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E-monarch Messenger

May 2017

**From the Rev. Joey Lee,
Executive Presbyter**



In a recent conversation about leadership traits and characteristics, I suggested that leaders need to have "resilience."

re-sil-ience (rĭ-zĭl' yəns) n. 1. the power or ability to return to the original form, position, etc., after being bent, compressed, or stretched; elasticity. 2. ability to recover readily from illness, depression, adversity, or the like; buoyancy.

The ability to bend but not break, to be stretched or compressed and yet return to the original form or position. This generated a lot of conversation among the group I was with at that time. Each had stories and examples of ministry challenges and how they survived and even thrived in the midst of the push, pull and pressure of ministry. And it was true not only of individuals but organizations as well. When a situation or crisis appeared, how the church handled it not only showed the resilience of



JOIN US for the NEXT Presbytery Meeting Sat., June 3, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Foothill Presbyterian Church
5301 Mckee Rd., San Jose, CA 95127.**

[Directions to the church](#)

- Plenty of parking
- Child Care is available **IF** reservations are made by calling the church office at (408) 258-8133 by Tuesday May 30.
- Lunch will be served after the meeting prepared by church volunteers
- **DOCKET** Coming Soon



- From Jane Odell, Coordinator for Safe Church Practices.

On March 18 over 40 people from 8

the community, but it revealed the original form. Was it a community of grace or of conflict? Did they handle difficult situations openly or did it remain in denial?

Recently I was in a meeting where the conversation became somewhat heated. I quickly sensed my own annoyance and became short with the parties involved. I usually pride myself in being level headed and even-keeled. But not this time. I was stretched and I snapped, not back into place but at others. The meeting ended and I spent the next two days wondering what happened. In the midst of some quiet time, an inner voice asked "where have you been?" It startled me. It caught me off guard. And then it dawned on me. I had been neglecting my prayer life. Whether busy-ness or laziness was my excuse, I had not been grounding myself in prayer. So rather than placing my many concerns into the hands of the one who is ultimately sustaining, I carried them with me as burdens to be borne.

Michael Jenkins, president of Louisville Theological Seminary wrote in a blog last year (Feb 2016)

"Practicing the presence of God in our lives, a practice that necessarily begins in silence and some degree of solitude, has the potential to stream into every aspect of our lives, making it possible for us to see God present wherever we find ourselves. Ironically, it is precisely in the consciousness of our emptiness in the presence of God that we can be filled with God's Spirit of life and love; it is in the awareness of our brokenness that we are healed and made whole however life may have bruised us; and it is in our weakness that we experience God's strength. And it is by this that

congregations attended the **PREPARE-SURVIVE-RECOVER** event at Gilroy Presbyterian Church. Our keynote speaker, Marcia Hovey, a Certified Emergency Manager, made our churches safer by training us how to respond to an active shooter situation. Ruling elders David Allshouse and Chris Hasegawa presented workshops on fire prevention and safety and safe church training. Teaching elder Paula Kelso designed a self-guided educational segment on infectious diseases. It was a stimulating and informative day which included a delicious catered lunch, a packet for each church, and useful handouts from each presenter. The Gilroy congregation was a warm and welcoming host for this event. Our grateful thanks to them!

The most recent issue of **CHURCH LAW AND TAX REPORT** features a long article on "The Legal and Moral Case for a Defibrillator" I urge you to read this important article in its entirety. Here is an excerpt from it...

Selecting a Defibrillator

There are several models on the market, and choosing the right one for your church can be a bewildering task. If you have a physician or nurse in your congregation, he or she will be able to assist you. The bottom line is that you want reliability and ease of use. Here are some features you should consider in any unit:

- Opening the lid readies it for use (no time is wasted looking for the "on" switch)
- Portability
- Clear and concise voice prompts that guide users through every step of the rescue process
- One-button operation eliminates rescuer confusion by a red or green light
- Powered by an extended-life lithium battery
- A warning light and audible noise announce the battery is low
- Automatic self-tests ensure that the unit can deliver full energy
- Unit delivers shocks only when appropriate, based on abnormal heart rhythm
- Unit can be used on person with implanted cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs) or pacemakers
- Batteries can be "hot swapped" (replaced without turning off the unit)
- Illuminated control panel (easily visible in dim light)

Also in this issue is a section on "Personal injuries

resilience is cultivated in us. "

Yup. That was it. If you want to cultivate resilience, cultivate your prayer life. In stillness, in silence, in some solitude. Only then can God break in, and maybe we can return to our original form.

Immanuel House



May Day was moving day for three of our longer-term residents: Brhanne, Hekmath and Ismail. Using board member Carolyn Rosen's commodious red pickup, we helped relocate these residents to an apartment in west San Jose off Saratoga Avenue. The same day they moved out, three new arrivals from Eritrea - Filimon, Awet, and Asmeron – took their place. The new residents even helped the house manager, Flor, tidy up the rooms they would be moving into. Transitions are often quick at the house! We thank those folks who donated household items for the older residents to take with them, and those who donated fresh bedding for the new residents.



Hekmath, at left and Brhanne, at right, greet new Eritrean arrivals Filimon and Awet..

How can you help with this ministry?

- We would love to find a

on Church Property and During Church Activities". This excerpt on permission and consent forms will make your church safer and might keep you out of court...

Parental Permission and Medical Consent Forms

While release forms cannot avoid liability for injuries to minors, there are other forms that churches should consider. For example, churches should not allow a minor to participate in any church activity (such as camping, boating, swimming, hiking, or sporting events) unless the child's parents or legal guardians sign a form that

1. Consents to their child participating in the specified activity;
2. Certifies that the child is able to participate in the event (e.g, if the activity involves boating or swimming, the parents or guardians should certify that the child is able to swim);
3. Lists any allergies or medical conditions that may be relevant to a physician in the event of an emergency
4. Lists any activities that the parents or guardians do not want the child to engage in; and
5. Authorizes a designated individual to make emergency medical decisions for their child in the event that they cannot be reached.

Ideally, the form should be signed by both parents or guardians (if there are two), and the signatures should be notarized. If only one parent or guardian signs, or the signatures are not notarized, the legal effectiveness of the form is diminished. Having persons sign as witnesses to a parent is not as good as a notary's acknowledgement, but it is better than a signature without a witness.

The form should require the parent or guardian to inform the church immediately of any change in the information presented, and it should state that it is valid until revoked by the person who signed it. The parent or guardian should sign both in his or her own capacity as parent or guardian, and in a representative capacity on behalf of the minor child.

Presbyterian Women

PWP
"Together in
Action" had 5

couple more folks with a truck or van and a flexible schedule to help occasionally with transitions like this.

- We continue to covet your contacts for reasonably priced apartments and rooms, preferably near public transit.
- We are looking for a new person to manage our website. This could be, but is not necessarily, a board position. Check out the website for yourself: www.immanuelhousesj.org and if interested follow the link to send a query.

As always, we are grateful for your support and prayers for all our residents - those moving out, those moving in and those currently settling into a new life in one large, safe transitional home.

Martha Wills

Chair, Immanuel House Board of Directors

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**



Rev. Paula Kelso reading to students.

volunteers reading to 144 first graders on May 4 at Bachrodt Charter Academy in San Jose Unified School District. This event is in

keeping with the goals set by our Churchwide Coordinating team last fall. Children have always been a focus of our mission work. The development of adequate language is critical in allowing every child to reach his or her potential. Thus the emphasis on literacy in this action day.

At Bachrodt, the first grade science project unit was on insects. We purchased and then read non-fiction books on bugs answering the question of "how do insects help us and hurt us?"

It was a great day and we all learned something about bugs in Spanish and English.



Claudia Hamm reading to students.

Claudia Hamm
Paula Kelso
Linda Buckley
Joyce Summers
Rosaleen Zisch

CLOUD OF WITNESSES

The Community of Christ in Hebrews by Melissa Bane Sevier

This is the PW Horizons Bible study for 2017-18 and is available now for \$10.00 in English & Spanish. Order on line at www.pcusa.org/store or call 800-524-2612

and Rev. Bev Brewster

are among the amazing class
leaders!

Register by mail or online at
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. The Zephyr
Experience Organizing Committee
looks forward to you vacationing
with us this summer!