



# The Monarch Messenger

## The Newsletter of The Presbytery of San Jose

Serving Presbyterians in San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties

The Monarch butterfly is the symbol of the Presbytery of San Jose

888 No. First St., Suite 320, San Jose CA 95112 · (408) 279-0220 · www.sanjosepby.org · Vol. 26 - Issue 2 · March, 2006

### Our Presbytery To Host General Assembly in 2008

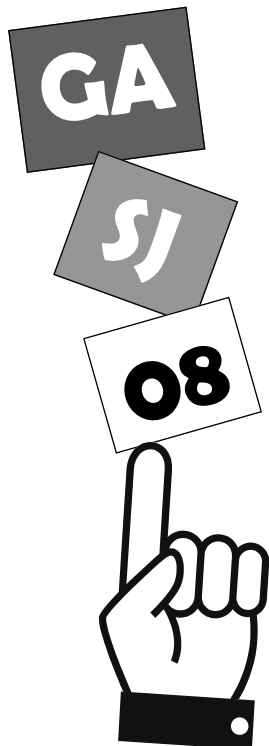
By **Bob Bowles**, GA COLA (Committee on Local Arrangements) Moderator, and Pastor of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Aptos

It's much too early to hitch up the wagons, but it's not too early to let you know that we are right where we should be in preparation for the 2008 Presbyterian General Assembly. By this time on the recommended timeline we should have developed and initiated a plan for local funding. This we have done. The Synod of the Pacific continues to collect a nickel per capita each year toward our General Assembly. They began this when we thought Sacramento was going to host the 2005 annual GA. When the Church went to biennial Assemblies, Synod simply carried that money forward. Also, Presbytery approved last year an item in the Ecclesiastical Budget to augment our funds for GA. By this time Presbytery needed to name a Moderator of the Committee on Local Arrangements (COLA). This we have done, and by God's great sense of humor (and your!), I am he.

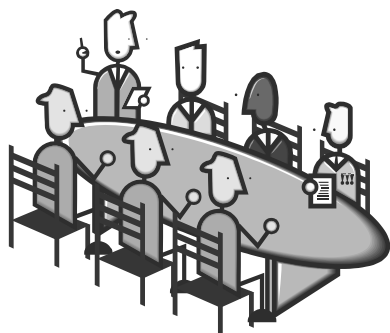
We are also on the timeline in that I am prepared to show a video about San Jose and to give a five-minute speech at the very end of the Birmingham General Assembly (right before the closing prayer!), inviting people to come and celebrate the Church with us in 2008.

We are ahead of the timeline in that Presbytery Council has approved the five Committee Coordinators who will oversee twenty-one work groups that will be recruited in about a year and a half. Thank these folks when you see them. They include: Worship Committee Coordinator **Fred Oliver** (Stone); Media and Communications Committee Coordinator **Pat Plant** (Sunnyvale); Information Committee Coordinator **Rev. Ben Daniel** (Foothill); Welcome Committee Coordinator **Renate Frick** (Stone); and Special Events Committee Coordinator **Rev. Lyle Schmidt** (Hollister).

**John Lococo, Jane Odell** and I have met several times with the three talented individuals from Louisville's Office of the General Assembly (the Director of Operations, the Manager of Assembly Programming and the Manager of Assembly Services) who manage this process full-time and year-round. They strongly recommend no further recruiting until late Spring or Summer of 2007, lest folks tire of the idea long before they are needed, so things will be quiet for a good long while. But be assured: there are no spare Disciples, and in God's good time we will find a way for you to be a part of this great adventure.



### Presbytery Executive Search Committee to Form



Please send us your suggestions of people to serve on the San Jose Presbytery **Committee to search for the new Presbytery Executive**. The Council has asked the Presbytery Nominating Committee in consultation with the Presbytery Personnel Committee to begin accepting names.

The committee will be composed of nine members, one of which will be from the Council of Presbytery. Please get the permission of the person you wish to nominate before submitting their name. If you wish, you may nominate yourself.

We hope to have a slate of candidates names ready to submit at the June meeting of Presbytery. Therefore the deadline for submission of names is April 15, 2006. You may contact by phone or email either **Marcia Ludwig**, Chair of Nominating, 408-255-8467 or email [mludwig417@earthlink.net](mailto:mludwig417@earthlink.net) or **Jacquie Bower**, Chair of Personnel, 408-376-0668 or email [jbower330@comcast.net](mailto:jbower330@comcast.net).

### Presbytery Calendar



**Next Presbytery meeting: Saturday, April 1; 9 am-1 pm at First Presbyterian Church of Santa Clara**

**2499 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, CA 95050; 408-984-0804**

<- People voting and taking part in Presbytery business

- Next Monarch Messenger Newsletter deadline: May 1
- Next Presbytery Meeting Packet Deadline: May 17
- Legislative Advocacy Workshop: April 10, Sunnyvale
- CROP WALK for Church World Service : April 30, San Jose
- Pastors Retreat: April 24—27: San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville
- Presbyterian Women Annual Nurture Retreat: May 6
- National Workshop on Christian Unity, May 8-11, San Jose
- Pentecost Offering — June 4
- General Assembly in Birmingham, Alabama June 15-22
- General Assembly in San Jose - June, 2008!

More news this way

## From the Interim Executive, Jane Odell



The following excerpts are from a poem for Lent published in the February 27 issue of the *Presbyterian Outlook*. The author, Ann Weems, is an elder in the PC USA and the author of six books. I am deeply touched by this poem and hope that it will speak to you also.

*Jane Odell,*

Interim Executive Presbyter

### Out!

By Ann Weems

When I was a child we didn't have Lent,  
not down in Nashville, Tennessee,  
Where my father was a Presbyterian minister,  
That's not to say there wasn't any of that "giving up"  
business going on;  
It's just that Presbyterians didn't do it.  
Oh, we waved our fronds as we went into the sanctuary on  
Palm Sunday,  
And we observed Holy Week, the most memorable day being  
Friday when we had hot cross buns and didn't go to school,  
but went instead to the worship service downtown,  
and listened to one of those Last Words Sermons  
and afterwards ate at the B&W cafeteria.

Many Lents later, I have taped to my desk these words:

Who do you say that I am?

They are Jesus' words to the disciples.

They are Jesus' words to me every time I sit down to write.

Who do you say I am? And I anguish.

We all know, and yet, we're a church quarreling because we  
don't agree on who Jesus is.

In the wilderness, Satan knew who Jesus was and tempted him  
when he was famished, as we were tempted when we were  
famished,

Whether it be for food, or shelter, or recognition, or wealth, or  
power, or love.

Jesus went to Galilee preaching the gospel, saying, "The time is  
fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and be-  
lieve in the good news."

But the good news was not always received as such... not then,  
not now.

My prayer is that this Lent we will know who he is, and we will  
"give up" our hearts to a world who screams for a word of hope  
from the Church of Jesus Christ.

I pray we will have ears to hear the good news and the courage to  
preach it, the eyes to see who Jesus is and the love to follow:

Feeding his sheep, living in peace with one another,  
all the one anothers,

standing up and taking risks for his word,

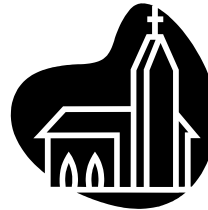
And believing that God's arms are open to us in mercy and  
forgiveness, and unending Love in this powerful gift of covenant  
faithfulness.

## Musings from the Moderator:

### The Rev. Rebecca Kuiken

"My parent's generation found meaning in maintaining the  
institutional church ... That is not where this generation is.  
They want to know: Where are we going to act in the  
world? How is my spirituality, my faith grounding, going to  
be connected to that?"

-- Rick Ufford-Chase, PCUSA moderator,  
Quoted in [Presbyterians Today](#)



When someone walks into our  
churches, I seriously doubt that he or  
she is saying, "I have a hunger and  
thirst for organized religion." None of  
us craves *institutions*. We crave *God*.

In the past, this God-hunger found  
expression in the shaping and creating and maintaining of  
church institutions. My parents and grandparents ex-  
pressed their God-hunger in the church as elders, deacons,  
teachers and PNC members.

Rick Ufford-Chase, age 40, comes from a generation of  
Presbyterians and potential Presbyterians who are telling  
us by their presence and their absence where their God-  
hunger lies. Judging by our San Jose Presbytery meetings,  
we lack opportunities for expression of this generation's  
God-hunger.

Yet, these energetic, mission-oriented, spirituality-seeking,  
delightful people are all around us! They are in our  
churches. We work with them in the schools and compa-  
nies. We are their parents and grandparents, aunts and  
uncles, sisters and brothers and friends.

What would need to change in San Jose Presbytery for this  
reality to change? What structures, issues, divisions would  
we need to set aside in order to release energy for the  
new? **What are we prepared to give up? Where does  
Christ beckon us?**

Rick says: "God is calling us to a renewal that could blow  
us out of the water ... We could end up in an entirely new  
place, possibly the next Reformation."

God, I hope so.



### Milpitas Church Builds House

A news article in Sat.  
March 5 *Mercury News*  
described how eighty  
volunteers from our Christ  
Community Church in  
Milpitas joined a multi-  
church approach to helping Katrina victims. **Fred Hull**, a  
master home designer/builder and a member of Danville  
Presbyterian Church, had contacted the Voice of Calvary, a  
mission organization in Jackson Miss. and inquired about  
prefabricating homes and shipping them to their region. Hull  
worked with 16 congregations to build houses to his speci-  
fications and then ship the structures to Mississippi. Work  
parties from the churches are then traveling to their destina-  
tion to pour foundations and finish the homes. The Milpitas  
workers covered all the beams with scripture messages of  
love and hope.

## Catholic Charity's Refugee Resettlement Program Celebrates 25 years of Welcoming Refugees

### Hans Frick Honored



The Rev. Hans Frick, who referred to himself as "The German Shepard"

A wonderful celebration took place recently to celebrate Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement program's 25th Anniversary. Refugee success was highlighted and the fairly smooth transition to American life most of the more than 40,000 refugees from many parts of the world have made.

Our Presbytery has partnered for many years with Catholic

Charities to help with the many tasks needed to settle and welcome these new residents. The late Rev. Hans Frick was honored by Catholic Charities as their **Most Outstanding Volunteer** for his "untiring efforts to develop ecumenical partnerships for refugee resettlement throughout Santa Clara County." Hans' wife, **Renate Frick**, accepted the award from **Sister Marilyn Lacey**, the director of the Refugee Program, with grateful thanks.

2006 Pastors Retreat

## LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

Mon., April 24, 4 p.m.—Thurs., April 27, 11 a.m.

San Domiano Retreat Center, Danville  
Speaker: The Rev. David Augsburg, Fuller Seminary

Reserve your space with Beverley Raines at the Presbytery Office (408) 270-0220 **BY Mon., April 10**

## At the March 5 Presbytery Meeting

we said farewell and released the Rev. Mark Watson of the Saratoga Church, who followed a call to a new church in Newton, North Carolina.



Mark Watson

We welcomed and formally installed the new pastor of Westhope Presbyterian Church in Saratoga, the Rev. Erik Swanson.

Erik Swanson



## Celebrate Older Americans Week May 1-7

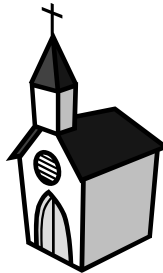


The Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries (POAMN) Task Force urges all Presbyterians to recognize their older members by a special service or other events and activities during the first week of May.

The POAMN Task Force has copies of the Older Adult Ministries Planning Guide that are full of ideas to help you celebrate your older members and friends. No matter the size of your church, there are suggestions for activities that you can do. Please call Judy Lococo at (408) 279-0661 to order your copy.

Our Lord commanded us to love and remember the overlooked, the lost, the neglected among us. Too many of our older adults are just that. Make May 2006 a time of recognition and celebration of your older members.

Even when I am old and gray,  
Do not forsake me, O God,  
Till I declare your power to the next generation  
Your might to all who are to come.  
- Psalm 71:18 NIV



## National Workshop on Christian Unity

May 8-11, 2006

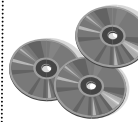
The Fairmont Hotel, San Jose

Complete information at: [www.nwcu.org](http://www.nwcu.org)



## The Media Resource Center exists to help your church!

1675 Winchester Blvd. Campbell, CA 95008  
(408)378-2532



Books, videos, DVDs, CDs—many resources for Christian Education, information, resources for adults, teens and children



Visit their website at: <http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/emrc/>

Email them at: [emrcvideos@aol.com](mailto:emrcvideos@aol.com)

Open Monday — Friday from 10 a.m.—3 p.m.

## Preparation on Ministry



At their February meeting, declared **Alison Harrington** (currently interning at the Covenant Church of Palo Alto, ready to receive a call.

We have two new inquirers: **Sarah Glass** from the Foothill Church, San Jose and **Alan Rowe** from the West Valley Church, Cupertino.

(left) Alison Harrington

## Presbytery of San José



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### STAFF:

#### Jane Odell

Interim Executive Presbyter

#### Joey Lee

Associate Executive,  
Presbyter for Program

#### John Lococo

Stated Clerk

#### Beverly Raynes

Administrative Assistant  
to the Executive Presbyter

#### Pat Plant

Program Support Staff and  
Hunger Action Advocate

#### Diane Case

Staff Accountant

#### Geoff Browning

Peace and Justice Advocate  
(650) 365-9720

#### Dorothy & Don Metzger

Mission Advocates  
(408) 356-1216

#### Bill Palmer

Refugee Ministry Coordinator  
(408) 395-091

#### Lynn Viale

Evangelism Consultant  
(408) 848-2724

The **Presbytery Newsletter** is published 5 times each year: January, March, May, September, and November, for the 46 congregations located in this four-county area.

The deadline for submission of articles for the **NEXT** issue of the Presbytery Newsletter is **May 1, 2006**.

## Presbyterian Communicators Network's Western US Communicators to meet in San Jose in October

Our Presbytery, led by **Pat** and **Greg Plant** who handle the Presbytery newsletter and website, is hosting the **PC (USA) Presbyterian Communicators Network** Western Regional Conference **October 4-6** at Westminster Church in San Jose. The theme of the event, open to pastors, church newsletter and website communicators and others interested in communication, is **"Make the Light Brighter: Connecting, Communicating and Collaborating."** More information on this conference will be available soon and mailed to all churches.



## ANNUAL NURTURE RETREAT



*A Time for Silence...*

*A Time for Speech*

**Saturday, May 6 9:00 a.m. —2:30 p.m.**

Foothill Presbyterian Church, San Jose

Retreat Leader: **Ann Coons**

Spiritual Director, Retreat Leader,  
Ordained Elder and Deacon

**\$35** (\$40 if reserved after April 14)

**Please RSVP to First Pres. Palo Alto**

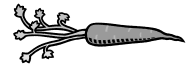
at: 650 325 5659

## Look for your UPDATE!

Our new email update goes out before each Presbytery Meeting. To subscribe or unsubscribe, email: [update@sanjosepby.org](mailto:update@sanjosepby.org).



## From your Hunger Action Advocate



### Pat Plant

- **Legislative Advocacy Workshop April 10; 1— 4 p.m.** — Come learn to be a good advocate for causes you believe in. Learn to make your views heard and acted on in Sacramento and Washington!
- **Hunger Action Day in Sacramento — Tues., May 16** (all day) - Join a group of people from our area on a bus heading toward the California Hunger Action Coalition's **Hunger Day in Sacramento**. Visit your elected representatives and learn more about legislation that could help hungry people in our state.
- **Green products** - Be proactive and stop a deluge of Styrofoam cups and plastic plates and utensils from going to the local landfill. Use biodegradable cups, plates, napkins, and utensils. One local source of such products is Integrity Express; [www.IntegrityExpress.us](http://www.IntegrityExpress.us); (408)234-6377
- **How about turning your church GREEN?** - Santa Clara County (as well as counties to the south) is working to get businesses (churches qualify as a business) to "turn green" by using products and practices that don't harm our water, soil, and air. For more details go to this website: <http://greenbiz.sccgov.org> or call Gretchen Hayes at (408)441-4329.

**For more information** about all these programs and more, visit the Presbytery website or contact Pat at the Presbytery office (408)279-0220.

## Pentecost Offering

for Children at Risk, Youth, and Young Adults



*And they were amazed*

(Acts 2:7 RSV)

Sunday, June 4, 2006

[www.sanjosepby.org](http://www.sanjosepby.org)

### NEW on our website:

- Pictorial directory to our churches including worship times of all our congregations. This ought to help people who go to our website looking for a church!

- and much, much, more!

## Our Mission

Called by God as a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Presbytery of San José exists to serve and be a resource for the health and growth of the Presbyterian congregations within our four counties.

### Our Vision is:

- To support our congregations in reaching out to all people in the name of Jesus Christ
- To challenge a diverse community to hold fast to the foundations of our faith
- To build a diverse community unified by the unique gifts of the Holy Spirit for the great work of the church.



**We call upon God's grace and help for the fulfillment of this vision.**