

The News of San Fernando Presbytery

Every Church a Mission Center October 2008

North's Notes

Thoughts from Executive
Presbyter Jerry North



SEPTEMBER PRESBYTERY MEETING FOCUSES ON GA ACTIONS, BUDGET

The September meeting of Presbytery went pretty much according to plan, although most attendees were unprepared for the surprise ending that brought commissioners to their feet.

The meeting was held on Saturday, September 27 at Glendale Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery's four General Assembly delegates presented their reports. Revs. Barbara Haddon and Bill Barnes, and Elders Merilie Robertson and Carol Kasperson, reflected on their personal experiences, their individual committee assignments, and the actions of the Assembly. One of the most controversial documents to come out of June's GA meeting is the Proposed Amendment 08-B, which would amend G-6.0106b, G-14.0240 and G-14.0450. PSF commissioners chose to call a special meeting of Presbytery on January 27, 2009 to vote on the amendment. It was also decided to change the date of the stated meeting of November 25, 2008, to December 2, 2008, because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Rev. Randy Lovejoy led a discussion of the Jeremiah Initiative, the Evangelism & Church Growth Committee's ambitious plan for church transformation in San Fernando Presbytery. Commissioners then voted to approve the project, a 3 year commitment expected to cost \$135,000. A "Come and See" meeting will be held November 15, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, at the First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills for congregational leaders interested in exploring participation in the Project.

The Property & Finance Committee presented the 2009 budget for its first reading. Commissioners will vote on whether to adopt it at the December Presbytery meeting. A revised 2008 budget was approved.

At the close of worship, attendees rose to their feet and applauded to welcome the Rev. Roberto Colón. Roberto was seriously ill for most of this year, and his appearance at the meeting was a welcome surprise for commissioners. He was joined by his wife Noelia, and prayers were offered for both of them, after which Roberto gave the benediction.

COLON HONORED FOR WORK WITH LAY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

On Sunday, Sept. 2, at Pasadena Presbyterian Church, San Francisco Theological Seminary held graduation ceremonies for students who had completed the Spanish-Language Commissioned Lay Pastor Training Program. During the ceremony, Rev. Roberto Colón, who has been on the faculty since its inception, was honored for his contribution. Citing his work as a teacher, leader, mentor and role model, those present praised him for his work in many different capacities. As part of the tribute, SFTS announced the creation of a scholarship fund bearing Roberto's name.

Roberto had no idea that SFTS had been planning this tribute and was taken completely by surprise. He was rendered speechless, and those of you who know Roberto will realize that means he must have been thoroughly overwhelmed.



The Vision Statement this presbytery voted for some years ago has become a reality. The presbytery, at its last gathering, voted to move ahead on financing a transformation process for churches needing to refocus their vision and mission. Beginning this month there will be training for coaches to assist the congregations in the transformation process. These coaches will be ministers and lay persons from our presbytery. A presbytery-wide meeting will be held in November for all the churches to hear about the process of transformation, and an invitation will be extended to be a part of the first wave of transformation.

The New Church planting process is moving along with the New Church Planting work force making plans to send candidates through an assessment process as one of the steps in determining the person's or couple's call to that form of specific ministry.

We have much to be thankful to God for in God's direction in these two ministries, and we are aware that the work is just beginning to implement these two processes. I would request that you keep our two work groups, the congregations that begin the transformation process and those called to the new church planting ministry in your ongoing prayers.

It is a blessing to be a part of God's work in this place and

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SUMMER MEMORIES

Below are a couple examples of how young people in San Fernando Presbytery were connecting with Christ during the summer months. The first was submitted by David Kim of Valley United Presbyterian Church. The second is from Darren Pollock, Director of Student Ministries at La Crescenta Presbyterian Church.

BUILDING BRIDGES WITH VBS

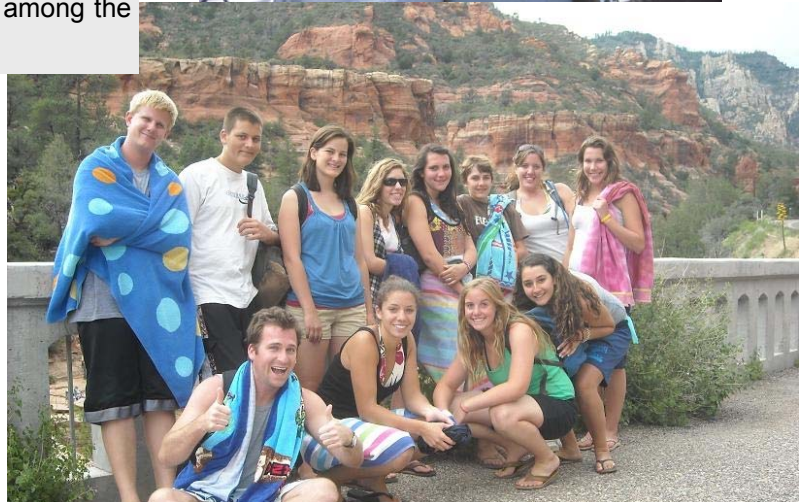
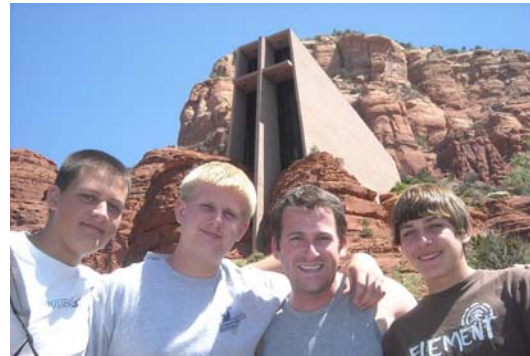
Now that fall is here, children are back in school and summer will soon become a distant memory. However, during this past summer, there was an event that will undoubtedly remain a fond memory, if not an inspiration. On August 1 and 2, Valley United Presbyterian Church (VUPC) and Iglesia Dios Esta Presente Jehova Shama (IDEPJS) hosted a joint Vacation Bible Study (VBS) for students in K – 9. ▶ Both churches serve ministries in the same location in Granada Hills, but this was the first time participating in a cooperative program. Jessica Kim (VUPC) and Nidia Chamagua (IDEPJS) collaborated weeks before the program to make sure everything was well orchestrated for around 30 students that attended. The VBS blended three languages (English, Korean & Spanish) throughout the weekend in praise and bible studies.

In his final message, Pastor Jae Hong Choi complimented the shouting of "A-Ha!" after bible points to reaffirm the VBS themes. Thanks to efforts of the instructors and the support of adults from both churches, the VBS ensured a weekend of spiritual rejuvenation as well as cultural education between the Korean and Hispanic American students. ▶ Speaking as one of the participating instructors, I hope this will become a good precedent to build more united programs between churches that focus on our common ministry in Christ rather than our differences.



ENCOUNTERING CHRIST IN THE GRAND CANYON

Ten 11th and 12th graders and two leaders from La Crescenta Presbyterian Church went on a four day retreat to northern Arizona during the last week of June. Highlights of the trip included hiking in the Grand Canyon, visiting Slide Rock Park near Sedona, picnicking while doing Bible studies, singing worship songs out in the wilderness, and sampling the finest of the local cuisine. The trip, planned and led by Student Ministries Director Darren Pollock, was designed to foster a greater sense of unity and leadership among the upperclassmen of the youth group.



Do We Have Your Current E-Mail Address?

If you are a minister, clerk of session, or presbytery commissioner with an email address, but are not getting e-mail notices from us, chances are we don't have your current address. Another possibility is that your ISP's spam blocker is bouncing them, something you should be able to check by going to your ISP's website.

If you didn't receive the call to the September Presbytery meeting and should have, please email me (pjohanson@linkline.com) so that I can check your address against our database. In addition, if you add my address to your own address book, that may prevent spam blocking.

Thanks for your help in keeping us up-to-date.

Pat Johanson



DARE DISCOVER DREAM

**Martin Luther King Day Weekend
January 16—19, 2009
Walt Disney World
\$320 per person**

**featuring
Tony Campolo, PhD.
Rodger Nishioka
Bishop Bavi Edna "Nedi" Rivera**

www.faithin3d.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Director

Sherman Oaks Presbyterian Church

Sherman Oaks Presbyterian Church seeks an energetic youth director (for junior and senior high age group) who has a heart for young people and will serve with enthusiasm.

Summary: This person will be responsible for education programs including befriending, supporting, evangelizing, educating, and mentoring youth and young adults in the church, (while also reaching out to their friends, families, and the community), and for developing a mentoring program to ensure that each youth is offered the opportunity to be exposed to a Christian relationship with an adult. This person will be responsible for planning and leading Sunday morning and mid-week youth activities.

Qualifications include knowledge of contemporary youth worship styles, possession of a college degree, completion of at least 2 years Seminary training, and previous experience as volunteer youth advisor, camp counselor, or related experience.

There is no existing program in place, so the successful candidate will have demonstrated the ability to plan, organize and implement programs.

This is a half-time position (20 hours per week) and salary will be determined based on related experience and education.

Mail resumes to:

Sherman Oaks Presbyterian Church

4445 Noble Ave., Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

or FAX to

818-788-3336, to the attention of Rev. Zac Kintner.

Administrative Assistant

Bel Air Presbyterian Church

Bel Air Presbyterian church is looking to fill a full-time Administrative Assistant position in the Congregational Life Department. The candidate will possess a gift for administration and a heart for ministry. The candidate also must have at least 3 to 7 years work experience in administrative tasks. The job will include mostly phones, filing, emails, some financial work, and occasional work on some weekends. The person who meets the qualifications must also be able to handle a heavy work load as it is a fast paced position. This position is an excellent way to get plugged into ministry and serve the Lord. Please send your resume and cover letter to:

amy.moore@belairpres.org

Interim Assoc. Pastor,

Pastoral Care & Adult Spiritual Growth

St. Peter's by the Sea Presbyterian Church

The successful candidate will:

Demonstrate gifts in Pastoral Care and helping others with their Spiritual Growth

Be able to work a full-time schedule based on pastoral and program needs of a large congregation

For additional information contact:

Dr. Clayton Cobb, Head of Staff, 310 377-6882

clayton@spbts.org

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PDA REACHES OUT TO HURRICANE VICTIMS

[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) (PDA) has issued a national appeal to Presbyterians to support relief efforts in 40 presbyteries that have suffered extensive damage from devastating storms so far in 2008. PDA has sent letters to all 189 middle governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and all 11,200 PC(USA) congregations announcing the appeal and promising "waves of communication" and resources to help Presbyterians respond in the ways they choose. "These four storms (Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike) have created an immediate need of \$700,000," Synod of the Sun Executive Judy Fletcher told a gathering of middle governing body staff and GAC members in Snowbird, UT, on Sept. 30. "Two of our smaller churches sent contributions of \$500," she said. "We need tons of \$500 contributions."

The need extends far beyond the United States, GAC Director of Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministries Sara Lisherness told the group. "One of PDA's core values is to assist those most profoundly affected and without access to most other resources," she said. "So we have issued an initial request for \$60,000 for Haiti." Experts say that Hurricane Ike caused nearly as much damage as Hurricane Katrina three years ago and the damage is spread over a much wider area. Nearly 100,000 homes were destroyed and lives uprooted in the United States alone.

Contributions can be made to Hurricane Ike Relief, account #DR000184; or Caribbean Hurricane and Tropical Storm Relief, account #DR000166.

NORTH'S NOTES

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time in our presbytery, as well as God's work through those ministering outside our bounds and those laboring outside our country.

Blessings,
Jerry North
Executive Presbyter

***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.**

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