



# The Presbytery of San José NEWSLETTER

News of Presbyterians in San Benito, Santa Clara,  
Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties

Vol. 25, No. 1  
January, 2005

A CONTEST! A PRIZE!

# NAME

# THIS NEWSLETTER!

Many Presbyteries and church newsletters have an identity, a name, so people can recognize the publication. We want to create such an identity for this publication and need your help. (As an idea starter, here are some names of other Presbytery newsletters: The Concordance, The Vine, Doorways, The View.)

Please submit your ideas to Newsletter Editor, Pat Plant at [pat@sanjosepby.org](mailto:pat@sanjosepby.org) or call the office at (408) 279-0220 by **February 17**.



**THE PRIZE:** Our appreciation, some recognition in a future newsletter, and (drum roll please!) lunch for two at a nice restaurant near you... with gratitude from the Presbytery!

## CALENDAR

**Presbytery meeting**  
Saturday, Jan. 29  
at **Santa Teresa Hills  
Presbyterian Church**  
5370 Snell, Ave.,  
San José 95117; 9 am-1 pm  
**Contact the church:** 408/244-5298



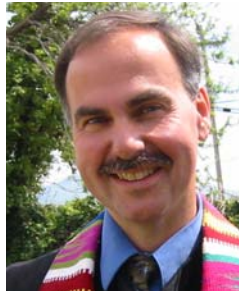
The next Newsletter deadline is February 17.

The Presbytery Middle School Retreat at Mt. Hermon, will take place March 11-13.

Packet Deadline for the spring Presbytery Meeting is March 18.

The spring Presbytery Meeting is at Palo Alto First Presbyterian Church on April 2.

## New Moderator David Rodriguez Calls For Us to Care for One Another More



Rev. David Rodriguez has a clear vision of his mission as 2005 moderator: to help the Presbytery heal its rifts by emphasizing care for one another (see his column on page 2 for more thoughts on this).

“As we actively care for one another,” Rodriguez explained in an interview recently, “we’ll develop closer emotional ties to each other and better awareness of how our unity in Jesus Christ brings us together.”

He is particularly concerned about the pastors in the Presbytery and bringing them back into the family through attendance at Presbytery meetings, and he sees pastoral care as one way to do that.

“They all need it, because who cares for the pastor when a family member gets ill or dies?” Rodriguez asked. One answer, he believes, is at Presbytery meetings to provide for care during a healing worship service.

“Pastors don’t want to come to Presbytery for another fight after ones they may have at their local church, with staff or Session, so providing pastoral care can start the healing process,” Rodriguez said.

Another positive sign he noted for the Presbytery was the approval by General Assembly in 2002 of the document “Hope in the Lord Jesus Christ,” which passed with a 97% favorable vote. This, Rodriguez believes, shows that however the Presbytery is divided politically or religiously, our faith binds us because “this document stresses our unity in Jesus Christ.”

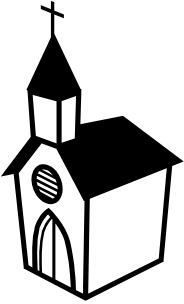
He noted that Elder Jane Odell, Interim Executive Presbyter, has been part of what he calls the pastoral healing process. “She gives care to pastors, even goes to them, especially those pastors alienated from the Presbytery – Jane is reaching out to them,” Rodriguez explained. “Thank God we have Jane in the transition from an Executive Presbyter here for 25 years,” he added.

Rodriguez knows about care. In addition to his service as Pastor at Hollister Presbyterian Church, he serves as a group chaplain commander for Marine Air Group 46, in Miramar, CA, near San Diego. He drives down on a Thursday and gets back late on Saturday nights.

### Quotable Quote:

“As iron sharpens iron, so one sharpens the wits of another.” - Proverbs 27:17

# COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (COM) REPORT



As the Committee for Ministry triennial visits for 2004 come to a close, we celebrate the commitment and energy we find in those who are devoted to ministry in the name of Jesus Christ. We are grateful for all of you and the unique personalities of gifts of each congregation. Our concern is about burnout! Stay close to the flame of Christ that you might be strengthened and nurtured in its warmth and inspiration.

## A few highlights from our visits:

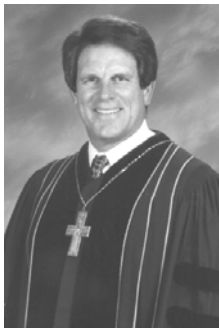
Mayflower Presbyterian Church in Pacific Grove has seen new and consistent growth. They are energized by their Alpha class success, their Wednesday night discipleship evening with meal, the recent baptism of three youths, and recent notes from members of the congregation thanking them for their service, reminding them that the congregation prays for them, and, in general, encouraging them. They feel their strength is their evangelistic program.

Covenant Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto is a very energetic church. Recently their completed "Leap of Faith" financial campaign achieved their goal and will allow them

to make needed renovations which will enhance their welcome and outreach. A wide range of programs use their facility including the Children's Center which has been in ministry to the needs of children in their community for 25 years. Covenant is involved in many ecumenical programs: VBS, a Gospel Choir, and the food pantry for South Palo Alto. They have added a contemporary worship service the third Sunday of each month which drawing new folks to their doors.

Monterey First Presbyterian Church was described by its elders as a church "with a huge heart" whose atmosphere is infectious so that people just want to get involved. They have a very high percentage of their congregation in worship and the second highest giving rate for One Great Hour in the whole country. Their church school has had to double the number of classes recently and there is great excitement about that.

Monterey is also characterized by a huge commitment to outreach and social justice. For the first time in 42 years they have completed a capitol campaign, fifteen percent of which will go to mission. They have an interesting committee for their church: planning which coordinates the different ministries in order to provide more focus on the priorities of the church.



## Kim Nelson Moves to San Francisco "Home" Church

The Rev. Kim Nelson is leaving his post as head pastor at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Salinas to lead the Lakeside Presbyterian Church in San Francisco, the church in which he was baptized and his parents are still members.

"The Rev. Kim Nelson, in more than 24 years of ministry at Northminster, has exerted a dynamic impact on this church," said longtime church member Don Lumpkin, who also serves on the Presbytery Committee on Ministry. "Kim has seen the congregation evolve, grow, build, and become a vital part of the city of Salinas. Significant contributions have been made by him in the area of religion and in service to the community at large."

## Rev. Glen Pettigrove joins Santa Clara University and Immanuel Staff as Parish Associate



Pictured at left are Glen, Pastor Ellen Steele, Moderator Claudia Hamm, Immanuel Children's Ministry leader Terri Dias, member Jo Apel, and Pastor Steve Steele.

The Rev. Dr. Glen Pettigrove was received, affirmed, and accepted into our Presbytery at the Dec. 4 meeting. He will serve as professor of philosophy and ethics at Santa Clara University and Parish Associate at Immanuel Presbyterian Church where he will be teaching some adult classes and preaching on occasion. SCU is blessed with TWO Presbyterian Pastors on their largely Jesuit faculty: Glen and the Rev. Jim Bennett.

Glen is married to wife Kaila and has daughters Sophia Corinne (2 years) and Vivian Joy (5 weeks). He is a graduate of the University of Michigan, with a doctorate in Philosophy from UC Riverside and his M.Div. in Theology from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, MA.

Speaking admiringly of Glen, Immanuel Pastor Steve Steele commented on Glen's brain "which is like a Porsche." Glen counters that his brain is instead "like a combine which slowly consumes everything within reach, tears it apart, and spits it back out again with only the smallest remaining part useful to anyone."

## FROM THE MODERATOR

*David Rodriguez*

Did you know that our Lord Jesus Christ prayed for the San Jose Presbytery? On the night in which Jesus was betrayed, He prayed for the apostles. Then He prayed for us, saying: "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me (John 17:20-21)."

Our Lord knew before we were created that it would be difficult for us to live together. After all, God intentionally created us with different personalities, abilities, interests, perspectives and so on. To make things even more complicated, the Holy Spirit gave us different gifts with which to serve God. With all of these differences among us, it's not surprising that we experience conflict when we come together. What is surprising, however, is that our Lord would still expect us to remain united.

Many among us expect our denomination to split. We've heard people say, "The differences among us are irreconcilable." We've also been told, "A split is inevitable, given the division that already exists." And yet, Jesus prayed for us. Our Lord prayed that we would remain united, in spite of our differences.

Personally, I think it will take a miracle for us to stay together as a denomination. So does Jesus. This is

why He prayed for a miracle. And all of us need to join with the Lord in praying for a miracle.

On January 12, the pastors of the Presbytery will gather at the St. Francis Retreat center in San Juan Bautista. We will meet with Speed Lees, an expert in conflict resolution from the Alban Institute. Please pray for a miracle as we begin the difficult work of seeking unity in the midst of our differences.



Miracles can also happen when the Presbytery meets on January 29 at the Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church. Please pray for our unity as we gather for work and worship.

We can look forward to our Lord's prayers for us being answered. I don't know when and I don't know how. But I do know that we belong to a God of miracles.

Your Moderator,

*David*

Rev. David B. Rodriguez

## Cents-Ability: Food for Change

Help end hunger within our Presbytery



In order to demonstrate the combined generosity and commitment to helping the hungry within our Presbytery, as Hunger Action Advocate, I recommend that in 2005 each church commits to encouraging their members to keep a bank of some kind on their kitchen/dining room

table in order to put in a few cents (3-5 per individual or family) at each meal at that table all year long.

During the year people would be encouraged to continue this penny-collecting discipline (from the pulpit, in the newsletter, at church events, in classes.) Presbytery meetings would include banks on lunch tables into which attendees can drop coins.

At the end of the year all funds would be combined and a common check sent on behalf of all Presbyterians in the Presbytery of San José to the major food banks within our boundaries: Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa

Clara, San Benito, Santa Cruz counties; and the Monterey County Food Bank, for their tireless work to feed the hungry.

I'm available to do moments for mission, children's sermons, events, and classes and to attend mission planning meetings.

This is a small gesture to be done in conjunction to other activities to help the poor. It's easy and could be fun.

To learn more about Cents-Ability and to order banks, placemats, and curriculum for worship and education ideas, visit the Presbyterian Hunger Program website at: <http://www.pcusa.org/pcusa/wmd/hunger/centsability.htm>.



**THANKS!**

Pat Plant,  
Hunger Action Advocate

# From the Interim Executive ...

## 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)



### 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

### Diane Case

Staff Accountant

### Dorothy & Don Metzger

Mission Advocates  
(408) 356-1216

### Bill Palmer

Refugee Ministry Coordinator  
(408) 395-0916

### Pat Plant

Hunger Action Advocate  
(408) 737-7370

### Lynn Viale

Evangelism Consultant  
(408) 848-2724

The **Presbytery Newsletter** is published 5 times each year:

January, March, May, September, and November, for the 44 churches located in this four-county area.

**The deadline for submission of articles for the NEXT issue of the Presbytery Newsletter is February 17, 2005.**

I am writing this as 2004 comes to an end and you will be reading it at the beginning of a new year – 2005. When I lived in Southern California I spent New Year's Eve at the Center for Spiritual Development in Orange. The Center, run by the Sisters of St. Joseph, is an oasis in the midst of a bustling city. Each New Year's Eve they host New Year's Eve Sacred Time from 4:00 to 10:00 PM. The Sacred Time includes scripture, prayer, guided meditation, journaling, and thought-provoking questions for reflection and discussion. This time is followed by a delicious dinner in their beautifully decorated candlelit dining room and the evening ends with mass in the chapel.

I loved participating in this special way of ending and beginning. The questions and reflections we were given were especially meaningful and I found myself looking at them again as we near the end of this year. I share some of them with you:

What has been your experience of life this year, the good gifts and the hard gifts?

What baggage do I want to leave behind in the new year? (fears, hurts, resentments, habits, attitudes)

What strengths, values, gifts do you want to take into the new year?

Is there someone I need to reconcile with?

What doors has God opened for you this past year?

Which door are you hesitant to open?

Which doors have been closed this year, needed closing?

To what door are you drawn in the coming year?

Where is the edge of conversion or transformation for you personally?

One of my favorite authors, Joyce Rupp, wrote this prayer for New Years. It is my prayer for you also:

### The New Year

*Faithful and loving God, in this new year I pray:*

*to live deeply, with purpose,*

*to live freely, with detachment,*

*to live wisely, with humility,*

*to live justly, with compassion,*

*to live lovingly, with fidelity,*

*to live mindfully, with awareness,*

*to live gratefully, with generosity,*

*to live fully, with enthusiasm,*

*Help me to hold this vision*

*and to daily renew it in my heart,*

*becoming ever more one with you,*

*in Jesus' name. Amen*

Happy and Blessed New Year!

Jane

Jane Odell

Interim Executive Presbyter

## Did you know?

- **San Martin Presbyterian Church** celebrated their 100 anniversary in November, 2004. Learn more about their long history by visiting their website at: [www.pcsm.us](http://www.pcsm.us).
- **John Lococo** has been the stated Clerk for the Presbytery of San José for 30 years, longer than any other Presbytery Stated Clerk in the U.S.!
- The **Monarch butterfly** is the symbol of our Presbytery. It symbolizes transformation, resurrection and the beauty and creativity of nature. Pacific Grove, on the Monterey peninsula, is a favorite stopping off spot for migrating Monarch butterflies flying from as far north as Canada and as far south as central Mexico...a mighty achievement for such a seemingly fragile insect!



## THE PRESBYTERY OF SAN JOSE

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.**