
THE NEWS

of San Fernando Presbytery

September 2009

NEWS

FIRES AFFECT SEVERAL PSF CHURCHES



The Station Fire raging in Angeles National Forest has affected several of the churches in the Presbytery, with some members being forced to evacuate. It is difficult to assess the impact of the fire since the situation has been changing daily, but so far no churches have reported any loss of property, and members in areas that are threatened have been able to find safe havens.

Rev. KC Wahe has asked for prayers for church members in the Antelope Valley, with evacuations having been ordered in Acton, Palmdale, Littlerock and Juniper Hills. At the southern end of the fire, evacuations have been ordered in La Crescenta, La Canada and Tujunga, although in some areas people have since been allowed to return to their homes.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been in touch with the Presbytery Office, offering assistance to any churches affected by the disaster.



FAITH, VALLEY VILLAGE TO HOST SEPTEMBER PRESBYTERY

The September Presbytery meeting will be hosted by Faith Presbyterian Church in Valley Village. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22 and starts at 3:00 pm.

Among other things, those attending will be asked to elect administrative commissions for two new church developments that are hoping to be chartered soon. Northland Village Church is part of the Evangelism & Church Growth Committee's church planting initiative and will serve Atwater and Silverlake. The Spanish-speaking congregation of the Valle de Antelope NCD has been meeting in the Antelope Valley area for over ten years.

A pre-Presbytery event concerning fair trade will start at 2:00 pm. The event is sponsored by the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Committee and will feature Phil Fehrle, a member of First Presbyterian Church, Burbank. See the article below for more information.

PRE-PRESBYTERY EVENT FOCUSES ON FAIR TRADE

All those interested in learning more about Fair Trade are invited to a pre-Presbytery event presented by the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Committee. Phil Fehrle, a member of First Presbyterian Church, Burbank, will talk about issues such as fair prices, fair labor conditions and environmental

sustainability. Here is a brief sample of what Phil will be talking about:

Simply put, Fair Trade is an international movement, which strives to level the economic playing field for millions of people who don't have the political heft to level the playing field for themselves. It provides indigenous peoples with an alternative to being cogs on the wheels of cheap labor machines for multinational corporations.

Fair Trade empowers farmers and artisans in developing countries to lift themselves out of poverty by helping them create and sustain their own agricultural and artisan associations. It also assists them in improving living and educational conditions in their own communities, in learning the value of protecting the environment and in developing the business skills necessary to compete in the global marketplace.

Presbytery will be meeting on Tuesday, September 22 at Faith Presbyterian Church in Valley Village. The presentation on Fair Trade will start at 2:00 pm. The business portion of the Presbytery meeting begins at 3:00 pm.

INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKERS TO VISIT PSF CHURCHES

By Lisa Patriquin, JPIC Committee Chair

At first glance, Sarah Henken doesn't look like the kind of woman you'd find hiking on a trail to visit a refugee settlement in a war-torn country. She looks more like the kind of woman you'd see in a seminary class, or a presbytery meeting, or speaking in the pulpit on a Sunday morning. She has, in fact, done all of those things as a candidate for ministry in our presbytery and as an "accompanier" in Colombia through a powerful partnership involving the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, the World Mission program of PCUSA and the Presbyterian Church in Colombia (IPC). Since November 2004, the Colombia accompaniers have traveled to police stations with people subjected to death threats, sat with displaced families to hear their stories and pray with them, protested the arrest of Colombian peace workers, and come back home to share all they have seen and heard. While in Colombia, Sarah met Rev. Diego Higueta, a Colombian farmer-turned-pastor who currently serves as the Executive Secretary of the IPC. Diego and Sarah have traveled through his native province of Uraba on several occasions in recent years, and now they travel to our presbytery to share their stories when they visit our presbytery on October 16-18 as part of the International Peacemaker/World Mission Challenge.

Seeking reconciliation after more than 40 years of violence is a daunting task, but we are reminded that committed Christians like Sarah and Diego have been a part of bringing peace to other countries suffering from violence and oppression like South Africa, Northern Ireland, and Rwanda. If you would like to learn more about what is happening in Colombia, how PCUSA is responding, and what you can do to help, please plan to attend one of the following free events:

Saturday, October 17

8:30 – 10:30 AM Breakfast and discussion at Woodland Hills Presbyterian Church
RSVP to the church office 818-346-7894

Sunday October 18

10:00 AM Rev. Higueta will preach at Pasadena Presbyterian Church in the Freeman Chapel
(service in Spanish)

10:30 AM
7:00 PM

Sarah Henken will preach at Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church (service in English)
Dessert and presentation at Knox Presbyterian Church in Pasadena

(Unless otherwise noted, all events will be in both English and Spanish)

Other events are also being planned, so please check the Presbytery of San Fernando website for the most current information www.sfpresby.org

WOODLAND HILLS COFFEE PROJECT

By Merilie Robertson

In 2008 Woodland Hills Presbyterian Church decided to use its 25% share of the Offering for Peacemaking (\$162.14) as seed money to purchase fair trade coffee to sell at its Alternative Christmas Market. We contacted "Just Coffee," a cooperative connected to Frontera de Cristo (Presbyterian Border Ministries). The Just Coffee Cooperative came into being in this way: Two members of Lily of the Valley Presbyterian Church in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, shared their pain at having to migrate north to find jobs, because they could not make a living working on the coffee farms in Chiapas. Gradually the idea of a coffee cooperative was born.

Now families in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas grow coffee and ship it to Agua Prieta (across the border from Douglas, AZ) where other members of the cooperative roast, package and distribute it direct to consumers. Members of this democratically run cooperative receive more than twice the price offered by corporate buyers as well as health benefits for their families. We at Woodland Hills will continue to purchase fair trade, gourmet, shade-grown organic coffee on a regular basis from Just Coffee, because it is delicious!

The website, www.justcoffee.org, tells the story of the cooperative and gives ordering information. Please note that those churches ordering 100 pound or more per year receive a discount.

NORTH'S NOTES

Thoughts from Executive Presbyter Jerry North

Here we are in September and exciting things are happening in the presbytery! This month the new church plant will begin in the Atwater-Silverlake area. This plant is based on Leadership rather than on location, and we are thanking God for leading Nick and Whitney Warnes to us and to this new plant area. The presbytery and Glendale Presbyterian Church are the primary sponsors of the project, so we give thanks to God for GPC's vision and concern for the folks in the target area.

What can you do for this new venture? You can pray for Nick and the launch team of some forty persons who are called of God to be a part of this project. They will be depending on your prayerful support to give guidance and discernment for the ministry. Also, you will be able to help by supplying items for a needs list that the new church plant will post from time to time. I would also request that you be in prayer about the

possibility of your church or your and other churches parenting a new church plant. God needs us to be willing to step out in faith as we consider the needs of our communities in the San Fernando presbytery.

We are thanking God for the four churches involved in the initial transformation process sponsored by the Evangelism & Church Growth Committee. As we all know, it is important for each of our churches to be in an ongoing transitional process. Otherwise we become too focused on what is going on inside the walls of the church rather than on the Great Commission. I trust we will be in prayer for the four churches as well as all the churches in our Presbytery. The theme and focus for this month is prayer! Prayer for others in ministry and for those in our own churches. God gives direction and guidance and we do our best through prayer and action to keep up with God's pace.

Blessings,
Jerry North

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALIVE & WELL IN CHRIST: A New Way of Being in Your Body

- *Tired of being your own worst enemy with food and exercise?*
- *Afraid of yet another lecture from your doctor about medical risks?*
- *Do you want sustainable change, not another quick fix?*

Transform your relationship with your body in this 10-week workshop.

Alive and Well founder Cissy Brady-Rogers, M.A. LMFT, will teach you cognitive, emotional and spiritual tools for transforming your relationship with your body. Cissy is an adjunct professor at Azusa Pacific University and has 18 years as a psychotherapist specializing in eating disorders and exercise resistance.

**Wednesdays 7:00-8:30 p.m.
September 16 - November 18, 2009
Glendale Presbyterian Church
125 S. Louise St, Glendale, CA 91205**

**\$165.00 (16.50 per week) includes meetings, workbook and optional Joyful Movement classes.
Partial scholarships available.**

Information & Registration:

626-254-1724

or

mbradyrogers@sbcglobal.net

PREBYTERIAN WOMEN FALL GATHERING

GOD WILL DO WONDERS AMONG YOU



The Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii Fall Gathering will be held on Saturday, September 19, at Pasadena Presbyterian Church, 585 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The theme for the gathering is “God Will Do Wonders Among You.”

The plenary speakers are the Rev. Margarita Reyes, a graduate of Fuller Seminary and serving as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Rosemead, who will present her reflections on the triennial Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women held July 11-15, in Louisville, KY, and the Rev. Dr. Edie Gause, former Transitional Synod Executive, 2005-2007, who will introduce the PW *Joshua* Bible Study.

Several workshops will also be offered. Clergywomen Concerns will be led by Liliana Castaneda-Mejia, a graduate of Fuller Seminary and serving at Community Presbyterian Church in Long Beach as Hispanic Director, and Nermine Hanna, the PWS Coordinating Team Member-at-Large for Middle Eastern Women. The leader for the *Joshua* Bible Study in Spanish is Clelia Moke, Secretary of Mujeres Hispanas Presbiterianas. Sim Lee, former Moderator of PWP Los Ranchos and a Global Exchange participant in 1999, will introduce the Korean *Joshua* Bible Study. David Gist, Bread for the World’s California regional organizer, will speak on the work of this organization.

The registration fee, including lunch, is \$15, payable to PWS, and sent to Connie Fairbanks, 601 California Ave. #306, Santa Monica, CA 90403 (310-451-4959 or cfairba@msn.com). The deadline for reservations is September 13.



The Rising of Bread for the World

Rev. Art Simon, the founder and president emeritus of Bread for the World, is coming to Southern California in September. Art will share the surprising story of how God uses ordinary people to make an extraordinary difference in the lives of hungry people.

Join us on Saturday, Sept 5 at 11am at First Christian Church of Fullerton or on Sunday, Sept 6 at 8, 9:30 or 11am at Brentwood Presbyterian Church.

Come hear Art talk about his new book and reflect of his decades of advocacy for hungry people. Visit www.bread.org/artsimon for more information.



Bel Air Presbyterian to Host “Perspectives”

“Perspectives” is a 15-week course that will help people use their skills and passions to glorify God. Bel Air Presbyterian will be hosting the program in spring of 2010 and would like to start spreading the word now. Detailed information will be forthcoming as the event draws closer, but to learn more about the course now, visit:

www.perspectives.org



Office Manager/Secretary, Part Time

Woodland Hills Presbyterian Church is looking for a part time office manager/secretary. The position is 28 hours per week. A complete job description is available at the church. If interested please send resume with references to:

Woodland Hills Presbyterian Church
5751 Platt Ave.
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
Fax: 818-346-7826
E-mail: whpreschurch@yahoo.com

The News of the Presbytery of San Fernando is published monthly by the Communication & Church Support Committee, Areta Crowell, Chair. Please send submissions to Casey Maddren at the Presbytery Office:

cmaddren@sfpresby.org

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