

# The News of San Fernando Presbytery

Every Church a Mission Center

May 2007

## North's Notes



Thoughts from Executive  
Presbyter Jerry North

### Presbyterians Respond to Virginia Tech Shootings

Presbyterians are already involved in providing care at Virginia Tech. Three members of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team are on the campus to be a presence and resource to the community. The three team members are:



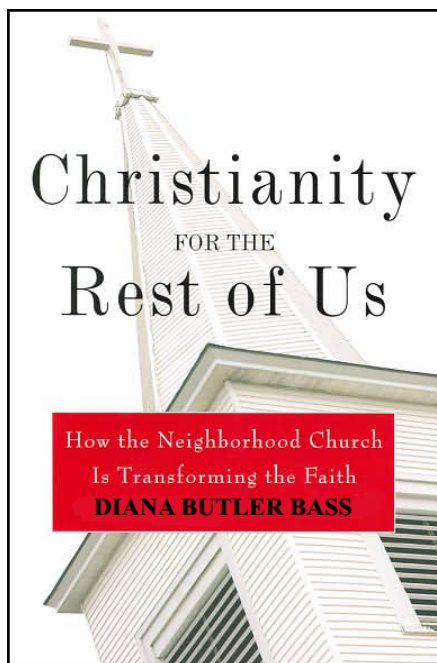
- The Rev. Robert Barnes of Santa Fe, NM, a retired police chaplain with extensive training and experience in responding to school shootings. He was the lead on behalf of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at the shooting in Columbine, CO.
- The Rev. James Kirk, Associate Pastor, The Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples, FL. Jim also has extensive training and experience in responding to school shootings.
- Anne Van Allen from Annapolis, MD, a retired school counselor with more than 30 years of school-related mental health experience.

The team has already been in contact with Catherine Snyder, Presbyterian campus minister, George Goodman, of the Presbytery of the Peaks, and with Alexander Evans, Pastor of Blacksburg Presbyterian Church. Evans is also a chaplain with the fire department. Our early contacts with

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### There's Hope for the Rest of Us!

A Workshop on  
**Christianity for  
the Rest of Us:**  
How the  
**Neighborhood Church  
Is Transforming the Faith**  
by Diana Butler Bass



**At the Presbytery Meeting  
Tuesday, May 22nd  
3:00 p.m.  
Woodland Hills  
Presbyterian Church**

**Featuring  
The Rev. Steve  
Jacobsen  
Goleta Presbyterian  
Church**

In the book titled *Unbinding the Gospel* the author, Martha Grace Reese, uses a sailing analogy to make her point about change within the church. As you may know, anything to do with sailing catches my eye. Reese suggests that growing pains that a congregation goes through might be referred to as the “outer” waves, those that we might come in contact with away from the shoreline. An illustration of that might be the waves we would encounter if we were to sail out past Catalina Island. Growing pains are a result of change, and we have all experienced such pains with growth spurts. It is important to pay attention to the stresses that occur because of change. Otherwise, we will not be prepared when the heavy waves tumble upon us as a group of believers.

The second reference to sailing is to compare conflict that arises within the church body as the “inner” waves. These “inner” waves splash against us and sometimes over us as we deal with the conflict that results when that which is “established” in the congregation becomes less important and the need to “unbind the gospel” goes against the way it has “always been done.” The church is not a stagnant place or body, but is always looking to meet the needs of the community as the community continues to evolve. These “inner” waves we might encounter along the Southern California coastline, for example.

A third reference is that of distractions. When sailing it is important to stay the course. So it is with life

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## Presbyterian Women Gather on May 17th at Hollywood Pres

**Catreliia Hunter**, the Moderator of the PW Churchwide Coordinating Team, will visit Southern California in May and speak at three PWP joint gatherings. Presbyterian Women will have the opportunity to meet Catreliia on Thursday, **May 17**, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, 1760 North



Gower (exit the Hollywood Freeway (101) at Gower), Lower Mears Hall on the south side of church. This gathering will include Presbyterian Women from the Presbyteries of the Pacific and Santa Barbara. Catreliia will speak on "Witnessing to the Promise," the Rev. Dale Morgan will be the worship leader, PWP leaders will be installed, and a question and answer forum with PW leaders will be held.

The registration fee of \$15 includes lunch. Make checks payable to PWP and send to Virginia Neece, 7941 McConnell Ave., Westchester, CA 90045 (310-670-6350) by May 9.



Catreliia Hunter



Dale Morgan



## The Biggest Little Church in Kalamazoo

by the Rev. Linda Cook MacDonald  
North Presbyterian Church, Kalamazoo, Mich.  
*Most Presbyterian churches are small congregations. Here is the story of one small church that has made a big difference in its community*

A chuckle rose from everyone gathered under the shade of the ancient oak on a late summer afternoon at Curtis' description of North Presbyterian Church. Then it dawned on us; he just might have described this congregation very well!

Never large by numerical standards, never flush with financial resources, North Church has been big — generous when it comes to its life together and its life within the community of Kalamazoo County.

Located in the urban center since 1919 (in the same area



*North Church has been located in Kalamazoo County since 1919. Photo courtesy of North Presbyterian Church.*

since its founding in 1864 by four young women!) the church has been an "incubator" of kingdom seeds — addressing racial injustice, hunger and housing. Since 1989 it has been a place of welcome and inclusion for people living with disabilities — particularly serious mental illness and brain injury. Partners in ministry include the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, other congregations, and community mental health individuals.



*A stained glass window with people in silhouette. North Church is a place of welcoming and nurturing that is lifted by compassion.*

Recently North Church stepped into the public arena with congregations around the county to form an interfaith, congregation-centered community organization (ISAAC). Affiliated with the Gamaliel Foundation, North along with the local organization has strengthened public efforts to fund and address affordable housing, public transit (the first ever countywide tax passed), and skilled-trades workforce development. Why these? They are important to us — we need these

## Virginia Tech ...

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those providing care in the area have been met with gratitude for the tremendous and quick response from the church, and indeed others around the world.

Please remember other area congregations in your prayers, including Northside Presbyterian Church, and the Roanoke Valley Presbyterian Church in the city of Lynchburg, Virginia, as they minister in the days ahead.

## North's Notes ...

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in the church. With the goal being to "unbind the gospel" it is crucial that we stay on course, and not let the "petty" distractions keep us from the ministry God has called every congregation to fulfill. "Growing pains, conflict and distractions are all part of what we as Christians need to be dealing with as we continue to seek God's guidance in our local congregations and the governing levels of our denomination." May our focus be on God's leading and not on what we feel to be important.

*Blessings,  
Jerry North, Executive Presbyter*

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## Summer 2007 Youth and Adult Mission Trip to Gulfport, MS

The San Gabriel Presbytery Workgroup for Peace, Justice and the Integrity of Creation extends an invitation to youth and adults in our presbytery to join them on a mission trip to the Gulf Coast to participate in hurricane relief efforts in the Presbytery of Mississippi.

**Trip Dates:** July 28-August 4, 2007

**Funding:** The San Gabriel Workgroup is providing sponsorship of \$20 per day per participant. The Workgroup has also applied to the Synod Regional Ministries Committee for additional funding, but won't know if that will be available for some time yet, so projected costs are set at what we are hoping will be the high end of what participants can expect to pay.

**Ministry Opportunities:** Everything from basic labor to highly skilled carpentry and construction jobs are available. Work at each construction site is overseen by a site manager and a team of experts. Participants can also work for the local Meals on Wheels, delivering food to homebound folks in the neighborhood; help people fill out forms to get government assistance and funds for rebuilding; and possibly staff a kids' vacation bible school program.

**Accommodations:** Participants will either stay in a local church, in mobile homes on church property, or in another Presbytery-approved site at one of 8 locations near Gulfport. Participants are to bring sleeping bags for cots or bunk beds in communal rooms assigned by gender. Outdoor private showers are available onsite, as well as grills, washers and dryers.

**Trip Expenses:** Airfare; van rental, gas and insurance; freewill donation to Presbytery of Mississippi Construction Fund: \$100/person (suggested, but flexible); food; "mad" money (suggested \$50/person).

**Total Projected Participant Cost: \$575** (but it may be less - we are hoping!)

**RSVP: We must have your commitment and a deposit of \$400 no later than June 1.** Please be advised that there is room for a maximum of 25 participants, so we strongly encourage you to commit earlier rather than later! To register or get further information, please contact Rev. Rob Crowell, chair of the San Gabriel Presbytery Workgroup at 626-353-0022 or [rev\\_rob\\_c@yahoo.com](mailto:rev_rob_c@yahoo.com).

## Summer Youth Institute is FREE to Selected Participants Apply Now for July 7-21

The purpose of the Summer Youth Institute is to provide young people a Christian community where they can be challenged to move beyond their comfort zone in order to grow in faith, engage in academic theological study, explore ministry as a vocation, and learn about Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The In-



stitute fosters intelligent, theologically informed leadership, provides skill training, encourages faith formation, and launches young people into service in the church and the world.

## In Memoriam

Paul Hadley, a long-time member and elder at Glendale Presbyterian Church, passed away on April 10 at the age of 92. Paul spent his life serving Christ in a variety of ways, both in the church and in the community.

Paul was born July 17, 1914 in Michigan but moved to Hollywood as a boy and graduated from North Hollywood High School. He graduated from Occidental College in 1934 and earned his M.A. and Ph.D in Comparative Literature from the University of Southern California. Later Paul worked at USC as both a teacher and an administrator, serving as Chairman of the Department of Comparative Literature. Though he retired in 1981, he remained active and went on to serve as Co-Founder and Director of the USC Emeriti College.

Paul's greatest motivation was his love for Jesus, and his well-known kindness was a reflection of God's grace to him and his family. In addition to his service to Glendale Presbyterian Church, he served as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery from 1983-1987 and on the board of the Southern California Presbyterian Homes.

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Organizers of **Mission Challenge '07**, the massive endeavor to tell the PC(USA) international mission story across the denomination, report that 130 of our 173 presbyteries have agreed to host a mission worker this October.

So, what's the challenge? We want every congregation to identify and uphold at least one PC(USA) missionary through prayer, advocacy and financial support.

### *Engage your congregation in mission!*

Contact the presbytery about the **Mission Challenge '07**. You can volunteer to help with the presbytery's participation. Help your presbytery host a missionary during **Mission Challenge '07**.

Help your presbytery reach 100 percent participation in **Mission Challenge** where every church supports at least one missionary.

Join one of the 26 mission networks that support the work of the church in a specific country. Contact Libby Stinson for more information: (888) 728-7228, ext. 5342, or [lstinson@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:lstinson@ctr.pcusa.org).

Attend the *World Mission Celebration '07: A Celebration of Grace* in Louisville, October 3-4. For more information, contact Libby Stinson at (888) 728-7228, ext. 5342, or [lstinson@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:lstinson@ctr.pcusa.org).

### **Biggest Little Church ...**

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so that we can participate in life's abundance God has promised in Christ to us and to all.

We've been around many years, but we are still young, forming and reforming, answering God's call to do justice and love mercy.

If you would like to be on the Small Church and Communities Ministry Network email list to receive email updates, go to: <http://www.pcusa.org/smallchurch/subscribe.htm>

