.html>) and <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/08/opinion/08macdonald.html>) to NPR (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=128957149>) and the Huffington Post (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/anne-dilenschneider/soul-care-and-the-roots-of_b_680925.html)

Many have referred to a study conducted by the Clergy Health Initiative, a program at the Duke Divinity School. <http://divinity.duke.edu/initiatives-centers/clergy-health-initiative>

All this media attention indicates that the public is now learning about a concern that many of us have had for a long time now; that of clergy care across our church. As these reports suggest, many pastors today are suffering from poor physical, emotional, and spiritual health due to the demands of ministry. While recognizing the symptoms may be difficult, getting at the root causes of clergy burnout and distress is even more so.

As pastors frequently spend time understanding and caring for their church members, so too should sessions, personnel committees, and members of congregations take the time to understand and care for their pastors. Make sure pastors are taking their day off, and unless it's an emergency, don't call or email them on their day off. I hope pastors are taking their vacations, making use of study leave, getting regular check-ups and seeking professional help when needed.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:8)

Joey



From Charlotte Powers Moderator

Making Connections with God and Each Other



In Matthew 14: 26-30 the disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, and they were terrified thinking it was a ghost. But Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart it is I, do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water," and Jesus said, "Come". So Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Once more I return to the book, "If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat" by John Ortberg. In the book he describes a game he calls the quiet game. This game starts in childhood when our parents require that we be quiet even though we may have something important to say.

Then the game becomes a contest to see who can stay quiet the longest? Ortberg says we play the quiet game when we pretend something doesn't bother us when it really does or when you pretend to agree with someone when you really don't. People in churches play the quiet game in the name of peace, however, it is not peace built on truth. Fear quite often lies behind the quiet game.

God's most frequently repeated instruction comes in two words, "Fear not." Ortberg believes that fear is the number one reason human beings are tempted to avoid doing what God asks us to do. It is the number one reason we refuse to get out of the boat.

Are we fearful of connecting with one another? How is God asking our churches to connect with Him and each other? Do we share the good times and the not so good times? Do we ask for the prayers of our colleagues as we go about our daily lives? Do we ask God's guidance when we disagree theologically with each other or do we play the quiet game? Do we express our disagreement, but still respect the right of other churches and congregations to believe differently than we do? How do we move forward as "one body in Christ"? How can we express our love for God and each other as one body?

How do we get out of the boat and walk with each other without fear, but in love? Let us pray together for that time when all of us as members of the San Jose Presbytery can connect with God and each other. I know I will, won't you join me?

Charlotte

Covenant's New Pastor, Margaret Boles

(continued from page 1)

Youth ministry and short-term mission trips are two of her great passions. She has led groups to Cuba, Russia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Belize, and is looking forward to a trip to Japan with the members of Covenant. Her doctoral work at Columbia Theological Seminary focused on the transformation that occurs in short term mission.

Margaret and her husband John are the parents of three grown children. One daughter lives in Truckee, CA and one daughter and a son remain in Texas. They also have three grandchildren who will all turn three in a few months!

Husband John has many gifts and most recently has worked as a technical director in civic theater. John looks forward to voice over and theater opportunities in the Bay area.

Margaret's Installation was Sunday, Sept. 12.

LOOK AT THIS:

General Assembly Reviews from Presbytery Commissioners and our YAAD



See our Presbytery of San Jose website for short articles written by all of the commissioners and our YAAD from the recent General Assembly. Go to: www.sanjosepby.org/GAREPORTS.htm

F.Y.I.

1. To receive the MONARCH MESSENGER via email, contact Natasha Jackson at natasha@sanjosepby.org
2. NEXT Presbytery Meeting: Sat., Nov. 20 at First Church San Jose



Mandated Reporter and Abuse/Misconduct Prevention Training

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

Dates for training this fall are....

- ✓ Saturday, **September 11**, Foothill, San Jose
- ✓ Saturday, **October 2**, First, Palo Alto
- ✓ Saturday, **October 16**, Mayflower, Pacific Grove
- ✓ Saturday, **November 6**, Immanuel, San Jose

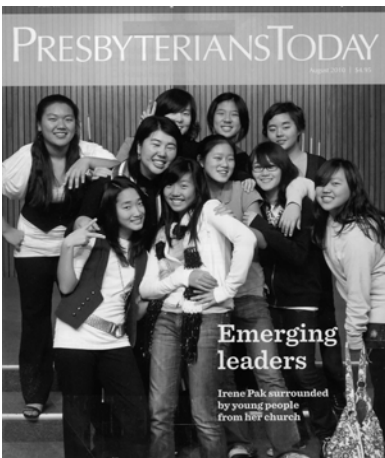
(All trainings are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. RSVP to the Presbytery office at 408 279 0220 one week ahead of training)

I received the following email after one training event. "I want to thank you for putting on such a powerful event today. I have to admit that going into the event, I thought it would be a complete waste of my time. I consider myself to be one of the good guys. I keep my eyes open and would consider it to be my duty to report anything. I thought I wouldn't get anything out of the program today. I was doing it only essentially because it was a requirement of being an elder. I was completely wrong. Your program was extremely informative. The keys to identify who potentially could be an abuser were very enlightening. I believe you should offer this training to everyone. Parents, grandparents and frankly anyone who cares about kids should experience this training."

FORM FOR CONDUCTING REFERENCE CHECKS- Several people have requested some guidelines for doing reference checks. You will find one on the Safe Church page on the presbytery's website. The link is www.sanjosepby.org/SafeChurchPractices.htm

HONOR COPYRIGHTS-I'm so pleased at the constant use of our seven sets of **SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN** (the DVDs and notebook material used in Safe Church training). Permission is given by the publisher to copy portions of the notebook but copying the DVDs is a violation of copyright. Please refrain from doing this. I will make certain you get the kits when you need them. As church leaders we should be models of integrity.

Pastors in Print Presbyterians Today

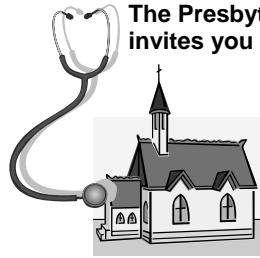
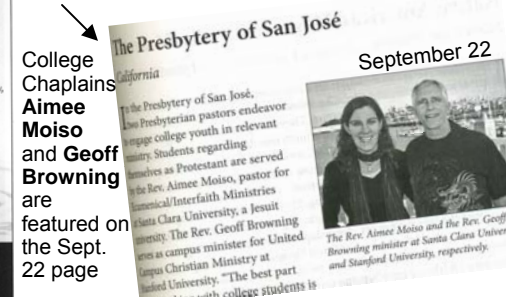


The **Rev. Irene Pak** (left with high school girls from Daesung Church in Sunnyvale) on the cover of last month's **Presbyterians Today**. They named Irene an "Emerging Leader" of our denomination!

At right is an add for Sept. issue of **Sojourners Magazine** and the Sept. issue of **Presbyterians Today** featuring the **Rev. Aimee Moiso**, Chaplain at University of Santa Clara



PC USA Mission Yearbook



The Presbytery Church Health and Growth Task Force invites you to participate in a

Healthy Congregations Facilitator Training

This two-event will take place **Sept 28-29, from 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 pm** at **Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church** 728 W Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087 (408.739.1892, www.svpc.us)

Leading the training is the **Rev. Dr. Robert Conover**, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of the Redwoods. Cost will be \$35 in advance (to the Presbytery), \$50 at the door. (The cost covers lunch, materials and certification to access Healthy Congregations materials. As such, in order to receive certification, you must attend the entire event.) This event is subsidized by a grant from the Synod of the Pacific.

For more information visit: www.sanjosepby.org/SynodHealthyChurchTraining.htm

Please sign up as soon as possible by emailing: (natasha@sanjosepby.org) at the Presbytery office. Call if you any questions 408.279.0220.



Caregivers: When Roles Reverse

Sat. Oct. 9; 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, 728 W. Fremont Ave. Sunnyvale, Fellowship Hall, Bldg. 300

"There are only four kinds of people in the world – those who have been caregivers, those who currently are caregivers, those who will be caregivers, and those who will need caregivers..." - **Rosalyn Carter**, former First Lady

Speakers: Jim Comer, author of the book "When Roles Reverse: a Guide to Parenting your Parents." Author Comer, a former speech writer and speech coach for Fortune 500 companies, made a transition from the corporate world to caregiver when his father suffered a stroke and his mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. He will speak about the challenges and issues we must work through with aging family members. Jim speaks with humor and empathy from his experiences helping his parents with personal, medical, and legal issues as they became more dependent on him.

Cindy Thorpe, Attorney, Santa Clara County

Vivian Silva, Case Manager, Sunnyvale Senior Center

Register for this FREE event:

Go to: <http://jimcomer09oct2010.eventbrite.com> or call **Jackie Mattison** at 408-241-0760

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 (Nov., 2010) of the *Monarch Messenger* newsletter is Oct. 27, 2010.



Presbyterian Women

Claudia Hamm, PW Moderator

"Making our Mark"

Watch for members of the PWP Coordinating Team during the Mission Fair at the September 18 Presbytery meeting. We'll be the ones walking around with our information rather than standing at a display table! We'll offer you a tasty treat along with information about the various mission projects that are supported by Presbyterian Women, locally and nationally. Back again will be a drawing for several interesting items.

Our theme for 2010-2011 will be "Come..." with our Fall Gathering taking place on Saturday, November 6, 2010 at 12 noon at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church. We'll have lunch and hear from Norma Sherman, Synod of the Pacific's representative on the PW USA Mission Experience to South Dakota. Please see our entire program on the presbytery website.

Claudia Hamm, Moderator

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of San Jose



From Peacemaking Advocate

The Rev. Geoff Browning

Peacemaking Offering

Oct. 3, 2010

The Peacemaking Offering is received by most churches on World Communion Sunday, (this year on October 3, 2010.) The theme for the 2010 Offering, the 30th year of this offering, is "Celebrate Christ, Our Peace."

Most churches have received the bulletin inserts, envelopes etc. If your materials don't arrive soon, call the Peacemaking Office at 1 (800) 524-2612. Perhaps plan a service using the worship resources in the Peacemaking Offering packet. Include announcements in your bulletin about the offering and how your congregation will use the 25% of the offering you get to keep. **For more information**, look at the Peacemaking webpage: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/specialofferings/peacemaking-offering> on the PC USA web site.

For even more information you can also contact the Rev. **Geoff Browning**, the Presbytery **Peacemaking Advocate** at geoff.browning@stanford.edu.

From Refugee Ministry Advocates

Elsa Amboy and Melissa Kreisa

A huge thank you to volunteers at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church and San Francisco-based non-profit Refugee Transitions for organizing and hosting a pilot summer enrichment camp in July. Twenty five refugee children and youth were able to spend two weeks at summer day camp where they received English instruction, played games, created art projects and had music classes which all focused on helping them prepare for school and life in their new community. Read a more personal account of the event at www.goodneighborstories.com/Refugee_Children.html

Refugee Transitions holds monthly volunteer training and orientation classes. To learn more, please contact Elsa Amboy, elsa@reftrans.org or 408-838-1331

Catholic Charities will be experiencing a surge of refugee newcomers over the next two months. They have special needs for a new passenger van, used (or new) bikes and helmets, welcome backpacks (students and adults), basic kitchen items and bus passes.

We are also looking for a volunteer who would be interested in being the Refugee Ministry liaison to the SiliconValley Bicycle Coalition's Bike Exchange Program

(<http://bikesiliconvalley.org/bikeex>). If you would like more information or your congregation is interested in assisting in any way, please contact us at refugee@sanjosepby.org

Pacific Mission Exchange

Your church's favorite mission projects could be promoted (and possibly funded by the Synod's **Pacific Mission Exchange** (PMX) readers. Go to www.pacificmissionexchange.org/home or call Pat at the Presbytery office (408) 279 0220.