



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. 28 - Issue 1 · Feb. 2008



### Joey Lee Now Executive Presbyter

#### From where I sit...

If you've been following the presidential primaries, you will know that "change" has become a theme of sorts. That certainly seems true for our presbytery, as we begin our journey together... old friends in new roles in some ways.

There is a certain tension or ambiguity in talking about matters of faith and change. While God and the things of God remain the "same yesterday, today and tomorrow," the reality of our lives and our communities is one of constant change. Technology, science, communications, commerce, neighborhoods, environment, health, education, and yes, even our churches are all undergoing change. It would be hard to find one thing that has not undergone major, significant change in the last 5, 10, or 20 years.

As we strive to live faithful lives as disciples of Jesus, we may find ourselves grappling with change in many ways, personal and professional, at church and at home. I'm reminded and comforted that the Scriptures speak of both constancy and change. People of faith have long embraced the old and yet looked toward the new. Our seasons of waiting, with hope and anticipation, encapsulate the past, present and future. We are taught to "be transformed" and to "hold on to that which is good."

For Presbyterians, this is lived out in being the church "reformed always reforming, according to the word of God." This phrase from our faith heritage embraces both our tradition and our future. It acknowledges our history of change and our openness to the ways God continues to lead us, all the while relying on God's providence.

And so it is with much excitement and in all honesty, a little bit of trepidation, that I begin as the Executive Presbyter. Such is the nature of new beginnings. But I am secure in the knowledge that we embark on this journey together, holding on the faith that sustains us even as it sustained those who came before us, constant, secure in a firm foundation, while venturing into this new territory.



Do justice

Love kindness

Walk humbly

with your God

MICAH 6:8

218th GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2008)  
San Jose, CA \* June 21-28, 2008

### PRAY FOR GA

By Lynn Viale, COLA (Committee on Local Arrangement) Vice Moderator

For the next six months the COLA executive committee is asking all churches to initiate a prayer focus for the upcoming General Assembly from June 21 through 28, 2008.

Each month's focus will relate to one aspect of the GA's theme: justice, kindness, humility. Included will also be the focus on "the Ministry of Hospitality" which is our role for the GA.

### PRAYER FOCUS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Our hope is that in our worship services, session and deacon meetings, Presbytery meetings and our private prayer times, we will remember to "pray without ceasing" for General Assembly, that it will be Spirit-breathed, Christ-centered, and God-led.

Let's envision a General Assembly where we:

- Work together for **justice** in an unjust world
- Listen to one another with **kindness** and respect
- Speak of our issues with **humility** and grace
- Practice the radical **hospitality** to one another that Christ has freely offered to each of us

### Justice

"This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other." - Zechariah 7:9-10

"When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous." - Proverbs 21:15

"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" - Amos 5:24

**A Prayer for Justice:** Loving God, you hold us in your hands for we are all made in your image. Help us to celebrate our differences. Help us to use our diversity to share with each other the richness of our many cultures, languages and backgrounds. Help us to dissolve the barriers of race and work for a just society in which none are despised and discriminated against on the basis of false divisions of race, and in which each is valued for their true humanity. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who saw beyond all human divisions and reached out to the good within each person.

*This prayer is found on the PCUSA website from the brochure of Ideas for 'Action to End Racism' published by the Diakonia Council of Churches*

### Kindness

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." - Gal 5:22-23

(continued on page 2)

### For Presbytery booth at GA:

STORY WANTED!

Our COLA Media and Communications team is looking for one good story from each of our 46 congregations illustrating how you embody the theme of GA : Micah 6:8 (pick something related to **justice**/mission/community involvement; **kindness**/mercy/outreach/support; or **walking humbly with God** —worship, prayer, music, etc.

Email story and a photo to Pat Plant at Presbytery office (pat@sanjosepby.org.) by April 15.

## PRAY FOR G.A. (con't)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, **kindness**, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. - Col 3:12-14

### A prayer for kindness:

Our loving God, we want to live out the fruits of the spirit. Now is a good time to practice on one another as we approach the excitement of General Assembly. Show us ways – at our Presbytery meetings, in our congregations, with our neighbors, and with the stranger on the street – to offer your kindness to all those with whom we come in contact, and to clothe ourselves with love.

*These prayers are on BOTH the Presbytery website (www.sanjosepby.org) AND on the COLA (Committee on Local Arrangements) website (www.pcusa-ga08.org).*

## What is GA?

General Assembly (GA) is the biennial meeting of the highest governing body in the Presbyterian Church (USA). The 218th General Assembly will take place at the San Jose Convention Bureau in San Jose from **Saturday, June 21 through Saturday, June 28**.

### It's:

- 973 commissioners and advisory delegates
- Hundreds of others (5,000 in all!) from all over the country
- Eight days of deliberations, worship, and decision-making about the mission and ministries of PC (USA)
- A Presbyterian "family reunion"

**General Assembly** meetings are open: anyone may register and attend the Assembly when it is in general session. Online registration will open after February 25 at [pcusa.org/ga218](http://pcusa.org/ga218).

**General Assembly** is an opportunity for us all to learn more about our denomination and see its decision-making process in action. Many people travel across the country to be part of GA and here it is ... **in our backyard!**

## What is COLA?

The Committee on Local Arrangements (**COLA**) is more than sixty local Presbyterians from churches across the Presbytery of San Jose (46 congregations) working together to lead the hospitality arrangements for the 218th General Assembly. We will be hosting the entire denomination plus an international, ecumenical group of guests.

### Our COLA:

- **Has six committees:** Welcome, Information, Worship, Media and Communication, Volunteers and Special Events.
- **Moderator** is the **Rev. Bob Bowles**, St. Andrew Church, Aptos; (831) 688-4211; [bob@standrew-aptos.org](mailto:bob@standrew-aptos.org)
- **Vice Moderator Lynn Viale**, Gilroy Pres., (408) 842-3000 [lynn@gilroypres.org](mailto:lynn@gilroypres.org)
- **Executive Coordinator** is **Charlotte Powers**, (408) 286-0927; [ga08\\_cola@yahoo.com](mailto:ga08_cola@yahoo.com).

## COLA (continued)

- Volunteer Coordinator is **Natasha Jackson**: [natasha\\_ga08cola@yahoo.com](mailto:natasha_ga08cola@yahoo.com)
- **Office** is in the same building as the Presbytery: 888 N. First St., San Jose, 95112; Suite 211 (Presbytery office is Suite 320)
- **Needs more than 1,500 volunteers** to make sure visitors and commissioners at GA experience top-notch, warm, friendly, effective, and plentiful hospitality... so save the dates (June 21-28, 2008) and look forward to volunteer opportunities to help. Sign-ups will begin in March at [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)
- **Has a website... visit it regularly:** [www.pcusa-ga08.org](http://www.pcusa-ga08.org)



## On the Move with Presbyterian Women (PW)

### Spring Gathering "Connections... with God's Earth"

Saturday, March 29 from 2:00—4:00 p.m. at Foothill Presbyterian Church, San Jose. Foothill is the first certified "Green Business" in Santa Clara County. We will share in hands-on activities and ideas on "going green." Join us as we find ways to care for our environment.

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### Spiritual Nurture Retreat, "Connections... with our Spiritual Mothers."

Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos. All women of the Presbytery are invited to a day of quiet and reflection. Leader for the day is the Rev. Evie Macway. Evie served as Associate Pastor at the Sunnyvale Church in the 1980's and most recently as pastor of Bardstown Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY. She looks forward to this time with the women of the Presbytery of San Jose. Registration information will be available soon.

For more information on PW, please contact **Claudia Hamm**, Moderator at (408) 356-6665.



## MicahsCall [www.micahscall.org](http://www.micahscall.org)

**An online, interfaith, community for Action, Discussion and Prayer**

Started a year ago by members of the First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, MicahsCall now has two online sites dedicated to the principles of Micah 6:8 ("Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your Lord;") coincidentally, the theme of this year's General Assembly we are hosting in San Jose.

**MicahsCall** gives anyone (no membership or fee,) willing to abide by simple rules of decency, kindness, and fairness,) the opportunity to contribute and benefit the three parts of the sites: To **ACT**: post events, ask for volunteers, gather a group; **DISCUSS**: post stories, opinion pieces, invite discussion; and **PRAY**: ask for prayer for situations and personal needs. **MicahsCall** amplifies the voices of the neighborhood and regional organizations and invites partnerships with churches, groups and programs. For more details, contact Craig Wiesner at [craig@micahscall.org](mailto:craig@micahscall.org). Visit [www.micahscall.org](http://www.micahscall.org) **TODAY!**

## Wonderful Opportunities for Learning and Enrichment Coming SOON!

Complete details about all these events on the Presbytery website at: [www.sanjosepby.org/events.html](http://www.sanjosepby.org/events.html)



### “Lessons from Oz,” Presbytery Jr. High Retreat

March 7-9, 6:30 p.m. Friday—12 noon on Sunday, Redwood Camp, Mt. Hermon

Flyer with complete information on Presbytery Events webpage ([www.sanjosepby.org/events.html](http://www.sanjosepby.org/events.html)). For more information, contact: Deneice Fujii, (408) 294-7447 x17 or [ythdudette@gmail.com](mailto:ythdudette@gmail.com)



**Pastors Retreat** March 25-28, San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville; this year's theme: “Trick or Treat: Come With a Little, Leave With a Lot.”



**HARMONY in ACTION: Tuning Your Life; Saturday, Feb. 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Covenant Church**, 670 E. Meadow Dr. at Middlefield, Palo Alto, sign up at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/26118](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/26118).

Award Winning Singers and Songwriters **Jan Garrett and JD Martin** will lead a Saturday morning Workshop for singers and listeners alike on finding harmony in our lives, and tuning in on our natural rhythm. This workshop follows a concert at Covenant Church by Jan and DJ, Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/26032](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/26032) or at the door.



### Pastors Desert Pilgrimage: April 14-21, Joshua Tree National Park

(Deadline for signing up: Feb. 11) Trip Leader and Experienced wilderness guide the Rev. **Steve Harrington**, senior pastor of the Sunnyvale Church, will lead a study leave retreat experience for pastors which includes rock climbing the sheer cliffs of Joshua Tree, backpacking through desolate beauty of the Mohave Desert, and spending time alone reflecting on life, faith and ministry. For more details go to: [www.sanjosepby.org/events.html](http://www.sanjosepby.org/events.html) or contact Steve at [Steve@svpc.us](mailto:Steve@svpc.us) or call (408)739-1892.



**Interfaith Conference on Domestic Violence Tuesday, Feb. 12, 9:00 — 1:00 p.m.**, the Sunnyvale Church, 728 E. Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale 94087 ; PLEASE RSVP to Paula Keane at Support Network for Battered Women at (408) 531-6100; ext. 122 or email [pkeane@snbw.org](mailto:pkeane@snbw.org)

San Jose Vice Mayor **Dave Cortese** will be the guest speaker. There will be two panels, one made up of survivors of domestic violence, one of clergy who have supported people going through this problem. Discussions will include the need to increase awareness about domestic abuse, better ways to share available resources, and how to encourage victims to seek counsel and advice within their faith community.

### We Can't HEAR You! Public Speaking for those who speak during worship



**Sat., Feb. 16, 9:00—11:00 a.m., Stone Church of Willow Glen, 1937 Lincoln Ave., San Jose;** PLEASE RSVP to Pat at the Presbytery office: [pat@sanjosepby.org](mailto:pat@sanjosepby.org) or (408)279-0220.

**Pastor Ken Henry**, who before coming to work at Stone Church coached and taught speech and debate at Northwest Christian College in Eugene, OR, will coach elders and church leaders from around the Presbytery in better techniques for speaking into microphones, reading scripture, offering prayers, doing children's sermons and giving important announcements—so they'll be heard and listened to.

### Purdue Lecture Series at Stone Church:



### Dr. Barbara Rossing “The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope and Revelation”

**Fri. Feb. 22, 8-9:30 p.m.** “Exposing the Rapture: Prophecy, Not Prediction; Sat., Feb. 23: 2 lectures— 9:00 — 10:30 a.m.: “Have Fundamentalists Hijacked the Nonviolent Lamp of Revelation?”; 11 — 12:30 a.m.: “Hope for the Middle East, Hope for Our Future.” Barbara Rossing is a Professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, and the author of “Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation.” Complete details on Presbytery Event site and at: [www.stonechurch.org](http://www.stonechurch.org).

### Finding God at the Center: An Exploration of Taize Worship and the Practice of the

**Labyrinth, Sat., March 8, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m., Westhope Church**, 12850 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070. Please RSVP to Pat at the Presbytery Office: [pat@sanjosepby.org](mailto:pat@sanjosepby.org) or (408) 279-0220.



Begin with a Taize worship service starting at 9:00 a.m. and move into hearing about the Taize community and Taize worship in France from **Erik Swanson**, pastor of Westhope Church, who spent nearly a year in Taize. We will then explore the prayerful qualities of the Labyrinth and practice walking the labyrinth in Westhope's front yard. We will close this workshop with a simple lunch and sharing about the day's learning.

## Presbytery of San José



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The **Presbytery Newsletter** is published 5 times each year: January, March, May, September, and November, for the 46 congregations located in this four-county area.

The deadline for submission of articles for the **NEXT** issue of the Presbytery Newsletter is March 7, 2008.



## Our Mission

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.

**Presbytery Staff Changes:** It is with great regret that we share with you that our long time administrative assistant, **Beverly Raynes** is no longer with us in the presbytery office. When Beverly left last summer to care for her mother we hoped it would be temporary but in light of her mother's failing health Beverly felt she needed to resign and continue to be her mother's full time caregiver. Beverly served the presbytery faithfully and with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love as well as enthusiasm, joy, and competence. She is greatly missed. If you want to send a note to her, please send it to the presbytery office and we will see that she receives it.

## Focus on Mission



4"x6" photos of all 1,000 children adopted by church members and staff in church entry.

### Milpitas Church Adopts 1,000 Children!

Pictured at the left is amazing: 1,000 4"x6" snapshots of children from Mexico, Central and South America, Asia, and Africa, all adopted by members and staff of Christ Community Church (our Presbyterian Church in Milpitas) through Compassion, International (www.compassion.com).

The child adoptions in developing countries (and visits to the agencies that care for them) is just part of the International Mission program at the church. To read more about this program and learn more about the Mission program at the Milpitas Church, go to: [www.sanjosepby.org/mission](http://www.sanjosepby.org/mission).

### Felton Youth's FOURTH TRIP to Pearlinton, Mississippi

**Brittany Overbeck**, the Youth Director at the Felton Presbyterian Church, has led four intergenerational work parties from the church to the Gulf Coast to help with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and other groups rebuilding homes. Their last trip, over the recent Christmas vacation, mobilized twenty-eight west coast volunteers to do the standard electrical, flooring, clean-up, demolition, and sheet rock taping – they worked on one home that had not been touched since it was flooded 2 years ago. The group earned their way to the Gulf by holding a golf tournament. After attending worship together, the group began considering a possible fifth trip to help — the need continues and their sense was that God will keep sending them back to Mississippi until the work is done.

### Judi Pogue, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Volunteer

**Judi Pogue**, a long-time member of the Sunnyvale Church and retired school administrator, became a PDA volunteer shortly after the Katrina/Rita hurricanes, serving twice as a Volunteer Village Manager. Currently she is on a long assignment as Interim Volunteer Village Coordinator. Her recent "Jottings from Judi" are on our website at: [www.sanjosepby.org/mission](http://www.sanjosepby.org/mission). Judi's major task for the next few months is to recruit some more long-term volunteer managers. See her request below (can you help or do you know someone who might?):

### PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE SEEKS LONG-TERM VOLUNTEERS TO SUPPORT HURRICANE KATRINA AND RITA RECOVERY WORK

— Volunteer teams from across the nation continue to travel to Mississippi and Louisiana to put in hours of work reconstructing the homes laid waste by the two major hurricanes of 2005. During mission trips that last from two to six days, these volunteers are housed at six villages that have been set up along the Gulf Coast by the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and its long-term volunteers. Currently, PDA is seeking applicants to serve for two or more months as Village Managers and Worksite Assignment Managers. Volunteers are provided a place to live and their meals along with a small per diem. Transportation costs to and from the Gulf Coast are reimbursed. To find out more about these opportunities go to this website, [www.pcusa.org/pda/help.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/help.htm), and scroll down to "Make Work a Witness."

### Trinity San Jose Young Adult Headed to Africa:

**Ryan Tally**, assistant Director of Youth at Trinity San Jose and a Sophomore at West Valley College, is off on a three-week PC USA-led traveling seminar on "HIV/AIDS in Africa: A time of Hope and Challenge" to South Africa, Malawi and Uganda in late February. (more details at [www.sanjosepby.org/mission](http://www.sanjosepby.org/mission).)



*"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have."*  
- Heb. 13:16

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

This Lenten offering benefits three important PC USA programs serving people in need around the world

Presbyterian Hunger Program Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Self-Development of People  
[www.pcusa.org/oghs/](http://www.pcusa.org/oghs/)