



THE NEWS

Feb.
2012

OF SAN FERNANDO PRESBYTERY

NEWS

KIRK O' THE VALLEY TO HOST FEBRUARY PRESBYTERY

Kirk o' the Valley Presbyterian Church will be hosting the upcoming Presbytery meeting, which begins at 5:00 on Tuesday, February 28. This will be the first meeting where 2012 Moderator Rev. Bob Thomson picks up the gavel. In order to make these gatherings shorter and more efficient, some changes have been made to the format. To learn more about these changes, please see Interim Executive Presbyter Ken Baker's column below.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Now you can connect with people and churches in the presbytery by visiting our Facebook page. Just follow the link below:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/6344519265/>

HEAR WHERE GOD IS!

Lisa Patriquin is Director of Children’s and Family Ministries at Glendale Presbyterian Church and Chair of San Fernando Presbytery’s Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Work Group. Last year Lisa travelled to Bogota to meet with members of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia. In this article she talks about her experiences during that trip.

We had just finished singing “How Great Thou Art” and we were passing the peace—with greetings in the name of Christ, handshakes and hugs all around—and then the congregation received five new members and welcomed a young girl into faith through baptism. Through it all, I was thinking to myself, “This feels so familiar in the best way and also remarkably different.” Familiar because I was in a Presbyterian church on a Sunday morning, just as I have been for most of my life, and different because I was in a 70-member church in one of the toughest neighborhoods in Bogota, Colombia.

In fact, I was in Rev. Lina Salas’s congregation, Iglesia Betania, that first Sunday morning of my trip when I had those feelings of familiarity and surprise. This congregation is supported by the Central Presbytery (Presbyterian Church of Colombia) in a neighborhood with many internally displaced people, high unemployment, over-crowding, sub-standard housing, drug addiction, and high rates of violent crime and domestic abuse. Since 2002, the presbytery and the members of the congregation have been working together to reach out to kids, youth and their parents with the powerful message of Christ’s love and redemption. Central Presbytery supports the salaries of the pastoral staff and the program staff who run a mid-week and week-end program that reaches over 100 youth per year between the ages of 10 and 18. They assist families by connecting them to agencies that can offer counseling and seek redress for human rights violations; they provide transportation to school and doctors’ appointments; and, in the case of one family I visited, Central Presbytery is building them a house to replace the structure they are currently living in.



Rev. Lina Salas and new members



Central Presbytery hopes to build a new home for the family that currently lives here

I sat in on a mid-week rehearsal of their Praise Band, led by Pastor Cristhian Gomez, and exchanged tips on vocal technique and favorite worship songs—you would have recognized many of those songs, from traditional to contemporary. The youth in the praise band play all the instruments and handle all the vocals. Pastor Cristhian, originally from Medellin, has been teaching music along with some bible study and visits to their homes, since he arrived at Iglesia Betania a little over a year ago. He is working his way through seminary. Cristhian really understands the youth at Iglesia Betania because he grew up in a neighborhood in

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Medellin just like theirs, and he knows that forming a strong relationship with other Christ-followers changes lives. Cristhian had a transformative encounter with God through the ministry of the pastor of Iglesia El Redentor in Medellin that brought him where he is today.

I'm giving you a snapshot of just one of the churches I visited last July, but I think you get the idea. Our brothers and sisters in Colombia are remarkably similar to us in their faithful praise and service to God and God's people. Like me, you would recognize so much of what they are doing, even if you don't speak Spanish. And yet, they are ministering to people who are suffering from years of violence, and social and economic upheaval. They are eager to share ideas and experiences with us on a wide range of issues—spiritual formation of kids and youth, exploration of what it means to be Presbyterian and reformed, the impacts of immigration on the lives of both congregants and pastors, language and culture exchanges with host families, and advocacy to support human rights and fair trade. As our presbytery moves forward to strengthen and deepen our partnership with Central Presbytery, I invite you to pray for the delegation we are hoping to send this Spring to visit the churches of Central Presbytery in Bogota, Medellin, Bucaramanga and Ibague. Thanks to our common bonds in Christ, knowledge of Spanish is helpful, but not required!

THE JUNCTION HELPS COORDINATE MISSION TRIPS

If you are looking for a mission trip opportunity for your group and need some inspiration and information, or if you have a mission trip or mission-related event you want to promote, The Junction your one-stop shop for getting and sharing details about what's happening in global mission. The Junction is a new online database that allows you to connect and serve with churches, individuals, and others to post and search for information about upcoming mission trips and mission events.

MISSION TRIPS

Visit the web site and type in the kind of mission trip you are looking for, and find a list of trips that are scheduled. You can find out where people are going, what kinds of mission work they will be doing and coordinate your own mission work to avoid duplication and increase the likelihood of collective, transforming impact. Peruse the events and mission opportunities and connect with others who can help you discern where God is calling you to serve.

MISSION EVENTS

If you want to promote a mission-related event like a conference, consultation, fair or mission network meeting, you can do that at The Junction. You can also use it to announce that you are willing to host traveling church groups who might be in town for a special event like a mission study group tour, conference or a camp cleanup.

Presbyterian World Mission also produces other print and web-based resources to help you get ready to go on a mission trip, as well as how best to reflect on how God's people can do mission faithfully and effectively in partnership. To get to The Junction now, click on the link:

www.pcusa.org/thejunction

BAKER'S DOZEN

***Some Thoughts from
Interim Executive Presbyter
Rev. Ken Baker***



RE-INVENTING PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

As we move into 2012 we begin a new series of our stated meetings. We're having five of them this year, instead of four. We'll meet on the fourth Tuesday of February, April, June, September and November. We're trying to have time for more discussion of our business items and to keep our ending times fixed at 9 p.m. This is an experiment, so please let us know how you think it's working. What we used to call our Council (what do we call them now, a *steering committee* perhaps?), is open to your ideas and suggestions.

Also we're moving toward presenting all of our verbal reports on video. If you need the presbytery to take action, or if you have some activity in which we all need to be involved, it's still appropriate for that to be on our meeting docket. However, if you simply have information you want us to know, we'll video that and upload it to our You Tube channel, where it can be seen not only by the people who attend the meeting, but by others who might have missed the meeting as well.

We're trying to make our activities more convenient for you. Here's an example: If you're a new commissioner from our church, if you haven't been to a presbytery meeting before, we have a brief video on our Moderator, Rev. Bob Thomson, proving some orientation for you and others in your situation. There's no need to come to an extra meeting, just click this link (<http://bit.ly/xDFhRK>) and Bob will review the basics of presbytery meetings for you. We're looking forward to your participation with us in the life of the Presbytery in 2012!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION WORKERS TO VISIT LOS ANGELES AREA

Mission workers Frank and Nancy Dimmock will be visiting the Los Angeles area during the summer of this year. They have been under appointment as PC(USA) missionaries since 1985. The Dimmocks' latest appointment, which began in August 2007, is to Lesotho, where Frank serves as PC(USA)'s Africa Health Liaison. He works with partner churches and ecumenical agencies to develop programs for children. In addition, he coordinates the Christian Health Associations of Africa and is part-time advisor to the Christian Health Association of Lesotho.

Would your church be interested in hosting the Dimmocks during their visit? If so, please contact Interim Executive Presbyter Ken Baker at: kbaker@sfpresby.org

YOU ARE INVITED!

ENGAGING MUSLIMS - The Ministry of Georges Housney



Saturday, March 17, 9:30 - 11:00 am
Fellowship Hall, Canoga Park Pres

For more information, contact Diane Whitmore at 818-887-2274
or Nabeel Saoud at 818-704-7458

Georges Housney was raised in the predominantly Muslim city of Tripoli, Lebanon. He came to faith in Jesus Christ as a teenager. Soon God grew a deep love for Muslims in his heart, and he began to sense God's call for full-time service among them. Well-known for his work supervising the translation and publication of the Bible into clear modern Arabic, Georges and his family moved from the Middle East to the United States in 1982 to minister to international students. Georges is passionate about reaching internationals here and abroad with the great news of salvation. He writes and lectures internationally about ministry to Muslims, and he strives to awaken a new generation who will proclaim the gospel boldly.

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD, ONE HOUSE AT A TIME

The **Fuller Center** for Housing is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing worldwide. Currently they are looking to fill two vacancies on their Board of Directors with members from the San Fernando Valley. In the long-term, they hope to find an individual who can lead their mission in this area. If you would like to be involved, please contact Jim Adams at:



sawtooth7@sbcglobal.net

ECO-PALMS



Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, accented by the jubilant waving of palm branches, is re-enacted each Palm Sunday in Presbyterian and other Christian congregations worldwide as Holy Week observances begin. Unfortunately for the communities where these palms are harvested, palm fronds do not always represent the same jubilation they do for us.

Palm-producing areas tend to be the home of poorer segments of the rural population where people rely heavily on the palm harvest for income. Although purchases of palms in the U.S. may reach as high as \$4.5 million each year, the palm harvesters themselves earn very little. Harvesting palm products is an important source of supplemental income for many indigenous families and communities in Guatemala and Mexico. However, over-harvesting palm can threaten the livelihood of these communities as well as the forests where the palm plants thrive.

In 2007 the PC(USA) teamed up Lutheran World Relief, Catholic Relief Services and the University of Minnesota to offer congregations the option of purchasing responsibly harvested Eco-Palm branches for Palm Sunday. The palms come from communities in Mexico and Guatemala where workers are paid fairly and engage in sustainable harvesting in order to protect the local ecosystem.

Why order Eco-Palms?

Approximately 300 million palm fronds are consumed in the United States annually. A congregation of 1,250 members orders about 700 fronds for Palm Sunday services. Eco-palms are purchased directly from harvesters at 5 to 6 times the normal rate per frond. Your purchase of eco-palms helps improve standards of living and protect forests.

Order deadlines:

March 8, if paying by check
March 14, if paying by credit card

Order online at: www.ecopalms.org

For more information and to download materials for your congregation go to:
www.pcusa.org/palms



CROP WALK
Glendale/Foothill Communities
March 4, 2012

CROP Hunger Walks help children and families worldwide - and right here in the U.S. - to have food for today, while building for a better tomorrow.
Our local efforts are making a huge difference... and you are part of it!

Join the walk or sponsor a walker and help combat hunger locally and globally!

For more information contact Julie Brumana.
Email: jbrumana@churchworldservice.org
Phone: 626-296-3195



Property and Liability Risk Solutions for Churches

PROTECT YOUR CHURCH! CHECK OUT THESE INSURANCE BOARD WEBINARS!

Adult/Child Interaction 2.0: Why So Many Rules?

Feb 1, 2012, 8 am & Noon

Review of basis for interaction guidelines, and specific examples including "lessons from Happy Valley" (State College, PA). Special attention given to social media guidelines.

Convicted Sex Offenders as Congregants 2.0

Feb 29, 2012, 8 am & Noon

Review of the challenges of accepting a convicted sex offender to your congregation. Also discussion of related clergy/penitent privilege.

Building Trust, Preventing Financial Disaster 2.0: Financial Controls and Other Insights

Mar 21, 2012, 8 am & Noon

Review related elements of church by-laws and basic principles of financial control: separation of duties and audit. Added insights from claim experience and work with churches. (Especially valuable for newly elected leaders.)

What Is Your Church Worth?

Apr 18, 2012, 8 am & Noon

Will your church be underinsured after a partial loss? Review of the components of building value and insurance considerations.

Facebook for Your Church – The Right Way

May 16, 2012, 8 am & Noon

Facebook for your church is not a casual decision. It takes planning and forethought about consequences. A review of the "nuts and bolts" of setting up a "business" Facebook page.

Make sure you visit our website often for a list of upcoming webinars. You can register for any of our webinars by clicking on the link below. You can also access our website for other valuable information!

[The Insurance Board](#)

COME AND TOUR IN PAUL'S FOOTSTEPS

Life Academy, the Adult Education Program of First Pres Newhall (CA), is going abroad. We invite our fellow Presbyterians to join us this Nov. 1-12, 2012, on a tour to Paul's "Asia Minor" (Turkey). The tour starts on Nov. 1, 2012, with flights from LA to NYC and thence to Istanbul, once a center for both the Roman Empire and Christianity. Then we fly to Adana in eastern Turkey, spending 8 days touring as we go to Tarsus, Paul's birthplace, to Antioch, the base of his missionary journeys, and to sites of Paul's churches, including Ephesus, where the Apostles Paul and John lived, and the sites of the seven churches in *Revelation*. We return to the USA on Nov. 12, 2012. Extra days in Istanbul can be arranged. Our guide will share with us the Biblical story as well as the culture and times of that first century, when Christianity spread through this part of the Greco-Roman world. Jack Irwin of First Pres Newhall is acting as the tour host and Ben Johnston-Urey, a member of First Pres' Staff, will be our Assistant Host. An ardent Greco-Roman history buff with a BA in Classical History, Ben will give us insight into the ancient world and culture of Paul's time.

The cost of the tour is \$3396.00, based on double occupancy, and includes airfare from LA, first class hotel stays, breakfast and dinner daily, entrance fees to sites, air and land taxes and tips to hotel and restaurant staff. Your extra expenses will be lunches, personal items and souvenirs, tips to the coach driver and our tour guide, and travel insurance. Airfare can be arranged for departures from cities other than Los Angeles.

We are now receiving reservations. Please get in touch with First Pres Newhall church member Barbara Ave Maria, of [Time 2 Travel](#), for a package of information and to make your tour reservation. Her cell phone 661-644-2525 and email is barbara.avemaria@yahoo.com.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

February 5, 2012

What is the Souper Bowl of Caring?

It is a national movement of congregations, schools, community organizations and compassionate individuals caring for others on Super Bowl weekend. Souper Bowl of Caring equips and mobilizes youth to positively impact their communities by collecting money and/or food on or near Super Bowl weekend. 100% of the collections are donated directly to the soup kitchen, food bank or other helping charity of each group's choice.

Join other churches in the San Fernando and Antelope Valleys making an impact on hunger this coming Super Bowl weekend.

For more details, ideas, and resources visit the website at: www.souperbowl.org

OPPORTUNITIES

Discipleship Coordinator **Glendale Presbyterian Church**

Children's and Family Ministries at Glendale Presbyterian Church has an opening for a Discipleship Coordinator for the 2012 year. This is a part-time position (10 hours/week at \$20.00/hr. There will be four weeks of unpaid time off during the year.) If needed, this position could be used to fulfill a seminary internship requirement.

Position Description

The Discipleship Coordinator works with the Director of Children's and Family Ministries and the ministry team to develop and lead dynamic discipleship for kids ages 1st-6th grade on Sunday mornings during the 10:30 service. To that end, the coordinator will participate in our discipleship hour at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings, attend senior high youth group on Wednesday evenings to develop relationships with our high school volunteers, possibly serve as a lead counselor for Winter and Summer Camps at Forest Home, and participate in our week-long summer VBS program (which also incorporates high school volunteers). We are looking for someone with a combination of the following skills:

- Demonstrated commitment to follow Jesus Christ and serve in a Christian congregation
- Excellent interpersonal skills with kids, youth and adults
- Demonstrated ability to develop leadership skills in youth
- Creativity and vision with programming specifically for discipleship
- Demonstrated ability to work well in teams
- Demonstrated ability to reach both churched and unchurched kids
- Expertise with computer and other media for discipleship

Send resume and three letters of recommendation by February 20 to:

Dr. Lisa Patriquin, Director of Children's and Family Ministries
Glendale Presbyterian Church
125 S. Louise St.
Glendale CA 91205
lpatriquin@glenpres.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: cmaddren@sfpresby.org