

# *The News* of San Fernando Presbytery

*Every Church a Mission Center January 2009*

## North's Notes



Thoughts from Executive Presbyter Jerry North

### **CALLED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY TO VOTE ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

Presbytery will meet to vote on a proposed amendment to the *Book of Order* at a called meeting on Tuesday, January 27 at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Panorama Presbyterian Church in Panorama City.

The meeting will begin with commissioners breaking into small groups to discuss their views on the proposed change in ordination standards. The commissioners will then return to the sanctuary for further discussion, and delegates will have the opportunity to voice their opinions to the full meeting. After this there will be a vote on the amendment.

The group discussion will be moderated by newly-elected Moderator Dave Lessley. Dave, a long-time member of First Presbyterian Church, Burbank, will be installed at the beginning of the meeting.

The 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly voted to send a proposed amendment to the denomination's 173 presbyteries that would delete the current paragraph G-6.0106b in the *Book of Order* (which requires church officers to live in "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness") and replace it with a new G-6.0106b. The proposed change ties ordination decisions more closely to assent to the ordination vows currently in the *Book of Order* without singling out a sexual conduct standard.

As we begin 2009, it seems fitting to pause and remember those family members, friends, church members and attendees that have died this past year. It is important to take time in our busy world and schedules to recall the significance those dear people had on our lives and the lives of others. Perhaps as we move through this year, we will be aware of and express appreciation to those whom we find in our lives.

I am trusting that you will become enthused about the work God is doing through new church planting possibilities and the transformation of the congregations within our presbytery. It appears that God is leading us in these two directions, and it is our responsibility to listen and discern what God is calling us to be involved in during this year. As we find in Scripture, "The harvest is great and the laborers are few." I am praying that all of us will find a renewed passion to see God's work go forward in our communities. God is ready, the question is, "are we ready?" Let's make it so this year.

Blessings,  
Jerry North

**The Evangelism and Church Growth Committee of  
San Fernando Presbytery  
invites you to...**

#### **Come and See...**

**How God desires to lead us on a journey of transformation and renewal!**

#### **Come and See...**

**How our churches can respond to God's call to ministry and mission!**

#### **Come and See...**

**How congregations can be equipped for vibrant and meaningful ministry!**

#### **Come and See...**

**THE JEREMIAH INITIATIVE**

**Saturday, January 10, 2009 9:00 a.m.—noon**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**24317 N. Newhall Ave, Newhall**

**This event is open to all. 'Come and See' how our churches can thrive into the future!**

## ***SABBATH ECONOMICS SEMINAR RETURNS***

*The following article is by Wendy Gist, Mission Advocate for Hunger, Poverty, and Peacemaking Issues for San Fernando and San Gabriel Presbyteries.*

On January 31, 2009 you have a final opportunity to attend the informative and engaging one-day seminar on Sabbath Economics. We have enough grant money to host one more seminar in this area, but that is it. So, if you are seeking biblical and financial guidance in this time of economic crisis or if you wonder if Scripture can really speak to economics in a meaningful way or if you simply couldn't attend one of the earlier seminars but wanted to, please join us for the final Sabbath Economics seminar that we will be hosting.

Through the lens of Sabbath Economics, the biblical threads of God's Gift Economy and our household economic practices will be woven together. In this exploration we will come to understand how our personal and corporate lifestyles and financial choices can positively impact hungry people and poor communities in the U.S. and abroad.



The Presbytery of San Fernando Peacemaking Committee and the San Gabriel Presbytery Peacemaking and Justice Workgroup have teamed up with the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii to bring you this unique seminar. Ched Myers, a local but nationally recognized "theological animator," traces the thread of Sabbath economics through Torah, Prophets, Gospels and the writings of Paul. He will guide us using his 7-Fold Household Covenant to ultimately reassess habits, use of our time and net worth in light of a desire for greater integrity with all of God's creation.

Andy Loving, an ordained minister and investment advisor who specializes in socially responsible and community investing vehicles that empower the poor by giving them access to capital, will also be presenting. Andy will show us exactly how individuals and organizations can both hold their savings and use small amounts of capital to contribute to rebuilding the lives and communities of poor people through over 800 community investment vehicles and micro-lenders. Although these borrowers are among the most highly reliable credit risks, there still is not enough capital today to meet the demand for these borrowers.

The brochure for the seminar can be viewed at [www.sfpresby.org](http://www.sfpresby.org). I invite you to join me to see how, individually and together, we can make a difference!

**ENHANCING MUSIC  
AND CONGREGATIONAL SINGING  
WORKSHOP**

**Saturday January 17, 2009  
9:00am - 4:00pm (8:30am gather)  
Kirk o' the Valley Presbyterian Church  
19620 Vanowen Street, Reseda, CA 91335**

**Cost:**

\$10 includes lunch and resources

**Registration:**

818-345-2535 or [kirkval@aol.com](mailto:kirkval@aol.com)

**Workshop Leader:**

Rev. Dr. Paul Detterman, church musician,  
sought-after conference speaker and former  
Associate with the Office of Theology and  
Worship of the PC(USA). He is presently  
serving as the Executive Director of  
Presbyterians For Renewal.

Dr. Detterman stresses the "ministry" of music which moves beyond texts and tunes, styles and stigmas to proclaim Jesus Christ in and through our worship. The workshop will address the following:

- What anyone leading music and worship ministry must consider, communicate and confirm repeatedly. Why and how to train worship leaders as we rehearse choirs, teams and congregations.
- Why we should require "right" praise and what it will look like when we get it.

This program is made possible through a Worship Renewal Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc.

**Best Years Preschool  
Woodland Hills Presbyterian Church**

**Position Description:** Seeking a Full-time Director for a Christian Preschool (18 months-6 yrs) with a capacity of 90 children. Best Years Preschool provides a nurturing Christian environment for children to grow academically and socially and to develop their Christian faith. We are searching for an energetic director to manage the school and increase enrollment. Duties include everything involved with running a Christian preschool and maintaining Title 22 requirements.

**Compensation:** Salary based on experience and education, 2 weeks vacation/year, Reimbursable health insurance.

**Location:** Woodland Hills, California

**Website:** [www.bestyearspreschool.com](http://www.bestyearspreschool.com)

*Send resume to:*

Best Years Preschool, 5751 Platt Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Fax: 818-346-0900

E-Mail: [www.bestyearspreschool@yahoo.com](mailto:www.bestyearspreschool@yahoo.com)

**CPIP Seminars**

**Saturday, February 21**

**9 am to 3 pm**

**9 -11am**

**All About CPIP and Employment Practices**

for church administrators, heads of staff and session members

**11am—1pm**

**Child Abuse Prevention**

for anyone at the church that deals with children

**1 - 3 pm**

**Property Safety, Loss Prevention and Fidelity Issues**

for property chairs and church administrators, accounting/finance staff and treasurers.

***Churches that participate and are CPIP members will qualify for a 4% discount upon renewal in June 2009,***

The seminars do not have to be attended by the same person. Churches can send different persons to attend each segment.

**FREE LUNCH  
FOR  
PASTORS & MUSIC DIRECTORS**

You are invited to a FREE catered lunch from Roman's Restaurant to learn about the coming Enhancing Music and Congregational Singing Workshop Jan 17<sup>th</sup> and to share your experiences and insights regarding Music and Worship Renewal.

**Time: 12:00 pm – 1:30pm**

**Date: Thursday January 8, 2009**

**Place: First Presbyterian Church of Sherman Oaks, 44445 Noble Avenue Sherman Oaks, CA 91403**

**Tel: 818-788-3330**

**RSVP by January 7, 2009 to Pastor Jeff Powell at 818-345-2535 or**

**[pastorjeffpowell@aol.com](mailto:pastorjeffpowell@aol.com)**

**This lunch and coming worship workshops are made possible through a Worship Renewal Grant from the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc.**

**The Presbytery of San Fernando  
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## **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

Korea will be the focus of the 2009 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, traditionally observed between January 18 and 25. Ezekial 37:15-23, which contains the prophesy of the reunited kingdom of Israel, will serve as the basis for resources to be used during the week. "This passage reflects the situation of the Korean peninsula, which remains the only divided country in the world," explained Jung Hae-Sun, who was a member of the planning committee.



***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.***

**Dr. Gerald O North  
Executive Presbyter**

**Casey Maddren, Editor  
cmaddren@linkline.com**

The divided state of Korea can be seen as symbolic of the many schisms which plague the world, said Jung. "The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will reflect on the state of division, disparity, confrontation and antagonism, and lead to a journey to unity, peace and joy," he explained in a statement. "There are many places in the world devastated by conflict, terror and war rooted in religious, ethnic and ideological causes. Christians are requested to pray for unity and peace-building."

The history of Christianity in Korea goes back 240 years to the time when the Catholic church first entered the country. Protestant churches have been active there for over a hundred years. Preparations for the 2009 Week of Prayer are a cooperative effort between the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea and the National Council of Churches of Korea.