

# 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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### From The Rev. Joey Lee Executive Presbyter

#### The Church and Its Mission

This is the title of the third chapter of the Book of Order. Okay, I can already hear it, "He's writing about the Book of Order? (groan) Let's see what else is in the newsletter..."

But hear me out. I will claim that this chapter may very well be the cornerstone on which the remainder of the Book of Order rests. This chapter describes the purpose and reason for existence, indeed,

the very mission of the church.

From its opening line... *The mission of the Church is given form by God's activity in the world as told in the Bible and understood by faith.* (G-3.0100)

...to its lifting up the dual role of proclamation and service:

- *The Church is called to be Christ's faithful evangelist*
- *going into the world, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all he has commanded;*
- *demonstrating by the love of its members for one another and by the quality of its common life the new reality in Christ; sharing in worship, fellowship, and nurture, practicing a deepened life of prayer and service under the guidance of the Holy Spirit;*
- *participating in God's activity in the world through its life for others by*
  - *healing and reconciling and binding up wounds,*
  - *ministering to the needs of the poor, the sick, the lonely, and the powerless,*
  - *engaging in the struggle to free people from sin, fear, oppression, hunger, and injustice,*
  - *giving itself and its substance to the service of those who suffer,*
  - *sharing with Christ in the establishing of his just, peaceable, and loving rule in the world.* (G-3.0300c)

...to its call to risk and trust...

*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.* (G-3.0400)

This short chapter (900 words) defines what we are to be about in the world, reminds us of our responsibility and calling, and trusts us into our future with renewed hope, as the church and its mission.

-Joey

The Presbytery of San Jose annual

## MISSION FAIR

Sat., Sept. 19, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church

738 W. Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale 94087



**Our Church and the Community:** *The role of church in the community... it's our Mission!*

*"But seek the welfare of the city ... and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." - Jeremiah 29:7*

The annual **Presbytery of San Jose Mission Fair** is part of and follows the regular Presbytery meeting which

begins at **9 a.m. Saturday, September 19 at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church.** The Mission Fair will start at 11 a.m. (approximately) when there will be a presentation by Rev. Tom Coop on the Mission Fair theme "**Our Church and the Community**" which will include short testimony from some members of churches who are actively engaged in the community surrounding their church.



**Childcare will be provided for the Presbytery meeting if people requesting it contact Debbie Klein at the Sunnyvale Church before September 16** (klein160@comcast.net).



The rest of the Mission Fair will include **lunch** provided by the Sunnyvale Church (our donations gratefully accepted).

**During the lunch hour,** attendees can tour the Mission Fair tables and discuss various forms of Presbytery Mission. Invited Mission Fair presenters include:

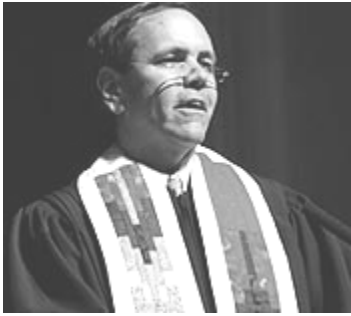
- The Presbytery Mission Advocates: Hunger, Peacemaking, Mission, and Refugee Ministry
- Presbyterian Women
- Disaster Preparedness Taskforce
- Safe Church Practices Taskforce
- Church Health and Growth Taskforce

*(Invited Presbytery Mission Groups continued on page 4)*

NOTES:

To receive the MONARCH MESSENGER via email: Contact Natasha at [natasha@sanjosepby.org](mailto:natasha@sanjosepby.org)

The next Presbytery meeting after the Sept. 19 event, is Nov. 21 at the Santa Teresa Hills Church, San Jose



**From  
The Rev. Tom Coop, Moderator  
MODERATOR'S MUSINGS**

*Just*FAITH Lately, I have been wondering if we (me) really are living "the life" Jesus would have for us. Sure, we gather on Sunday morning and worship God. We have fellowship events that are fun and entertaining. We even occasionally do "good deeds" by giving to the various mission projects of our churches, maybe donating to a food pantry, helping build houses for the poor, and assisting other organizations that focus on those "less than." But are we really being actively transformed by our faith?

That's the question that has been rattling around my brain ever since I attended a presentation on a program called **JustFaith**. During our time together they asked the question: "What happens to people in your congregation after they've been members for five years? What happens to their hearts?" The insinuation was – what good has the church done for them? Are they changed? Are they closer to who God created them to be? And if so, how is that demonstrated?

So let me ask you - are you closer? Are you growing as a child of God? Has your heart continued to grow bigger and bigger and bigger? Did you know that Jesus says "follow me" 87 times in the Gospels? I guess he was trying to make a point. Jesus didn't just go to church or serve on committees or even attend weddings or pick up trash. He cared deeply and it showed by where he went, how he spent his time, and what mattered to him.

If we want to be more like Jesus it will take time and effort. That can be scary. But it can also be a journey of great joy. This fall several Presbyterian churches are going to sponsor a 30-week journey of discovery, compassion, and dedication; a journey to learn to be more like Jesus. It is called **JustFaith** and I am convinced it will be just what the doctor (in this case the doctor being Jesus) ordered.

I am so convinced, I will be co-facilitating a **JustFaith** class at my church, Santa Teresa Hills. To date over 20,000 people in 1,100 Catholic and Protestant churches from around the country have participated in **JustFaith** programs. We are going to be # 1,101 - 1,105!

During our time together we will read stimulating and engaging books, view DVDs, listen to guest speakers, discuss what we hear and learn, and pray together. There will also be two weekend retreats and four immersion experiences where we put feet to our faith.

You will be transformed if you commit to this opportunity. It won't be easy – it will require time and effort. Jesus never promised that following him did not come without a cost – but trust me, the cost is well worth it.

If you are interested I invite you to contact one of the churches listed below for more information. I know this won't be for everyone. Some will think they have no interest. Some will think they have no time. Some will think the cost is too great. I hope that will not be you, for the truth is: Jesus is worth it. And so are you.

Be blessed friends,

Tom

Presbyterian-led 2009-2010 Ecumenical JustFaith classes

City	Church	Facilitator	Email	Day, Time	Start
Palo Alto	Covenant	Carol Holsinger	pcusa@holsingerharps.com	Th., 11:30 am-1:30 pm	9.17
	Palo Alto First	Nan Swanson	rev1nan@yahoo.com	TBA	TBA
Sunnyvale	Sunnyvale Pres.	Elsa Amboy Pal Wilcox	elsa_amboy@yahoo.com PWilcox99@yahoo.com	Thurs., 7:00 -9:00 pm	9.24
San Jose	San Jose First	Pat Plant Rebecca Cole	pat@sanjosepby.org rebeccac@sacredheartcs.org	Tues., 7:00 - 9:00 pm	9.29
	Santa Teresa Hills	Linda Buckley	lindab353@sbcglobal.net	Sunday, 4:00 - 6:00 pm	9. 27



**Safe Church Practices  
Background Checks**

Some of our congregations have already done background checks on all persons who work with children and youth. The remaining congregations will need to do so as soon as possible. Our new insurance company--United Church of Christ Insurance Board--offers very low-cost background checks. Carmen Siegal and Melissa Donahue are the staff in UCCIB's West Coast office. Call them at 866-644-2747. They will give you complete information on cost and arrangements for background checks.

*Jane Odell*

Coordinator For Safe Church Practices

**Soup's on !  
at the Fall Gathering  
of Presbyterian Women!**

We'll enjoy lunch and conversation. Then, Gail Parker Marshall will share her experiences as a participant in the PW Global Exchange to the Czech Republic, Ukraine and Hungary in September 2008 as a representative of the Synod of the Pacific. Gail is a member of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church and has been involved with PW since the early 1980's. Here are the details:



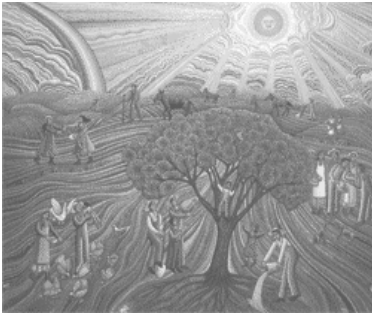
**Date: Saturday, October 17**  
**Time: 12 noon - 3:00 p.m.**  
**Location: Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church**  
**Donation: \$3.00 for lunch.**

Donations will go to **Second Harvest of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties**

Bring along an item to go in a backpack for our refugee ministry: standard size toiletries (soap, shampoo, wide-toothed comb, hair brush, toothbrush, tooth paste, deodorant), warm socks, etc..

**Please RSVP to Claudia Hamm** at 408-356-6665 or e-mail at [jlhamm@earthink.net](mailto:jlhamm@earthink.net)





## From the Peacemaking Advocate Geoff Browning

The theme for 2009 is taken from Psalm 85:10, "Justice and peace shall kiss each other."

The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. It is one of four special offerings designated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly.

Most churches receive the Offering on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October, which this year is October 4. We encourage churches to use whatever Sunday works best for them.

Each congregation is encouraged to retain 25 percent of the Offering it receives to use for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and its community. Twenty-five percent is used by presbyteries and synods, and 50 percent is used by the General Assembly ministries through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

For help in promoting the Peacemaking Offering in your congregation, please see: <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering/promote.htm>

May we abide in the Peace of Christ,

*Geoff*

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

### Refugee Ministry – A Few Frequently Asked Questions



#### Who is a refugee?

A refugee is a person who has had to flee his or her country of origin because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. There are roughly 14 million refugees in the world. An estimated 75 percent are women and children.

**How does one become recognized as a refugee?** A person becomes recognized as a refugee by: fleeing his or her country of origin, **and** applying to the United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for recognition as a refugee.

**How does a refugee come to the United States?** A refugee must apply to be admitted into the United States. After a refugee has been accepted for resettlement into the United States Refugee Program, the person (or family) waits, often in a refugee camp, for the admission process to be completed. Part of this process involves assigning the refugee "case" to one of twelve Voluntary Agencies approved by the U. S. State Department to resettlement refugees on behalf of the United States government. In the San Jose area, Catholic Charities resettles the majority of cases.

(Continued on p. 4)

## From the Mission Advocate Judi Pogue

### INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKERS/WORLD MISSION CHALLENGE PARTNERSHIP



Rev. Delia Leal

Thanks to a collaborative effort between the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and World Mission Challenge, the Presbytery of San Jose will be blessed by a visit from Rev. Delia Leal, an International Peacemaker from Guatemala, and Tracey King, the PC (USA) Mission Liaison to Central America. The pair was invited to the Presbytery by the Peace and Justice Task Force and will arrive in San Jose on September 25 for a weeklong stay.

Rev. Leal is an ordained Nazarene pastor currently serving two churches, a Nazarene and a Baptist. She works with the Evangelical Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America, a PC (USA) partner organization, as their regional coordinator for the Women's Pastoral Program. This program promotes the dignity and self-esteem of women, works to eliminate violence against women and children, and provides training that transforms women's leadership in the church and community.

In her role as Mission Liaison, Tracey King helps create better communication between the Worldwide Ministries Division, mission personnel, partner churches, and PC (USA) congregations interested in ministry in Central America. She has a special focus on programs of reconciliation and peacemaking. She also serves as Rev. Leal's interpreter.

Rev. Leal and Ms. King are scheduled as guest speakers at several churches in the presbytery. San Jose First Presbyterian will host a potluck dinner on September 26, 6 p.m. featuring them as the evening's program. Rev. Leal will deliver the sermon on Sunday, September 27 at Trinity Presbyterian in Santa Cruz. On Monday, September 28, they will speak at an open meeting sponsored by the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee of Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church. The meeting will be in Room 304 at 7:30 p.m.

The Felton Presbyterian Lunch Bunch will hear the speakers on Wednesday, September 30. That evening, Los Gatos Presbyterian will host a dinner, to which presbytery members will be invited. Rev. Leal and Ms. King will speak. Details about the dinner will be posted on both the Los Gatos Church and the San Jose Presbytery websites.

Additional events will be announced at the September 19 presbytery meeting. If a church group would like to schedule time with Rev. Leal and Ms. King, please contact your Mission Advocate, Judi Pogue, at [judi@sanjosepby.org](mailto:judi@sanjosepby.org).

Peace and love,

*Judi*



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**

### Don't forget the upcoming Nov. 8-14 Mission trip to Houma LA.

For complete details, go to: [www.svpc.us/difference/goingon4.php](http://www.svpc.us/difference/goingon4.php) or contact trip leader **Gary Ruschke** at [grruschke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:grruschke@sbcglobal.net)

## 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 (November, 09) of the Monarch Messenger newsletter is October 26, 2009.

## Presbytery Mission Fair invited groups

(continued from page 1)

- Spiritual Formation, Nurture and Discipleship Ministry Taskforce
- Peace and Social Justice Ministry Taskforce
- Health and Wellness Taskforce
- College Ministries: Stanford, UC Santa Cruz
- Thai Fellowship
- Comunidad Latinoamerica at Westminster Church
- Cornerstone New Church Development
- Indonesian Church of San Jose
- Westhope Presbyterian Church
- San Francisco Theological Seminary
- Board of Pensions
- Presbytery Foundation
- Media Resource Center
- Presbyterian Curriculum Point
- Media Resource center
- Presbyterian Curriculum Point Person

## Refugee Ministry (continued)

### What does it mean when we hear the term "Unaccompanied Refugee Minor"?

In resettlement terms, Unaccompanied Refugee Minors are children under age 18 who are resettled alone in the United States, without a parent or relative able to care for them.

Children are the most vulnerable victims of war and civil unrest, often losing family, home and country. Catholic Charities is one of the few agencies in the country set up to assist families in fostering a refugee youth.

Foster mom Denise Roy speaks for us too when she shares thoughts about her family's journey:

*'Through this experience, our hearts and minds have expanded.... We are in awe of the fact that in the face of so much suffering, there is so much love.'*

Our own **Pastor Ben Daniel** and his wife Ann, of Foothill Presbyterian Church, are the foster parents of Kate, an unaccompanied minor from Burma.

### What can my church and I do to help these families and children?

- Pray for refugees – globally and locally
- Host a welcome backpack drive
- Tutor English two hours a week
- Co-sponsor a family through your church (ask us about how we can help with funding)
- Share about refugees in your Sunday School or adult learning class
- Find out more about the refugee foster care program

For more about this exciting and important ministry, please contact Refugee Advocates Elsa Amboy and Melissa Kreisa; [refugee@sanjosepby.org](mailto:refugee@sanjosepby.org); (408) 250-2224.

*Elsa & Melissa*



## Sea Kayaking and Camping in the Bahamas Nov. 16-24

Rev. Steve Harrington, pastor of the Sunnyside Church, is a master wilderness guide and inspirational retreat leader. His upcoming November sea kayaking and camping trip in the Bahamas is open to all people of the presbytery; he welcomes us to join him in "paddling through paradise." For complete information go to: [/www.svpc.us/groups/bahamas.php](http://www.svpc.us/groups/bahamas.php) or contact him at [steve@svpc.us](mailto:steve@svpc.us).



## CONGRATULATIONS ELSA AND MELISSA

Recently Catholic Charities U.S.A. named Elsa Amboy and Melissa Kreisa CC USA's national VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR for their work in Santa Clara County. They will be honored later in September at a national CC gathering in Portland, Oregon.

## The Mission and Vision 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.