

# The News

## of San Fernando Presbytery

Every Church a Mission Center

May 2009

### North's Notes



Thoughts from Executive Presbyter Jerry North

## CHANGES TO BOOK OF ORDER DISCUSSED AT APRIL FOG MEETING

Members of San Fernando Presbytery met on Tuesday, April 28 at the Presbytery Office to discuss the possibility of making major revisions in the church's Form of Government. Rev. Steve Smith, a member of the Form of Government Task Force (FOGTF), attended the meeting to talk about the changes and answer questions. He will also be relaying the comments he heard to the Task Force so that they can incorporate feedback from the presbyteries in their final report.

The proposed changes to the Form of Government were first discussed by San Fernando Presbytery at a special meeting in January, 2008. At the time the majority of those present felt that they had not had sufficient time to study the proposals. This feeling was shared by other presbyteries, and at the 218<sup>th</sup> GA it was decided to allow more time for discussion and discernment.



PSF members at April meeting regarding FOG report.

"The Task Force will try to incorporate the feedback into their final report, which will be presented at the next General Assembly," said Rev. Gary Dart, SFP Stated Clerk. "If GA commissioners approve it, the proposed revisions will be sent back to the presbyteries for a vote."

At the last General Assembly, Task Force members explained why they felt it was time for a radical overhaul of the PCUSA's polity.

*(continued on page 2)*

I want to share with you the names of the honorably retired ministers in our presbytery. It seems that too often we forget who these persons are and the great amount of ministry they have had in the past. I want to suggest that you keep in contact with these folk from time to time and offer appreciation for their many years of service to God and the Church. Our honorably retired ministers are: Paul Aijan, Bill Antablin, Bob Bos, John Burnett, Bob Caldwell, Bill Craig, Otis Cross, Bill Cunningham, Bob Frisbee, Richard Gronhovid, Bill Grubb, Barbara Haddon, Craig Hall, Barton Heiserman, Kyung Hoon Kim, Conway Lanford, John Langfitt, Jeanne Lasky, Frank McCraven, George McGraw, Darrel Meyers, Stephanie Miller-McLane, Chuck Pickens, Paul Pierson, Ken Reynen, Bill Witt, and Gloria Wood-Vahle. These ministers and their spouses have a great deal of knowledge and wisdom about ministry and the church. You may want to talk with them and glean some of their thoughts. Their names and addresses are in our presbytery directory. If you are in need of a directory, please call our office and we will send one to you. Please continue to hold in prayer our new church planters - Nick and Whitney Warnes, as they build their launch team for the new work in our presbytery. Also, keep in your prayers the churches that are beginning the first Wave of transformation. The churches are: Woodland Hills, Kirk o' the Valley, St. James and First, Encino. They have dedicated team leaders and coaches working with them during this change process. Blessings,  
Jerry North

**Are you coming to the...**

### May Presbytery Meeting

**Tuesday, May 26, 3:00 pm**  
**Community Presbyterian Church, Littlerock**  
**7856 Pearblossom Hwy.**

**From the Antelope Valley Freeway (Highway 14),**  
**exit Pearblossom Highway which becomes Highway 138.**  
**Go east to the intersection of Highway 138 and 80th Street East.**

## ***HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW RESOURCE CENTER?***

Are you looking for a place to hold a church retreat? Or maybe somewhere centrally located to meet with other PSF church members? Do you need a quiet getaway for study or research? A place where you can surf the net on your laptop while sipping a cup of (fair trade) coffee?



**Check out the new and improved Resource Center!**



Last year the Christian Education Committee made some major changes to the Resource Center in the hope of making it more useful and more comfortable. In addition to putting on fresh paint and bringing in new furniture, a computer has been added which allows visitors to search our catalogue electronically. And we have wi-fi! If you haven't seen it yet, come by and check out your new Resource Center!

### ***BOOK OF ORDER CHANGES/FOG MEETING***

*(continued from page 1)*

"Change is happening more rapidly than at any time in history," said FOGTF member Rev. James H. Y. Kim. "What you have before you is our effort to respond to the reality of the changing world we live in,"

The task force's mandate calls for preserving foundational polity, supporting leadership for congregations as missional communities, supporting presbyteries as central governmental units, giving flexibility at all levels and providing guidance by the principles in the recommendations of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church.

Past Moderator Rev. Joan Gray pointed out that the reunion of the southern and northern streams of the church in 1983 yielded a Book of Order with an emphasis on regulations. She argues that it's logical after 25 years to review it and see if it still meets the denomination's needs. "What works in Georgia may not work in Alaska. We are in different situations," Gray said. She feels that the FOGTF document is an attempt to hang on to what is best in the church's polity, yet also give presbyteries some leeway. "I hope it will be used for teaching, especially with elders," she said, "but also to free the church up from a whole lot of regulatory stuff."

FOGTF member Rev. Paul K. Hooker spoke about missional polity. "Mission is the reason the church is. Polity is the architecture of mission." Hooker said that whatever form of government the church decides to adopt, it "must be a living covenant with God."

For further information about the proposed changes to the Book of Order, go to:

[www.pcusa.org/formofgovernment/](http://www.pcusa.org/formofgovernment/)

## CHURCHES WITH A MISSION

Have you ever been curious about what other churches in the Presbytery are doing in the way of mission? The Communication & Church Support Committee thought it might be a good idea to highlight some of the work that PSF congregations are doing. This is the first in an occasional series.

*This month we feature La Canada Presbyterian Church.*

### *Work Projects with Harambee and World Impact*

**May 16 at 8:00 am**

*Meet in the La Canada PC parking lot*

*RSVP: Gaye Pettibone at 818 247-7207*

*World Impact missionaries live in inner city Los Angeles among the people they serve on about \$1,000 per month in salary. That's not much. You can help make their homes a little nicer and a little more functional so that they can spend more of their time meeting the needs of their neighbors.*

**June 27 at 8:45 am**

*Meet in the La Canada PC parking lot*

*Info and RSVP: Christie Skinner at*

*[christie@ci.tyspaces.com](mailto:christie@ci.tyspaces.com) or 818 790-7850*

*We are going to make Harambee an even better place for children and youth to discover their dreams and experience God's love. Projects may include gardening, painting and light construction of planters.*

## THE VISUAL ARTS AND CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

**All-Day Workshop  
with  
Betsy Steele Halstead**

**Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Kirk O' The Valley Presbyterian Church**

**19620 Vanowen St., Reseda CA 91335**

**Cost: \$10 includes lunch and resources**

**Registration by phone at 818-345-2535 or [kirkval@aol.com](mailto:kirkval@aol.com)**

### **Workshop Overview:**

**Art, the Bible, & the Church (Why)**

**Visuals Speak Theologically (What)**

**Elements of Design and Team Structure (How)**

**Application to Your Church: Informal Discussion and**

**Working Groups (Now)**

Betsy Steele Halstead is Continuing Education Events Manager for the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, MI. She coordinates the visual arts work of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. She is a graduate of Calvin College and of Fuller Theological Seminary with a Master of Arts degree in theology.

***SYNOD***

***PW***

***SPRING***

***GATHERING***



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

The Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii **Spring Gathering** will be held on **Saturday, May 30**, at St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 2200 San Joaquin Hills Road., Newport Beach, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The theme for the Gathering is "Who is Our Neighbor."

The Rev. Teresa Chávez Saucedo will speak on "Loving in the Crossroads." She is the former Associate for Racial Justice and Advocacy for the PC(USA). Her latest *Horizons* article, "Confessing Our Faith in the Twenty-first Century", appears in the January-February 2009 issue. The Presbyterian Hunger Program will also be promoted at the Gathering.

The registration fee, including lunch, is \$15, payable to PWS, and sent to Jo Smith, 8 Lancewood Way, Irvine, CA 92612, (949-786-8624), [jocsmith@cox.net](mailto:jocsmith@cox.net). The deadline for reservations is May 23.

St. Mark Presbyterian Church, pictured on the cover of the April 2009 issue of *Presbyterians Today*, was Audubon International's 2007 choice for "the greenest new church in America."

### ***CORRECTION:***

#### ***Family Resource Center/Rescate***

*We would like to correct two errors that were found in the article "Family Rescue Center/Rescate Plans to Expand Services" in the April issue of the PSF News. FRC currently serves 600 families per month (not 1,800), and the funds for expansion were provided by Self Development of People at the Synod level (not by the Presbytery).*

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PCUSA MISSION CELEBRATION

*BRANCHES OF THE SAME VINE*

*Cincinnati, Ohio  
October 22-24, 2009*

It is time to celebrate what God is doing in the world and how Presbyterians are part of God's mission! Come to learn, share and make lifelong partners in mission. This mission conference and gathering is for *anyone* passionate about world mission, from those who want to network with others and learn how to get involved in mission, to those seasoned in mission work. As *branches of the same vine*, Presbyterians will connect with one another, learn about God's mission through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and be sent forth as God's workers in the world.

*Registration opens May 1. Visit [www.pcusa.org/missioncelebration/](http://www.pcusa.org/missioncelebration/)*

**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. Submissions to: [cmaddren@sfpresby.com](mailto:cmaddren@sfpresby.com)