

The News of San Fernando Presbytery

Every Church a Mission Center

June, 2008

North's Notes

Thoughts from Executive
Presbyter Jerry North



FOG REPORT, ELECTION OF STATED CLERK ON AGENDA FOR 218TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

As usual, commissioners will have more than enough work to do when they meet in San Jose, June 21 through 28 for the 218th General Assembly. In addition to electing a new moderator, commissioners will be asked to elect a new Stated Clerk, to debate the merits of the proposed new Form of Government, as well as acting on a variety of other issues.

San Fernando Presbytery will be sending four commissioners to GA. They are: Elder Carol Kasperson (Glendale); Elder Merilie Robertson (Woodland Hills); Rev. Barbara Haddon (retired); and Rev. Bill Barnes (Newhall). Youth Advisory Delegate Marissa Minor will also be attending, as will Executive Presbyter Jerry North.

One of the major tasks facing the commissioners will be studying the recommendations of the Form of Government Task Force. The members of the task force have proposed changes to the constitution that they feel could provide a more flexible, foundational polity that would be appropriate for a missional reformed church in the 21st century. They will present their proposals for adoption by the Assembly and rec-



San Jose, California, location of the 218th General Assembly

ommendation to the presbyteries. At a called meeting in February of this year, San Fernando Presbytery voted to send an overture to GA regarding the FOG report. Because there have been many overtures from various presbyteries addressing the same issue, these have been combined in order to expedite the discussion.

Other items to be addressed are:

- The election of a new Stated Clerk. The four nominees for the post are Rev. Gradye Parsons, Rev. Winfield Jones, Rev. Edward Koster and Rev. William Tarbell.
- A call for renewal of PCUSA world mission in a program called "Expanding Partnership in God's Mission" which involves a wide variety of groups working together.
- The Assembly will be asked to take a first step toward adding the Belhar Confession to The Book of Confessions. This confession grows out of the experience of Christians in South Africa and is an affirmation of the biblical call to Christian unity and racial reconciliation.
- One assembly committee will be focusing on the church's ministry to and with youth with the goal of ensuring that the church reaches out to future generations.

Sue and I returned from a trip to Europe on May 24th, and while on the trip we visited the beginnings of the Reformation in England, Switzerland and France.

As we visited churches, museums, and the Reformation Wall in Geneva, we were once again impressed at the sacrifices the early leaders made to proclaim the good news of the Reformation in a hostile environment. As with others throughout the ages who have given their all for the cause of Christ, so these reformers did as well.

As with the reformers, we never know the impact we will have on the lives of others. Nor do we know when or how the impact of our lives will affect the walk of another person.

Living a life of following Christ means giving of ourselves to others as Christ gave himself for us. That can mean sacrifices that we have not experienced in the past, and an openness to the leading of God's spirit in our everyday lives. That appears to be the way the reformers lived, and it behooves us to be as dedicated to God in this day and age.

May God's abundant love be manifest through us as we endeavor to follow Christ in our daily walk.

Blessings,
Jerry North

PDA RESPONDS TO DISASTERS AT HOME AND ABROAD

In the past few weeks natural disasters have caused tremendous suffering, claiming lives, destroying homes and leaving tens of thousands without access to food or clean water. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been working hard to serve those who are in need, both at home and abroad.

Cyclone Nargis struck Burma (Myanmar) on May 3, and many of the victims of the disaster are still waiting for relief due to their government's reluctance to cooperate with international aid agencies. But PDA has been able to provide relief in spite of official restrictions, working through Action by Churches Together (ACT) International. "ACT members have a long history of work with local organizations in Burma. It is through the strength of these organizations that ACT members will continue to provide much needed relief," said ACT International Director John Nduna. With assistance from PDA, ACT has helped to provide clean water, emergency food and non-food items to more than 100,000 people.

The major earthquake that struck China on May 12 has left tens of thousands dead and millions homeless. The damage to infrastructure was immense, destroying up to 80 percent of the buildings in some areas. PDA has sent \$50,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing funds to aid those affected by the quake, and working again with ACT was able to provide immediate relief in the form of food and drinking water. ACT staff has been deployed to three areas that have suffered tremendous damage, Gansu, Sha'anxi and Sichuan.

The last few months have brought fierce storms to parts of the United States, wreaking havoc in the Midwest and the South. Georgia, Oklahoma and Arkansas suffered severe damage, and many presbyteries were affected, including Eastern Oklahoma, John Calvin, Arkansas, Atlanta, Savannah and Flint River. Arkansas has been hit especially hard, experiencing devastating tornados and extensive flooding. The governor has declared at least 36 counties to be disaster areas. Relief efforts have been complicated by the fact that flood waters have been slow to recede in some parts of the state.

PDA has offered assistance to US disaster victims in a variety of ways, pledging both short-term and long-term aid. OGH funds were made available immediately, and volunteer teams were mobilized to provide basic necessities to those in need. Plans are being made to send teams to affected areas on a regular basis over the next year and beyond. Those who would like to contribute to relief efforts, either as a donor or as a volunteer, can start by visiting the link below:

<http://www.pcusa.org/pda/help.htm>

The following comment was offered by a Presbyterian minister in Arkansas who has been helping to provide hot meals to storm victims in his home state: "This was the gospel, I thought to myself, sharing our love, demonstrating God's presence through grace, asking nothing in return, leaving the glory to God and especially being warmed by the joy of the experience for the rest of our lives."



A flooded highway in Arkansas cuts off access to Georgetown

PRESBYTERY APPROVES THREE CANDIDATES AT MAY MEETING

At its May meeting, Presbytery voted to approve moving Joanne Oemig, Steve Raine and Lynda McPherson to Candidacy. All three are pictured below, along with a brief summary of where they are currently in their path toward ordination.



Joanne Oemig

Joanne, a member of Burbank, 1st, is working on her MDiv. at FTS. She's now doing an internship with the Evangelism & Church Growth Committee.



Steve Raine

Like Joanne, Steve is from Burbank, 1st and attends FTS. He recently discovered a passion for preaching, and is seeking pulpit supply opportunities.



Lynda McPherson

Lynda is from La Canada PC and attends FTS. She recently completed an internship at Shadow Hills PC and also pitched in to help repaint the PSF Resource Center.

PWS SUMMER CONFERENCE

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii Summer Conference will be held at Chapman University in Orange, CA on Friday, July 11, beginning at 11:45 a.m. with lunch in Argyros Forum and adjourning at noon on Sunday, July 13, following worship and communion. Full-time participants may begin dorm check-in at 9:30 a.m. on Friday.

The Conference theme is "Come To the Party - - There's Room for Us All!"

("...when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed." Luke 14:13-14a) The plenary speakers will be the Revs. Kikanza Nuri-Robins (consultant and writer), Eugenia Gamble (author, retreat leader, and spiritual director), and Ruth Santana-Grace (Executive Presbyterian, Presbytery of San Gabriel). Presbyterian Women is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

Friday afternoon will feature a choice of three forums: Beyond Borders: Mas Alla de la Fronteras; There's Room For All: Women Included; Presbyterian Women: Get Wired. A variety of workshops will be offered on Saturday morning and afternoon.

The early registration fee (before June 10) for a full-time participant is \$200. Otherwise, the fee is \$215 (deadline for conference registration is June 24). The cost for a full-time commuter is \$65; one-day commuter is \$35. Meals may be purchased by the commuters, if desired. Child care will be offered on Saturday, July 12. Contact Sara Bauer for a registration form (818-363-7247 or bh654@lafn.org).



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRIES Glenkirk Presbyterian Church, Glendora

JOB TITLE: Assistant Director, Junior High Ministries
JOB CODE: 20-25 hours per week August 20-May 31
40 hours; per week June 1-August 19;
SALARY: \$20,800

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION: To provide leadership for Junior High programs: Sunday school, small groups, weekly fellowship, retreats and special events, providing an exciting atmosphere where the students feel welcome, loved, and excited about growing in Jesus Christ. This will be an atmosphere of evangelism, discipleship and building relationships with students at all times.

Send resume to:
Glenkirk Presbyterian Church
1700 Palopinto
Glendora, CA 91741



COORDINATOR FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY Brentwood Presbyterian Church, Brentwood

Mission of Youth Ministry

We are committed to nurturing youth in their Christian faith. Our goal is to provide them with opportunities to grow in God's grace, to enable them to develop the spiritual and personal resources necessary for life's journey and to help guide them into a loving relationship with God, self and others.

General Description

Under the direction of the Director of Youth Ministry and in coordination with the Associate Pastor, direct and lead a relationship-based program with Middle School Youth.

The Middle School programs should provide for spiritual nurture, mentoring, and integration into the life of BPC.

BPC Youth ministry is looking for someone who is intentional, creative, relational, team focused and responsible.

Send resume to Youth Director Angela Williams awilliams@bpcusa.org

Website www.bpcusa.org Have a look at the Mission assessment report.



Intern

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, Los Angeles

CPC is a small, primarily Japanese-American church that has a wonderful legacy of mentoring interns and launching them into successful ministry. We are offering a general internship with a wide range of pastoral opportunities. We are seeking an intern for 10 hours/week for nine months. We are offering a \$400/month honorarium.

The intern will be supervised by our pastor, the Rev. Stephen Baroldy. Each month, Rev. Baroldy and the intern will plan out together the intern's responsibilities for the following month. Care will be taken that the intern's hours not exceed the 10 hour/week commitment. The intern will be able to choose from the following opportunities: preaching, teaching, assisting in worship and attending session meetings.

We would love to find someone who has a heart for international students and who would help us create a bridge to international students at Los Angeles City College.

Who You Should Be: You should be someone that would like to experience small church ministry in a theologically conservative, ethnic church.

Contact:
Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
4011 West Clinton Street, Los Angeles CA 90004
Phone and FAX: (323) 665-3581

The Presbytery of San Fernando
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14225 Roscoe Blvd.
Panorama City, CA 91402

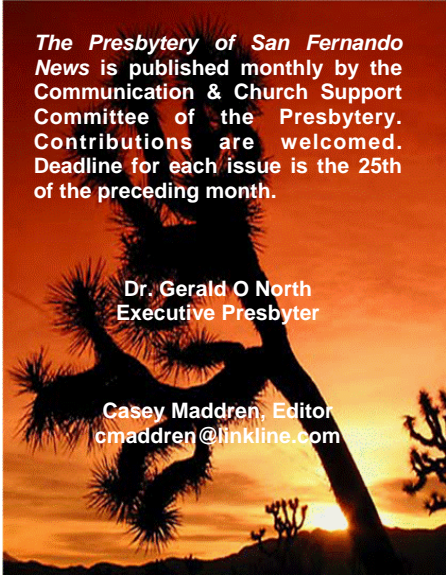
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2008 Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference
Sowing Mustard Seeds:
Working for God's Justice — Confronting Poverty
July 15-19, 2008
Chapman University
Orange, California

Today globalization creates new forms of poverty with more extreme disparities between the rich and the poor. The annual income of the richest 1 percent is equal to that of the poorest 57 percent, and 24,000 people die each day from poverty and malnutrition. The majority of those in poverty are women and children.

Jesus calls us to be aware of the systems that impoverish people and, through the parable of the mustard seed, teaches us of the power of small acts of peaceful resistance to crack those systems open. Gathering in Southern California as an intergenerational group, participants in the conference will deepen their awareness of the causes and effects of poverty and be equipped to live as disciples of Jesus who work to ensure that all of God's children are cared for and have places at the table.

The registration deadline is fast approaching, so register today at www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008.htm or contact Wendy Gist at the Presbytery office or via email [MissionAdvocate@sfpresby.org] with any questions.



The Presbytery of San Fernando News is published monthly by the Communication & Church Support Committee of the Presbytery. Contributions are welcomed. Deadline for each issue is the 25th of the preceding month.

Dr. Gerald O North
Executive Presbyter

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