

The News of San Fernando Presbytery

Every Church a Mission Center

March, 2007

North's Notes



Thoughts from Executive
Presbyter Jerry North

Synod Offers Churches Guides and Plans for Emergency Preparedness

All of us are human and know that our knee jerk reaction to the suffering of others is to want to help. Sometimes we don't know how or the help we do give is not what the victims need most. One of the workbooks created specifically for Presbyterian Church bodies within our synod is titled "HOW CAN WE HELP?" This workbook can be completed in about 45 minutes and is available to everyone at

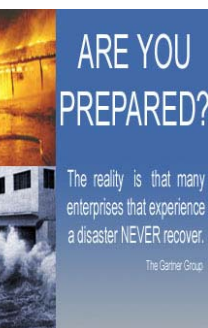
www.synod.org/beprepared. Readers will be asked to consider various points to help them plan IN ADVANCE who and how they are most likely and realistically able to help.

We suggest connecting with local and international organizations that give aid in disasters and find out ways they could use your support, financial or otherwise. Also, develop a plan to quickly raise funds, donations and volunteers.

Taking steps such as these are part of the workbook. Doing this in advance is critical because this allows everyone involved to research, discuss and con-

sider in a calm environment with little pressure. We all want to make good plans and decisions regarding our assistance to people in need and reading through the workbook will help bring you closer to that ideal.

Once completed, the general outline that was created by going through the workbook will be helpful in two ways. Firstly, it will be a roadmap for the church body and give some direction so the aid can be as effective as possible. Secondly, as more and more of our Synod's churches and presbyteries think through these



issues, a network can be created where we can potentially help each other out in a time of need with the gifts we have identified.

If you would like to talk to Lisa Franz, Disaster Response Enabler, please contact her at lf Franz@synod.org or 213-999-2829. The workbook described above can be found at www.synod.org/beprepared.

A portion of the Lord's prayer states, "Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven." Jesus taught us to pray for transformation "on earth;" that is, in the world around us. How do we become transforming agents of the Gospel? There appear to be two steps that are necessary. The first is to become a disciple of Christ. A disciple is one who comes to learn from a teacher, and we then are to teach the ways of God following the example of The Teacher, Jesus Christ. The learning never stops, there is always more to learn about God, Jesus Christ and God's Spirit. So as disciples, it is a life-long process of being taught, and in turn, sharing that knowledge with others who desire to be disciples of Christ.

The second step is to be sent out as "apostles" (missionaries) to transform the world with the Good News. The word apostle means "one who is sent." Jesus not only wanted "learners", but also those who would demonstrate and share the Kingdom of God here on earth. This process brings about transformation in the local church and in the world around us. Each of us is then a "missionary" sharing the goodness of God and the life changing work of God's spirit.

If we are willing to take the teachings of Jesus seriously, and take them to those in the world around us, then the Kingdom of God is at hand, here and now. My prayer is that we might continue to be learners, and then proclaimers in life and deed of the mighty works of our loving God.

Blessings,
Jerry North
Executive Presbyter

A thought for the season of Lent . . .

Not My Will, But Thine

By Phillip Skarin, Faith Church, Valley Village

When the going got tough and he was battling despair, and he needed a quiet place where he could kneel and pray, to listen to the Holy Spirit and discern God's will, Jesus would go to a garden called Gethsemane. There are times when we too need a garden to go to when we feel discouraged, and can humbly confess our inadequacy to deal with problems in our lives, and we can pray to God, NOT MY WILL BUT THINE.

Family Rescue Center -Rescate-

SPRING GLEANING EVENT APRIL 9TH -30TH

Please join the Presbytery as we support the Family Rescue Center (“Rescate”) for three Sundays in April for their first annual *SPRING GLEANING* food drive from April 9th -30th.

The dictionary defines gleaning as “the act of gathering that which is left over” and while you’re preparing to spring clean your home why not “spring glean” your cupboards and help restock the dwindling supplies at the *Rescate* pantry.

Family Rescue Center/Rescate is a faith-driven ministry to provide supplemental food and used clothing to those less fortunate than ourselves--living right here in our own neighborhoods. What began as a simple outreach from Canoga Park Presbyterian Church has grown in over seven years to an independent non-profit organization providing services to adults and children in need each month. Our services include not only food and used clothing, but computer classes and medical referrals to over 1200 registered families, all living in the West San Fernando Valley. God has truly blessed our ministry and our amazing growth has been possible because of the support and prayers of our donors within our Presbytery. Without you we could not be there for our clients--Thank you!

The following are suggested food items for the collection: Canned and dried beans; pasta; canned vegetables and fruit; powdered milk; cooking oil; cereal; peanut butter; soup; canned juice; baby food and formula; canned meats.

Perhaps each church of the Presbytery can collect the donations during the month of April, and then bring everything at once to the Family Rescue Center located on the property of Canoga Park Presbyterian Church beginning Monday April 30th. If you need assistance with transporting your collected food, please contact our Program Coordinator Joel Valle at (818) 884-7587.

Sabbath Economics: Enough for All Our Lifestyle and Financial Choices Impact Hunger, Poverty and Peace



One-day seminars:

May 5 at Trinity Presbyterian, Pasadena, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
May 6 at First Presbyterian, Encino, 2 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Sabbath Economics will ground attendees in a theological understanding of God’s Gift economy. It will *connect the dots* to show how personal and corporate lifestyle & financial choices can positively impact hungry people and poor communities in the U.S. and abroad. Since a root cause of poverty lies in disempowerment of the poor through inequitable access to capital, our financial choices matter. Even small changes have large impacts. A wide range of possible actions will inspire and motivate participants to consider their own next steps. Taking the time to look at our relative affluence while also obtaining reliable information about real choices available to us makes space for new actions that create a better world for all.

Cost: \$25/person (1 packet & meal) or \$35/couple (1 packet & 2 meals). Call for scholarship.

Questions? – Email Carole Wheeler at carolewheeler@pacbell.net or call her at (661) 259-4615.

First Presbyterian of Newhall Takes Small Groups On-line



Facing the challenge of how to bring meaningful Bible Study for busy people in our 21st century lives First Presbyterian Church of Newhall has turned to the Internet. Ray Handisides, Elder responsible for Adult Education, says, “When we looked at our Adult Education programs we saw that it was difficult for many people to attend a group meeting during the week. With business travel, long commutes, family responsibilities and many other activities occupying our time we needed to find a way to take Small Groups to the people. To achieve this we turned to the Internet and developed a program where our members join a small group and then study and meet in cyberspace.”

The studies are presented on a secure web site. Members can log on from anywhere; at home, at an airport, at a coffee shop, in a hotel room and at any time that suits them. All material is on-line including Bible text, study material and discussion questions. On a Bulletin

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Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2007 *Hope Is In Our Midst!*

Every three years PC(USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches co-sponsor an international youth leadership conference, the *Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT)*. 6,000 young people from the U.S. and "Global Partners" from all around the world will be gathering at Purdue University from July 16th through 22nd.

This year's theme "*Hope Is In Our Midst*" comes from a variety of biblical texts and passages, especially those that focus around Jesus' post resurrection instructions, promises and challenges to the early church. Believing that HOPE is one of the greatest gifts and challenges to the community of faith these days (as it was in the time following Jesus' death and resurrection), the designing team...has as its goal to INFUSE the Triennium experience with life giving practices. Through creative presentations, Bible study, worship and small group dialogue participants will practice and proclaim the very HOPE that is Jesus Christ, that is offered by the church and that is inspired by God's claim on our lives! (For more information go to www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org)

San Fernando Presbytery is pleased to announce that we have ten young church leaders going to Purdue University as our youth delegates to represent us, participating in this premier youth leadership conference. Our delegates are: Elizabeth Rosales-Brenneise, Jessica Harder, Nicole Harder, Tanisha Harper, Brittany MacMillan, Grace MacMillan, Phelan Mahoney, Geneva Mays, Robert Patriquin-Esmaili, and Sara Bryant-Tabone.



The logo features the letters 'PYT' in a stylized, overlapping font. 'P' is pink, 'Y' is red, and 'T' is yellow. Below 'PYT' is a yellow '07'.

Supporting and nurturing young Christians is *at the heart* of what we are called to do in supporting our youth delegates and in promoting this youth leadership conference as it is a unique opportunity of Reformed Christian education for our future church leaders. Indeed, **HOPE IS IN OUR**

MIDST and that hope is personified in a young man who is 14 or a young woman who is 16. The hope and future of our denomination and of the church of Jesus Christ is a seed within each of these young people and it is our Christian responsibility *and our delight* to participate in their Christian formation at this time. So, you say, *how can I support them?*

On Saturday, April 21st, the Christian Formation Committee is sponsoring *Walking to Indiana: Lake Balboa 10K Walkathon*. PYT '07 youth delegates and friends will be walking 5X around Lake Balboa (Encino) to raise funds for their conference fees and travel expenses which come to \$645 per delegate this year. They will be gathering pledges (see enclosed pledge sheet) between now and April 21st.

You and your congregation may consider supporting our young presbytery delegates by:



1. **Being a participant** (Church walking Team! Youth Group Walking team!), gathering pledges and joining us for the five laps around the lake.
2. **Having your church sponsor one of our youth delegates from another church**, signing up individual pledges in your congregation for the walkathon.
3. **Having your congregation make a general donation to the PYT '07 fund.**
4. **Coming out to Lake Balboa and cheering for the walkers on April 21st.**
5. **Praying for our young church leaders** as they prepare for PYT '07, as they travel, and as they continue to grow into the young women and men whom God calls them to be!

All funds raised will be used toward covering PYT '07 expenses. In the expectation of generous support, any additional funds raised above and beyond this delegation's expenses will go toward PYT '10. Too many congregations unfortunately declined to nominate a delegate for this year's *Triennium* because their youth/families and congregation do not have access to the resources necessary to send their young church leaders. Perhaps we can begin to turn around that reality and send twice as many delegates to next *Triennium*!

For more information about *Triennium* or the walkathon, please call Constance McIntosh Lax, San Fernando Presbytery Triennium Registrar, at 626-590-6470. And remember...

Hope Is In Our Midst!

**West Coast Presbyterian
Pastors' Conference
April 16-20, 2007**

Teaching: Earl Palmer, University PC, Seattle and Darrell Johnson, Regent College, Vancouver, B.C.

Mt. Hermon Christian Conference Center, Santa Cruz

For more info contact: Kim Strutt
(kimnjulie@aol.com)

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Probate Fees and Estate Taxes

Probate fees and estate taxes are NOT figured the same. At a recent presentation the "HOW" was glossed over. Probate fees are based on the GROSS value of your assets, NOT the net value after loans. Second, the attorney and the executor get identical fees, and each get a fee. This doubling is sometimes glossed over. Generally Estate and Inheritance are valued on NET Assets owned at death, less expenses and deductions. Discuss this with a good attorney.

Oh yes, and please remember your church.

Small Groups Online ...

(Continued from page 2)

tin Board style "chat room" the members discuss the material with members of the group. This allows people to get meaningful Bible Study and join in discussion at a time and place that suits them. Currently we offer three studies:

1. Living in a Christian Community – a 9 week study of the Letter to the Philippians
2. Jesus – a Portrait of the Father – a 6 week study looking at how Jesus gives us an image of God
3. Prayer – Opening Your Heart to God – a 4 week study on prayer.

This is a true 21st century ministry using modern technology.

If you want to know more about how you can use this ministry, contact Ray Handisides at ray@handisides.com or by calling him at 661-600-2119.

High Desert Pastors Start Blogs on the Web

Two presbytery pastors have begun blog pages on the web. You can follow the reflections of Juan Sarmiento at Quartz Hill at <http://juansarmiento.blogspot.com/>. Pastor K.C. Wahe is on the web at <http://www.kcwahe.com/>. Other Presbyterian bloggers' addresses can be found at: <http://www.presbyweb.com/Indexes/Bloggers.htm>

