



# 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 1 • January, 2010

### New Pastor in Presbytery



#### Meet the Rev. Tim Boyer, Mountain View Church

At the November Presbytery meeting, we welcomed the new pastor of the Mountain View Church, the Rev. **Tim Boyer**. Tim comes to us from Southern California where he served at the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands. Prior to that he served a church in the Redwoods Presbytery.

A graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary, Tim has been married for the past

30 years to wife Laura who is a Special Education teacher in San Bernardino County. They have two children, a daughter who recently graduated from Cal Berkeley and is currently a nanny in Oakland Hills, and a son who is a sophomore at Long Beach State. Besides "living a jet-set existence," traveling back and forth to Redlands to see his wife who is finishing the school year, Tim enjoys exercising, playing golf, and connecting with his church members.

All are invited to Tim's installation on Sun., January 17 at 3 p.m. at the Mountain View Church, 1667 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View, CA 94040.

To learn more about the Mountain View Church, go to: [www.fpcm.v.org](http://www.fpcm.v.org).



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

Transportation security, legislative gridlock, persistent unemployment, escalating military campaigns, 2010 is starting off as a tough year, a challenge for all of us as individuals, families, citizens, and members of the body of Christ.

Our churches have not been immune to the financial challenges that have confronted millions of Americans. And if your congregation has experienced any decline in membership or attendance, then it has become all too apparent that maintaining program and staff is becoming increasingly difficult, and adds to the mix of anxiety, apprehension and fear that seems to grip us all.

And that is why this should be the church's finest hour.

At a time when some shout to be fearful, the church claims faith. At a time when some would seek scapegoats and blame, the church claims compassion and justice. At a time when the future seems bleak, the church trusts that the God who held us in the past will hold us in the future. At a time when scarcity threatens, the church recognizes and shares our abundance.

The Church has always sought to be light and salt in a world of darkness and bitterness.

As we begin this new year, with swirling demands and stresses, well aware of the challenges that lie ahead, let us not forget who we are, and whose we are. We have a message to the world: faith, hope and love.

This should be our finest hour.

-Joey (with acknowledgement to Sir Winston Churchill)

"Jesus said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?'" - **Mark 4:40**

"Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." - **Philippians 4:11-13**

JOIN US for the next

## Presbytery Meeting

Sat., January 23, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Northminster Presbyterian Church  
315 E. Alvin Drive, Salinas, CA 93906

- Child Care available IF reservations are made prior to Jan.20. Call Northminster church office at 1-831-449-2717.
- Lunch will be served after the meeting by church volunteers
- Health And Wellness Workshop following lunch:

*Staying Well Mentally and Spiritually* Presbytery meeting at Salinas Northminster. Rev. Dr. Bob Butziger, pastor and leader within the American Assoc. of Pastoral Counselors and the American Counseling Assoc. will facilitate a discussion about what it means to have a healthy mind and how our churches can be "health-helping places."

For more information about Northminster Church including directions for getting there, go to: [www.northminster.org](http://www.northminster.org)



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ON THE MOVE!

**SPRING GATHERING:**  
*"Beyond Boundaries...  
Breaking Barriers: Women  
and Religion in America"*

**March 13, 12 noon - 3 p.m.**  
**Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian  
Church**

Following lunch, we are pleased to have the **Rev. Dr. James B. Bennett**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Santa Clara University and Parish Associate at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, as our speaker.

Jim says this about his presentation: *"American Christianity, like most religions around the world, is shaped by a fundamental paradox: a majority female membership is led by a predominantly male clergy. Too often, history has focused on the male clergy and ignored the ways that women--both as participants and as leaders--are central to the story of American Christianity. But when viewed through the lens of women's experience, religion in America takes on a very different shape. In the end, it turns out that Women's history is American Religious History!"*

Come to learn more about this topic and bring along your friends, neighbors, pastors...male and female!

Because we will be having lunch, please let us know that you are coming by Monday, March 8, 2010. **RSVP to Claudia Hamm** at 408-356-6665 or e-mail her at [jnchamm@gmail.com](mailto:jnchamm@gmail.com).



**1. To receive the MONARCH MESSENGER via email, contact Natasha Jackson at [natasha@sanjoseph.org](mailto:natasha@sanjoseph.org)**

### **2. 2010 Presbytery Meetings:**

- Sat., April 10 at the Saratoga Church
- Sat., June 5 at Wastsonville United
- Sat., Sept. 25 at Christ Community Church, Milpitas
- Sat., Nov. 20 at First Presbyterian Church of San Jose

**3. Visit the General Assembly 2010 website at:**  
**<http://www.pcusa.org/ga219/>**



## **From Charlotte Powers, our new Moderator**

**Connecting to God and Each Other.**

I'm so honored and humbled to be elected your Moderator at the November Presbytery meeting and so embarrassed that I was unable to be there. I do apologize. Serving as Moderator is such an honor, but also has a deeper meaning for me as well. My father

served as the first lay Moderator of the Santa Barbara Presbytery in 1953. To follow in his footsteps is indeed a privilege.

I'm an Elder at the First Presbyterian Church in downtown San Jose, an urban church. I have been attending this church since 1963 when my late husband and I moved with our four children to San Jose. In 2008 I was also a Deacon, have taught Sunday School, and served as the Youth Leader of our High School Youth Group. Most recently I served as the Executive Coordinator of the Committee on Local Arrangements for the 2008 General Assembly held in San Jose. There were so many volunteers that gave of their time from all over the San Francisco and San Jose Presbyteries, but I found that most of us did not feel connected with each other at all.

I reflected on this for quite some time after GA and came to the conclusion that we, as churches and congregations and even pastors, are not connected. We aren't aware of each other's celebrations or our needs, or our connections to each other as the Body of Christ in the Presbytery. I was reminded of my days as a school teacher, working side by side with other educators, with the same goals and objectives, but really all alone in our individual classrooms, like individual silos. We never seemed to have time to share ideas, etc with our colleagues.

Churches are similar. Individual pastors and congregations are so busy with day-to-day activities that we don't seem to have time to celebrate being one with another or connected in the Body of Christ, to share our celebrations, needs and individual lives or to pray with and for one another.

The church is called to be the Body of Christ. When has the church or presbytery best resembled the Body of Christ for you? Has there been a happening in the life of your congregation that you would like the Presbytery to share with you? And lastly, how could the Presbytery be more helpful to you and your congregation? How could prayer play a more central in our support of one another?

We are all so very busy. There never seems to be enough time to complete the business at hand before the Presbytery. Each committee or task force has so many important items to bring before the Body, each very critical to the ongoing mission of the Presbytery.

So how can we share our faith journeys, celebrations, etc. on a more personal and individual level with each other? To pray for each other? Feel more connected with each other? How can we develop Presbytery Partnerships with each other? What opportunities can we find, ways to grow our churches, how to support existing congregations through good and as well as difficult times or to share something as mundane as how we use technology in our churches?

One of my favorite books is titled **"If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat"** by John Ortberg. To me the title says it all, but how does this relate to our Presbytery meetings? The author reflects on Peter's story found in Matthew and then applies it to our lives today. He helps us to recognize what we are in – our comfort zone. Opening our lives and the stories of our congregations to each other enables us to get out of our boats and walk together to experience the power of God in our lives and to create an active and connected Presbytery we would not be capable of achieving on our own.

Your thoughts and ideas are important to me. I am interested in your feedback and your ideas of ways to help us get out of the boat to pray and walk together, to share with each other our lives, the lives of our congregations, and our lives as the Body of Christ. I can be reached at [cbpdis2@aol.com](mailto:cbpdis2@aol.com) or at 408-398-0332. See you in January in Salinas.

- Charlotte

## From Jane Odell, Coordinator for Safe Church Practices

The Safe Church Task Force (see names below) asks that every congregation in our presbytery appoint a Safe Church Coordinator by February 1st. Name, phone number, address and email address should be sent to me at the presbytery office by that date. I will conduct an orientation for them.

If your congregation has a training model for safe church practices already in place, please send an outline of that to me at the presbytery office (jane@sanjosepby.org) The November issue of the Monarch Messenger listed what should be included in training models. This information is also on the Safe Church Practices web page: [www.sanjosepby.org/SafeChurchPractices.htm](http://www.sanjosepby.org/SafeChurchPractices.htm)

### The Safe Church Practices Task Force:

Rev. David McCreath, Moderator  
 Elder Erik Khoobyrian, Los Gatos Church  
 Rev. Julie Kim, at large  
 Elder Nan Notor, Westminster, San Jose  
 Elder Paul Seever, Trinity, Santa Cruz  
 Elder Evelyn Wong, Palo Alto First  
 Elsa Amboy, Sunnyvale Church  
 David Hunt, Sunnyvale Church



### Mandated Reporter and Abuse/Misconduct Prevention

**Training** for Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Elders, Deacons and Youth and Children's Ministry Directors

1. Saturday, February 20, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

1100 Shasta Ave, San Jose 95126

2. Saturday, March 20, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Watsonville United Presbyterian Church**

112 E. Beach St., Watsonville 95076

Lunch provided at each event

RSVP to **Natasha Jackson** at :

[natasha@sanjosepby.org](mailto:natasha@sanjosepby.org),  
 or phone (408) 279-0220  
 a week before each event

## From Refugee Ministry Advocates Elsa Amboy and Melissa Kreisa



Special thanks to **Los Gatos Presbyterian Church** for the opportunity to share our journey with refugees, for your generous donation towards bus passes, and for your ongoing support of our African friends.

Thank you to **Nancy Harrington** and **Evergreen Presbyterian** for allowing us to take up so much of your service! Your donation and support is so greatly appreciated.

**Stone Church** -- you are wonderful! Thank you for the opportunity to share at your PW luncheon, your bus pass donation and for contributing your time and talents to help reunite the family from Kenya and nurture the family from Afghanistan.

**Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church** hosted a Christmas giving tree for refugee youth. Thank you so very much for your time and effort with this and with the way you are wrapping your arms around the two families from Africa! In December, the Sunnyvale **JustFaith** classes participated in an evening event called a "border crossing." They hosted a meal for newly arrived refugees at the Sunnyvale Refugee Transition House.

In all of these ways, our churches and members were enriched as they enriched these new residents as they adjusted to life in America.

## Presbyterians Today GA Photo Contest



Presbyterians are invited to submit photos inspired by the theme of this year's upcoming General Assembly: **"Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water"** (John 7:38). Photos will be judged on quality, originality and how well they capture the theme. Winning photographs will be published in the June/July issue. The deadline: March 1, 2010

### Format:

**Email** to: [today@pcusa.org](mailto:today@pcusa.org) DIGITAL photo in your camera's highest resolution (Camera Raw, TIF or JPG format). OR mail a sharp, professionally developed PRINT (4" x 6" or larger) to: *Presbyterians Today* Photo Contest, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202-1396. Only one photo per entrant, please. Photos must not have been previously published (in print or online). Entries must be accompanied by the photographer's name, address, email address, phone number and church membership. For more information about this year's General Assembly (to meet July 3-10 in Minneapolis) visit the 219th General Assembly Web site: [www.pcusa.org/ga219/](http://www.pcusa.org/ga219/).



PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE  
**Self-Development  
 of People**

Grant\$ available for low-income  
 community groups -  
 People investing in people!

To learn about the criteria to apply for a grant go to:

[www.sanjosepby.org/SDOP06.htm](http://www.sanjosepby.org/SDOP06.htm)

Questions? Contact: **Greg Plant**; 408 702-7183 (cell), or  
[gregplant@comcast.net](mailto:gregplant@comcast.net)



Everyone of God's children  
 deserves a life of dignity and  
 hope.

**Give generously to the  
 One Great Hour of  
 Sharing on Palm  
 Sunday.**

**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering funds:**

1. **The Presbyterian Hunger Program**
2. **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**
3. **Self-Development of People**

3 successful programs that help people in need locally, nationally and globally.

## 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 (March, 2010) of the Monarch Messenger newsletter is March 22, 2010.

## From Pat Plant, Hunger Action Advocate



You're invited to a life-changing,  
heart-expanding experience

## Community Action Poverty Simulation

Campaign to Cut Poverty

Feb. 20, 10:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

St. Lawrence the Martyr Catholic Church Community Center, 1971 St. Lawrence Dr., Santa Clara 95051-2197.

Teens and adults register ASAP by email: [povertysimulation@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:povertysimulation@catholiccharitiesscc.org).

More information needed: Call Pat Plant at (408) 279-0220.

To learn more about the **StepUp Silicon Valley Campaign to Cut Poverty**, go to:  
[www.stepupsv.org](http://www.stepupsv.org).

"Learn to do good. Work for justice. Help the down-and-out. Stand up for the homeless.  
Go to bat for the defenseless." - Isaiah 1:17 (The Message)

## Mission Advocate Position Open

Currently we are looking for a new person to follow in the big footsteps left by Dorothy and Don Metzger and Judi Pogue as our **Presbytery Mission Advocate**. The Mission Advocate communicates and promotes an understanding of Presbyterian mission to our congregations. A complete job description is available on the Presbytery website, at: [www.sanjosepby.org/Jobs.htm](http://www.sanjosepby.org/Jobs.htm). To apply, send a letter and resume to Joey Lee, Executive Presbyter at the Presbytery Office.

## GA IS ON THE WAY

General Assembly (the 219th) is on its way this summer (July 3-10) in Minneapolis, Minn. For up-to-the-minute reporting of the plans for this gathering, you can go to this website: [www.pcusa.org/ga219/](http://www.pcusa.org/ga219/). Those of us who participated in GA when it was here in San Jose in 2008, won't soon forget it. Consider attending the assembly: this is the best way to get the big picture view of all things Presbyterian. If you can't make the trip, please add the host Presbytery and the planners of this mammoth GA to your prayers.

**Be a Commissioner:** One way to get to GA is as a commissioner. You have until Jan. 22 to apply for this great opportunity. We can send two elders and two ministers. The requirements and procedures for application are on a link on the Presbytery website: [www/sanjosepby.org](http://www/sanjosepby.org).



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM 2010

## Presbyterian Youth Triennium

Get ready for **Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2010!** Once again Presbyterian youth from all over the country will gather on the Campus of Purdue University for 5 days July 20-24, 2010. We are looking for youth ages 14-19 (must be entering high school and generally 1-1.5 years out of high school) to attend. We also need Adult advisors ages 21 and up to chaperone our youth (must be willing to take a background test).

Registration going on now through May 28, 2010. The Presbytery will cover all cost for travel and registration fees. **For more information** about the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, contact **Natasha Jackson** at [Natasha@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Natasha@sanjosepby.org), or (408)279-0220.

## 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.