

The Newhall Press

First Presbyterian Church
24317 N. Newhall Avenue
Newhall, California 91321-2721

Return Service Requested

APRIL 2015



Sunday Worship Services

Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship 10:45 a.m.



Deadline
for the
May Newsletter:
April 19, 2015

Thank you for your articles and
input to the newsletter.

Editor: Kathy Bressler- Please text comments & corrections to 818-720-1017.

Special thanks to Ellie and Steve Fuller, who faithfully prepare newsletter for mailing.

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The Newhall Press

First Presbyterian Church of Newhall
24317 N. Newhall Avenue
Newhall, CA 91321-2721

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E-mail: churchoffice@presby-newhall.org

Web Site: <http://www.presby-newhall.org>

Pastor: Bill Barnes (x102)
Pastoral Support: Phil Aijian (x106)
Dir. Christian Educ.: Sarah Bolin (x104)
Assoc. Children's Dir: Lelia Meadows
Assoc. Youth Dir: Ian Fletcher
Office Administrator: Sandy McIntosh (x101)
Music Conductor: Connie Woodson
2nd Service Worship Leader: Sam Besse
Treasurer: Dorothy Ng (x107)
Custodian: Nelson Orellana
Groundskeeper: Steve Fuller
Nursery Care Provider: Linda Weingarten

Little Shepherd's Nursery School

(661) 254-2312

April 2015

Sun	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

April Events:

FAMILY PROMISE WEEK*

March 29–April 5

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2nd 7:00 PM

ArtSLAM (Youth)*

April 2nd (1st Thurs. through Oct.)

YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO D.R.*

April 3–11

EASTER SUNDAY*

April 5th 8:00 & 10:00 AM

SPRING YARD SALE*

April 10 & 11

COMMUNION

April 12–(Changed from April 5)

LIFE ACADEMY*

April 12–May 17 (See Schedule p. 11)

DODGER DAY*

April 18

DEACON MEET & GREET

April 19

AMOR TRIP*

April 24–27

Recurring Church Events:

BAND REHEARSAL

Thursdays 6:00 PM

BOOK BUDDIES*

2nd Thursdays 4:00 PM

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursdays 7:30 PM

COMMUNION*

1st Sundays 9, 10:45 AM

HANDCRAFTERS*

2nd & 4th Tues. 10:00 AM

LADIES' NIGHT OUT*

Last Tuesdays 6:30 PM

MEN AT WORK*

3rd Saturday 8:00 AM

MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY*

Fridays 11:00 AM

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES*

See List Page 9

RECYCLING (For Camp Scholarships)

1st Sundays

RING TONES REHEARSAL

Sundays 2:00 PM

STANDING TOGETHER

2nd Wednesdays 7:00 PM

TGIF (Children's Program)

Fridays 6:00 PM

YOUTH GROUP*

Sundays 6:00 PM

**Additional info. in newsletter*

THE NEWHALL PRESS



PASTOR COLUMN APRIL 2015

As you are reading this, we are about to celebrate Easter (and to give up our Lenten practices.) I will miss reading about your many and diverse favorite Hymns and Songs of Praise. We also will be winding up the first volume attributed to Luke, his Gospel of Jesus, the Christ. But we will move into Luke's second volume; the Acts of the Apostles, the only canonized history we have of the earliest communities of faith.

Many humorous and unfortunately somewhat true stories have also become a part of more recent church history, such as: *In our church where people have been sitting in the same pew for years, the following is apropos: The old retiring usher was giving instruction to his young, inexperienced replacement: "And remember, my boy, that we have nothing but good kind Christians in this church until you try to put someone else in their pew."* Then there was the one about the delinquent church member who suddenly began attending church faithfully on Sunday mornings. *The pastor was greatly pleased and told him: "How wonderful it makes me feel to see you at services with your wife!" "Well, Parson," said the prodigal, "it's a matter of choice. I'd rather hear your sermon than hers."*

But in spite of all the flaws we can find in our churches (and in ourselves) there is a mighty Savior and Lord who has directed many good things to happen in our world (and in our lives) because of the Church's existence. As we look into Acts, let us always be amazed at what happened to those first followers and pray for our current Church.

We have our Spring courses in Life Academy coming up that continue to engage us in our faith issues.

May the joy of our Risen Lord fill your hearts and minds with His love!

In His Grip,

Pastor Bill Barnes



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



The Church Life Committee promotes fellowship and fun activities for the church family by providing a variety of church, community, cultural and special events throughout the year.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

April 9 Helen Ravenstine
 April 21 Lois Beydler
 April 24 John Barrett

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

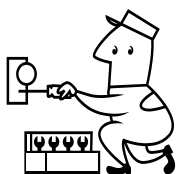
April 28, 6:30 PM

MEN AT WORK

Next meeting: Saturday, April 18, 2015

Join the men of the church on the third Saturday of each month at 8:00 am for breakfast and a time of fellowship.

Each month there will either be a guest speaker or a project at the church or in the community.



BOOK BUDDIES

Jane Rogers will host Book Buddie's discussion of "The Kitchen House" by Kathleen Grissom on Thursday, April 9th at 4 p.m.

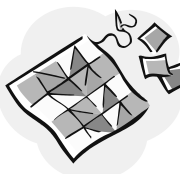
Lavinia, an orphan from Ireland, comes to a tobacco plantation where she works with slaves of the kitchen house.

Jane's home: 16710 Highfalls St. Canyon Country. RSVP 251-8955 for discussion and salad supper.



HANDCRAFTERS

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (April 14 & 28), at 10am, people gather in the Evans Room to share their skills, their interests, their accomplishments. We are the handcrafters, and everyone is welcome!



SPRING YARD SALE

Time to clean out closets, cupboards and cubby-holes for those unwanted treasures. Church Life wants them for the Spring yard sale on Friday April 10 from noon to 7 pm and Saturday April 11 from 7 am to Noon. Large items can be picked up the week of April 6th. Volunteer help needed! Questions? Call Rod or Candy Belcher 297-2445 or 645-2449.



DODGER DAY

Save April 18 for our ever-popular Dodger Day. (Dodgers vs. Colorado Rockies). Tickets for this event are \$25.00. A portion of the ticket price will go towards the parking fee for the stadium. Game time is 6:10 pm. We will leave the church parking lot at 4:30 and carpool to the game.



**Continued from Page 1
 Leadership Meetings:**

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1st Wednesdays 7:00 PM

BUILDING & GROUNDS COM.

1st Mondays 7:00 PM

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

1st Tuesdays 7:00 PM

CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE

1st Wednesdays 7:00 PM

DEACONS

1st Mondays 7:00 PM

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

1st Mondays 7:00 PM

OUTREACH COMMITTEE*

2nd Thursdays 7:00 PM

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

1st Fridays 8:00 AM

SESSION

3rd Tuesdays 7:00 PM

STEPHEN MINIISTRY

4th Wed. Leaders 5:30 PM

Ed. 6:30 PM

Groups 8:00 PM

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

2nd Tuesdays 7:00 PM

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

1st Tuesdays 7:00 PM

YOUTH COMMITTEE

1st Wednesdays 7:00 PM

Upcoming Events:

YOUTH-LED SERVICE

May 3

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S TEA*

May 9

CHILDREN-LED SERVICE & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION*

May 17

ONE COMBINED SERVICE & CHURCH BIRTHDAY PICNIC & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

May 31

NEW MEMBERS' CLASS*

June 7 & 14

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL*

June 22-26

* *Additional info. in newsletter*

Adult Education – Spring Life Academy

Registration for Spring Life Academy was held in March; however, except for a few events that require pre-registration, we welcome walk-ins.

Classes on Sundays at 4 pm:

Living Waters for the World, Art Moore and Jack Irwin will discuss their mission to install a water filter system in Guatemala. **April 12** in the Fellowship Hall

Visions of Hope in the Caribbean Islands, Shari Stump will tell of her mission with Presbyterian Women to the Caribbean Islands and our Presbyterian Women will provide refreshments. **April 19** in the Sanctuary (See P. 9)

***Pad Thai Cooking Class**, Cooking Right for Nutrition, Val Boss, professional caterer, will provide the instruction and ingredients to cook this recipe which is Gluten Free, Sugar Free and full of flavor. **May 3** in the Fellowship Hall/Kitchen (Pre-registration and \$10 fee required)

***Passages, A Museum on the Bible** In cooperation with Adult Ed, Church Life, and Outreach we are sponsoring a trip to this museum located in the old OSH store – for more information go to ExplorePassages.com. We also have reserved seating at Presidente restaurant for dinner. You will be responsible for your own dinner and drinks. **May 17 at 3:30** - (Pre-registration and museum entry fee required)

*Call Anne Watts at (661) 252-6420 if you would like to attend the classes requiring pre-registration.

Life Academy courses being offered in private homes:

Miracles: Real or Unreal This book study group on **Miracles**, a new book by Eric Metaxas, will meet at Jack and Barbara Irwin's home, please call (661) 296-4135 if you are interested in attending and for directions. **Tuesday evenings, April 14 to May 19.**

The Alpha Course We are starting this very popular Alpha Program again which begins with dinner followed by a short DVD on the basics of Christian faith and an open discussion in a friendly group setting. It will be held at John and Jung Favalessa's home, please call (661) 255-3263 if you are interested in attending. **Wednesday evenings – April 15, 22, 29 & May 13.**

Cont. from P. 10 staying dead. That is why the beating heart of Paul's theology (Romans 8, 1 Corinthians 15) is that Jesus' resurrection was the first fruits of *our own* future resurrection—physical, in glorified bodies and exalted to the Kingdom of God as deputies of this new creation. (Paul puts this hope so powerfully that, if this stuff is not true, then all of the bible collapses into a rubble of infantile fantasy—or, as Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, put it, "only a promise to the ear to be broken to the hope, a teasing illusion like a munificent bequest in a pauper's will.") But Paul convinces us with the conviction of the apostle he surely was, that it is all true.

What bothers me though, is that I don't believe (and I have frequently been wrong) we take new creation and our own bodily resurrection seriously. My Easter message last year was that, instead of answering "He has risen" with "He has risen indeed," we should proclaim, "And therefore so shall we!" I suspect that the Child of the Enlightenment in all of us rejects this as too fantastical, too illogical, too escapist, too silly. The problem with that way of thinking is that this is all expressly, unequivocally and unavoidably biblical! Brian Blount speaks for me: "What is more scandalous than basing one's entire faith superstructure on a man who died with seditious criminals on a Roman cross? How about basing one's entire faith superstructure on the belief that this man literally got up from the dead...and is planning to return, to raise everybody else from the dead?" Well, my friends, that's exactly what highly-educated, well-read, ridiculously-rationalistic, logical me believes. Why? "Because the bible tells me so."

My friends, the meaning of Easter is that Jesus launched the new creation. The Easter stories in the gospels don't say, "He has risen and therefore our souls are ticketed to heaven," but rather, "He has risen and therefore new creation has begun now and we will be resurrected (in at least a similar way) to continue in our agency as bringers, harbingers and heralds of this new creation and, therefore we all have a job to do. And that job is simple: CHANGE THE WORLD TO MAKE IT COMFORM TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD! It's Easter folks. It's the first day of new creation. Let's get started.



The Adult Education Committee at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall encourages the congregation to mature in their knowledge and practice of their Christian faith as disciples of Jesus Christ both personally and in community with other believers.



Catechism Lesson:

Questions and Answers to Instruct the Faithful: The Ten Commandments Given by God through Moses at Mt. Sinai after the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt (circa 1200 BC). These Commandments tell us how God expects us to live as a response to God's gracious saving acts toward the Jews and toward us, as well.

The Fifth Commandment "Honor your father and your mother ..."

so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16 and Ephesians 6:2 (quote).

What does this teach us?

Notably this is the only commandment with a promise. This teaches us that though I owe reverence to God alone, I owe genuine respect to my parents, both my mother and my father. God wills me to listen to them, be thankful for the benefits I receive from them, and be considerate of their needs, especially in old age. (see also Leviticus 19:32; Proverbs 1:8; Luke 2:51 which recounts how Jesus was obedient to his earthly parents; Eph. 5:21; Romans 12:10)

The Sixth Commandment "You shall not murder." (Exodus 20:13 and Deut. 5:17)

What does this teach us?

God forbids anything that harms my neighbor unfairly. Jesus' parables tell us that my neighbor is anyone and everyone. Murder or injury can be done not only by direct violence but also by an angry word (and gossip) or a clever plan, and not only by an individual but also by cliques and groups and by unjust social institutions. I should honor (view) every human being, including my enemy (this does not mean you agree with them), as a person made in God's image. (see Proverbs 24:17; Matthew 5:21-22 when Jesus says that anger and insult toward others can make you just as liable as murder; Matt. 26:52 when Jesus commands Peter to put away his sword in the Garden; Romans 12:19-20; Colossians 3:12-13 and I John 3:15)

You can use these as a reading at your dinner table or in your own private devotions. At these times you can also read the referenced verses which provide the fuller view of all of Holy Scripture on the commandments.

EASTER: WHEN CREATION'S FUTURE CAME BURSTING INTO THE PRESENT

By Roland Wrinkle

Is Easter about Lent? Yes. Is Easter about the crucifixion of the Son of God? Yes. Is Easter about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem? Yes. Is Easter about our Savior rescuing us from the death and destruction of our own sins by forgiving them—all of them? Yes. Is Easter about God's Man actually dying and then being resurrected from the dead? Yes. Easter is surely about all of this. But (and here's my point), Easter is about something *more* also—something additional, something the bible is always leading us to and pointing towards, something we don't talk about much—although the bible certainly does. And that is this: *Easter is the dawn of God's new creation.*

The Christian hope is for the "new heaven and new earth" promised in Isaiah 65:17, preached by Peter in 2 Peter 3:13, referred to by Paul as "koinos," set as the cornerstone of Christianity in 1 Corinthians 15:35-38 and vivified and glorified in Revelation 21 by John of Patmos as the culmination of history, when heaven comes down to and merges with earth, when the Creator's project—begun in Genesis 1 and 2 and grotesquely distorted in Genesis 3 when humans, formed and designed to reflect the image of God, rebelled—gets back on track. This is the Good News. This is the Gospel. And it all was launched when Jesus of Nazareth was executed, died and was then resurrected from the dead. Easter is the beginning of New Creation. We are Messiah people, that is, we are new creation people—new creation people because we are agents, appointed by God, of this new creation. That is how I took Bill's point several weeks ago that our role is not to do good in the world, but to change the world. I will be turned upside down so that the world can be turned right side up.

But none of this makes sense because, while Jesus was resurrected, we agents of the new creation keep dying and Cont. on P. 11

Images of Lent



Lenten Décor designed by Tina Pulliam

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY— 7:00 pm

- Celebration of The Last Supper

EASTER—8:00 am and 10:00 am

- Both services will have full Chancel Choir, 2nd Service Band, Ring Tones and Trumpeters.

-There will be Nursery Childcare ONLY at the 10:00 service. Pre-K and older children will remain with their parents during both services.

-Communion, normally scheduled for the First Sunday of each month will not take place on Easter Sunday, but will be postponed until the following Sunday, April 12th.

FRIDAY MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY

Our Lenten series is winding down. After Easter our weekly Bible Study will continue on Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will explore our thoughts and questions about a focused topic for each week. If you are available, we would love to have you join us; bring your Bible and a sack lunch or snack in case you get hungry. for *more* than just the Word of God!



Please remember that the church office will be closed every Friday, effective April 3.





The purpose of The Mission Committee, in order to further share the gospel of Jesus Christ, is to responsibly use the resources of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, wherever we find a neighbor in need. We are committed to meeting mission needs in our local community, across the nation, and globally, by sending money, food, clothing, volunteers, or whatever else is needed.

HELP WANTED: FAMILY PROMISE COORDINATOR
A CHANCE TO GO OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE

I've been the coordinator for Family Promise for four years. Hosting homeless families was voted on by the Mission Committee in summer of 2010, and approved by Session. As the first coordinator, I learned by trial and error.

Why did I become the coordinator? Our former pastor, Paul Rock preached about going out of your comfort zone many times during his tenure here, so he planted the seeds. Gail Nehring's enthusiasm for this new program fed the seeds. Maybe one of you is interested but not able to commit right now, so seeds will be planted for you.



What did I learn? First, I learned that the volunteers of First Pres are **awesome!** We are a small but mighty church willing to help others because we act as a family. My observation as a part of a group of churches/synagogues is that the smaller congregations are the ones with more vital volunteers! Second, it has been interesting to be part of an interfaith group representing many of the faith congregations in this valley. Most importantly, I learned not to pass judgment on families. Yes, some of them are in their situation due to poor choices. Then there is the older family whose breadwinner died and the family can't get by on the mom's part time job. There is the family whose breadwinner got sick, thus couldn't pay the rent...and the cycle starts. This valley is quite expensive for a rental so getting started again is not easy.

I've prepared a white binder with all procedures (just like the Deacons do!). I will continue to be a part of Family Promise, just not the person with the main responsibility. Consider giving it a try for one hosting week to see if it is a fit for you.

From Bill's sermon on March 1: "We avoid risk". It is "never too late to get a big dream", and "We were put on this earth to make the world different." Maybe this volunteer position is your risk, your dream, your chance to make the world different.

Sam Trammell

Flash! The Men's Amor Trip scheduled for April 24th to 27th is now open to women! If you wish to go to Mexico to help build homes, contact Art Moore or John Favalessa.



Little Shepherd's Nursery School

at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall



Little Shepherd's celebrated the colors of the rainbow in March with Color Days. We also had a visit from a mischievous little leprechaun who left behind a few gold coins! We had a special visit from author Judy Reinsma.

She read her book, *The story of the Real Easter Bunny*, to the children. They loved the story of Joshua the bunny. And, we also celebrated Easter with an Egg Hunt. We are ending the busy month of March with a week off to enjoy Easter time with our families.

Little Shepherd's is now enrolling for Fall of 2015.

Check out our website at www.littleshepherdsnewhall.com for more information.



Presbyterian Women, as forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, commit ourselves: To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the Church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

ONE HEART, ONE LOVE, ONE COMMUNITY:
VISIONS OF HOPE IN THE ISLANDS OF THE SEA

PW in cooperation with Adult Ed. will host the April 19 Life Academy Class "One Heart, One Love, One Community: Visions of Hope in the Islands of the Sea." Speaker Shari Stump (Kathy Rakness's cousin from Covenant Presbyterian Church in Westchester) will share her experience with the Presbyterian Women's Global Exchange to the Caribbean. ALL are invited to the sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. on April 19. (See complete Life Academy Schedule on Page 11.)

PW CIRCLES—ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!

Elizabeth: Stephanie Linn (259-3914) - Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the Evans Room. Babysitting is provided.

Lois: Florence Craig (255-1389) - Meets second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Evans Room.

Lydia: Cathy Johnson (263-7193) - Meets first Monday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the Evans Room.

Mary Martha: Nancy Spigelman (254-0319) & Sam Spigelman (312-7111)- Meets second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in various homes.

Rachel: Tiffany Aune (478-2056) - Meets second Tuesday of the month at 6:15 p.m. in various homes and shares a salad dinner.



The Outreach Committee is called by our Heavenly Father to extend the hospitality that we find in our fellowship to the community, to visitors, and to new members, in order to draw them into the family of Christian faith at First Presbyterian Church.

Announcing a New Members Class this June

One of the distinctive characteristics of Christian faith is that it is *shared*...in community in the company of others. In Matt 18:20 Jesus states, "for where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in the midst of them". Paul described the church as "the Body of Christ". No one person is the whole body, each is a part. We need each other's gifts to complement our own. Membership means we are all necessary parts of the whole.



The next new members' class will be June 7th and June 14th with installation and a luncheon on June 28th. The classes are informal and led by Pastor Bill. Any and all questions are encouraged. New members will be invited to the Session meeting on June 16th to see how the business of running this church is accomplished and also to meet with the Elders. There is no obligation to become a member, but if you choose to, you will be received into this family of faith.

If you are not a member yet and want to be a part of this caring church family of faith, please contact the Outreach Committee chairperson John Favalessa (661) 755-4269 ([email favalessa@yahoo.com](mailto:favalessa@yahoo.com)) or Sandy in the church office (661) 259-0555 ([email churchoffice@presby-newhall.org](mailto:churchoffice@presby-newhall.org)).

Sponsored by the Outreach Committee.

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Annual Presbyterian Women's Tea—May 9th



Presbyterian Women invite you to attend our yearly PW Tea. It will be held in Fellowship Hall on Saturday May 9, 2015. Cost is \$20 per person. Tickets will be on sale on the patio on April 19 and April 26. Space is limited (and we usually sell out fast). This year's theme is "Love yourself/Love Others". It's a wonderful event, so invite your family and friends.

A Love for Mission - in the World* - by Carole Wheeler

Carol Weir (1924-2010) devoted her life to mission in the Middle East. In 1953 Carol and her husband Ben were appointed to serve as PC(USA) missionaries in Lebanon. Initially they served in a Shiite Muslim community in south Lebanon. Later they lived in Beirut where Carol taught Christian Education courses at the Near East School of Theology. Ben was appointed PC(USA) Commission Representative in Lebanon and Syria. He made mission trips to coordinate work in Iraq, Syria, and Iran. They officially served until 1985.

On May 8, 1984, as Carol and Ben left their apartment, Ben was kidnapped by one faction in Lebanon's civil war. He was held for 16 months, 14 months of it in solitary confinement. During his entire captivity Carol and many others worked tirelessly for Ben's release. He was finally freed on September 14, 1985.

Through the entire ordeal, Carol never ceased to urge everyone to pray for all of the people in the war-torn country, including Ben's captors. Though never comfortable in the unwelcome spotlight Ben's captivity thrust upon her, Carol remained a steadfast advocate for peace, understanding, and reconciliation in the Middle East.

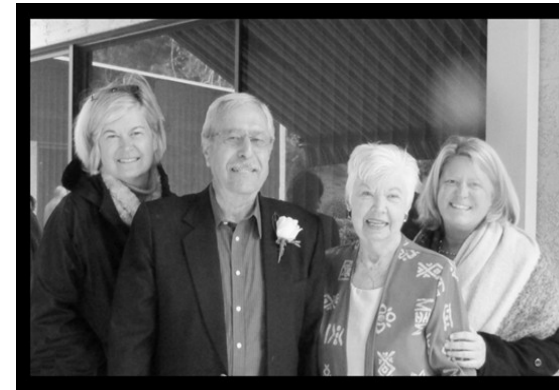
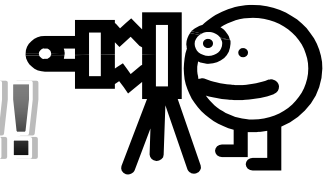


I had a chance meeting with Carol in 1985, soon after Ben's release. It was in the dining room of the Presbyterian Conference Center in Montreat, N.C., during a Peacemaking Conference. I asked if I might join a woman for breakfast and soon realized it was Carol Weir! As a result of that chance meeting I read Carol and Ben's book *Hostage Bound, Hostage Free* with great interest. I treasure Carol's words from a 1997 presentation.

"Mission includes some aspect of consciously chosen struggle. In mission we open ourselves up to the reality of the world and we pray for the grace to enter deeply into human suffering. someone has said we will not enlarge the old essence of the gospel by adding old and new dogmas. We will enlarge it by adding the world."

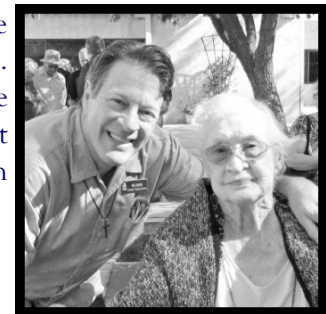
*Editor's Note: We are reprinting Carole Wheeler's PW article from the March Newsletter as it was inadvertently cut off by the computer. (Yes, I know, blame the computer!) Our apologies to Carole.

PICTURE THIS!!!



On February 22nd Dale and Gloria Boss celebrated their 50th Anniversary by sharing cake between church services. Here they are with their two daughters Vicki and Val. The Bosses were married on February 26, 1965 in Holland Michigan. Their most striking memory was that the service was delayed because the worst storm of that year hit the night before during the rehearsal dinner. Dale had already established himself in California, so their honeymoon was spent traveling here together where they soon set down roots. They are grateful that they have had a happy marriage and that three years ago they joined Newhall First Presbyterian Church.

On March 6th Erma Favalessa turned 100 years old! Two days later the spry Erma was glad to share with the first service congregation that her secret of longevity was to keep active. "No sitting around watching TV!" We all shared cake after the service as we gathered around the Birthday Girl offering best wishes. Many of us know that Erma is a dedicated knitter, but did you know that she can knit a whole afghan in four days? Congratulations on reaching this milestone, dear sister.



Erma poses on the patio with her son John.

KIDS, KIDS, KIDS

The Children's Ministry Committee at First Presbyterian Church will invite children to EMBRACE the Word of God through worship, games, songs, and other activities; ENCOURAGE their spiritual growth to become closer to our Lord, Jesus Christ; and EQUIP them to go out into the world and share God's love.

Hello folks,
Wow, can you believe that winter has come and gone and it's already Spring? We are gearing up for our Volunteer Appreciation luncheon and our children's led service for May 17th. We will have our kids sing, dance, speak- the whole kit and caboodle. This is an opportunity for our congregation to see our little ones giving back to our church community and the Lord. The service will be identical both services at 9:00 am and 10:45 am. Practice for it will be Saturday May 16th, but the time is to be determined. It's going to be a great service, one filled with fun. Please let Ms. Sarah know if you would like to be a part of it.

After our kids put on a show in church, we are asking ALL our volunteers to join us for a yummy lunch up in fellowship hall. If you have invested your time into our nursery, preschool, or elementary age program, then we want you to join us for lunch on May 17th after 2nd service. RSVP to Ms. Sarah or Mrs. Lelia if you are going to join us.

Last thing- VBS is almost here! (June 22, to be exact.) Sign-ups will start on the patio during Sundays in May. Be sure to have your family and friends sign up any pre-k (potty trained) through incoming 6th grader for Vacation Bible School. We are going to explore Mount Everest and see what new adventures the Lord brings. Stay tuned for more details and ways you can help out at our summer program!

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Lois Williams wants everyone to know she is happy to be home after two months in hospital and rehab.
"Thanks to everyone for their prayers, cards and calls."



The Worship Committee will strive with God's guidance and grace, to create Christ-centered worship experiences, inspiring God's people as they respond to the word proclaimed in prayer, song, scripture, sacrament and message.

Worship

Easter Memories by Sonja Tweedie

Easter, often referred to as Resurrection Sunday, is a festival and holiday celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, which occurred three days after his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary. It is the culmination of the Passion of Christ, preceded by Lent, a forty-day period of fasting and prayer. As you read this, we are in Holy Week which contains Maundy Thursday (the Last Supper) and Good Friday.

We call Easter a moveable feast, meaning it is not fixed in relation to the calendar. The First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD established the date of Easter as the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or just after March 21st in most years, therefore it varies from March 22nd to April 25th inclusively.

Easter customs vary across the Christian world and may include sunrise services, Easter eggs, a symbol of the empty tomb, Easter lilies, a symbol of the resurrection and beautiful sanctuary decorations, celebrating our risen Lord.

Do you have special Easter memories? All holidays bring back memories, but Easter was the one holiday I always looked forward to. Our whole family would gather very early for the sunrise service. My maternal grandparents had seven children, so when we were together we totaled twenty-four. This early service set the tone for the rest of the day. After the beautiful hour-long service, we all met at a restaurant in a special room for a hardy and yummy breakfast.

From the restaurant, we would go to our homes to freshen up, put on new Easter clothes and our flowery Easter bonnets and then head back to church for the most glorious worship service. With trumpets and organ blaring, we sang, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," "Up from the Grave He Arose," and "We Have a Risen Savior; He's in the World Today." The sermon was always uplifting and hopeful. We knew and understood that Christ was alive, that he had died for our salvation, to give us eternal life and that Jesus would be with us always.

After church, we all went to my grandparents home for a traditional meal of ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad and everyone's favorite - my grandmother's delicious beef and noodles. I can still taste them after all these years. We ate, played games, hunted for eggs, enjoyed each other's company and then ate again! We would leave with beautiful memories of a glorious day with family and our precious Lord.

I hope your memories are as delightful. Come to our Easter services at 8 or 10 A.M. and make new beautiful Easter memories with your families and friends in Christ.

LIGHTS OUT IN NEWHALL – A "God Thing???" by Kathy Bressler

We (the Chancel Choir) were 1/2- hour into our rehearsal on Thursday evening, March 19th. Tired from a long day and fighting traffic, we were individually struggling to find our enthusiasm for the music. Some of us glanced wearily at the clock. We pulled out our Easter Anthem, "Because He Lives," and Marie Gilbert struck a downbeat on the piano. **Suddenly the lights went out**, and I mean **OUT**, all of them, inside the church and outside in the neighborhood. We were sitting in darkness, stunned, silent.

As our eyes adjusted to the dim green EXIT signs over the doors, we waited for the restoration of the lights which must be coming soon. Gradually cell phones and flashlights came on among the group of singers and we could see shadowy faces.

Connie Woodson, our director, put down her score of "Because He Lives" and said, "OK, then, let's talk." For the next hour that's exactly what we did. We discussed spiritual issues and how the choir and its members can minister to the church during this time of budget concerns, and other stresses. We came to better know and appreciate one another and the dedication that each, particularly the section leaders (soloists), have to the church and the music, and we spent time praying for our church, which we all love so much. No one left!

As the prayer time was winding down and we were basking in God's presence – **the lights came back on!** One quick run-through of "Because He Lives," and we were ready to go home – a choir rehearsal and encounter with God that we will never forget.



The Youth Committee nurtures the Junior High and Senior High-aged youth as well as the college-aged young adults of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, and the community; by providing a Christ-centered program of worship, education, fellowship, and service in order to equip them with a framework in which they can realize their spiritual gifts and live a Christian life.

Come visit the Youth Group at the City of Santa Clarita's

ArtSLAM

Thursday April 2nd, 6:00 - 10:00 pm

Main Street in Newhall - Near Metro PCS Store

Local Artists, Live Music & Dance, Food Trucks, Family Fun

The Youth will lead an Interactive Art Exhibit

Come buy a bottle of water and support our trip to Polo, DR.

Let's show Santa Clarita what an awesome Church Family we have!

The Youth will participate in ArtSLAM the first Thursday

of every month through October.

Mark your calendars now:

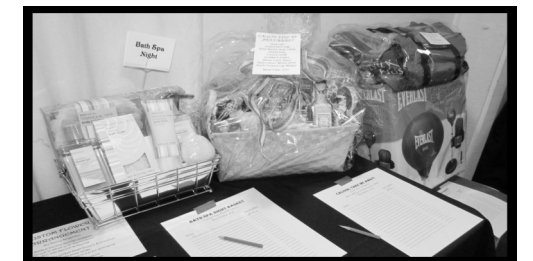
April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, Aug 6, Sept 3, Oct 1

Youth Auction Dinner "Quench": Huge Success

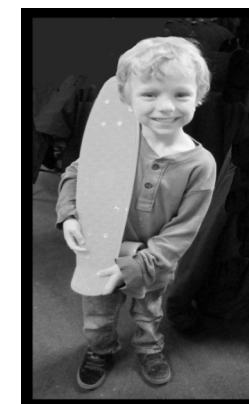
We had an amazing Mission Dinner Auction last month. We again were so blessed by the generosity of our congregation as well as our volunteers who helped put it all together! Despite the rainy night, we had a great evening of good food and wonderful auction items. Thank you so much for making our kids feel so blessed. We will be leaving April 3rd to return to the village of Polo in the Dominican Republic. We are very excited to be bringing clean drinking water systems to the families of Polo for use in their homes. Please be praying for our 15 mission trip participants as they travel and for a safe and rewarding experience of spreading Gods love. Thank you again for your commitment to our youth group ministry!



Our Missionaries



Sample of Silent Auction Items



Delighted Auction Winner



Youth Leaders Count Evening Proceeds



Hors d'oeuvres