

THE NEWS

of San Fernando Presbytery

January 2010

HISPANIC CHURCH TO BE CHARTERED

The members of the new Iglesia Presbiteriana Sinai are planning a joyous celebration for Sunday, January 24, the day their congregation will be chartered. Pastor Angel Becerra promises a special worship service, as well as plenty of music and food for anyone who wishes to attend.

The congregation became a new church development under the Presbytery of San Fernando in 1998, and has been ministering to the Spanish-speaking population of the Antelope Valley ever since. Angel has seen the congregation grow to over a hundred members, and is looking for new ways to reach out to the community. He relies on a number of energetic lay leaders to assist with IPS' many vibrant ministries, which include their Sunday school, youth group and frequent Bible study gatherings.

This is the second new congregation to be chartered by San Fernando Presbytery in three months. The Northland Village Church was chartered last October. As the Presbytery's Evangelism & Church Growth Committee continues on its aggressive program of planting new churches, ECG Chair Randy Lovejoy is hopeful that there will be many more to follow.

All are invited to the ceremony on Sunday, January 24. The church is located at 35461 87th St. in Littlerock, and the event begins at 3:00 pm. If you plan to attend, you must RSVP by January 16, either by sending an e-mail to iglesiapresbiterianasinai@gmail.com or by calling 661 285-0856.

REV JANELLE TIBBETTS-VAUGHAN TO SERVE AS MODERATOR

With the new year comes a new Moderator for San Fernando Presbytery. The Rev. Janelle Tibbetts-Vaughan will be picking up the gavel at the February meeting of Presbytery. Janelle has been actively involved in the life of the Presbytery since she was called to be Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Encino in 2001. Most recently she served on Christian Formation, and before that she spent six years as a member of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, serving as CPM chair for three of those years.

Janelle's friends and colleagues are confident that she will do well as Moderator. Rev. Curtis Webster, Pastor of the Encino church says, "Janelle is creative, dynamic, and deeply spiritual. I am blessed beyond words to have her on my team and, quite frankly, have no idea how I would have survived this long without the benefit of our ministry partnership. I don't think of Janelle as an Associate Pastor; she is in many ways the co-Head of Staff here at Encino."

Presbytery staff member and longtime friend Marguerite Minor has this to say about the new Moderator: "One of the best attributes of Janelle and her ministry is that she relates so well to people of all ages. She is just as comfortable and gifted facilitating an adult bible study or giving the Sunday sermon as she is taking a group of teens on a week long mission trip or hunkering down on the chan-



Rev. Janelle Tibbetts-Vaughan,
2010 SFP Moderator

continued on page 2

NEW MODERATOR

continued from page 1

cel steps with toddlers to give the children's message."

Whether shepherding a youth group to Triennium, helping candidates prepare for ordination or picking up a paint brush to brighten up the Resource Center, Janelle has shown herself to be both capable and adaptable. Her role as Moderator will allow her to challenge herself in other ways, as she continues to serve the church in this new capacity.

NORTH'S NOTES

As we enter 2010, we are thankful for God's work among us in 2009. We will be building on the new church planting in Atwater Village as we anticipate God sending us new church planting prospects, and we will be looking for existing churches to be parenting churches to the new church plants. As you may recall, the presbytery and Glendale Presbyterian Church are working together with the Northland Village Church plant. This is a model we will want to continue in 2010 and beyond.

As we look at the churches involved in the Jeremiah Initiative for 2009, we will be encouraging other congregations to commit to the transformation process offered by the presbytery. As we all know, if we are not looking into the future and working on a transformation process, we are stagnant at best, and declining down that, too often, slippery slope. I am praying that 2010 will be a defining year for all of our congregations, and that spiritual vitality will be the norm. As we continue to train leaders to help in the transition process, I trust that we will minister, afresh and anew, to a world full of hurt and confusion. May God's blessing be on us and may God's spirit work in and among us in a meaningful and fruitful manner.

Blessings,
Jerry North

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