



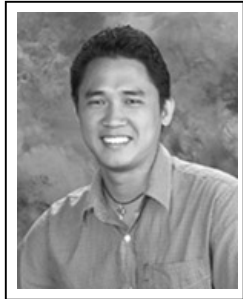
# The Monarch Messenger

## 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

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### Art Enlivens Worship

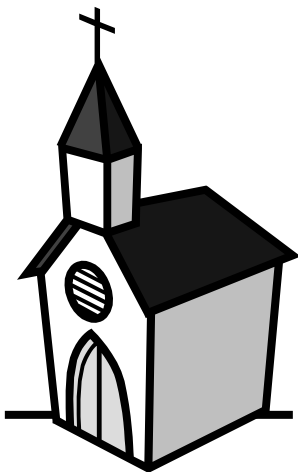
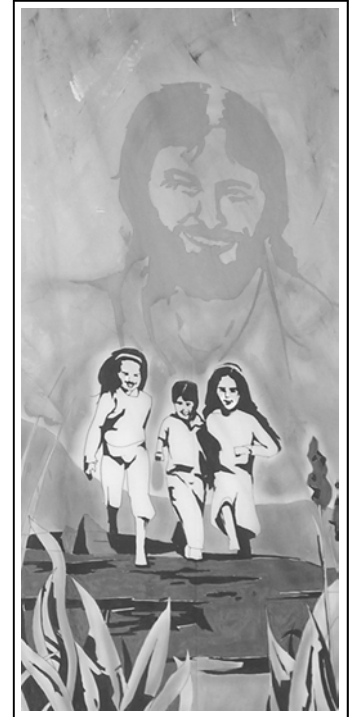
**Vincent Arishvara** (pictured at left), is a Fuller Seminary student who also directs the Children and Youth programs at Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Jose. In addition, Vincent is an amazing artist.

For almost every church season Vincent prepares spectacular artwork. Trained as an architect in his native Indonesia, he started doing artwork in high school and is largely self-taught. Vincent has experimented with many mediums and his interesting contributions to the Trinity sanctuary have included sculptures made of branches and found objects as well as many types of paintings. Vincent has been experimenting with painting like comic book artists do, with a black outline filled in with

color. "The young people noticed this and commented on it right away!" he said.

This past Easter, Vincent prepared a four-banner installation depicting Jesus at Gethsemane, on the cross, resurrected, and lastly, (at right), Jesus as part of all of us all throughout the generations. According to Vincent, "We always have Jesus with us. He is in our hearts. In this banner Jesus is a constant presence in the children's lives (and our own.) The brilliant set is brooding and disturbing on the left side of the installation and uplifting and joyous on the right.

To see this entire installation of Vincent's new Easter banners and some of Vincent's past art, go to our website ([www.sanjosepby.org](http://www.sanjosepby.org)) and click on the "Artists Glorifying God" box on the front page of the Presbytery of San Jose website.



### "Greening" Your Church

As stewards of the natural resources of land, water, air, and power used by our churches, we must do the best we can to preserve and not endanger them.

The counties our Presbytery covers are working to get businesses and organizations to "turn green" by using products and practices that not only don't harm, but preserve our water, soil, air and power. Already the Foothill Church in San Jose has achieved "green" status, and the Sunnyvale Church is in the midst of completing the county's checklist.

For more details on the procedures for using more "green" practices at your church, contact these people or visit these web-sites:

- **Santa Clara County:** Gretchen Hayes at (408)441-4329; [gretchen.hayes@aem.sccgov.org](mailto:gretchen.hayes@aem.sccgov.org); <http://greenbiz.sccgov.org>

- **Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties:** Molly Ober, Ecology

Action at [mollyober@ecoact.org](mailto:mollyober@ecoact.org) or 831-426-5925 ext 111.

- **Monterey County:** contact the Environmental Health Division at [recycle@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:recycle@co.monterey.ca.us) or 831-755-4579; <http://www.montereybaygreenbusiness.org/>.

**Green products** - Be proactive and stop the deluge of Styrofoam cups and plastic plates and utensils from going from your church to the local landfill. Use reusable mugs, plates and utensils (need to have human or mechanical dishwashers!), or 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

For more information about all these programs and more, visit the Presbytery website ([www.sanjosepby.org](http://www.sanjosepby.org)), or contact Pat at the Presbytery office (408)279-0220.

#### A Green Event

#### Come Home to the Earth: An Eco-Mission of Reconciliation

June 16-17, (Friday evening through Saturday afternoon)

First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto. Details and registration at [www.eco-mission.org](http://www.eco-mission.org)



### Presbytery Calendar



#### Next Presbytery meeting:

Saturday, June 3 at 9 a.m. at Watsonville United Presbyterian Church, 112 E. Beach Street, Watsonville, CA 95076  
Phone: 831-724-6222

Next Monarch Messenger Newsletter deadline: August 28

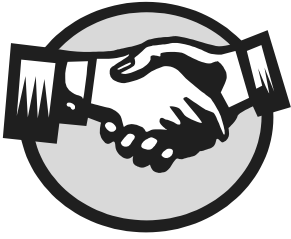
General Assembly in Birmingham, Alabama June 15-22

PW National Gathering, July 7-11, Louisville, KY

General Assembly in San Jose June, 2008!

More news this way

## From the Interim Executive, Jane Odell



The recent newspaper articles about immigrants and immigration caused me to reflect on the racial ethnic make-up of our presbytery and the presbyteries I have served in the past. In the San Gabriel Presbytery there was preaching and teaching in 11 languages when I left there in 1996. The last I heard 14 languages were used in churches of that presbytery. Churches in

Los Ranchos Presbytery taught and preached in 8 languages and in San Jose Presbytery you can hear 9 languages in our churches. Can you name them? They are: English, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Tagalog, Taiwanese and Thai.

Seven years ago the Presbyterian Church, USA set goals of increasing racial ethnic and immigrant membership 10% by 2005 and 20% by 2010. We didn't make the 2005 goal but if we are serious about it we might make the 2010 goal. In the two southern California presbyteries I spoke of, we used to wonder how we could most effectively reach out to the immigrant populations around us. San Gabriel's Committee on Ministry seriously considered requiring that any pastor coming into the presbytery be bi-lingual in a language of one of the predominant racial ethnic groups. In Los Ranchos one of our goals was to have every one of our 59 churches share space with another congregation of a different language and background. Notice I said "share space" not "be the landlord to." There's a big difference. We meant equal say in all things related to the church. Much was accomplished toward this goal.

Westminster, San Jose and Watsonville United are modeling something I think they (and we as a presbytery) should take pride in. In both congregations Spanish-speaking staff members have been added - an associate pastor at Westminster and a director of Hispanic Ministries at Watsonville (a seminary graduate who will be ready for ordination soon). Both congregations have persons from both language groups on the session. In each instance it is much more than shared space - it is one congregation in two languages.

At Christ Community in Milpitas sermons can be heard and read in English and in Mandarin, through simultaneous translation and printed copies.

What is your session and congregation doing now and planning to do in the future to reach out and welcome those whose language and culture are different than yours - the strangers in your midst?

Blessings,

*Jane Odell,*

Interim Executive Presbyter

## Musings from the Moderator:

### The Rev. Rebecca Kuiken

*In a time of drastic change one can be too preoccupied with what is ending or too obsessed with what seems to be beginning. In either case one loses touch with the present and with its obscure but dynamic possibilities.*

- Thomas Merton, Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander

Resurrection living is a demanding spiritual discipline. It is not about the power of positive thinking, which all too often masks as a way to not face tough decisions and difficult issues. Resurrection living is not about optimism, which in religious people resembles a superficial and steady dose of platitudes about trusting in God's will - when what is needed is bold steps towards action.

Resurrection living confronts head-on the forces of evil, death and sin and speaks their name with power and specificity. "This is wrong" "This is an injustice." "You may not treat a person this way." "To not speak up is cowardice." "We cannot tolerate prejudice or ignorance in this form." It means good people may need to speak up and even engage in conflict, rather than rest in being nice. This is hard for us.

Resurrection living takes regular doses of prayer and daily steeping in the Divine. It helps to know the example of great souls like William Sloane Coffin, Martin Luther King, Jr., Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Of course, it requires deep Gospel rooting in the One in whom we see God's face most clearly, Jesus Christ.

Resurrection living is not for the fainthearted, and it is best done in the company of these great souls, and living companions who are also trying and struggling to live the Way here on earth, in small and daily Resurrection doses at home and work.

We as a nation, and as a Presbytery are undergoing a period of great change. It is in such times that the true mettle of a person's soul and one's trust in Resurrection power shows forth in all its colors. I wish for you all a Resurrection soul that blossoms with the full spectrum of color of Spring flowers.

I offer the closing words of Thomas Merton, which began my column ...What really matters is openness, readiness, attention, courage to face risk. You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith, and hope. In such an event, courage is the authentic form taken by love.

May the peace of Christ be with you and all whom you love,

*Rebecca Kuiken, Moderator*



## Mutual Invitation



What is "Mutual Invitation"? Gary Demarest shared at the April 1st Presbytery meeting how the Peace, Unity and Purity Task Force used and recommend the use in local churches of this helpful method for being sure each person is heard and allowing the group to benefit from all of that input, before making decisions.

"Mutual Invitation" was a key idea offered by Rev. Eric Law as the plenary speaker at the national Association of Presbyterian Church Educators in February. Law is an Episcopal priest and author of five books designed to help the Christian community do a better job of being the whole people of God. His ideas are inspirational and practical. His book "The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb" presents the Mutual Invitation process along with other respectful communication guidelines.

That book and his others, including "Sacred Acts, Holy Change" which also offers practical guidelines for change and transformation, are available from Chalice Press, 800-366-3388 or from [www.chalicepres.com](http://www.chalicepres.com).

## News of People, Places and Events



The Rev. Dr. Isaiah Jones

### GA 06

Representing our Presbytery at the General Assembly June 15 — 22 will be the **Rev. Isaiah Jones**, Minister Delegate; Elder **Diana Lim**, Elder Delegate; and Stone Church member, **Laura Kate Anderson**, as our Young Adult Delegate (YAD). Laura is active in the church youth group and has served as a youth Deacon.



Laura Kate Anderson



The Rev. Paul Lee and son

### Cornerstone Church of Silicon Valley

, one of the New Church Developments in our Presbytery and led by the **Rev. Paul Lee**, is currently featured on the New Church Development web page on the PC USA web site. Go to to: [www.pcusa.org/newchurch/cornerstore.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/newchurch/cornerstore.htm).



### Presbyterian Women Grant Funds Local Habitat Project

The **Rev. David McCreath**, who works as the Faith Relations Coordinator for the **Silicon Valley Habitat for Humanity** organization, recently was awarded a substantial grant from the Thank Offering from the PC (USA) Presbyterian Women's office. The grant will fund a vocational educator from the Milpitas School District to go into the Elmwood Correctional Institution in Milpitas and teach basic carpentry skills to incarcerated women so that they might have valuable job skills upon leaving prison. The trained women will have the opportunity to work on local Habitat projects going on in the San Jose area, as well.

Thirteen homes are under construction within our Presbytery and more are in the planning stage. For more information visit: <http://www.habitatsanjose.org/projects.htm>. Contact them for more information at (408) 942-6444.



Judi Pogue

### Katrina Rebuilding Help

**Judi Pogue**, a retired school administrator, long-time member of the Sunnyvale Church, and Co-Leader of the Peace and Justice Ministry of the Presbytery, has been accepted by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to be a Volunteer Village Manager this summer at one of the PDA gathering sites along the Gulf Coast. In that capacity, Judi will be managing the needs and assignments of the youth and adult PDA volunteers coming from around the country to the Hurricane ravaged Southeastern U.S.



### Call him Councilman Erickson!

The **Rev. George Erickson**, who as an Interim Pastor served our churches in San Martin and Watsonville, was recently selected to fill a vacant City Council seat in Watsonville. He was selected because of "his leadership in taking stands on important issues." He will run in the next election as an incumbent. A great start in a new career in politics!

### Delegation to Columbia

Moved by the words of our Moderator Rick Ufford Chase, Arlene Schaupp of the First Church, Palo Alto has signed up to go to Columbia with a group of Presbyterians led by the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship of Washington, DC, interested in the injustice and potential for peacekeeping in that place. Arlene would like all Presbytery members to know that anyone can go on such a trip and she can be contacted for details at (650) 494-8340 or email her at [schaupp@aol.com](mailto:schaupp@aol.com). The purpose of the trip is to learn about the social, political, and economic repression in Columbia and to visit, learn from, and stand with oppressed people there.



## A WAY TO ASSIST NEWLY ARRIVING REFUGEES



Welcoming the stranger...

If refugees arriving in this area are being sponsored by a relative or a friend, then it is normal for the sponsor to help them find housing. Often the sponsor will house the refugee in his/her own home until the refugee (or often the refugee family) is ready to live independently.

The majority of the arriving refugees, however, have no sponsor. Therefore, Catholic Charities, with whom our Presbytery works closely in refugee resettlement, has set up a program of transitional housing. Originally, there were three transitional houses in and around San Jose which could house a total of two dozen refugees. As of the end of March of this year, however, one of the houses had to be closed because of a shift in the way these houses were funded.

Catholic Charities was using lucrative car donation sales as a way to fund this housing. In the past, donors could get a tax write-off for the blue-book value of the car they were donating. As of January 2005, however, the IRS changed the rules so that donors get credit on their income taxes for only the actual amount their car sold for, not the Blue Book value. Catholic Charities is not in the business of selling cars individually; they wholesale them in bulk and get relatively little for each car sold. This meant that the incentive for donating good autos was gone, and usually only the "clunkers" were donated. So, the income from car sales plummeted from at least \$200,000 per year to less than \$60,000.

So how can Presbyterians help? Churches and individuals could give cash donations to assist with this current transitional housing shortfall. Checks can be made to the Presbytery of San Jose with a notation on the check for "Refugee Transitional Housing," or sent directly to Catholic Charities c/o Refugee Transitional Housing, 2625 Zanker Road, Suite 200, San Jose 95134-2107.

Thanks for your help!

*The Rev. Bill Palmer*, Presbytery Refugee Advocate

## Presbytery of San José



888 N. First St., Suite 320

San José, CA 95112

Office: 408 279 0220

Fax: 408 279 5261

Toll Free: 877 537 5100

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

### 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 **August 28, 2006**.

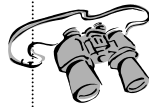
## Presbyterian Communicators Network's Western US Communicators to meet in San Jose in October

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."**



The keynote speaker will be the **Rev. Jerry Van Marter**, Coordinator of the Presbyterian News Service. The conference will include workshops on various topics of communication, guest speakers and hand-on experiences. The cost will be \$65 for local attendees not needing housing. More information available soon!

### Executive Search



The Nominating Committee in consultation with the Personnel Committee has been meeting and will have a slate of candidates for the Executive Presbyter Search Committee to bring to the June Presbytery meeting for confirmation. - *Marcia Ludwig*  
Chair of the Nominating Committee

**My way is the  
highway.  
-God**

From God's Billboards:  
<http://www.freemaninstitute.com/billboard.htm>



Look for your  
**UPDATE!**

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

## The Northern California Ecumenical 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.gbgbm-umc.org/emrc/>

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

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

### NEW RESOURCES!

Many exciting new materials have been added to the Northern California Ecumenical Media Resource Center!

**Children: The Story of the Good Samaritan and The Story of Jesus and His Miracles** (two more videos in the Beginner Bible series). 30 min. each.

**The Gospel Alive**—4-video series with modern kids learning values, 18 min. each, guides.

**That's A Family** — an excellent film for kids about family diversity, 35 min., guide.

**Youth and Youth Leaders:**

**Exploring God's Purpose for Your Life**, 45 min., guide.

**Drug Education for Teens:** Marijuana-effects on brain, behavior, body, 23 min., guide. Connecting with God—through present involvement with music, nature..., 23 min., guide.

**Love is Patient:** Saving Sex for Marriage, 35 min., guide.

**Merchants of Cool**—shocking look at youth culture, good for leaders, PBS, 60 min.

**Youth/Adult:**

**NOOMA** — 12 DVDs using life experiences to teach about fullness of life in Jesus—forgiveness, discipleship, and love, 11-14 min. each, each has guide.

**The Four Acts of Prayer** with Walter Wangerin, Jr.—We speak, God listens, God speaks, We listen, 132 min., guide.

**God, Why?** Teachings from the Tsunamis — 30 min., guide and teaching CD.

## 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.