

THE NEWS

of San Fernando Presbytery

NEWS

PANORAMA PRESBYTERIAN CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

About 225 people were on hand at Panorama Presbyterian Church as they celebrated the congregation's 60th anniversary on Sunday, November 8.

Rev. Gary Dart preached on the history of the Panorama church and spoke about the contributions of the previous pastors. "I tried to give a brief summary of where we had been, and also to talk about where we were going." He also paid tribute to the family of Lillian Bayer, one of the founding members, who had died just weeks before the celebration.

Guests report that the sanctuary was packed. In addition to the church's chancel choir, the youth band and bell choir were also on hand to provide music. Many long-time members attended, and several former members travelled from Northern California and Nevada to be a part of the celebration. "It was great to see so many people that we hadn't seen in years," said Panorama member Pat Huggard. "The service was great, and the youth band was exceptional."

"There were kids who grew up in the church, and so many old friends," said Vera Ives. "It really was a joining of the old and the new. I don't know if I can explain it in words, except to say that it was the most joyous reunion."



Panorama Presbyterian Church

A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS GIVING

Those who attended September Presbytery will remember Phil Fehrle's presentation on Fair Trade. Below is a note from Phil, followed by some excerpts from a letter written by Alexandra Buck, facilitator of the Bridge of Hope Fair Trade program. This is an effort of the Joining Hands Peru Network, one of 10 country networks that make up the international arm of the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Dear Friends at SF Presbytery,

As some of you know, in September Luz and I made a presentation to our Presbytery, suggesting that SF Presbytery (and all the churches therein) make a commitment to directly support PC/USA's important work in Peru through the Bridge of Hope (part of the international Joining Hands program, which is committed to helping reduce the crushing poverty that exists in developing countries). Alexandra Buck is PC/USA's current facilitator in Lima, tirelessly working with many different indigenous groups to help them become economically self sufficient, while retaining their social, cultural and geographical identities.

Alexandra recently wrote a heartfelt letter about US consumerism and Fair Trade that I think is worth everyone's reading. Some excerpts are included below. Please take a minute to read her thoughts, and to reflect and to pray about how we can sensitize our friends and family and congregations to the ills of compulsive consumerism and how we can band together to support programs like Bridge of Hope.

We will be making a Fair Trade/Bridge of Hope presentation at SF Presbytery's biennial leadership education event at La Cañada Presbyterian Church on Feb 6, 2010. We will continue to try to expand Fair Trade educational efforts and to enlist the support of our Presbytery to help the indigenous peoples of Peru achieve economic sustainability and retain cultural integrity through Bridge of Hope.

Blessings,
Phil

Dispatch from the Bridge of Hope Fair Trade Program in Peru

by Alexandra Buck

The customer is always right, right? So we've been taught in our culture. Consumerism is what is valued.

But what about human values? Enjoying Thanksgiving with the family instead of dashing out to spend the night awaiting the Golden Gates to open. Or analyzing the effect of box stores on local economies and the environment. And most importantly, recognizing the now-so-alienated human effort that went into bringing each Christmas bargain under your tree, including the cashier who got up at 3am, missing her kid's day off from school, getting paid just about minimum wage to make sure you get the best deal.

There were people who constructed that toy, or molded that dish, knit that sweater, or made those earrings. Were they paid fairly? How many hands did it pass through to get to you, and who made the most money in the exchange? There are choices we can make as consumers that favor human values over blind bargains. That is, when you look at the price, think about the cost. Who is receiving less because you are paying less? I guarantee the squeeze is hardest at the production level. I encourage you all today to reflect on your purchasing power. Think about alternatives to manic consumerism.

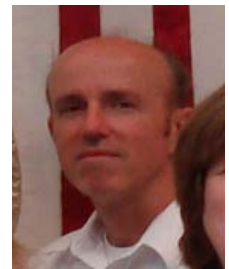
One alternative is buying Fair Trade. Your purchase means that you are investing in an artisan's life. It means you recognize, support, and encourage fair prices, producer's rights, safe working environments, gender equality, and democratic leadership.

Another alternative is boycotting. Take yourself out of the equation, and choose to celebrate Christmas in more meaningful ways. Maybe homemade presents; maybe activities instead of "stuff"; volunteer, investing time instead of money; or make a donation to a cause you care about in someone's name, as an honorary gift.

If you would like more information on Fair Trade products, follow the link below to PCUSA's web page on trade issues:

<http://www.pcusa.org/trade/supportfairtrade.htm>

MERRY CHRISTMAS...



...AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM THE PRESBYTERY STAFF

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Canoga Park Presbyterian Church
Celebration Choir**

presents

a new cantata

"A Baby Changes Everything"

Sunday December, 13, 9:30 AM

A luncheon will follow.

We hope you will come and enjoy a wonderful musical service.

**First Presbyterian Church, Encino
FOURTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA**

**Sunday, December 13, 12:00 noon
Fellowship Hall
4963 Balboa Blvd., Encino
818 788-1147**

featuring

THE CAROLING COMPANY

**This world renowned a capella ensemble of
eight professional singers bring the warmth
and tradition of the season through song
and turn of the century costumes.**

Bring your family and friends for this great event!

**ADMISSION IS FREE,
BUT RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!
CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED BY RESERVATION ONLY.
Anyone arriving without a reservation will be served
only if space and refreshments are available.**

a celebration of the
**Week of Prayer
For Christian Unity**

Sunday, January 24, 2010, 4:00 pm
Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church
11066 Norris Ave., Pacoima
(off the 118 Freeway at Glenoaks Blvd.)
"You are the Witnesses of These Things"
Luke 24:48

Whitworth University

Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning

presents these upcoming courses....

Diploma in Lay Pastoral Ministry

Churches and religious organizations are looking for qualified men and women to serve in non-ordained positions of pastoral leadership in the church. Unfortunately, many otherwise qualified people are reluctant to pursue these positions because they do not feel adequately prepared biblically and theologically, or they find themselves lacking the practical skills they need to be successful in ministry. This course addresses those needs.

Diploma in Worship, Theology and the Arts

Whitworth's Diploma in Worship, Theology, and the Arts is designed to help train, equip, and support church musicians and other worship leaders to serve more effectively in paid and unpaid leadership positions in the Presbyterian Church (USA), as well as in other denominations. The program balances courses in theology with study in the history, development and current issues in worship and arts ministry.

For more information contact:

Michelle L. Pace

Program Coordinator

Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning

300 W Hawthorne Rd #105

Spokane WA 99251

(509) 777-3275

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Presbytery Office will soon be changing its internet service provider. If you are still using e-mail addresses with the linkline.com suffix to reach Presbytery Office staff, you will need to update your contact list. Below is a list of current e-mail addresses for the staff:

Jerry North
Pat Johanson
Marguerite Minor
Wendy Gist

GONorth@sfpresby.org
PJohanson@sfpresby.org
MMinor@sfpresby.org
MissionAdvocate@sfpresby.org

The News of San Fernando Presbytery is published monthly by the Communication & Church Support Committee, Areta Crowell, Chair. Submissions and comments should be sent to Casey Maddren, Editor. E-Mail: cmad-