
THE NEWS

of San Fernando Presbytery

October 2009

NEWS

VALLEY VILLAGE CHURCH HOSTS SEPTEMBER PRESBYTERY

The sanctuary of Faith Presbyterian Church, Valley Village was packed for the September Presbytery meeting, with some attendees having to stand at the back. During the business portion of the meeting, commissioners welcomed a young church planter and said farewell to the former Stated Clerk.

The Presbytery will soon have two new churches on its roster. Delegates voted to create administrative commissions which will oversee the chartering of Northland Village Church and Iglesia Presbiteriana Sinai.

Northland Village Church is part of the Evangelism & Church Growth Committee's church planting initiative. It will be based in the Atwater/Silverlake area and will focus on a ministry of reconciliation. ECG Chair, Rev. Randy Lovejoy, introduced Nick Warnes, who has been working closely with the committee on the Northland project. Nick is now a Commissioned Lay Pastor, but is also coming under care of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry to pursue ordination. Commissioners were also introduced to Terilyn Lawson, a Fuller student who has been working with Nick in organizing the new church.

Iglesia Presbiteriana Sinai is the new name for the Valle de Antelope NCD, which has been ministering to the Spanish-speaking population in the Antelope Valley for over ten years. Pastor Angel Becerra says that the congregation is very excited about the prospect of being chartered, and they hope to complete the process by the end of the year.

Commissioners also honored Rev. Gary Dart, who is stepping down from his position as Stated Clerk. Gary will continue to serve as pastor of Panorama Presbyterian Church.



On left, Terilyn Lawson and Nick Warnes, organizing members of Northland Village Church. On right, Executive Presbyter Jerry North looks on as Rev. Gary Dart opens a gift presented to him in recognition of his service as Stated Clerk.

GLENDALE CHURCH CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Glendale Presbyterian Church celebrated its 125th anniversary on Sunday, September 27. The occasion was marked by a special service which included both festival choir and praise band, and Rev. Bill Tibert of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs was invited to speak as guest preacher. Other events held to mark the celebration included concerts, comedy and a display of the church's historic memorabilia.

The roots of the Glendale congregation go back to 1884, when 12 people gathered to form a Presbyterian church. Since then the congregation has grown with the city, facing the challenges of ministering to a diverse, urban community. According to the church's web site, "The GPC community seeks to extend the light of God's love and truth, and to offer a welcoming presence to all."



On left, guest preacher Rev. Bill Tibert. On right, a view of members and choir celebrating GPC's 125 years of ministry.

INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKER TO VISIT SAN FERNANDO PRESBYTERY

In October San Fernando Presbytery will be visited by International Peacemaker Rev. Diego Higueta-Arango. Deigo comes to us from Colombia where he has been involved with pastoral ministry for 11 years, in addition to serving as Director of Popular Theology in his presbytery. Having been witness to many acts of violence in his country, Diego is pursuing a ministry of healing and reconciliation.

Travelling with Diego will be Sarah Henken, who has been involved with PCUSA's Colombia Accompaniment Program since 2006. Sarah is under care of San Fernando Presbytery's CPM and is currently a candidate for ordination. She attends Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church.

Below is a partial list of events. Unless otherwise noted, Diego and Sarah will be presenting together in both English and Spanish. Other events may be added. Check www.sfpresby.org for updates.

Saturday, October 17

8:30 am
Breakfast at Woodland Hills Presbyterian Church
RSVP to church office at 818 346-7894 or whpreschurch@yahoo.com

7:00 pm
Presentation and Discussion at Lancaster Presbyterian Church
For directions call 661 948-1661 or go to www.lancasterpres.com

Sunday, October 18

10:00 am
Rev. Higueta-Arango preaching at Pasadena Presbyterian Church
Spanish-language service in Freeman Chapel
For directions call 626 793-2191 or go to www.ppc.net

10:30 am
Sarah Henken preaching at Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church
For directions call 818 353-2500 or go to www.shadowhillschurch.com

7:00 pm
Presentation and Discussion at Knox Presbyterian Church
For directions call 626 449-2144 or go to www.knoxpasadena.org

ST. STEPHEN CONTINUES FORECLOSURE RECOVERY MINISTRY

By Clif Cartland, Director of Community Services, St. Stephen Presbyterian Church

In response to strong community response to its two previous foreclosure recovery events, St. Stephen has announced a day-long Saturday event for October 10th from 10 AM -4 PM.

Families everywhere are being traumatized by the fear of foreclosure. "The church is called to minister wherever there is pain," notes Clif Cartland, St. Stephen's Director of Community Services. "These clinics have given us a rich opportunity to touch the lives of people throughout the area. More than 75 people met with HUD certified loan modification counselors at our last event. As people left the event they picked up a bag of groceries, and one by one expressed gratitude for the event. Everyone spoke of "a new sense of hope." "Finally," many said, "I was able to speak face-to-face with a *real person*." Some held back tears as they spoke with us.

Eleven certified counselors from Chase Bank and non-profit loan counseling agencies helped people begin the process of loan modification. Free counseling on credit recovery and legal services was provided, as well as assistance in finding needed social services.

This outreach ministry is having a significant impact on members who volunteered during the event, and on the entire congregation. "Just seeing how this has touched people...has touched *me*," one volunteer noted. "This was such a moving experience," observed another. "This was not some distant mission. I could see people being impacted by our concern...and very practical help."

Folk from other churches are welcome: people facing foreclosure, and others who want to volunteer or come as observers.

SHOOTING INCIDENT IN PANORAMA CITY

On Thursday, September 17, staff members at Panorama Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery Office were shocked to hear several gunshots ring out. An unidentified person standing in the alley behind the two buildings fired several shots into a wall and then left the scene.

While violent incidents have occurred in the neighborhood before, staff members were especially concerned that the shots were fired during daylight hours. The Presbytery Office and Panorama Presbyterian are exploring options for increased security around both buildings. Rev. Gary Dart, pastor of the Panorama congregation, has met with the police, who are continuing to investigate the incident.

NORTH'S NOTES

Thoughts from Executive Presbyter Jerry North

On September 13th, the NorthLAnd Village church held its first launch team Worship gathering. What a wonderful service to begin the ministry planning for this new church plant. The launch team, with team leader Nick Warnes, are making strategic plans to begin meeting the needs of the Atwater Village-Silverlake artisan community. Please continue to keep this launch team in your prayers.

On another note, leadership teams of the churches in the Antelope Valley are discussing ways to be more effective in their individual and collective ministries. I am thankful to God for their willingness to attempt to cooperate in the offering of the Good News to the population in that Valley.

The old saying "if it aint broke don't fix it" is meaningful if what is happening is effective. If what we are trying to do in ministry is not effective, may God give us the faith, grace and fortitude to follow God's leading into uncharted waters. The life and ministry of Christ give us many examples to follow. May we be willing, by God's grace, to be effective in our ministries, individually and collectively.

Blessings,
Jerry North, Executive Presbyter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A LEGACY OF FAITH: THE PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION CAN HELP

Many of us, even though we are mindful of our many blessings, may be having a tough time dealing with the realities of the current financial crisis facing our state, the United States and beyond our borders. With each edition of the daily news we are being reminded of the financial challenges before us.

Yet it is in the midst of this turmoil we are humbled to find ourselves surrounded by the generosity of others. During 2008 the Presbyterian Foundation, now in its 210th year, made available over \$78 million to the mission and ministries of the church through gifts and endowment funds managed by the Foundation. This is a testament to the trust placed in the Presbyterian Foundation by its donors, churches and other related organizations to manage and distribute their gifts according to their wishes.

In choosing to plan your giving, the Presbyterian Foundation can assist you in reaching your stewardship goals. There are many ways to make a gift to the Church ranging from outright gifts to simple bequests from your will or trust, permanent (endowment) funds, and life income plans where you can receive an income for life and then benefit your church or favorite mission cause that is near and dear to your heart. .

The Foundation's Development Officer serving Southern California is Rev. Skip Herbert located in Sacramento. He is available to consult with individuals and churches both via telephone, email and in person as he plans to travel to our area at regular intervals. For more information about the variety of gift plans and ways to benefit the church please call Skip toll-free at (888) 233-0060, email him at geh@fdn.pcusa.org or visit www.PresbyterianFoundation.org .

"I appointed you to go out and bear fruit that is lasting" John 15:16. Lasting fruits are what we pass down to the next generation: our values, our ethics, and our faith. Including the church in our estate plan is lasting fruit, a witness to our Christian faith to the generations to come.

PRESBYTERIANS AT WORK AROUND THE WORLD

Would you like to find out more about the work that Presbyterians are doing around the world? Try subscribing to PCUSA's Worldwide Ministries e-newsletter, *Presbyterian World*. Find out how to get it by going to:

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

The newsletter contains information about mission activities all over the planet. Learn how fellow Presbyterians are making a difference.