

The News of San Fernando Presbytery

Every Church a Mission Center

September, 2007

Photo by Thomas Hawk

North's Notes



Thoughts from Executive
Presbyter Jerry North

La Canada Church Completes First Phase of Long-Awaited Expansion

2007 has been a year of impressive progress for La Canada Church's *Building on the Rock* construction project. While construction began in January,



The Family Life Center

2006 the first usable spaces were ready for ministry earlier this year. A Worship Arts Center, seating 250, expanded Narthex and Family Life Center featuring classrooms and youth ministry space, were completed in the Spring of 2007. The Worship Arts Center shares a copper-covered shingle roofing with the sanctuary's expanded narthex.

In March the Session approved a new capital stewardship program to complete the balance of the congregation's master plan. The second campaign, called *On This Rock 2*, challenges the church to construct a Children's Pavilion, Ministry Hub and Prayer Chapel, remodel the fellowship hall and cover the necessary estimated interest expense on any loan

funds needed during the 18-24 month construction period. That campaign began in early 2007.

The La Canada Session also authorized complete plans and specifications for the three additional buildings and submitted them to the City of La Canada.



The expanded narthex and entry into
the Worship Arts Center

By planning the second phase of the effort as the first was being completed, the church hopes to get maximum value out of the steps in the development process, and to compress the time required to completion as much as possible.

Change happens even at the presbytery level. Rev. Ken Baker has been the editor of the presbytery's newsletter for seven plus years and has done a remarkable job of keeping the presbytery informed of news within the presbytery and around the world (literally). Ken is serving as moderator-elect this year and will be our moderator come January, 2008, and felt it necessary to step down as editor. I thank Ken for his efficient work for the past number of years and the many hours he put into making each issue of the newsletter noteworthy.



As of the September issue of the newsletter, Casey Maddren, secretary for the presbytery office takes over as editor. Casey, a writer himself, has a solid knowledge of journalism and we welcome him to this new position.

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ANTELOPE VALLEY NCD BUYS NEW BUILDING TO EXPAND MINISTRY

On August 3 the members of the Antelope Valley NCD celebrated their move to a new home. The congregation had been hoping for many years to purchase their own building, and recently they were able to make that dream a reality. Pastor Angel Becerra sees the purchase as a way to grow the church and expand its ministry.

The members have big plans for their new home. Rev. Becerra would like to create a Bible school that will offer classes for children and adults, as well as providing recreation areas for local youth. He also hopes that the church can be chartered soon. The congregation has already been hard at work making repairs and painting.

The AVNCD began as a ministry of the Littlerock church in 1991 with the aim of reaching out to the Latino community in that area. In 1993 the Presbytery brought Rev. Becerra and his family from Guatemala to help expand this ministry in the Antelope Valley. The AVNCD offers Bible study programs, provides aid to families in the area, conducts retreats for members and is actively developing leaders to extend their reach into the community.

GPC MEMBER IS TOP DIRECTOR "ON THE LOT"

Many of you may have heard of the new reality show *On the Lot*, which offers budding filmmakers a chance to create short films that are judged by industry professionals. You may not know that the winner of the competition was a member of Glendale Presbyterian Church. Will Bigham is originally from Texas, and met his wife while getting a BA in Theatre Arts at Texas Tech. After Will earned his Master's in Film in 2004, the family moved to LA and became members of GPC.

Will has this to say about his experience on the show: *Every time I had to stand in front of the judges (and America) it was a bit scary. However, I knew that God was standing up there on stage with me, so I had nothing to fear. A few of the contestants and I had a church service every week, since we were not able to leave the lot, and it was truly a blessing. It was also wonderful for us to know that there were people back home sending their prayers daily. It was an amazing experience.*

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If you would like to have an article considered for the newsletter, please contact Casey at cmaddren@sfpresby or 818 891-4781. I thank God for the expertise both these men have and do bring to this position.

Fall is rapidly approaching, and with it come very busy times in our churches. I would hope that you will be involved in the ministries of your congregation this fall, and that you will experience the thrill of working for the Kingdom of God. It is important that each one of us is active in spreading the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ. Step up to the plate (as it were) this fall and be blessed while doing your part for God and the Church. Blessings,
Jerry North



Former G.A. Moderator Marj Carpenter To Speak on Mission, Presbytery Invited

*Saturday, September 15
12:00 p.m.
Kerr Hall Gym
Glendale Presbyterian
125 S. Louise Street
Glendale*

A Free Will Offering Will Be Received

To reserve your spot at the luncheon, please call the Missions Department no later than Tuesday, September 11 at (818) 242-8873 ext. 230



ONGOING DISASTER RESPONSE IN NEW ORLEANS

By Deidra Goulding

As this is written, Hurricane Dean made landfall around 1:30 am this morning in Mexico with 165 mph winds, the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico nurturing it to a category 5 storm. And as you read this, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will have hit the Gulf States a full two years ago, with the region still in need of assistance.

In August 2006, a volunteer team from Shadow Hills Pres spent a week painting the newly restored walls of Frank's and Tammy's house in Mississippi. Their Katrina story was of the harrowing variety we heard about from the press, the 26-foot storm surge swamping their coastal town, trapping them for two days in their attic. Finally rescued by boat, their house, car, and way-of-life were all temporarily claimed by the briny Gulf of Mexico.

This year, as one of the projects for our annual Mission Possible weekend, SHPC is heading down south *in the fall*, when the weather will be less daunting, this time to New Orleans-East (in Orleans Parish). While there has been much progress in the recovery effort, some parts of the region are still struggling and many challenges remain. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is opening a new Volunteer Village in an area which includes the much-reported Upper and Lower Ninth Wards.

Open Invitation – We're currently crewing up, and we welcome all who want to join us for what will probably be dry-walling duty. If you don't know how to hang drywall, we're planning to offer a dry-wall "how-to". We've arranged a Cajun boil for our arrival into New Orleans, a roiling vat of Cajun spices in which vegetables, sausage, shrimp, etc. are cooked, a gastronomic affair put on by the locals. And since we're only fifteen minutes from the French Quarter, we can also do some eating and sight-seeing.

Requirements

Must be 18 years old (16 if accompanied by a parent, provided the group is large enough). Proof of health coverage (Let us know if someone needs insurance). Proof of current tetanus shot

Cost

Roundtrip air fare to New Orleans (currently about \$350)

\$20 per night for lodging and meals at *Olive-Tree*

Trip Dates

October 6 – 13

Contact Info

For more information or to sign up, contact the SHPC office, @818.353.2500. If you plan to attend, please contact us by September 21.

DISASTER RESPONSE IN PERU

The faith and resolve of the Peruvian people remain unshaken in the wake of the massive earthquake, which struck Peru last week. As international relief workers dedicate themselves to bringing aid and hope amidst such destruction, we, as Presbyterians, join in solidarity and in prayer with the people of Peru and those who are ministering with them in such dire circumstances. Jacob Goad, a long-term mission volunteer, tells us that 85% of the city of Pisco has been completely destroyed and hundreds have died. The number of deaths has been reported as high as 600.

As you feel called to respond, please visit the homepage of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/>. You may also visit Jacob's homepage at <http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/goadj.htm> for further updates. May we each reach out with the love of Christ to our brothers and sisters in Peru.

First Presbyterian Church of Sherman Oaks is seeking a Director of Christian Education. If you would like more information, please contact the church at sopc@sbcglobal.net or 818 788-3330.

Westminster Presbyterian Church Preschool has some classroom items available (free): housekeeping centers, dress-up centers, and manipulative cabinets. Please contact Judy Hightower, (818) 889-1493, or Judy@wpcwestlake.org.

ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

presents

A Knox Fellowship Event

ADVENTURE IN FAITH

Friday, October 26

Through

Sunday, October 28

Worship with Speaker Senior Pastor Bob Pittman

PRESENTATION WILL FOCUS ON:

Growing in faith by developing a deeper personal relationship with Jesus. Learning to feel comfortable talking to others about your faith. How to position our church for growth in contemporary times.

For more information or to RSVP, call the church office by Oct. 25
818 345-2057

St. James is located at
19414 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana
1 ½ blocks west of Tampa
Free Will offering will be taken on
Saturday

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Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
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SABBATH ECONOMICS SEMINAR by Wendy Gist

Have you ever wondered if Scripture can really speak to economics in a meaningful way? If so, join us this October at the Sabbath Economics Seminar at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church. Through the lens of Sabbath Economics, the biblical threads of God's Gift Economy and our household economic practices will be woven together.

The PSF Peacemaking Committee and the PSG Peacemaking and Justice Workgroup have teamed up with the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii to bring you this unique seminar. Ched Myers, a local but nationally recognized "theological animator," traces the thread of Sabbath economics through Scripture. Andy Loving, an ordained minister and investment advisor, will also be presenting. Andy will show us exactly how individuals and organizations can both hold their savings and use small amounts of capital to contribute to rebuilding the lives and communities of poor people through community investment vehicles and micro-lenders. Although these borrowers are among the most highly reliable credit risks, there still is not enough capital today to meet the demand for these borrowers.

The seminar will be held at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church on Saturday, October 6, 2007. For more information, please view the brochure at www.sfpresby.org.

PRESBYTERIANS FIND WAYS TO EARN A "MISSION" RETURN

There has been a lot of press in the last few years about Socially Responsible Investing or SRI. A growing number of individuals, churches and religious organizations are investing in a manner that expresses their heartfelt values – not just high returns.

One proactive option for Presbyterians – members, pastors, churches and middle governing bodies – is to invest a portion of their savings, reserve accounts or endowment funds in Term Notes with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment & Loan Program. Money invested in this program is used to make low-cost loans to Presbyterian congregations who are building, expanding or reshaping their ministry space. The investors earn a competitive rate of interest plus a "mission" return – knowing that their investment "seeds" are growing churches.

For more information about the Presbyterian Investment & Loan program, request an Offering Circular by contacting Ben Blake at (800) 903-7457, ext. 5865, or bblake@ctr.pcusa.org, or visit their web site at www.pcusa.org/pilp.

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
cmaddren@linkline.com

