



# Synod Report



*Highlights of Recent Events in the Synod of the Southwest*

## Implementation of shared staff in New Mexico is delayed

Although it was expected that the shared staff concept that has been in the planning stage for over two years would be implemented by the beginning of 2010, Presbyteries of Santa Fe and Sierra Blanca in New Mexico will continue as they are for a bit longer.

A search committee with representatives from the two presbyteries has been at work for 10 months but has not discovered a candidate to bring before the two presbyteries.

The Rev. Stephen Deutsch, pastor of Dexter First and chair of the committee, reports, "we were in agreement from the beginning that we would choose a nominee by consensus and we did not reach that as our initial search has run its course.

"This was a decision of the whole and after prayerful consideration we feel that it is the right one. We interviewed some outstanding individuals but the position is a unique one and it seems important that we not just settle for a good person. We have always wanted the right person."

Under the terms of the three-year covenant between the two presbyteries, there is to be a Regional Presbyter/Stated Clerk, an associate stated clerk/office manager, and an administrative assistant.

Each presbytery is to house at least one of the eventual shared staff team.

As with the other two presbyteries in the Synod, dramatic changes in how ministry in the Southwest is to be administered and conducted are being made. It is all necessary because of the ending of Mission Partnership Funds from the denomination in 2013.

Each presbytery has been highly dependent upon these funds for support in providing staff as well as doing ministry. These funds amounted to some \$659,000 in 2009.

The four presbyteries of the Synod of the Southwest are joining some 150 presbyteries across the nation in the second World Mission Challenge this fall.

Underscoring the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s commitment to mission in partnership, some 40 mission personnel from around the globe will be calling on congregations across the United States.

Mission personnel will tell how God is at work around the world. Several mission workers will be accompanied by international partners, a pilot project being done in cooperation with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

Visiting some 13 churches throughout the Synod during the three-week Mission Challenge will be Carol Fujii. She and her husband have served in Thailand at the Bangkok Institute of Theology since 1998.

Working in partnership with the Church of Christ in Thailand, Carol serves on the faculty of the Institute, teaching English to the entering class. She also volunteers with The Well, an outreach ministry to women in prostitution, as well as helping in her eight-year-old's international school.

Carol holds a BA in art education from the University of Maryland. It was



**Carol Fujii and her family. Carol is speaking in 13 churches across the Synod.**

## Mission Challenge Comes to Synod of the Southwest



**Recent graduates and faculty of Bangkok Institute of Theology where Carol Fujii and her husband, Leith, serve.**

while she was there that she participated in the ministry of Navigators and was an international trainee in Japan with that group from 1979 to 1981.

She and her husband have three children.

This year's challenge is building on the success of a similar effort two years ago that sent mission personnel into 144 presbyteries.

"The large number of presbyteries (87 percent of the church's 173) that are

participating indicates that Presbyterians' enthusiasm about international mission is widespread," said the Rev. Ellen Dozier, chair of the committee coordinating the effort this year for the denomination.

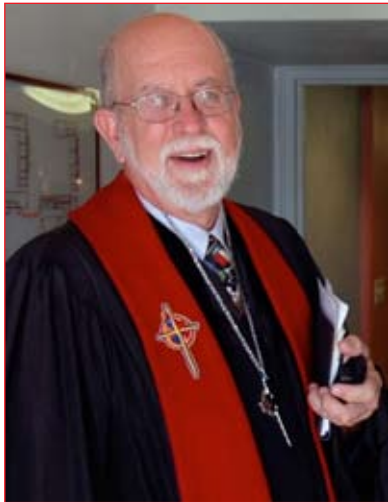
Among the churches being visited are Hobbs, Carlsbad, Las Cruces First, Sun City, Tucson St. Andrew, Phoenix Palo Cristi, Gilbert, Farmington First, and Las Vegas, NM.

*This year's challenge is building on the success of a similar effort two years ago*

# David Wasserman becoming the interim exec for Grand Canyon

# Event on Border and Immigration Issues coming in April

*He and his wife, Marney, have been co-pastors of Trinity Church in Tucson and co-organizing pastors of Glendale Heritage Church*



**The Rev. Dr. Dave Wasserman**

The Rev. Dave Wasserman, currently co-pastor of Trinity Church in Tucson, has been named interim executive presbyter for Grant Canyon Presbytery.

Presbytery Council of Grand Canyon made the decision at its September meeting on recommendation of its Interim Executive Presbyter Search Committee that has been at work since March.

He is to begin on October 15. The contract is for two years.

He and his wife, Marney are no strangers to the area, having served as co-organizing pastors of Heritage Presbyterian Church in Glendale some 30 years ago.

Before becoming co-pastor of Trinity two-and-one-half years ago, he was in executive service for 20 years, serving the presbyteries of Lake Michigan, Eastern Oklahoma, and Grace.

He grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is a graduate of Davidson College. He earned both his M.Div. and D. Min. degrees from Pittsburgh Seminary.

Marney and he have co-pastored churches in Iowa and Wisconsin, in addition to Glendale.

Dave says, "This is executive service, a ministry that I've done and feel is the best match for my gifts. My 20 years in three presbyteries have shown me that I can do detail work but also grasp the 'big picture.'

"I respect our church's governance and love the church's connectedness

and want to work to make both meaningful for our time. I've learned how to lead a staff team, and building learning communities in committees, councils, and work groups. Administrative service energizes me.

"This is an interim position, something I've not done before. I think interim work can be a very helpful experience to organizations....I'd like to help one presbytery take good, effective next steps in its journey at the same time it prepares for a new servant-leader."

Dave's and Marney's son Nick is a Doctoral student at Columbia in New York City. Their son Matt is the owner of a small landscape business in Denver. In June their daughter Kate graduated from the University of Kansas in music therapy and is on an internship in Houston.

Dave loves sailing and once sailed his 31-foot boat across the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, Dave enjoys reading, hiking, digital photography and playing bass in a jazz trio.

Serving on the search committee were the Rev. Karen Muenich (Heritage church), moderator, and the Rev. Bud Engstrom (Mt. View), Elder Paul Harding (Mesa First), the Rev. Michael Hartwell (Crosswinds), Elder Rocky Mackey (Gilbert), Elder Andy Molina (Guadalupe), and Elder Gloria Suchta (Gila Crossing).



**Dave playing bass in a jazz trio**

Now is the time to be making plans for the bi-national "Crossing Borders – Encountering God" border and immigration event, April 15-17, 2010 in Phoenix.

Featured speakers include the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, Moderator, 218th General Assembly; the Rev. Minerva Carcaño, Bishop, Desert Southwest Conference, United Methodist Church; Rev. Saul Feria, Moderator, National Presbyterian Church in Mexico.

Partnering sponsors are the Synod of the Southwest, Synod of the Sun, General Assembly Mission Council Office for Multicultural Ministries, Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana de Mexico, and Frontera de Cristo.

A pre-event option, April 12-15, with Frontera de Cristo will visit Douglas, Arizona, and Agua Prieta, Mexico. Participants will learn about the border first-hand with Mission Co-worker Mark Adams.

There will also be an opportunity to meet day laborers in Phoenix and to hear their stories.

Among the many workshops being offered on April 16 are:

- Engaging Communities of Faith in Border and Immigration Issues;
- Ministry with Immigrant Hispanic Congregations;
- Ministry with Immigrant Middle Eastern Congregations;
- Just Coffee – Just Trade and the Coffee Bean;
- Living Witness in Phoenix: Under the Eye of Joe Arpaio;
- The Mexican Church Responds to Immigration Issues;
- Addressing Health Care and Education Issues in Immigrant Communities;
- Immigrant Detention Centers and the Church's Witness;

Registration is through [www.synodsw.org](http://www.synodsw.org).

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Ray Kersting, editor, design

*He begins new work October 15*

# *Study and reflection in the shadow of Cerro Pedernal*

Kaleidoscope  
five held at  
Ghost Ranch  
Abiquiu



In the shadow of majestic and changeless Cerro Pedernal, 30 some pastors from throughout the Synod of the Southwest gathered at Ghost Ranch Abiquiu in August to seek the timeless truth and relevance of scripture lectionary readings from Advent to Pentecost.

“Before the Cradle and Beyond the Cross” was the fifth Kaleidoscope seminar on Biblical preaching sponsored by the Synod through a special grant from the General Assembly Mission Council. Leaders were the Rev. Sam Hamilton-Poore and the Rev. Dr. Herman C. Waetjen,

both of San Francisco Theological Seminary.

The workshop served to integrate sermon planning with spiritual formation and included both a scholarly and prayerful approach to the gospel lectionary texts from Advent 2009 to Pentecost 2010.

While there was plenty of exegesis, looking objectively at the text and analyzing it using all the interpretive tools, a persistent emphasis was to enter into the text subjectively and to find oneself within the text.



# NESTING IN LAS CRUCES

This nesting that is going on in Las Cruces, NM, is definitely not for the birds – it's for a new church development and an existing church to thrive together.

*For a racial ethnic new church development to be housed within an existing Anglo church, is typically difficult*

Having a new church development “nest” in an existing church, using its facilities, is quite common. What makes this somewhat unique is that the new church development is racial ethnic and the existing church is an old traditional church.

In Las Cruces, the two congregations are working and thriving together.

First Presbyterian is led by the Rev. Norm Story. Housed within the church is Iglesia del Pueblo (the Church of the People), led by the Rev. Wayne Hawkins.

“For a racial ethnic new church development to be housed within an existing Anglo church, is typically difficult. It often doesn't work,” said Hawkins. “But in Las Cruces, they've been very generous in opening their facilities and involving the Hispanic congregation with their programs.”

*The congregations have done some bilingual worship services together*

The arrangement started when the Presbytery of Sierra Blanca decided to try to develop a Hispanic congregation in Las Cruces, a city that is about evenly split between Anglo and Hispanic residents. The new group would be for both old residents and new immigrants. FPC was chosen because it's a large church with a theater that can be used for the Hispanic worship service.

Story admitted he had some concerns at first. Immigration is a highly charged political issue right now, and he was aware that some of his members have very conservative views. He wasn't sure how accepting they'd be of sharing their facilities with a Hispanic congregation.

His fears turned out to be unfounded, and both he and Hawkins

day nights followed by a dinner that is open to everyone. We also do our Sunday school classes together as well as our VBS,” said Story. “The kids have brought in the adults from the community and have helped bridge the cultural gap. People have realized they are not so different. They all love their children.”

Hawkins agreed, adding that the Wednesday night dinners attended by



both the youth and the adults give people a casual chance to just be together and share a sense of belonging.

The sharing has grown beyond children and youth and dinners too. The congregations have done some bilingual worship services together, primarily on holidays or for baptisms.

Recently, 14 babies, children and a teenager were joined by the parents, God-parents and the congregation to worship and celebrate the sacrament of baptism. Several members of FPC were present and joined in the nearly three-hour celebration with food, music, and fellowship.

“The members of FPC have been open to responding to needs as well,” Hawkins said. “About 98% of the immigrant population is poor, and employment can be sporadic. The members of FPC have stepped up in response to needs for things like clothing or food.”

Although his goal for his group is to be organized as a new church by the end of 2010 with about 40 adult members, Hawkins said he believes that with the

group's limited resources, it's looking at 10 years - if ever - before it will be able to function independently.

Fortunately, Iglesia del Pueblo's hosts at FPC are willing to keep sharing space, and are even open to filling vacant staff positions with people that could work with both congregations.

Jeff Finch, interim executive presbyter of the Presbytery of Sierra Blanca, is very pleased with the results of the project in Las Cruces. The goal was merely to develop a Hispanic congregation along the border, but he finds what's happened between the two congregations to be fascinating.

“It's difficult being this close to the border,” Hawkins said. “I did a Hispanic new church development in Washington state years ago, and the distance from the border made for a more stable group.

“Here, there is more instability,” he said. “People are going back and forth over the border because of immigration issues or because they have a family crisis back in Mexico and simply go home. But I do have about 40 people that come every week.”

Hawkins also said that the same border that can cause such instability can also cause pastoral issues as well. Sometimes people might have a family crisis on the other side but can't go back because their immigration status is not resolved.

In those cases, Hawkins works with Pasos de Fe (Steps of Faith), a border ministry group that can help people on both sides of the border. In some cases, he can go across the border as their pastor to see to their family members, or he can communicate the need to those working in Mexico so they can minister to the family as needed.

Given the challenges posed by border ministry, it's a relief for Hawkins that the relationship between his congregation and Story's has gone so smoothly and shown such success.

“We've built relationships within the two congregations, and also within our community as a whole,” Story said. “It's been a blessing for both of our congregations and it's working very well for both of us.”

– Presbyterian News Service contributed to this story

# Honoring a Noteworthy Past



Some of the attendees at the September 19 ceremony view the granite monument in the Landmark Garden that was unveiled. Names of all the nurses who graduated from the school are engraved on the back. At the left is Richard Coffelt, stated clerk of Grand Canyon Presbytery. At right is Anne Worthington, superintendent of Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site who represented Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

## Ceremony marks Ganado School of Nursing being named Historic Landmark

Presbyterian mission and ministry among Native Americans was affirmed when Sage Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Ganado Mission, was dedicated a National Historic Landmark at a ceremony in Ganado, Arizona, on September 19.

Anne Worthington, superintendent of the Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site, representing Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar, officiated and, with the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon Richard Coffelt, unveiled a granite monument honoring the women who were students along with the school's founder, Missionary Clarence Grant Salisbury M.D.

Worthington explained that as a National Historic Landmark, the School of Nursing joins "fewer than 2,500 other sites across our land where American's rich history was made." She said that less than four percent of all the sites on the National Register of Historic Places merit National Historic Landmark status.

The significance of the Sage Memo-

rial Hospital School of Nursing is twofold, according to Conservationist Freya Burden, author of the nomination. "It represents a landmark in changing Anglo attitudes towards the capabilities of the Native American people," and it "increased acceptance on the part of Native Americans of some of the benefits of white medicine and technology."

It was the first and only accredited nurse training school for Native American women in the United States.

IN HONOR OF  
THE WOMEN  
who transformed their lives by becoming Registered Nurses, devoting themselves to the welfare of those committed to their care.  
CLARENCE GRANT SALSBURY, M.D.  
who founded the first Native American Nursing School here in 1930

The Woman's Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America who established Ganado Mission in 1901 to empower the body, mind and spirit in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior

*(Wording on the monument)*

Dedication and unveiling of the monument was preceded by a program that looked back at the achievements making the designation possible, as well

as into the future.

The Rev. Fran Park, member of the Ganado Commission for the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, and Ahmad Razaghi, CEO of Navajo Health Foundation/Sage Memorial Hospital, expressed confidence of the organizations they represent that the Ganado Mission will continue its service to the community.



**Nellie Tallman,**  
class of '46

An architect's rendering for a new hospital was printed in the program for the event.

L. A. Williams, KTNN, Window Rock, was master of ceremonies. Ganado Pastor Audrey Jefferson and Elder



**Harriette C. Curley,**  
Class of '48

Alberta Lano offered dedication prayers in English and Navajo. The benediction was offered by the Rev. Ken Moe (English), former executive presbyter, and Elder Merlin Yazzie (Navajo).

The Landmark Garden provides a tranquil place for the visitor to sit among flora found in the early Mission garden.

Three monuments are planned along with four mahogany granite benches.

Some graduates of the School of Nursing were present for the ceremony.

Grand Canyon currently holds title to the sprawling 64-acre campus of the hospital that continues to operate under the Navajo Health Foundation. The School of Nursing has been closed since 1953.

-- by Rochelle Mackey

*The Nursing school represented a landmark in changing Anglo attitudes towards the capabilities of the Native Americans*

*The Nursing School increased acceptance on the part of Native Americans of some of the benefits of white medicine and technology*

## Frontera de Cristo celebrating 25th anniversary in October

Frontera de Cristo, one of the seven Presbyterian Border Ministries of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico and the Presbyterian Church (USA), is celebrating its 25th anniversary October 17 in Agua Prieta, Mexico.

A bi-national worship is scheduled that day at the border wall in Agua



*A bi-national worship is scheduled at the border wall in Agua Prieta*

Prieta. This is to be followed by a Celebration Dinner at Lirio de los Valles Presbyterian Church.

An optional Immersion Experience is being offered from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will begin at the First Presbyterian Church of Douglas, Arizona, with conversations with Beto Ramos and Jordan Bullard.

After lunch at Douglaprieta Trabaja (permaculture and self-sufficiency project), participants will visit Cafe Justo/Just Coffee and have conversations with Agua Para La Vida Ministry at the CRREDA's new women's drug rehabilitation center.

For further information, contact Melissa@fronteradecristo.org.

During its first 25 years, Frontera de Cristo has:

- Helped start three churches: in Lirio de los Valles and Casa de Oracion in Agua Prieta and Manantial de Vida in Hermosillo;
- Provided preventative health and dental services to thousands of men, women, and children;
- Partnered with coffee farming communities in Chiapas, Veracruz,

## Memorial: growing up – again

*Church has become Multicultural as it goes through change*

At the beginning of this century, Memorial Presbyterian Church (MPC) in Phoenix began a transformation process that is still going on.

The church was founded in 1953 as a suburban congregation but due to the growth of the metropolitan area, it is now considered urban.

After taking training and a series of seminars dealing with congregational redevelopment, it was determined that local demographics encouraged a different path and the initial steps were begun.

After reaching out to the surrounding Hispanic community and a struggling fellowship, MPC is now

and Nayarit to address root causes of immigration by creating the Café Justo network of cooperatives.

In its first six years, Café Justo has sold over 245,000 pounds of roasted coffee, providing stability for 120 farming families, creating 10 jobs, and generating over \$1.5 million in

income.

Facilitated the building of relationships and understanding of over 4,000 persons from the US and Mexico through its

mission immersion ministry;

Worked with partners to establish the Migrant Resource Center which has served 42,925 men, women and children since it was founded in 2006;

Developed the Agua Para La Vida ministry with the CRREDA (drug rehabilitation center) to provide over 100,000 gallons of life-saving water in the deserts east and west of Agua Prieta;

multicultural with just under one-third of its membership of different ethnicities from the majority.

At the present time, there are two simultaneous worship services, joint education classes for the children and fellowship time. Once a month, there is a bi-lingual communion service. For other meetings, translation equipment has been purchased with the assistance of the PCUSA.

One of the transformation lessons involves the Life Cycle of a church. At the beginning, it was determined that Memorial was in the empty nest category where relationships and management were controlling factors. In order not to continue the aging process that ultimately would end in death, it was necessary for the church to become a “teen-ager” again where vision, relationships and programming were equally important.

The result of new visioning led to MPC's becoming multicultural. In order for the management aspect of the church to become less controlling, it was necessary to find additional sources of funding after a former school that leased part of the church's space left with very short notice.

With the support of the presbytery, an answer has been found. A one-year lease with another one-year option has been entered into with a non-denominational church from a neighboring community.

The challenging factor is that it means that MPC has moved out of its sanctuary building and back into its fellowship hall for worship. This is a move that previously has taken place during many summer months due to the high cost of cooling.

The ironic part of this is that this is where the church originally approached its teen years. Being relieved of the expense of an aging sanctuary with a broken air conditioner will allow Memorial members to concentrate on growing up again in its new vision and direction.

As with many teen-agers, MPC is now on Facebook and getting started on [www.memorialchurch.ning.com](http://www.memorialchurch.ning.com).

—by Mary Lynn Walters  
elder in Memorial Church



Noches Navideñas Christmas celebration

*An optional Immersion Experience is being offered*