



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

There are few events more joyful than a baptism in the life of a congregation. Whether it is the baptism of a child or an adult, it represents new life, commitment, faith, community, family, and future. For a presbytery, the only thing that comes close is the

constituting of a new congregation. So it is with great joy that the Council of Presbytery along with the Church Health and Growth Task Force will be recommending to Presbytery, that we constitute the Onnuri Church of San Jose as the next congregation in the Presbytery of San Jose.

Since 2005 we have walked with the Onnuri Church as a new church development. They have established a vibrant ministry on Meridian Way, the site of the former Calvin Presbyterian Church. With an average Sunday attendance of adult, youth and children close to 500, and four worship services, they are already feeling a need for more space. They are ably led by the **Rev. Young Rhyon Kim**, who is already a minister member-at-large of the presbytery.



ONNURI CHURCH
890 Meridian Avenue,
San Jose 95126-3856

The plan is for the Presbytery to vote at the June 6th stated meeting in Gilroy, with the **service of ordination and installation of officers** to take place on **June 21st at 4 p.m. at Onnuri Church.**

This really is like a baptism for the presbytery. These are our newest members to our family. It represents new life, commitment, faith, community, family and the future. We rejoice at what God is doing in our midst.

Joey



From The Rev. Tom Coop Moderator

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

We are facing uncertain times. The worst may be yet to come. Many have lost jobs, some have lost homes. Retirement portfolios have tanked, requiring some who have retired to now re-enter the workforce. Expenses are up and income is down. That's all bad.

But this could be worse: I read this morning in the *Mercury News* that Gov. Schwarzenegger plans to balance the California State budget by eliminating the CalWORKS welfare program that serves and helps sustain 521,000 families, by dropping the health insurance of one million poor children, and by reducing drug and vocational rehab for prison inmates. He is also recommending cuts to the Medi-Cal insurance program for the poor and phasing out Cal grants, which would mean that 200,000 college-bound students would lose some or all of their tuition assistance. Yikes!

So what does that mean to us? It means very simply that there will be more people in our communities who will need OUR help. It means that we need to take seriously Jesus' call to us as outlined in Matthew 25: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, house the homeless, visit those in prison.

So, I guess the question that follows is this: How is your church responding to what Jesus is asking us to do? Do you have a food pantry? Do you have a prison ministry? Do you have a clothes closet? Are you working with Habitat for Humanity? Are you assisting existing programs that work with the poor? Truth is, we don't need more programs – we need more people living out what it means to be a Christian.

There is a great need here in our own backyard. They say that people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. How much do we care? Do we gather on Sunday and enjoy our fellowship, get fed spiritually, and then go on our merry way? Or does what happens on Sunday really motivate us to improve our relationship with God ... by being an active participant in His world?

There are no easy answers and I am not trying to lay a guilt trip on anyone. But times are tough. And we can make a difference.

Are you?

Tom

PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

Our NEXT Presbytery Meetings: Saturdays, (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.):

- ✓ June 6 at the **Gilroy Church**,
- ✓ Sept. 19 at the **Sunnyvale Church** (includes **Presbytery Mission Fair**)
- ✓ Nov. 21 at the **Watsonville United Church**



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“Called by the Spirit ... to Build”

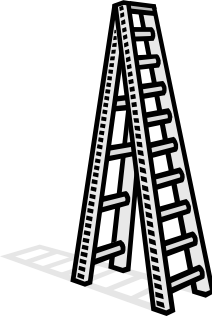
Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery
of San Jose
Annual Gathering

The Stone Church of Willow Glen
1937 Lincoln Ave., San Jose

Sunday, June 7, 2009, 2 – 4 p.m.

Program: The Ladder Project

Esther Peralez-Dieckmann, Director of the Office of Women’s Policy, and **Carla Collins**, project coordinator, will talk with us about the **The Ladder Project** that has successfully taught carpentry skills to women incarcerated at the Elmwood Correctional Center for Women in Milpitas. The Rev. David McCreath, working with Habitat for Humanity, had tried to develop the program through Elmwood; when it became clear that an institutional program was not possible, several entities came together to accomplish the task: the Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women, the County Corrections Department, and Habitat for Humanity-Silicon Valley. A **Presbyterian Women Thank (wd?) Offering grant of \$15,500 given in 2006** became seed money and was leverage for other money the project received. Five young women started and finished the program that involved working on houses under construction by Habitat for Humanity-Silicon Valley. They also received training in reading and math skills from one of Elmwood’s Volunteer librarians. Each woman had a mentor provided by the Jewish Community Relations Council, and the Building and Trades Council helped orient the women to construction.



Following a short business meeting where PWP CT leaders will be elected, women attending the Church-wide Gathering in July will be commissioned, and the 2010 budget will be presented for approval. We will close with the installation of PW CT leaders and the celebration of Communion. The Rev. Marge Palmer, Parish Associate at Stone Church, will lead the installation/Communion service.

Gift Cards: A Mission Project for the Gathering: At the Church-wide Gathering in Louisville, PW will collect **\$20 gift cards to give to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Bellewood Presbyterian Homes for Children.** Not going to the Gathering this year? Bring a gift card on Sunday, June 7th and it will be delivered for you! Purchase \$20 gifts cards from national retailers such as Home Depot, Lowe’s, Target, Kmart. Encourage your local PWs to purchase additional cards for you to bring with you on June 7th.

Fill your car and plan to join us for a lovely and informative afternoon!

Need more information? Contact **Claudia Hamm** at 408-356-6665 or e-mail jlhamm@earthlink.net.

**We need to talk.
- God**

Billboard messages from God (www.freemaninstitute.com/billboard.htm)



The Rev. Geoff Browning

**From the
Peacemaking
Advocate
Geoff Browning**

Last week Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly Stated Clerk **Gradye Parsons** joined church leaders and human rights activists calling President Obama to create a Commission of Inquiry to review interrogation policies and practices of the United States in the

years after Sept. 11, 2001. See the letter at: www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09356.htm.

LOCAL EVENT:

Torture as a Moral Issue : A Panel Discussion and Conference, Friday, June 26 at 7:30 p.m., and Sat., June 27, 9 a.m.—5 p.m. at First Pres. Palo Alto, 1140 Cowper Sr., Palo Alto

The Santa Clara County Council of Churches and other groups will sponsor a panel discussion and a conference (Sat., June 27, 9 a.m.—5 p.m.) on **“Torture as a Moral Issue.”** For complete details go to: www.councilofchurches-scc.org/notorture for more information.

Our own **Rev. Ben Daniel**, will be one of the presenters at the Friday evening panel discussion.

The PC(USA) is a long-standing supporter of human rights law. That commitment is rooted in the understanding that the church of Christ is called to be Christ’s faithful evangelist “... engaging in the struggle to free people from sin, fear, oppression, hunger, and injustice” (*Book of Order*, G-3.0300c(3)(c)).

Healthcare Reform a Church Issue

Last week, 300 people from **PACT** (People Acting in Community Together) and **PIA** (Peninsula Interfaith Action) churches (including representatives from First Pres. Palo Alto, First Pres. San Jose, and Westminster), and other church members from the Bay Area **PICO** Network, gathered at Temple Shir Hadash in Los Gatos for a frank discussion of affordable health care for all Americans with local Congress members **Mike Honda** and **Zoe Lofgren**.

The gathering was a kickoff of a national conversation with elected officials on the need for a strong “affordability standard,” that would limit what moderate and middle income families could be charged to receive the quality health care they need. Many people testified at this gathering about the loss of their health care when they lost a job, or the limits of employer-provided health care when a catastrophic illness occurred.

To find out more about these organizations and the community-building projects they champion, go to **PACT**, www.pactsj.org; **PIA**, www.piapico.org; **PICO**: www.piconetwork.org.



**We’ve got EXTRA PC USA
PLANNING CALENDARS!**

We over-ordered the 2009-2010 PC USA 18-month planning calendars and have quite a few more than we need. Want one ...or 20? The calendars are \$6 ea. Contact **Natasha Jackson** at (408) 279-0220 or natasha@sanjosepby.org.



Elsa Amboy and Melissa Kreisa

ative change can be best effected by a tribe: a group of people connected to each other, to a leader and to an idea.”

This book's theme is about unconventional leadership, taking a cause or idea and gathering support by finding like-minded individuals and connecting them.

Our Presbytery has been that “unconventional leader” for Refugee Ministry here in the San Jose area. What began many years ago as a partnership between the largest resettlement agency in the South Bay (Catholic Charities) and our local Presbyterian churches, has now evolved to include Covenant, Catholic and even Quaker churches.



The bi-monthly “Refugee Outreach Partnership” meetings have grown to include other faith and community organizations. The Muslim Community Association and secular, non-profit Refugee Transitions are also quickly becoming significant

voices for that “lasting and substantive change”. These groups are now working together within this partnership, connected by the common mission of providing hospitality and assistance to our new neighbors.

Also, a special thanks goes out to **Stone Church** for the generous donation of **37** welcome backpacks which will be presented to new arrivals as they come off the plane! Catholic Charities is expecting roughly 150-200 people to arrive over the next 4 months. Please consider hosting a backpack drive in your congregation. We can be reached at refugee@sanjosepb.org for a list of items or to schedule a time to talk about other ways your congregation can be involved in this exciting and important ministry.

Elsa & Melissa



trip coordinator **Gary Ruschke** from the Sunnyvale church. The workers toiled at carpentry, tiling, electrical work, painting, and cleaning.

There was time for fun as well, including a visit to New Orleans, and dinners and fellowship provided by local churches (First United Methodist of Houma and Blue Bayou Presbyterian) who greeted our workers with hugs, smiles, prayers, and thank you's as well as delicious Cajun cooking.

Another trip is in the works. Please email **Judi Pogue** (judi@sanjosepb.org) if you are interested in joining a team headed toward the Gulf Coast sometime in the next year

From the Refugee Ministry Advocates Elsa Amboy And Melissa Kreisa

In the book *Tribes: We Need You to Lead Us*, the author Seth Godin argues that “lasting and substantive

From the Mission Advocate Judi Pogue



I recently returned from the first-ever gathering of PC(USA) Mission Advocates. The meeting, which was held in Louisville, provided a broad look at the work the Presbyterian Global Mission program does around the world. I met some wonderfully caring people, who shared their knowledge with those of us in attendance.

Our mission co-worker, **Jonna Reeder**, has asked us to pray that the “do-it-yourself” school the village men are building to replace a 70-year-old school building will be ready by September. She also asks that we pray that her colleagues and their work with those in need will be blessed. Please remember not to use Jonna's name in any document that might find its way to the worldwide web. The country in Central Asia where she works welcomes development work, which is what Jonna does. It would not be a good idea for her to be identified as a mission worker. Pray, also, that Jonna continues to receive the necessary visas to remain in the country.

The Presbytery of San Jose will be hosting a team of a mission co-worker and an International Peacemaker for a week in the fall. We are not yet certain whether they will be here September 25-October 2 or October 2-October 9. I will be happy to bring this team to visit at your church. Please be thinking what venue would work best for these guests to share their important and interesting service to God.

Some possible alternatives for making the most of their visit would be to have them speak at a Sunday service, to a Bible study group, to PW or to a youth group. If you think you might work with other Presbyterian churches to host this team, that is a great option. Another option might be to host them at a meal in the home of a member of your church along with other members of your congregation.

As soon as I know when our team will arrive and where they are from, I will let you know, so you can offer specific times for a visit.

Judi

Presbytery's Mission Trip to Houma, LA

In late April, 19 representatives from Presbytery congregations (10 women and 9 men from 7 of our churches including Sunnyvale, Stone, Gilroy, St. Andrews, Los Gatos, and Saratoga), traveled to Houma, LA to work for **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** rehabbing homes damaged by Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, which followed Katrina and Rita. The trip was organized by Mission Advocate and PDA volunteer **Judi Pogue**, along with

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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 (September, 09) of the Monarch Messenger newsletter is Aug. 24, 2009.



Pastor's Daughter Heading to Seminary Event

Monica Allen, daughter of Sunnyvale Church Parish Associate the Rev. Stephanie Lutz Allen, has been awarded a scholarship to attend the Summer Youth Institute at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Monica, with one year left to complete at Fremont High School in Cupertino, is thinking about following her mother's path into ministry. According to the Youth Institute website, "youth come to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to ask deep questions about life and faith, to think critically about these issues, and explore ministry from the pulpit and the pews."

From Hunger Action Advocate Pat Plant

For the past year an exciting and robust taskforce has been meeting to plan what it would take to reduce poverty significantly in Santa Clara County. This movement, "**Step Up Silicon Valley: The Campaign to Cut Poverty**," has been spearheaded by Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County and is comprised of everyone with a stake in the plight of the poor, plus poor people themselves. **Did you know that one out of every four people in Santa Clara County lives in poverty?**



One aspect of the campaign is to educate all residents about the issues related to poverty and what can be done to alleviate it. To that end we have obtained a great learning tool, a poverty simulation activity that is both educational and fun. Join us for the next simulation or one in the future (we plan to offer these all over the county at least monthly from now on).



JOIN US FOR A LIFE-CHANGING LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Community Action Poverty Simulation

When: Tuesday, June 9, 6 - 9 p.m. (sign in by 5:45 p.m.)

Where: Sacred Heart Community Service, 1381 S. First St. (at Alma), San Jose 95110

SIGN UP: You must pre-register ASAP by emailing:
rebeccac@sacredheartcs.org

STEP UP SILICON VALLEY Speakers Available:



Contact Pat about scheduling a speaker for a church groups (youth, seniors, men's, women's groups, classes, etc.) on the Step Up Campaign, the status of the poor in Santa Clara County, solutions to poverty, how individuals and congregations can make a difference to alleviate poverty in the county.

Questions? Contact
Hunger Action Advocate
Pat Plant; (408) 279-0220;
pat@sanjosepby.org

Apostles' Feet... the Bible meets mission on the road to justice

Sat. July 25th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., San Jose First, 49 N. Fourth St., San Jose

Is there more to poverty than just a lack of money? How can we best help people rise out of poverty? Come explore these questions with us at the Apostles' Feet workshop on Saturday, July 25th from 10 to 1. Apostles' Feet is a ministry which trains and coaches churches to share resources and show compassion for the local poor. In the workshop, we'll study scripture and look at a new way to think about poverty. That will lead into a discussion of how to serve people in need, including an explanation of a simple, fun, and faithful way to respond. RSVP to pat@sanjosepby.org.

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.