

# Praxis

\*(prak'sis) *n.*, 1. Practical application or exercise of a body of knowledge.

September 2007

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## New Life Abounds!



**Amy, Karen, Abby and Allen Schoonover**

An epic adoption journey took the Schoonover family to China and back following a three year process which has brought little Amy into their family.

“This was God’s leading all the way,” Karen said. After much prayer and then the decision to proceed, a wait of three years began.

Now, the family of four is settling into their new life together in Fresno. And, of course, Amy is part of a larger family, too. Her Daddy is Associate pastor at Hope Lutheran in Fresno and the congregation has been very supportive with prayer and emotional support, plus a shower!

For a first hand account and lots of pictures, read Karen’s journal entries about the adoption journey at [www.journeytome.com](http://www.journeytome.com) Enter user name of Amy and password Grace.

What a story of faith and hope and the leading of the Holy Spirit!



**Pr Bud Egdahl**

Read Bits from Bud in the weekly Byte of Synod. Not a subscriber? Send a note to [info@spselca.org](mailto:info@spselca.org)

## THE POWER OF A GREAT AFFECTION

### **Pr Lauren Egdahl, Stewardship Specialist**

No matter how much encouraging, persuading, cajoling they did, Bob's parents could not get the teenager high schooler to take some interest in personal hygiene.

His hair was long and uncombed most of the time. His nails had enough dirt to grow a garden. His clothes were enough of a mess that they matched the rest of him. They looked like they had been pressed by a waffle iron. And his room! Well!

Begging, pleading, bribing, threatening – none of it made one bit of difference. The parents were worn-out over it.

Then Barbara moved to town, and into his thoughts and desires.

The shower became busy, the hair was washed and trimmed, and the comb was a constant companion. The nails were clean; the clothes were kept neatly clean and pressed.

The power of a great affection had transformed his being and way of life.

Ever feel like those parents when it comes to moving the folks in your congregation beyond reluctance of giving, to the joy of generous financial stewardship?

Our talk about the budget shortfall probably needs to be said. A report on income and expenses is good accountability. The needs of the congregation are important to share.

But all of that is similar to those parents of Bob – and probably as effective in helping someone into a joyous response of generosity for God's great love and generosity to that one.

Tell THE story – God's love and grace and generosity – the gifts of Jesus in one's life – the power of the Holy Spirit to equip us to live as faithful disciples – caretakers of all those gifts, and in love with the One who first loved us.

The power of a great affection! God's for us – us for God. Then all the budget talk will serve as a way of saying, "Now look at what you have done." Noticing the change – not making the change.

Because I've recently mailed a significant letter to the synod, this column will be brief.

The announcement of my retirement at the end of my term of office means that the Sierra Pacific Synod may now engage in earnest the process leading toward the development of a comprehensive Synod Profile and the election of a new bishop.

However, during this time of transition there will be the need to maintain our focus on our evangelical work—Building Healthy Multiplying Congregations. And of utmost importance during this extended time of transition will be a greater commitment to prayer.

The kindness of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the “common-union” and guidance of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

David G Mullen, Bishop



# Discipling Team

## Word and Sacrament Discipling Team

### Word & Sacrament Discipling Team

#### *Chair*

**Ms Ann Watkins**  
Our Savior's  
Lafayette

#### *District A*

**Pr Karen Woida**  
Alma Via  
San Rafael

#### *District B*

**Mr Carlton Holte**

Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Davis

#### *District C*

**Susan Peterson,**  
Resurrection, Dublin

#### *District D*

**Pr Debra Slifer**  
Interim Ministry

#### *District E*

**Vacant**

#### *Conference Dean*

**Pr David Peters**

#### *At Large*

**Pr Clark Brown**  
St Timothy's, Monterey

#### *At Large*

**Diane McGeogh**

The first Lay Leadership Forum sponsored by the Word & Sacrament Discipling Team was held at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Lafayette. Including speakers and staff, total attendance was 117. This was third training for lay leaders in congregations, with two previous earlier events organized by Synod Vice President Larry Moeller.

Participants included Pr Mark Price of St Paul's in Lodi, who led devotions and Jerry Strom, our keynote speaker. Five workshops, each repeated twice were offered so that participants could choose up to three different workshops to attend. Presenters included Pr Dale Sollom-Brotherton, "Dealing with Conflict in a Positive Manner," Chuck Ruthroff, "Unpacking Building Healthy, Multiplying, Congregations," Pr Ron Hovick, "Nurturing Passionate Discipleship," Pr Karen Woida & Diane McGeoch, "Christian Education: Matters of the Heart," and Pat Cash, "Unwrapping and Sharing Personal Gifts."

This event will be continue to be sponsored annually by the Word & Sacrament Discipling Team. .

Two additional activities are planned by the team for the near future. A day-long faith formation workshop, "The Heart of the Matter," will be held November 3, 2007 from 9:30a.m. - 2:00 p.m., at Zion Lutheran Church in Stockton. Participants will share program ideas with others, receive a free 2-year resource guide for planning faith-forming classes and activities, connect to the Synod Christian Education Network, and take home an Advent idea to use in their own setting. The cost is \$15 per person and registration can be made on-line at [www.spselca.org](http://www.spselca.org). The deadline for registration is October 26<sup>th</sup>.

The second activity will be "Leading the Song of God's People," a three day event with Marty Haugen, Mary Preus, and Tom Witt. This event will be held from Thursday to Saturday, January 17-19, 2008 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livermore. More information on the event can be found on the team web-site: [www.wordandsacrament.org](http://www.wordandsacrament.org).



Pr Mark Price at opening devotions



Attentive listeners gather



Resource Center Director Dee Wright shows Materials to participant.

## Three Happy Clergy



The clergy trio above: Laura Ziehl, Daren Erisman and Newt Kerney, are sharing a shovel at the groundbreaking for a new Welcome Center at Cross and Crown Lutheran in Rohnert Park. This will be an addition to the front of the sanctuary and will be used as the main gathering place for worship and after worship activities. Inside will be a Grace Café for refreshments and small group gatherings. Also present for the groundbreaking were the founding parents of Cross and Crown, Rev Leon Holm and his wife Evelyn –who shared that at the first groundbreaking in 1968, they were the only ones present!



## New Church Start

Central Valley Lutheran Ministry is a new church start in Madera County. Located in an area planned for development, the outreach has been underway since January 2006. Sponsored by the ELCA, the Synod and the Central Valley Coalition, Pastor Bob Crabb serves as the Mission Developer. The first "formal" worship service was July 29<sup>th</sup> with 39 folks in attendance. Since then, so many more have been added that a move to a larger place was necessary! Current ministry activities include: Rolling Hills Bible Study Group, 1<sup>st</sup> Responders Bible Study Group, Youth Group Ministry and Saturday Table Grace Coffee Shop. We are grateful to the Holy Spirit and to everyone who has prayed and supported this newly formed community gathered around Christ. Come Lord Jesus!



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# Around the Synod

## We Pray

for Pr Bill Feeser (St James, Redding) at he death of his mother

in thanksgiving for the birth of a grandchild, Madeline Mae, to Pr Jim and Karen Goldsmith (Christ, Fortuna)

ongoing prayers for retired Pr Bonnie Bell and retired Pr Don Wolkenhauer and for Melinda Carlson and family (Gloria Dei, Sacramento)as they pray for James, her father.

in thanksgiving for the life and witness of Pr Wayne Saffen (retired), who died in August and for retired Associate in Ministry, Norma Hopfer, who also died in August.

## Roster Changes

Virginia Bishop, to Mariposa Lutheran in Mariposa

Brian Stoffregen, to Grand Canyon Synod

Walter Little, to Bethlehem, Oakland

## Congregations in Transition

**K**ey: (1) Forming Call Committee, (2) Developing Profile, (3) Interviewing, (4) Calling

Congregation	Interim Pastor
Auberry, Sierra (1)	
Auburn, Bethlehem (4)	Dan Hodgson
Citrus Heights, Advent (Associate)(2)	
Davis, Belfry Campus Ministry (3)	
Elko, Faith (2)	Beverly Jensen
Fairfax, Christ (1)	Terry Hamilton-Poore
Fort Bragg, Trinity (2)	Chris Warner-Carey
Fresno, Immanuel(Associate) (3)	
Granite Bay, Resurrection(1)	John Ridenour
Kerman, Bethany (1)	
Lafayette, Our Savior (Associate)(2)	
Lodi, Emanuel (1)	Stan Niemi
Mariposa, Mariposa(4)	Kirk Shipley
Marysville, Faith (1)	
Merced, Shepherd of the Valley (2)	Carl Bengston
Modesto, Emanuel(3)	Roger Lee
Oakland, Bethlehem (4)	Larry Quanbeck
Palo Alto, First (2)	David Rohrer
Palo Alto, University (4)	
Petaluma, Elim (Outreach& Discipleship)(3)	
Quincy, Our Savior (2)	Ruth Hanusa
Redding, St James (1)	
Reno, Holy Cross	
Rio Linda, Calvary(3)	Bruce Johnson
Sacramento, Good Shepherd (Sr)	Russ Creydt
Sacramento, Our Redeemer	
San Leandro, St James (2)	Ruth Leshner
Santa Clara, Our Savior (3)	Andreas Piehlhoop
Saratoga, Immanuel (2)	
Stockton, Zion (3)	Cindy Beck
Woodland (Associate) (2)	

# Synod Calendar

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## September

- 3 Labor Day holiday
- 4 Discipling Team Chairs/Bishop' s staff
- 5 Leadership Discipling Team
- 8 Word & Sacrament Discipling Team
- 11-12 Region II Consultation
- 15 Synod Assessment Day
- 19 Founders' Day, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
- 18-19 Synod Youth Planning
- 18-21 Interim Pastors Training
- 22 Racial/Ethnic gathering, San Jose
- 28-29 Synod Council

## October

- 4-9 Conference of Bishops
- 12-14 High School Youth Gathering
- 13 Synod Profile Regional Event, Fresno
- 15 Deans Meeting, Rostered Women' s retreat
- 16-18 Professional Leaders Conference
- 9-11 First Call Theological Education
- 22 Assembly Planning Committee
- 26-27 Candidacy Committee
- 27 Hunger Workshop
- 27 Synod Profile Regional Event, Bay Area
- 31 Reformation Day

## November

- 3 Imitate My Heart, Christian Educator' s Event
- 7 Interim Pastors-Bay Area
- 8 Interim Pastors-Valley
- 9-10 Women of the ELCA Convention
- 10 Tri-Synod Campus Ministry Board  
Synod Profile Regional Event, Lodi
- 22 Thanksgiving Day
- 23 Office closed
- 26 Assembly Planning Committee

## December

- 18 Discipling Team Chairs and Bishop' s Staff
- 24 Christmas Eve, Office closed at noon
- 25 Nativity of Our Lord

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**Praxis is published monthly (except July) and posted at the web site**

**[www.spselca.org](http://www.spselca.org)**

**by the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA**

**Rev F Noreen Meginness, Editor**

**Rev David G Mullen, Bishop**

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