

The News of San Fernando Presbytery

Every Church a Mission Center

October, 2007

Photo by Thomas Hawk

North's Notes



Thoughts from Executive
Presbyter Jerry North

A New Pastor, A New Inquirer, and New Challenges in San Fernando Presbytery

There were many reasons to celebrate when members of Presbytery gathered at Horizon Community Church in Palmdale for the September meeting of Presbytery. A new pastor was examined for ordination, a new Inquirer was received, and committees and churches reported on ways that the Holy Spirit is moving within the Presbytery.

First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills has called Karen Karlsen as Associate Pastor. Karen is originally from Arlington, Massachusetts and attended the University of Colorado, Boulder. She earned her MDiv at Fuller in 2005, and shortly after graduation began working in children's ministry at First PC, Burbank.



Karen Karlsen

The questions put to Karen as she was examined for ordination were challenging and her responses demonstrated not only a solid understanding of theology but a passionate commitment to serving Christ. She will be ordained at the Granada Hills church on Sunday, October 28.

Lori Koutouratsas is also from the Granada Hills church and is just beginning on the path toward ordination. She first felt called to ministry in 2002, and served the church as a part of their children's, family and women's ministries before being invited to join the staff as coordinator for worship and music. Not only did the position allow her to use her gifts as a musician, but it allowed enough flexibility for her to spend time with her children. After hearing about Lori's faith journey thus far, Presbytery voted to receive her as an inquirer.



Lori Koutouratsas

Rev. Randy Lovejoy of Silverlake Presbyterian Church and chair of the Evangelism and Church Growth Committee (ECG) spoke about the stewardship opportunity presented by the sale of the Friar St. property. The Presbytery has already decided that the funds generated will go to church planting,

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Lyle Schaller, a leading congregational consultant, in his book, "44 Questions for Congregational Self-Appraisal" asks these questions about new members:

- 1) "How long is the list of prospective members?" How often do we think about a list for prospective members? Perhaps not very often. Something to think about when we look at the future of our congregations.
- 2) "Who is responsible for that list?" Do we have anyone in our congregations who maintains a list of prospective new members and who is building relationships with the people who appear on that list? Persons who are attending worship services, but not yet members?
- 3) "How many First-time visitors worship with us each week for worship?" Schaller suggests that if the number of visitors is a number less than 2 % of the total worship attendance, we need to ask why.

These are questions we need to keep in mind as we welcome those who join us in worship. God brings individuals to our services through the prompting of the Spirit and by a gentle nudging of believers. May our doors be open to the work of God in bringing visitors to our places of worship. Blessings,
Jerry North, EP

Presbytery Meeting

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church redevelopment and leadership training. Churches are invited to submit proposals for projects, and ECG will evaluate their requests to make sure that they meet the following criteria:

*A team in place to lead the project
A clear plan with benchmarks
Initial steps taken with measurable results*

This will insure that all churches are competing for the funds on a level playing field. Making sure that the funds are being spent in the best way possible will take time, and the money will be disbursed over a period of years, not months. Looking to the future, Randy assured the members of Presbytery that, "God can take what is dying or what has died and produce rich fruit. And God can do this in the Presbytery of San Fernando."

The pastors from the Antelope Valley gave presentations on the various ways God is working through their churches. As small towns grow into cities north of the San Fernando Valley, the congregations in Palmdale, Littlerock, Quartz Hill, Lancaster and Lake Hughes are facing challenges and seeking opportunities to expand their ministries. A group of teens came before Presbytery to talk about their mission trip into the area devastated by Hurricane Katrina and the impact it had on their lives. Lisa Patriquin, of Glendale Presbyterian Church, appeared with them to ask that Presbytery support the group on their next trip. And Constance McIntosh Lax spoke about Triennium, aided by two young people who had participated. Con urged churches to start thinking now about who they might send to the next Triennium.

The worship service was a multi-media experience, as the host church demonstrated its readiness to use any means available to reach out to the community. Rev. Ken Gardner presented short films made by church members to illustrate his sermon, and newly arrived Music Director Brett Ashton played keyboards and sang accompanied by his wife Kristen.

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

La Crescenta Presbyterian Church Honors Center for Children

The Center for Children was established in 1967 when the "new" building was built for the Christian Education wing of the La Crescenta Presbyterian Church. Five pioneering women of LCPC were the first staff and 5 half day preschool classes were filled within months. As times changed so did the Center for Children. Adding a full day preschool program, after school care and infant care as the needs in the community grew. The center now serves over 225 children and with over 50 on staff

So who does the Center for Children serve?

We have families that included single parents, parents that share custody, parents that are married, grandparents raising children, foster parents, stepparents and siblings raising siblings. We have children from families that attend this church and we have children from families that attend other churches, temples, mosques, home Bible Studies and those that do not have a church home. We have children who have special needs and children who need special attention. We have children with dietary restrictions and children with other health issues. We have children that are noisy and dirty and wild and we have children that are quiet and clean and shy. We have children that need to be held and children that need to be let free. What we have at the Center for Children is God's children each one of equal value, each one worthy of His love and our quality care.

Why is La Crescenta Presbyterian Church in the "business" of childcare?

Because from the beginning we did not see this as a business, but as a ministry. Teaching children the language of faith, the love of the Father and seeing it in action is a wonderful ministry and worthy of support.

We invite you to help us celebrate our forty years of ministry to children. Please join us at La Crescenta Presbyterian Church on Sunday, October 28. Worship begins at 10:45 am and we'll have our Celebration Fair from 12:15 – 4:00 pm. There will be food, activities, entertainment, photo and art displays.

Pat Chambers
Director

HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE HOLY LAND?



IF NOT, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE.

The 10 day tour begins March 2, 2008, with the group traveling first to Jordan. While there participants will have a chance to visit Petra, one of the 7 wonders of the world. The remainder of the trip will be spent in Israel, where the group will travel to a number of sites familiar to those who have studied the Bible.

Contact the Rev. Don Maddox at donmvg@surfside.net for details and costs.



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

EDUCATIONAL AIDE

AFTER-SCHOOL (Elementary-aged) PROGRAM
CLUB JAM at

Grandview Presbyterian Church

1130 Ruberta Avenue, Glendale 91201

Desirable Qualifications and Experience

applicant should have worked with children ages
5 -12

Duties

homework tutoring, organize crafts/games, serve
snack

Days and Hours

Monday through Friday

2:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Please Contact

Gayaneh Davoodians, Director

(818)244-7223

or email resume to: clubjam1@aol.com

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

The First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills sees its ministry to High School students as a high priority of its mission. With the large group of students in our community, there is an ongoing need to offer to these young people the life-changing message of Christ's love with creativity and integrity.

Under the direction of the Associate Pastor, the Director of Youth Ministries is responsible for planning and leading all Senior High (JIVE—Jesus Is Victorious Eternally) Ministry Programs. In coordination with the Associate Pastor, he/she shall supervise the recruiting, training, and leading volunteer advisor teams JIVE Ministry Areas.

This is a 20 hour per week salaried position, and the person selected will be responsible for planning and direction of ministry to Senior High students
Call 818 360-1831 for more information.

GRANT WRITER

Family Rescue Center aka "Rescate" (Community Outreach Center located at Canoga Park PC) urgently needs volunteer grant writers to help us find funds for operating expenses. Experience helpful.

For more information, please call Diane Hernandez at 818 887-2274.

The Presbytery of San Fernando
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WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY and PEACEMAKING OFFERING FOR 2007



While World Communion Sunday is not part of the church's historic liturgical calendar, it has been an ecumenical observance since 1936. On every Lord's Day, Presbyterians can celebrate our unity with believers around the world at the Lord's Table. On Sunday, October 7 we reaffirm our commitment to faithful witness in the world as we await the coming fullness of God's reign of peace.



The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has ecumenical relations with 165 church partner communions and with many other organizations around the world. As we celebrate World Communion Sunday, remember our unity with all Christians and pray especially for our partners, who will also be receiving Communion.

Please remember also that Sunday, October 7 is the day when the Peacemaking Offering will be received. Churches that participate are helping to eliminate the causes of violence and warfare both at home and abroad. Further information about the offering and resources for churches are available at:

<http://www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering/>

