



## G.A. COMMISSIONERS CHOSEN, RETIRING PASTOR HONORED AT PSF FEBRUARY MEETING

Members of San Fernando Presbytery managed to pack a good deal of business into the February meeting of Presbytery held at Grandview Presbyterian Church in Glendale. Honoring a retiring pastor, discussing the church's basic beliefs and voting for delegates to General Assembly were just some of the items on a jam-packed agenda. But in spite of some last minute changes and a little bit of confusion, the meeting moved forward quickly and adjourned on time.

The first item on the agenda was honoring Rev. Stephanie Miller-McLane, who is retiring as pastor of St. Stephen Presbyterian Church in Chatsworth. Rev. Andy Wilson spoke about Stephanie's tenure at St. Stephen and led members in prayer for her work in whatever new ministry she is called to now that she is honorably retired. Next the meeting broke into small groups to discuss a document written by Santa Barbara Presbytery which addressed concerns about the church straying from its fundamental principles. When the

groups returned to the sanctuary there was an animated debate about the content of the document and what San Fernando Presbytery's response should be. Finally the Presbytery approved a motion to express sympathy for the concerns of Santa Barbara Presbytery and to receive the document without taking further action.



Rev. Stephanie Miller-McLane

Electing delegates to GA was the next item on the agenda, as the members began the time-consuming process of casting their ballots, waiting for them to be counted, and then voting again to narrow the field. When the process was completed, the following people had been elected: *Minister Commissioners:*

Rev. Bill Barnes, Rev. Barbara Had-  
*Alternates:* Rev. LaVonne Alexander, Rev. Bill Fry  
*Elder Commissioners:* Elder Carol Kasperson, Elder Merilie Robertson  
*Alternates:* Elder George Buehler, Elder Jorg Largent  
*Youth Advisory Delegate:* Marissa Minor  
*Alternate:* Elizabeth Brenneise.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry presented two people to Presbytery. David Azizian is from Holy Trinity Armenian Church and

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Rebecca Pippert, in her book "Out of the Salt Shaker and into the World" says "Christians and non-Christians have something in common: we're both uptight about evangelism. Our fear as Christians seems to be 'How many people did I offend this week?' Non-Christians do not want to be handed a load of 'religion.' How interesting that somehow we as Christians miss the point when it comes to sharing our faith with others. Jesus' instructions were to get to know people, give to them and to allow the non-believers to give to them. Jesus shows us that Christianity sharing is all about relationship. There are numerous examples in the Gospels that portray Jesus as being interested in the lives of the people he was involved with as well as sharing the news that he was the Son of God. We are aware that our lives speak volumes to those around us, and may those volumes portray God's love working in and through us as we come in contact with those we work with and socialize with on a regular basis or with a one time contact with someone. We are instructed to be in the world but not of the world. May our passion for God through Jesus Christ overflow in kindly ways to others as we, by God's grace, walk the path of Christ's followers.

# PRESBYTERY CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF MINISTRY

By Elder Sara Bauer

This year the Presbytery of San Fernando is celebrating a journey that began 40 years ago in January, 1968. However, the plans had been laid nearly two years earlier when an overture was adopted by the Presbytery of Los Angeles and approved by the Synod of California and the 179<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

The overture stated that the Presbytery of Los Angeles would be dissolved effective December 31, 1967 and be divided into five presbyteries to be convened and constituted on January 4, 1968 as the Presbyteries of Los Angeles Southwest (name later changed to the Pacific), Los Ranchos, San Gabriel, San Diego and San Fernando. These five presbyteries along with the Presbyteries of Riverside and Santa Barbara would form the new Synod of Southern California (later "and Hawaii" was added).

The January 4 meeting was held at the First Presbyterian Church of North Hollywood, with the Rev. Ed Danks (Burbank, First) serving as the convener. The Rev Scott Brewer (Encino, First) was elected the first moderator of the Presbytery of San Fernando and the Rev. Dick Stanley (Lancaster) was elected the first Stated Clerk. Moderator Brewer was presented with a gavel of manzanita root made by Elder Sam Sharpless (St. James, Tarzana). This gavel eventually became unusable and was replaced by one made by Elder Eugene Oberle (Granada Hills, First). This new gavel was presented at our tenth anniversary in January, 1978 and is still in use.

Today, as it begins its fortieth year, the Presbytery of San Fernando faces significant challenges, but it is rising to meet those challenges. At the February Presbytery meeting, Rev. Randy Lovejoy gave the report for the Evangelism and Church Growth Committee. He outlined an ambitious plan to plant five new churches and to transform five existing churches over the next ten years. As the Presbytery of San Fernando celebrates its past, it must stay focused on the future to fulfill its goal of drawing all people to God and to each other as disciples of Christ.



The original gavel used for meetings of San Fernando Presbytery.

## FEBRUARY PRESBYTERY MEETING

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CPM had recommended that he be accepted as an Inquirer. Darendra Keil comes from the La Canada church, and CPM asked that Presbytery approve her advancement to Candidate. Both were accepted and prayers were offered for their continuing journeys as they prepare for ordination.



Candidate Darendra Keil

After dinner the members returned to the sanctuary for worship which began with several hymns led by the Grandview Ladies Ensemble. Rev. Ken Reynen then introduced Manuel Flores, Sr., a member of the Grandview congregation, who gave a moving account of his son's incarceration and resulting involvement in prison ministry, reaching out to young men whose lives have been impacted by involvement with gangs and drugs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.



Inquirer David Azizian

## **YOUNG ADULTS:**

*HERE'S A CHANCE TO  
DEEPEN YOUR FAITH AND  
PUT IT INTO ACTION....*

### **BECOME A HUNGER JUSTICE LEADER!**

Bread for the World is looking for the **best and brightest advocates** to become Hunger Justice Leaders. **Motivated 18-35 year olds** are invited to apply for an **all-expense paid leadership training** from June 14-17 in Washington, DC. Participants will commit to promoting efforts against hunger and poverty in partnership with Bread for the World.

**Applications must be received by March 15, 2008.** For more information and to apply visit: [www.bread.org/training](http://www.bread.org/training)

## **PRESBYTERIAN PEACEMAKING CONFERENCE**

### **Sowing Mustard Seeds: Working for God's Justice, Confronting Poverty**

July 15-19, 2008, Chapman University in Orange, CA

For more information visit:  
[www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/  
conferences/2008.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008.htm)

### ***Intergenerational Mission Trip to Gulfport, MS July 6-13, 2008***

Ages 14 and up welcome to help with rebuilding efforts in the Gulfport area. Approximate cost will be \$450/person for airfare + a donation to the Presbytery of Mississippi Construction Fund. (Churches are encouraged to cost-share with participants.)

Contact Lisa Patriquin, Director of Children's and Family Ministries, 818-242-8873 x 238 or [lpatriquin@glenpres.org](mailto:lpatriquin@glenpres.org) for more details.

**Commitment required by April 30.**

## **RESOURCE CENTER TO RE-OPEN IN MARCH**

After being closed for more than a month while undergoing renovation, the San Fernando Presbytery Resource Center will re-open on Monday, March 17. Visitors to the upgraded Resource Center will find that it has new carpet, new paint, new furniture, and most importantly, new materials. A computer work station will also be added to offer internet connection to those who come for research and study.

An April reception is planned to showcase the improvements to the Resource Center, but a firm date has not been set. "While some of the changes may seem cosmetic, our goal is to re-imagine the Resource Center to make it useful for today's congregations," said Rev. Janet Winslow, Chair of Christian Formation. "We hope that by bringing the Resource Center into the twenty-first century we'll be assisting in the Presbytery's mission of providing support to its churches."

## **INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

Looking for an internship? Need a change of scenery? If yes, then consider the following job opportunity at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Yakima, WA for the 2008-2009 school year:

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Yakima WA has an opportunity for someone interested in developing their gifts in the area of Youth Ministry for the 2008-2009 school year, and the summer of 2008 if available. We are a strong, mid-sized evangelical church with a very active High School and Junior High group of approximately 50 members which is well supported by a dedicated group of volunteers.

The ideal candidate for this position is one who has a heart for bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to our youth in a relevant and transforming way with the aim of creating spiritually mature adults in the future years of their lives. Experience in the area would be an advantage and knowledge of the doctrine and stands would be an advantage but is not a requirement.

This is a full time position and will be compensated to the successful candidate's experience and needs for housing.

Contact Information:  
Rev. Derek Morrison  
[Westminster Presbyterian Church](http://www.westminsterpres.org)  
[6015 Summitview Avenue](http://6015SummitviewAvenue.com)  
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## MARCH 7 IS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women who covenant together for prayer and service. Written by the women of Guyana, the 2008 WDP worship service will begin at the first sunrise of March 7, 2008, and will continue until the last sunset. The theme, "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding," is especially meaningful to the women of Guyana. Join us on March 7 as we pray with the women of Guyana and our sisters and brothers around the world.

As early as 1887 Presbyterian Women called for a day of prayer for world mission. Joined by women from other traditions the World Day of Prayer (WDP) was formally established in 1926. The prayer materials are developed annually under the guidance of a WDP International Committee.



For more information, visit the World Day of Prayer web site at:  
[www.wdpusa.org/worship.php](http://www.wdpusa.org/worship.php)

To obtain resources to enrich your observance of this day, go to:  
[www.wdpusa.org/resources.php](http://www.wdpusa.org/resources.php)

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