

The News of San Fernando Presbytery

Every Church a Mission Center

January 2007

North's Notes



Thoughts from Executive
Presbyter Jerry North

Cabo Ministry Continues Church Construction in Partnership with the Presbytery

At its September 2002 meeting, the Presbytery voted to establish a partnership with the Mission Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Cabo San Lucas, B.C., through the Presbytery of Northwest Mexico.

The relationship with the startup congregation came through an encounter church members had with former Associate Executive Roberto Colón during a vacation trip.



The natural beauty of the southern Baja peninsula hides the poverty experienced by many working in the tourist industry.

In the column to the right are the pictures that were sent to us from Cabo. At the top is a photo of what the sanctuary looked like when Roberto & Noelia Colón first visited San Jose a few years ago. San Fernando Presbytery's money (about \$5,000) has gone towards the construction of the roof and plastering of walls. The next step is to build and "furnish" the church bathrooms and add windows to the church building.



The congregation's original partially-open sanctuary, erected in a dusty rural area near Cabo San Lucas.



The current front exterior of the church's new sanctuary.



The interior of the new sanctuary.

The pews were donated by Fuente de Vida in Hollywood and transportation to San Jose was paid by Iglesia de la Comunidad and El Buen Pastor (a church in San Jose). Thanks to all who have helped this struggling but proud congregation take such an important step toward the future!

The new year has arrived and with it the possibility of new beginnings and the usual "New Years Resolutions," only to be broken or forgotten all too soon. Perhaps as women and men who believe in the Risen Christ, we might take a look at what our "purpose" and "passion" are for 2007. Charles Powell, a management coach, makes a distinction between purpose and passion. He suggests that a person with a clear purpose says, "I will do this!" while a person of passion says, "I love to do this!" To quote him further: "A person of purpose will get it done regardless, but a person of passion will set everybody else on fire when he/she does it." Powell quotes G.W.F. Hegel who said: "Nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion."

We may well remember the words of the two persons traveling to Emmaus who were visited by Christ without them recognizing him until he broke bread at their table. They said to their friends that their hearts burned within them as they walked along with the Christ as he unfolded scripture to them. As we begin this new year may we model for those around us what our passion for Christ and the church is and be excited about those passions. Also, let us help other people in our congregations and small groups discover their passions by asking of them: "What excites you about your walk with Christ?" And for those who might not find anything to be excited about in the faith, we may ask: "What upsets you in your Christian walk?" With God's help, may we help those folk turn the "upset" into an "exciting" passionate ministry.

I trust that for 2007 our prayer will be one attributed to John Wesley, the founder of Methodism: "O Lord, help us to become masters of ourselves that we might be the servants of others.

(Continued on page 4)

Silverlake Women Make Major Contributions to the Angel Interfaith Network

Last month we noted a drive by the women of Silverlake Church to benefit the Angel Interfaith Network in its ministry with the homeless in L.A. County: Marilyn Durand writes that



their appeal netted 88 toothbrushes, 56 tubes of toothpaste, a large sack of various sized soaps, 24 washcloths, 8 safety razors, various trail size shampoos, mouthwash, and also various brushes and combs. Shirley Marcella, Diane Jacobs-Peirano and Nona Negri were the biggest contributors. Also boxes for the families at the Salvation Army's Alegria program, housing families who have been affected by AIDS, is just about ready to deliver. Thanks again to the Silverlake congregation for reaching out to those in need all around us!



Synod Pastor Confirmed as PCUSA's Executive Director for Mission

Tom Taylor

The General Assembly Council's (GAC) Executive Committee has unanimously confirmed GAC Executive Director Linda Valentine's appointment of the Rev. Tom Taylor (pastor of Glenkirk Presbyterian Church in Glendora) as the GAC's deputy executive director for mission.

Register Now!

National Pastors' Sabbath June 28–July 2, 2007 Snowbird Resort Near Salt Lake City, Utah

In 2005, over 600 pastors and spouses gathered at the first National Pastors' Sabbath. The event received the strongest praise of any PC(USA) event ever held! You are invited to join us at the 2007 gathering ...



Snowbird Resort • June 28-July 2



... for a time apart, a place away ... a Sabbath for rest, reflection, and renewal. We will gather from north and south, from east and west, and sit at table with the Lord. The stunning venue:

Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort in Utah's Wasatch Mountains.

The event will begin with dinner and worship on Thursday, June 28, and conclude with dinner and closing worship on Sunday evening, July 1.

To register, go to: <http://www.pcusa.org/pastorsabbath/register.htm>

Photos by Ben Blake



Commissioned Lay Pastors a Growing Trend in PCUSA, Other Denominations



Commissioned lay pastors are providing leadership in small churches as well as booming immigrant communities. Commissioned lay pastors serve more than 600 churches across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), says Deborah Fortel, one of the members of a project team that studied churches unable to call pastors. Small churches without money to support a minister with a seminary degree are the main beneficiaries of lay pastors. Nearly half of PCUSA congregations now have less than 100 members — and that number is on the rise. Read about the growing demand for elders trained as lay pastors in January/February's *Presbyterians Today*.

San Gabriel Invites San Fernando Presbyterians Along on Gulf Coast Mission Trips

The Peacemaking & Justice Workgroup of San Gabriel Presbytery is organizing mission trips to the Gulf Coast to participate in on-going Presbyterian Disaster Assistance relief work. San Fernando Presbytery churches are invited to participate.



The first trip will be Wednesday, February 14 - 21 (including an option of going to New Orleans for Mardi Gras), hopefully returning in time for evening Ash Wednesday services. The second trip will be the week after Easter, Tuesday, April 10 - 17.

Both groups will be staying at the PDA Volunteer Village in Luling, LA. This village is primarily doing work in the city of New Orleans. Mucking

out houses is still the focus of the village's work. The work consists of demolition, debris removal and salvaging valuables. Some reconstruction and repair work is being phased in as homeowners return. For those without building skills, it seems that there is also work in the kitchen and opportunities for those with computer skills. These trips are open to all individuals age 18 and up.

We are also working on organizing a third trip to be scheduled for the summer that will be open to presbytery youth. At this time no date is set and we are trying to recruit a leader for the trip - any takers?

Costs? Currently, airfare is around \$250 - \$275. The Peacemaking & Justice Workgroup is using Peacemaking Offering funds to pay for participants' room and board at the village. There will be some further expenses for ground transportation and any personal incidentals.

If you would like to join us, for the February trip contact Arden Albee at aalbee@gps.caltech.edu. For the April trip contact rev_rob_c@yahoo.com.

Church Organist/ Accompanist Needed

St. James Presbyterian Church of Tarzana is in need of a well-qualified person to replace our current accompanist who is retiring and to work with our music director, choir and praise band helping to carry on an outstanding and worshipful music program. If you have a background in various styles of music and are interested, please send your resume or questions to Claire Rydell (clrydell@minotaurz.com) or Steve Smith (steve@stjamespres.org)



Presbyterian Youth Challenged to Stir It Up!

In 2006, Presbyterian Church youth groups raised almost \$930,000 for charities throughout the country and around the world through the Souper Bowl of Caring. Over 2,300 Presbyterian groups have already registered to participate in the 2007 Souper Bowl of Caring set for February 4. "We're asking Presbyterian youth to 'Stir it Up' and raise \$1.4 million for charity through the Souper Bowl of Caring 2007," said Gina Yeager-Buckley, director of youth ministries at the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

"To meet the goal, we need 3,600 Presbyterian churches to register and participate." The Souper Bowl of Caring has set a nationwide goal of \$8 million for 2007. To be counted in the national totals each group must register their participation at <http://www.souperbowl.org/>.

Sara Lisherness Named as Director of Denomination's Peace and Justice Programs *Former Woodland Hills elder takes new post with denomination*

by Jerry Van Marter, Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — General Assembly Council (GAC) Executive Director Linda Valentine has tapped veteran Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) national staffers Sara Pottschmidt Lisherness and the Rev. Joseph D. Small to serve as program directors in the newly restructured GAC offices here.



Sara Lisherness

Lisherness, who has served with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program since 1992, including the last seven years as its director, will serve as director of the Peace and Justice program area.

Lisherness has been involved in the PC(USA)'s peacemaking activities for more than 20 years. Prior to coming to Louisville, she was the Peacemaking Enabler for San Fernando Presbytery from 1989-1991. She has written articles for several magazines and journals as well as peacemaking curriculum for children, youth and adults.

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annual operating programs by increasing members' stewardship understanding.

For more information about CFCS, call Ruth Anne Boklage at (888) 219-6513, or write to us at:
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North's Notes ...

(Continued from page 1)

Take our minds and think through them, take our lips and speak through them, and take our hearts and set them on fire."

*Blessings,
Jerry North
Executive Presbyter*



**Will your church be a
center for mission in 2007?**

