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## E-monarch Messenger

April 2017

### Healthy Women Health Families 2017

Since 2001 World Mission and Presbyterian Women have sponsored this program. This will be the last year that Mother's Day Cards will be available. If you'd like to participate in the project, contact [stephanie.caudill@pcusa.org](mailto:stephanie.caudill@pcusa.org) from World Mission. The cards are a bright red with a beautiful Mother & child on them. All donations will continue the support ministry to refugee families in the Middle East this year.



**JOIN US** for the **NEXT** Presbytery Meeting **Sat., April 1, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

### Immanuel House



It came as a shock: the January executive order affecting refugee resettlement and travel visas for individuals from certain countries. Although the first order was suspended and a new order supplanted it, a key element remains in place. That provision reduces the number of refugees to be admitted in fiscal year 2017 (which started last October) from 110,000 to 50,000. A reduction like that necessarily affects the pipeline of new arrivals into San Jose.

As of March 15, the house was full at 12 residents plus the house manager. It's hard to predict who will soon be moving out or in because of the current restrictions on immigrant travel. Fortunately, our financial situation is healthy, thanks in part to donations from congregations and individuals, and we will be able to weather a few months of uncertainty.

Several volunteers visit regularly at the house to engage the residents in English conversation or resume building. Small groups from Sunnyvale, Santa Teresa Hills and Monterey churches have recently visited or are making plans to do so. If you or your church group would like to visit the house or

**First Presbyterian Church of Santa Clara, 2499 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara, CA 95050.**

#### [Directions to the church](#)

- **Plenty of parking**
- **Child Care is available IF reservations are made by calling the church office at (408) 984-0804 by Friday, March 31.**
- **Lunch will be served after the meeting prepared by church volunteers**
- **[DOCKET](#)**

### From Moderator, Elder Chris Hasegawa

I have very warm memories from my childhood about Lent. Remember how calendars used to have little fish symbols on the Fridays of Lent? My Dad said that meant that we were supposed to go fishing on those Fridays. So after grammar school, he would pick me up and we'd go up to Avocado Lake. Not being much of a fisherman, I would quickly lose interest in fishing, and would walk down to Dad and start to talk to him. He'd give me a spark

bring a communal dinner, please contact board member Carolyn Rosen at [carolyncolorgrdn@aol.com](mailto:carolyncolorgrdn@aol.com) to arrange a time. Your support is always appreciated, and you are always welcome at the Presbytery's transitional refugee home.

### Martha Wills

Chair, Immanuel House Board of Directors

[www.immanuelhousesj.org](http://www.immanuelhousesj.org)



Discouraged?

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Feeling overwhelmed  
with the in-fighting at the  
national level?

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Looking to make a difference?

**Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church  
invites you join our hearts and hands at its  
Mission Fair**

**Sunday \* April 2**

Worship Service \* 10:00 a.m.

Mission Fair \* 11:00 a.m.

Chat \* Network \* Munch on refreshments

Learn about opportunities to serve

\*

Connect with:

Habitat for Humanity \* Second Harvest \* Santa  
Maria Urban Ministry

Women's Gathering Place/Front Door Ministry

VeggieLution Harvest Gleaning \* San Jose

Presbytery

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church

5370 Snell Avenue \* San Jose \* [www.sthpc.org](http://www.sthpc.org)

Church Office: Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

\* 408-629-5906

Linda Buckley \* Church and World Elder \*

[lindab353@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindab353@sbcglobal.net)

plug that he had pulled out of the lake, and move a little farther around the lake. Then I'd put the spark plug in my pocket, start to talk, and he'd give me a piece of line that he found all tangled up, and he'd move a little farther around the lake. On a good day, we'd move four or five times until he found a place where he'd catch fish. Then we'd take the fish home for dinner. Charbroiled, fresh caught fish, a little shredded daikon horseradish, a little lemon, and soy sauce ... it doesn't get much better than that. As the youngest of five kids, I didn't get that much time with Dad alone when he wasn't working. Those were special times for me, and those memories formed the basis of our relationship.

Once I got older, and had friends who had a different conception of the little fish on the calendar, I wondered if my Dad really understood Lent. But now, I tend to think he got it right. It was a yearly tradition where we took time to work on creating a relationship. Most people conceive of Lent as a time to give things up. I view it as an invitation to spend more time with our Father to think about our lives (and maybe unravel some tangled lines).

**Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill, in their book, "Eggs and Ashes: Practical & liturgical resources for Lent and Holy Week"**

, say that "Lent is traditionally a time for greater discipline in our lifestyles, in order to focus on God's priorities. At First Presbyterian Church of Monterey, many of us are engaged in following an "Eggs and Ashes" Lent discipline of exploring environmental issues, "knowing that we have been living in a way that has damaged God's creation and need to change (repent)." Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)'s Environmental Ministries and Enough for Everyone offices has shared a Lenten calendar that begins with ways to prepare ourselves for the Lent and Easter season and then moves to weekly foci of women, creation, water, consumption, and social justice. You can find it at:

[http://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2017\\_LentCalendar.pdf](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2017_LentCalendar.pdf).

You may not be able to do all of what is suggested, but (again, using the words of Burgess and Pohill) "remember, everything you do for the environment, however small, is a

**World Vision Global 6k for Water**



**Saturday, May 6** will be our third annual World Vision 6k for Water. 6

kilometers (3.72 miles) is the distance many people in Africa walk for water, water which isn't clean or even safe to drink. We have an amazing opportunity to do something about this.

Each registration of \$50, or donation towards the event, will help to provide lasting, clean water to a child in Africa. Registration will begin **Sunday, March 19** and we invite EVERYONE to take part in this event and help us end the global water crisis.

Lunch will be provided afterwards. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Ferreira at Gilroy Presbyterian (408) 842-3000

Will you join us? Sign-up TODAY at:

<https://www.teamworldvision.org/index.cfm?>

## Zephyr Experience



Zephyr Experience is a wonderful opportunity for a family retreat this

summer at the beautiful Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center on the shores of Lake Tahoe. Designed and supported by four Presbyteries in Northern California, Zephyr Experience has brought together a community of progressive Christians for over 20 years (originating at Asilomar in Pacific Grove). **On June 25-30, 2017**, Zephyr Experience will offer five days of morning classes for adults and youth, with afternoons free to explore the beauty of Lake Tahoe and evenings that offer a time to sing and worship. This year, **SFTS Professor Greg Love, Rev. Dr. Janie Spahr, Rev. Ben Daniel and Rev. Bev Brewster** are among the amazing class leaders!

Register by mail or online at [www.zephyrpoint.org](http://www.zephyrpoint.org) Some scholarships are available upon request. For additional brochures or more information about this conference contact Sue Tracy at [email: trasea7@aol.com](mailto:trasea7@aol.com). The Zephyr Experience Organizing Committee looks forward to you vacationing with us this summer!

vital contribution and a witness to our belief in God the Creator."

## Peace & Justice Task Force

~ from **Rev. Geoff Browning**



### Should Your Church Be A Sanctuary Church?

#### **Romulo Avelica-Gonzalez**

had just dropped off his 12-year-old daughter Tuesday morning at her Lincoln Heights school in Los Angeles when he noticed two black, unmarked vehicles following him. A short distance from the school, with his wife and 13-year-old daughter in the car, the vehicles turned on their lights and pulled him over.

Agents for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), wearing jackets that said "POLICE" on the back, detained the 48-year-old father of four. ICE officials said the arrest was routine, citing a 2014 order for Avelica-Gonzalez's deportation. But amid growing fears of mass deportations under **President Trump**, the arrest has disturbed the largely immigrant community north of downtown Los Angeles. Romulo has been in the US for more than 25 years and had a couple of misdemeanor violations, one for DUI and one for driving without a license. He was the family's only income provider. What will happen to his family without his income?

Detentions and deportations like this one are taking place all around the country. Undocumented persons are being detained in the workplace, in their homes and even in [courthouses](#). The question is what should Christians and our churches be saying and doing about this? Our denomination has spoken out many times on the issues of immigration and refugees, most recently at the 222nd General Assembly in Portland this last summer. [The Resolution Reaffirming the Ministry of Sanctuary by Congregations](#), recognizes the ongoing work of ministry in

protecting families, mothers and children, advocacy as well as visiting those who are in detention. Like those fleeing the wars in the Middle East, the recent immigrants from Central America are often fleeing brutal gangs. These countries have become macabre competitors for the title of "most dangerous country in the world" that is not currently at war.

The scriptures offer us numerous opportunities to hear and respond to God's call for compassion and mercy to those who are in need: "The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." (Leviticus 19:34) "Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.... 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'" (Matthew 25:34-40)

The Greek word for "stranger" in the NT is *xenos*, the root word of xenophobia. Yet when the Apostle Paul says in Romans 12:13, to "extend hospitality to strangers," he uses the Greek word, *philoxenia*, or "love of the stranger." Hospitality goes above and beyond being cordial and minding our manners to loving them, ensuring their safety and advocating on their behalf.

These can be difficult and even scary circumstances to ponder, and yet many congregations are courageously wading into these conversations. If you are interested in having such a conversation, there are resources available, both people and information. One website with a lot of good information is [www.sanctuarynotdeportation.org](http://www.sanctuarynotdeportation.org). And on March 25th, there will be a community conference entitled, "The World Behind the Headlines: The Challenge to People of Faith." It will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View at 1667 Miramonte Ave. in

Mountain View. We hope to see you there.

The Rev. Geoff Browning  
Peacemaking Advocate