

# THE NEWS

## of San Fernando Presbytery

June 2010

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### NEWS

#### **PRESBYTERY TRIES NEW FORMAT AT MAY MEETING**

Commissioners tried a new format at the May 22 Presbytery meeting, held at Panorama Presbyterian Church. The Saturday morning gathering began with worship, which was followed by small group meetings. Commissioners had the opportunity to attend workshops on five different topics. Afterward they were asked to complete a short questionnaire, and their feedback will help Council determine whether or not to continue with the new format.

Many different issues were addressed during the business portion of the meeting, including the search for a new Executive Presbyter and a new Stated Clerk. After hearing a report from Rev. Curtis Webster on the progress of the Stated Clerk Search Committee, Commissioners voted to enter into a two-year season of discernment in which the Presbytery's long-range staffing will be examined. Among the possibilities are combining the Stated Clerk position with either the Executive Presbyter position or the Business Administrator position. The Search Committee and the Personnel Committee will serve together as a task force to lead the discernment process, along with other individuals who might be valuable to the process. For the present, Elder Sara Bauer was elected as part-time Acting Stated Clerk for a one-year period, sharing the Clerk's responsibilities with the Business Administrator Pat Johanson. Commissioners also elected some members of the Interim/Acting Executive Presbyter Search Committee, though the Committee is not yet complete.

Commissioners also acted to begin the process of transferring Iglesia de la Comunidad to San Gabriel Presbytery. Though Iglesia began as an NCD this presbytery, the church moved to Highland Park not long after it was chartered in 2005. In order to complete the process, the General Assembly will have to approve the transfer when it meets in 2012.

The Committee on Ministry presented Chris Harrison, a candidate from Grand Canyon Presbytery, to be examined for ordination. Chris has been called to Glendale Presbyterian Church, and received a warm round of applause after his examination was approved. After being ordained by Grand Canyon Presbytery, he will be moving to Glendale with his wife Rebecca and their three children, Dylan, Caeden and Desmond. He will officially start as Pastor of GPC on August 1.



Rebecca and Chris Harrison

## ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS 2010

*By Carole Wheeler, Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Workgroup*

In March I attended Church World Service's Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C. One hundred of the 700 attending were Presbyterians. The trip was partially sponsored by Presbytery of San Fernando Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation Workgroup and by Presbyterian Women of the Synod. The theme was "A Place to Call Home" and included much about human trafficking, internally displaced refugees and immigration. There was time on the National Mall with 200,000 people from around the world rallying for comprehensive immigration reform. These experiences pointed out that immigration is an international concern – a much larger issue than just our southern borders.

The conference was formerly known as the Impact Conference. It was there in 1981 that Sen. Alan Simpson of Wyoming asked if those of us attending had any ideas about "this immigration thing." Nearly thirty years later existing laws remain inadequate and unsustainable. During our visits with the aides of California Senators and Congressman McKeon and Congresswoman Maxine Waters a group of Californians advocated for a more common-sense, humane, and less punitive immigration policy that would keep families united, and provide a path to earned legal status.

Immigration had already been personalized for me by my 16 year walk alongside a Newhall family. They have gone from illegal to green card to citizenship status and are now homeowners in my neighborhood. The process has been neither easy nor inexpensive. They are now productive U.S. citizens.

Undergirding all of the presentations and actions was biblical background reminding us that we are all God's children, that there has always been migration due to economics, opportunity, poverty, natural disasters, war, political instability, etc., and that change takes courage and faith.

Let us all pray that many of the legal, social, security/enforcement, and human dignity issues of this very complex "immigration thing" can be satisfied in a new set of laws.

For a variety of perspectives please see:

1. PC(USA) resource materials on immigration [www.pcusa.org/immigration](http://www.pcusa.org/immigration)
2. Legalization Must Be Part of Immigration Reform by Tomas Jimenez, [http://newamerica.net/publications/articles/2010/legalization\\_must\\_be\\_part\\_of\\_immigration\\_reform\\_31217](http://newamerica.net/publications/articles/2010/legalization_must_be_part_of_immigration_reform_31217)
3. A document, "Breaking Down the Problems: What's Wrong with Our Current Immigration System," from the non-partisan Immigration Policy Center, [www.immigrationpolicy.org](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org)
4. A May 23, 2010 Daily News front page article by Doug McIntyre "Ten Steps to Solve the Immigration Problem" [www.dailynews.com/opinions/ci\\_15139630](http://www.dailynews.com/opinions/ci_15139630)

## PSF ELDERS COMPLETE LAY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

On May 8, two members of San Fernando Presbytery celebrated having completed their studies at Santa Barbara Presbytery's Lay Leader Training Institute. Bill Manning is an Elder at Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church, and Bob Baker is an Elder at St. Mark's. Now that they have completed the lay leadership program, they both hope to become Commissioned Lay Pastors within San Fernando Presbytery.



Bob Baker and Bill Manning

## NORTH'S NOTES

In his book, "He Sent Leanness", David Head takes the words of God in the Psalm 106, vss 13-15, as his title. The verses from the 106 Psalm: "They soon forgot his works; They waited not for his counsel; But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tempted God in the desert. And He gave them their request; But sent leanness into their soul." Some of our prayers are similar in nature to those quoted in the Psalm while we sit in the church during Worship, i.e. "O God, I hope the sermon doesn't last more than fifteen minutes." "Please Lord, grant that I did turn the oven down." "If I'd known he/she was preaching, I'd have come next Sunday." "Lord, give us all a nice feeling this morning. May Your special blessing be with those who will be active in this service while the rest of us sit still and listen. We pray that we may enjoy the preliminaries, and that the sermon may give us all a glow. I know I have offended at least two people this week with my quick temper, but please do not let the thought of that intrude upon this spiritual feast. Praise God. Amen." May our prayers have more focus on God and God's work in our lives than on our petty worries of everyday life. May our lives be full and meaningful as we continue to be followers of Christ, and may we not settle for leanness in our souls.

Blessings,  
Jerry North  
Executive Presbyter

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PODCAST FROM PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

God's Mission Matters, a monthly podcast of Presbyterian World Mission, helps you learn how to engage more faithfully and effectively in God's mission. God's Mission Matters brings you insights from mission workers and scripture based on a guiding "tip of the month" for mission involvement. To sign up, go to:

<http://www.pcusa.org/missioncrossroads/>



### KENYA MISSION TRIP

St. Stephen Presbyterian Church is sending three of its members on mission trip to Kenya. For more information and to follow the trip please visit our blog.

[www.sspckkenya2010.blogspot.com](http://www.sspckkenya2010.blogspot.com)

**First Presbyterian Church, Encino**

**presents**

**URBAN DISCIPLES**

**“FINDING CHRIST IN STRANGER AND FRIEND”**

Don't miss your opportunity to participate in the Urban Disciples Mission Program, organized by First Presbyterian Church, Encino. Beginning at the end of June, the program offers the chance to participate in a variety of local mission activities, as well as gatherings for worship and reflection. The program welcomes all ages, however, children 8 years old and under must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, contact Ruth Mandernach at:

[rmandernach@thehelpgroup.org](mailto:rmandernach@thehelpgroup.org)

**SPERRY MOVING TO ATLANTA**

Former Stated Clerk Jan Sperry will be moving this month to Atlanta, GA to be close to her daughter and grandchildren. Jan says she will send contact info as soon as she gets settled. Please keep her in your prayers as she makes this transition to a new city and a new life.

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](mailto:cmaddren@sfpresby.org)