



THE NEWS

Oct.
2011

OF SAN FERNANDO PRESBYTERY

NEWS

PROPOSALS SPARK DEBATE AT SEPTEMBER STATED MEETING

Much was accomplished at the September 24 Presbytery Meeting, held at First Presbyterian Church, Granada Hills. Commissioners debated whether to close a church, voted to raise per capita substantially, and still found time to approve three new pastors, a candidate and an inquirer.

The meeting began with worship, and Interim Executive Presbyter Ken Baker delivered a sermon entitled "Keeping the Main Thing... The Main Thing!" During the sermon, Ken asked attendees to break into

(continued on page 2)



Kristy and Jonathan LaBarge, Co-Pastors at Canoga Park

(continued from page 1)



Rev. Brenda Mitchell

small groups and discuss their vision of the Presbytery's mission in the 21st century. Responses were gathered and will be reviewed by the 2020 Vision Team.

Commissioners approved Candidates Kristy and Jonathan LaBarge of Santa Barbara Presbytery for ordination, and they will serve as co-pastors at Canoga Park Presbyterian Church. Rev. Brenda Mitchell was also received from Pacific Presbytery, and Bob Baker was commissioned as a Ruling Elder Commissioned to Pastoral Service at St. Mark's. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry asked that Joel Drenckpohl be accepted as a Candidate and Ben Banner be accepted as an Inquirer. Both were approved.



Elder Bob Baker

The most difficult portion of the meeting was the discussion about the future of Lancaster Presbyterian Church. The administrative commission which has been working with the church had recommended that the Presbytery close it. Lancaster members argued that the congregation was still viable and should be given another chance. In a close vote, it was decided that the church would remain open.

Another item which sparked extended discussion was the motion brought by Property & Finance to raise the per capita assessment significantly. Commissioners did vote to accept the increase, with the result that a Presbytery per capita assessment of \$27.00 was adopted. Adding in the Synod apportionment of \$2.60 (pending action by the November 4-5 Synod Assembly), and the General Assembly apportionment of \$6.63, total per capita will rise to \$36.23 in 2012.

The meeting ended with two reports centered on South America. Rev. Sara Armstrong was visiting from Peru where she serves under the auspices of the General Assembly Mission Council. She shared some of her experiences hosting PCUSA delegations in that country and working with partner churches. Elder Lisa Patriquin, Chair of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee (JPIC), reported on a recent trip to Central Presbytery in Colombia. A partnership with this presbytery is currently under consideration by JPIC.



Candidate Joel Drenckpohl



Inquirer Ben Banner

SILVERLAKE MEMBERS VISIT BURUNDI

From August 25 to September 4, a five member team from Silverlake Presbyterian Church travelled to Burundi. In partnership with Tirzah International, the Silverlake congregation hopes to walk with the people of Burundi as they struggle with challenges such as hunger, displacement, and HIV. Below is an account of the visit by Silverlake member Gabriel Unibe, in which he describes his encounters with the youth at a local church. This mission trip was made possible, in part, by funds from the Pentecost Offering provided by the Presbytery.

There are so many stories to share, but here is a summary of an amazing opportunity Steven and I got to participate in while we were in Burundi:



Gabriel Unibe with friends in Burundi

On Wednesday, we had the opportunity to go share some more of our testimonies with the men that participate in Pastor Albin's church. He also invited us to take some time to talk about passages from the bible that encouraged us and helped with the topics of faith, evangelism, etc. Steven shared about the stories of Cain and Abel and of Joseph, son of Jacob. He was able to relate the personal hardships he encountered in his life to those of Cain and Joseph. He spoke of the dangers of envy and jealousy. In the end finding forgiveness with God means facing that responsibility in your life and knowing you are forgiven when you accept Jesus.

In Mark 2, I shared about all the ways that Levi would not be considered a candidate for being a person of high importance, with the credentials of being a tax collector. I explained that Jesus says he sits among tax collectors and sinners, because he came for those that are broken and damaged; those that are sick! I reminded them that Jesus chose them to be "fishers of people" just as the Burundi men and women have been doing! We also had a time where we answered some questions and got to share how we still participate at our churches when we are back in the States.

All in all, Steven and I found having this time to prepare and share these passages not only strengthened the small church community they had there, but reminded us of the many blessings and encouragement we receive through God's word. This was a powerful time for all of us. We wanted to say a big URAKOZI (Thank You) for the wonderful blessing the Presbytery was to our entire team!



Caitlin Flint with women of Burundi

To learn more about the partnership between the members of the Silverlake church and the people of Burundi, visit the blog [Incuti Zu Burundi](http://incuti-zu-burundi.blogspot.com/) (Friends of Burundi). The link is below.

<http://incuti-zu-burundi.blogspot.com/>

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

A monthly series by the Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee (JPIC)

Myth #2

How many times have you heard it said about immigrants, "They are taking away our jobs." Here's help in answering such statements:

Fact:

The largest wave of immigration in the U.S. since the early 1900s coincides with our lowest national unemployment rate and fastest economic growth. Immigrant entrepreneurs create jobs for U.S. and foreign workers, and foreign-born students allow many U.S. graduate programs to keep their doors open. While there has been no comprehensive study of immigrant-owner businesses, we have countless examples: in Silicon Valley companies begun by Chinese and Indian immigrants generated more than \$19.5 billion in sales and nearly 73,000 jobs in 2000.

Source: Brookings Institute

BAKER'S DOZEN

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



THANKS FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO!

Many of us don't realize all of the significant and productive ministry you as a presbytery are doing on a daily basis. Recently we asked a number of people to talk about how you and your efforts have made a difference in their lives and their churches. If you attended our September stated meeting you may have received a DVD with these clips on it. We encourage you to show them to your mission committee, your Session, or your congregation in worship, to let people know about the difference they are making through San Fernando Presbytery. On the following page is a brief summary of the video clips. Click the link below the names to view the video. *(continued on page 5)*

Elder Ruth Mandernach

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvFtA5s_F_o



Ruth is beginning the path toward becoming a Commissioned Ruling Elder (formerly Commissioned Lay Pastor). She reflects on the people in the presbytery who have helped her start along that journey.

Rev. Paul Clairville

<http://tinyurl.com/5s4b94a>



Westminister, Bubank has hosted *Family Promise*, a housing program for homeless families. The received a grant of Synod funds from our presbytery to add a shower to one of their rest-rooms so that families could feel a little more at home.

Elder Dennis Graves

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f05BQOKRS6Y>



Dennis talks about the turnaround in the ministry of Church of the Lakes in Lake Hughes after the Presbytery sent Rev. Joanne Oemig there to be a supply pastor.

Rev. Randy Lovejoy

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dX6snjPOFIA>



Randy, the pastor of Silverlake Community Church, talks about a small group workbook, provided by the presbytery, that is transforming the lives of people in the Silverlake Church and community.

Elder Werner Cajas Dubon

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-w0B_P1AGo



Werner has experienced a real partnership with the presbytery during his tenure as pastor of *Comunidad Cristiana*, part of Canoga Park Presbyterian Church.

Elder Lauren Cobb

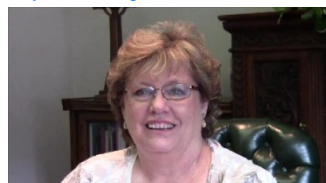
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3V38DzaP8nk>



Lauren was the facilitator of the pastor nominating committee at Glendale Presbyterian. She talks about the people who made their tasks easier, and their caring approach to the congregation's search.

Rev. Janet Winslow

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uir0b2BnDMO>



Janet, pastor of Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church, tells about having the gas company shut off the church's service in the middle of winter and a Presbytery committee coming to the rescue.

Elder Nick Warnes

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dq6q8ftIB7o>



Nick expresses his gratitude to the Presbytery for helping Northland Village Church get off the ground and putting a priority on church planting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

*Friday, Nov. 4, (1:00 pm to approx. 8:00 pm)
Saturday Nov. 5 (9:00 am to approx. 12:00 noon)*

*La Canada Presbyterian Church
626 Foothill Blvd.*

*The Synod Assembly is composed of commissioners elected by the presbyteries
and officers elected by the Synod Assembly. All are welcome to attend.*

2nd Annual West Valley

Family FESTIVAL

& Community Health and Fitness Fair

**A FREE FUN Event
for the WHOLE FAMILY**

October 15th, 2011 - 9^{AM} to 3^{PM}

on the St. Stephen campus at

20121 Devonshire St., Chatsworth, (at Winnetka)

**Over 100 of the best, most helpful resources
for everyone...all in one place**

**KIDS' ZONE – HEALTH & WELLNESS – ENVIRONMENT
FAMILY ENRICHMENT - NUTRITION– SENIOR SERVICES**



**PANORAMA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THEIR
SEVENTH ANNUAL TEA PARTY**

“TEDDY BEAR’S TEA PARTY”

**Panorama Presbyterian Church
14201 Roscoe Blvd.
Panorama City**

**on
Saturday, October 15, 2011
at
11:00 am**

Donation: \$10.00 per person

Angel Interfaith Network Baby Shower (optional)

Angel Interfaith Network Hygiene Kits (toiletries)

**Bring a small stuffed toy or Teddy Bear
for the Police Protective League
(given to children for comfort when their parents are arrested)**

**Vest Auction
Bible Quilt Auction
Door Prizes
Opportunity Prizes**

Bring a favorite Teddy Bear and share a story if you like!

Please RSVP to Kay McNeil - 818 782-5357

Follow this link to download the invitation:

WALK TO END HUNGER!

36th annual San Fernando Valley

CROP WALK

5K Walk, 10K "Fun Run", and Tot Walk

Sunday November 13, 2011

**Congregational Church of the Chimes
14115 Magnolia Blvd, Sherman Oaks**

Registration 12:30 p.m. Walk Starts 1:30 p.m.

**Material is available for pick-up, beginning Monday September 26, at:
Congregational Church of the Chimes *
Sherman Oaks, (818) 789-7124
First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park *
West Hills, (818) 340-2950
Church World Service/CROP Regional Office *
Chatsworth, (626) 296-3195**

*** Office hours are limited!
CALL AHEAD to schedule a pick-up time!**

**If you haven't walked recently or ever,
please join us for the 36th ANNUAL Walk.**

**For more information, contact Carol Hiestand:
818 886-5531
chiestand@socal.rr.com**

**Last year we raised more than \$20,000 which went to
Valley Interfaith Food Pantries and Church World Service
to help in the U.S. and internationally.**

COME AND JOIN US! YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID!!

Is your church on facebook?

Should it be?



**Attend this free webinar and learn
how to keep your congregation
and your church safe!**

SOCIAL MEDIA—PLAN, PREPARE, PROTECT!

November 30, 8:00 am and 12:00 noon

To register, click on the link below:

<https://insuranceboard.ilinc.com/perl/ilinc/lms/event.pl>

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