



2010

THE UPDATE



A message from Anita....

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

The Apostle Paul described the church as a body (I Cor. 12), and the church has been trying to figure out just how this body works ever since. Though there have been many expressions of the connections of Christians one to another throughout history, for example, Roman Catholics with their patriarchy, Baptists with their every church for itself and loose confederation, and on and on, Presbyterians have truly thought this system through. We value our connectional system, and our representative form of governance. Our system is designed to assure that no one person can gain inordinate power and influence. The Session governs the local church and equal numbers of clergy and lay compose the more inclusive governing bodies. Despite our connections, sometimes we forget to nurture the ties that bind us.

This year, I would like for us to strengthen those ties. Three events in 2010 will provide opportunities for us to grow together through support, community and mission. First, I plan to gather pastors and lay leaders together in our regional cluster groups to talk about our ministries and mission activities and to explore ways the presbytery may assist in these efforts. Secondly, the LEaD event and Presbytery meeting on March 13 offers an opportunity to grow and learn together, as well as meet the Presbyterian Church, USA moderator, The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow. Third, on Thursday, May 13 the clergy will gather for an overnight retreat at the Big Bear Conference Center. Teams of lay leaders will join us the Friday evening and Saturday to make plans for outreach in our neighborhoods to those who do not attend church. This event will be led by missional consultants, Alan Roxburgh and Mark Lau Branson.

Please pray for the Presbytery Council as we meet on February 9 to set goals for the mission and ministry of the Presbytery over the next three to five years. I invite you to join me in prayer for our congregations that are experiencing or anticipating transitions in pastoral leadership: Little Church of the Desert in Twentynine Palms, Palm Springs, First in Redlands, Yucaipa Valley, Grace in Temecula, Victoria in Riverside, Bethany in Rialto, First in Fontana, and First in Upland.

Yours in Service to Christ,
Anita Hendrix

Presbytery Meets in Rialto

Moderator and Host Pastor **Sam Roberts** welcomed us to Bethany Presbyterian Church. He said that his church had been preparing for some time and were excited about hosting the meeting. Worship followed, with praise music and a message by Sam, "The necessity of Real Vision" from verses in Proverbs, Mark, and Paul's conversion on the Road to Damascus in Acts. We need to have vision to share Christ with others and if we lose that vision we are no longer effective. God gives us the same vision that he gave Paul.

As part of worship, we installed Elder **Susan Skoglund** as the 2010 Moderator and Rev. **Ralph Mueller** as Vice Moderator. Susan thanked Sam for his service this past year and said she was looking forward to 2010 and what great things we can do if we have vision.

Executive Presbyter **Anita Hendrix** presented a written report of her activities and thoughts. She noted statistics that point to the shrinking membership of many of our congregations, our presbytery, PCUSA, and mainline protestant churches. It is time to get out of our comfortable pews and comfort zone. Our church is predominately Anglo, while our community population is becoming more ethnically diverse. We live in an area with a large Hispanic population but there is only one Hispanic congregation and a spattering of individuals in our presbytery. She noted that members are reluctant to share their faith with people outside the church either because they do not know how to express or are uncomfortable sharing their faith. Fortunately, our presbytery is making effort to reverse the trend.

The Congregational Nurture Team is sponsoring

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

(AT YOUR CHURCH)

Calvary PC

Lenten Soup Suppers and Vespers Services



Five Wednesdays

February 24 – March 24

6:00 – 6:40 p.m. Supper

6:50 – 7:20 p.m. Vespers

Join together on a journey through Lent as we explore the Biblical concept of forgiveness and how we might apply it to our everyday lives.

We will gather at 6 p.m. in the Christian Education Conference Room to enjoy homemade soups and fellowship. Then we'll transition into the Transcept Chapel for a special Vespers service, taught by Pastor Erin using a study by Marjorie J. Thompson, (*Soul Feast*). We will wind our way through Lent on a journey that begins with repentance as the first step towards forgiveness, both for ourselves and others in our lives. Join us for all of it or part of it, but come and be transformed.

If you want to provide a soup, please call Judy Borden, (951) 686-2612. Sponsored by Christian Education and Worship.

First PC, San Bernardino

The Mariners' will be sponsoring a Valentine's Day Brunch on Sunday, February 14 at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$12 for a family, \$5 for an adult and \$3 for a child's ticket. Please buy your tickets early so we can have an accurate count and seating for everyone. Come enjoy good friends and good food. The menu will be strata, ham and coffee cake. There will also be opportunity drawings for many great items. Remember, *all church family and friends are welcome*, so come support the Mariners, our church, and the community and have a great time in fellowship. We will have an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. on February 17th.

The first of our Lenten Quiet Nights will be Thursday, February 25th at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Quiet Nights feature a short service with readings and time for reflection. Following the service, a simple soup and bread supper is served in Fellowship Hall. Quiet Nights will continue each Thursday through Lent.

Palm Springs PC

Feb. 7th a SOUPERBOWL lunch, immediately following worship, with proceeds going to Well-in-the-Desert and Presbyterian Hunger Fund. I am making an incredible Butternut Squash Soup for this along with others making up to 6 - 8 soups. No cost; just donations for the hungry.

Feb. 20th - Women's Retreat featuring the Rev. Pat Stout being held at Palm Springs Church at 815 S. Camino Real @ S.Riverside, Palm Springs With a musical theme. **All women welcome** - just call the church office at 760-320-2769 to make reservations.

Resource Center News January 2010

Christian Education:

When I return from APCE, I hope to have lots of new ideas for you. The Spring CE order has arrived in the Resource Center and is available for you to borrow and study. We have received:

- ◆ Wee Believe – Toddler and Pre-school Age
- ◆ We Believe – Younger and Older Elementary Age
- ◆ FAQ – Middle School Age
- ◆ The Present Word – Adult
- ◆ Piece Work/Peace Work - children
- ◆ Faith Questions – High School Age (9 volumes so far) - God, God's Creation, Church, The Bible, Jesus Christ, Being Presbyterian, Heaven and Hell, Holy Spirit, Forgiveness

Internet Resources:

I am taking this opportunity to, once again, promote all the new wonderful downloadable resources available on the Internet. Both sites provide leader guides and handouts for attendees.

Officer Training and Leadership Development materials are available from The Presbyterian Leader website.

The Resource Center has purchased some and you are welcome to borrow these, but for legal reasons, I am unable to post them on our website:

- ◆ "Are You Called to Church Leadership?"
- ◆ "Our Reformed Traditions"
- ◆ "Serving as Deacon"
- ◆ "Serving as Elder"
- ◆ "Serving as Clerk of Session"
- ◆ "Mission-Driven Budgeting"

Other titles are available at an extremely reasonable price for you to purchase.

Lenten worship and devotional materials are available from the Thoughtful Christian website.

The Resource Center has purchased a six-week study, "Gospel Portraits of Jesus: A Lenten Study". Other Lenten titles are available for purchase on the website. Other topics are also available on this website. Once again - reasonably priced.

New Worship Materials:

The Resource Center has purchased three different books by Ruth Burgess, published by Wild Goose Publications, The Iona Community. We hope to purchase the rest of the set as well.

- ◆ *Candles and Conifers: Resources for All Saints' and Advent*
- ◆ *Eggs and ashes: Practical & Liturgical resources for Lent and Holy Week*

**From the Desk of Mario
Office Manager
Presbytery of Riverside**



It's that time of year where we at the presbytery office collect a whole bunch of information from each of the churches. These forms are called "The Year End Annual Statistical" forms. Many of you dread these forms, especially if you're a clerk of session reading this, but they are SO important. Many items of information are created from these forms. The directory, pastors salary report, mission pledges, commissioner forms, and the infamous online statistical report are all important documents that help us keep track of the Presbytery as a whole. The per capita payment, which keeps our Presbyterian middle governing bodies functioning, is based on membership numbers from the previous year. It's very important that these membership numbers are updated yearly especially if your losing members.

This year we're offering help with the forms and online statistical report here at the presbytery office. We will have laptop computers available for use to input the statistical info. The date for this help is **Monday February 8th from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm**. If you think you'd like to come on that date just give me a call and let me know about what time you'd like to be here.

Our next Presbytery meeting is on **SATURDAY March 13th** at First PC, San Bernardino. The presbytery meeting will tie in with our annual LEaD event put on by our Education and Leadership Development Team. For more info about the LEaD event go to: www.riversidepresbytery.org. On the home page is a link to the registration form and info about the event.

We're hoping that a Saturday meeting will make it easier for all the people that have trouble attending a Tuesday afternoon meeting. It's also a great opportunity to bring the youth from your church and share the way we as Presbyterians function. How we work as a body.

The LEaD event is proud to have GA Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow as the keynote speaker. He will also be spending a special time with the youth that are present.

So if there's a date you need to mark on your calendar, I would say it's **Saturday March 13th**.

Peace and Joy,
Mario

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The next Presbytery Meeting is on **Saturday March 13th** following the LEaD Event.

Saturday March 13th 2010

Our annual LEaD Event.

This year's special guest speaker is
Bruce Reyes-Chow, GA Moderator.

First PC, San Bernardino

Registration form is available on the
homepage of our website

www.riversidepresbytery.org

May 13-15 2010

Presbytery Clergy Retreat & Church Leadership Event

Big Bear Camp and Conference Center

Special guest speakers: Alan Roxburgh and Mark Lau Branson

F. Y. I.

The Presbytery is pleased to announce that 30 of our youth will be attending the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. That number tops the last two Trienniums!

The Triennium is from July 20-24th at Purdue University.

We would thank Eric Ledermann and Scott Mason for organizing this years PYT.

Happenings at the Presbyterian Church of Big Bear

The 2009 Christmas Eve service saw over one hundred in attendance! (Someone counted 118.) Big Bear is a retirement and resort community and a growing vision in the church is how to reach out to the many one time visitors that come through for recreation and skiing. Leaders spent the week prior to Christmas Eve posting flyers around town. It paid off! For the first time in years someone had to say, "Can people move forward and squeeze in so we can seat everyone?"

Christmas Eve was a traditional lessons and carols service with twist: Christ is for Everyone. The scripture readings were read in four different languages: German, Spanish, Korean and English. One lay leader from Australia read the passage in "stralian" emphasizing that Christmas is for all nations.

In addition the church has seen an uptick in the attendance. Several young families, couples and individuals have been attending. Again the challenge is to how to find ways to welcome and integrate them into the church. We even had 17 show up for Sunday service when we were buried under 5 feet of snow! These are good, promising and exciting times in Big Bear.

**The Presbytery office will be Closed
on February 15th
in Observance of**



an Hispanic initiative to pursue how we might bring in more Hispanic families. The upcoming LEaD event will focus on evangelism as will the pastor retreat at the Big Bear conference center.

Elder **Carol Stanley** from the Education and Leadership Team brought information on the **LEaD** event coming on **March 13th**. General Assembly Moderator Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow will be the Keynote Speaker.

Rev. **Rick Harrison** reminded us of summer camp at Big Bear and also a March Madness event. Scholarships are available.

Rev. **Doug Gerrard** brought the Vision Statement for the presbytery and we approved it: *Connected congregations in deep discipleship with Jesus Christ who are faithful and active witnesses to God's love, justice, and peace.*

Committee on Ministry Chairperson Elder **Jan McMurtry** introduced Candidate **Lee Ireland**. After examining Lee we approved him for ordination and for the position of Stated Supply Pastor of Cathedral City Community Presbyterian Church. He will be a great addition to our presbytery.

Elder **Joan Carpenter** from the Polity and Records Committee reminded that several congregations are behind in their reporting. It is important for church history to keep proper records on file with the presbytery.

Presbytery Treasurer **Louis Kimes** brought an encouraging Year-End Financial Report. The meeting concluded with a delicious spaghetti dinner prepared and served by members of the Bethany congregation.

Reporter

Jim Shepard

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

(AT YOUR CHURCH)

Palm Desert Community PC *Weekend in the Word with Dr. Dale Bruner, Feb. 19-20*

Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church will host Dr. Dale Bruner, a renowned biblical scholar and one of the finest Bible teachers anywhere. He has authored several books including a commentary on the book of Matthew and is completing a commentary on the book of John. His themes for the Weekend will be from the book of John:

Friday, February 19: Dinner in Miller Hall at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Bruner will speak at 7:00 on "Jesus' Grace" - The Samaritan Woman (John 4)

Saturday, February 20: Morning Bible Study & Coffee in Miller Hall, 8:30-10:30 a.m. "Jesus' Truth" - The Blind Man (John 9)

This is a not-to-be missed opportunity to learn from one of the best. There is no cost for Saturday morning, but pre-registration is requested for planning purposes.

You may register for Weekend in the Word by calling Jerie or Jackie at 760.346.8195 x. 0 and verbally indicating your presence on Friday and/or Saturday.

You may also call Pastor Denn Denning for more information at the church office, 760-346-8195 x. 15.

PDCPC is located at 47321 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260. Website is www.pdpresby.org

Hablan Ustedes Espanol?

Quieren Ustedes hablar con sus amigos de Mexico, America Centro y Sur America?

Do you not have a clue what this is about?

Almost half of all the people in our Presbytery bounds are Spanish speakers or of Hispanic background – some from Mexico, some from Central America, some from South America, and some born right here in the USA. Most have no church home or relationship with the Lord. **WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOUR CHURCH CAN BE INVOLVED IN OUR PRESBYTERY'S HISPANIC INITIATIVE (CNT and the Hispanic Task Force)**



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