

December 2016

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THE NEWHALL PRESS



The NEWHALL PRESS seeks to bring the gift of community and connection to the members and friends of the FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWHALL through an attractively constructed, magazine-style monthly NEWSLETTER.

PASTOR'S COLUMN DECEMBER 2016

“This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in Him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending His Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.” John 3:16-17 (MSG)

The Advent of Christmas is as rushed a season as anyone ever experiences. It is important to stop occasionally and take a deep breath, breathing out slowly. As you do so remember the “Reason for the Season.” Someone once sent me the following list to help me decompress from all the constant expectations of the season: 10 FREE GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS. (You don't even have to shop for them!)

1. The gift of LISTENING - Why not give this valuable gift to someone who lives alone? And you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your responses. Just listen.
2. The gift of SIGNS OF AFFECTIONS - Be generous with your hugs, kisses and gentle squeezes of the hand. Let these tiny actions demonstrate the love inside YOU.
3. The gift of a NOTE - It can be as simple as “I Love You” or as creative as a sonnet. Put your notes where they will surprise your loved ones.
4. The gift of LAUGHTER - Just cut out a cartoon or save a clever article. Your gift will say, “I love to laugh with you.”
5. The gift of a COMPLIMENT - A simple “You look good in blue” or “I like your hair” or “Good supper, honey” can be of greatest value to those who may feel they are being taken for granted.
6. The gift of a FAVOR - help with the dishes; clean out the basement; etc.
7. The gift of LEAVING ALONE - There are times in our lives when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Become more sensitive to those times and give solitude.
8. The gift of a CHEERFUL DISPOSITION - Try to be cheerful - especially around those you love.
9. The gift of a GAME - Offer to play your loved one's favorite game. Even if you lose, you'll be a winner.
10. The gift of PRAYER - Pray for those on your Christmas list and let them know that you pray for them. Praying for someone is a way of saying, “You are so special to me that I talk to God about you.”

December Events:

GIVING TREE	Dec. 1 to Dec. 24
CHRISTMAS CLEAN-UP	Dec. 3 8:00 A.M.
ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS	Dec. 4 & 11
ADVENT TREE TRIMMING/DINNER	Dec. 4 5:00/6:00 P.M.
BIBLE STUDY ON JOHN	Dec. 7, 14, 21 11:00 A.M.
PW CHRISTMAS BRUNCH	Dec. 10 9:00 A.M.
CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT	Dec. 11 4:00 P.M.
NEW DIRECTIONS (Support Gp for Widow[ers]s)	Dec. 14 1:30 P.M.
LITTLE SHEPHERD'S CHRISTMAS	Dec. 15 6:00 P.M.
SENIOR LUNCH	Dec. 21 11:30 A.M.
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES	Dec. 24 5, 7, & 9:00 P.M.
CHILD SHARE CHRISTMAS PARTY	Dec. 24 8:00 P.M.
CHRISTMAS MORNING—One Service	Dec. 25 10:00 A.M.

Recurring Church Events:

EVERTHIRST (Band) REHEARSAL	Thursdays 6:00 P.M.
BOOK BUDDIES	2nd Thursdays 4:00 P.M.
CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL	Thursdays 7:30 P.M.
COMMUNION	1st Sundays 9:30/11:15 A.M.
HANDCRAFTERS	2nd & 4th Tues. 10:00 A.M.
LADIES' NIGHT OUT	Last Tuesdays 6:30 P.M.
MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY	Thursdays 7:30 A.M.
MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY	Fridays 11:00 A.M.
MISSION HIGHLIGHTS	4th Sundays 9:30/11:15 A.M.
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES	See Schedule Page 10
RECYCLING (For Camp Scholarships)	1st Sunday of each quarter
RING TONES REHEARSAL	Sundays 2:00 P.M.
STANDING TOGETHER	2nd Wednesdays 7:00 P.M.
TGIF (Children's Program)	Fridays 6:00 P.M.
YOUTH GROUP	Sundays 6:00 P.M.

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Leadership Meetings:

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1st Wednesdays 7:00 P.M.

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

1st Mondays 7:00 P.M.

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

1st Mondays 7:00 P.M.

CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE

1st Wednesdays 7:00 P.M.

DEACONS

1st Mondays 7:00 P.M.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

1st Tuesdays 7:00 P.M.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

2nd Thursdays 7:00 P.M.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

1st Fridays 8:00 A.M.

SESSION

3rd Tuesdays 7:00 P.M.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

4th Wednesdays

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

2nd Tuesdays 10:00 A.M.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

1st Tuesdays 7:00 P.M.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

2nd Thursdays 7:00 P.M.

Future Events:

NEW YEARS DAY—One Service

Jan. 1 10:00 A.M.

SANTA BARBARA MISSION CONFERENCE

Jan. 27—28

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Feb. 12 After one 10:00 A.M. Service

CHILI COOK-OFF

Feb. 12 After Congregational Mtg.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER/AUCTION

NEW DIRECTIONS SUPPORT

GROUP FOR WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS-

We will meet at the home of Jim Smith, 23236 Via Calisero, Valencia, on December 14th at 1:30. 661-644-0952.

SENIOR LUNCH

December 21, join us for a Christmas-themed lunch at 11:30 A.M. All are welcome to enjoy a great meal and fellowship. \$7.00 in the patio or at the door.



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.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

Jerre Crosier Dec. 10
Jim Creighton Dec. 14



HANDCRAFTERS



Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (December 6th & 20th), at 10am, people gather in the Evans Room to share their crafting skills, their interests, and their accomplishments. We are the *Handcrafters*, and everyone is welcome!

BOOK BUDDIES

"All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr is a work of fiction interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure, who lives in Paris with her father, and Werner, a Hitler Youth orphan.



Discussion at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, December 8th, at Chi Kanagi's daughter's home, 24720 Apple St., Newhall.

RSVP to Chi for discussion and salad supper -661-259-2507; Cell 661-904-2122.

ADVENT PARTY - Sunday, December 4th

5:00 p.m.—Annual Tree Trimming & Caroling Party

Bring children and an ornament. (Optional—we already have many.)

6:00 p.m. (Right after the Tree Trimming Party)—Advent Dinner in Fellowship Hall

\$10.00 Per Person / \$20.00 Per Family /

\$15.00 Per person at the door

Possible visit from St. Nick!

Sit Down Dinner with honey—baked ham, vegetables, potatoes, salad, bread and, of course, dessert. Buy tickets between services on the patio.



Sponsored by your Children's Ministry and Church Life Committees.

VARIETY SHOW REMEMBERED—Prayerfully submitted by Patrick Stokes

On Sunday, November 13th, your Church Life Committee hosted some of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall's most talented musicians, dancers and singers. On a beautiful autumn evening, 11 acts took the stage to entertain our church family. About 55 of us gathered upstairs in Fellowship Hall at 5:00 p.m. for a Holy Spirit Potluck Dinner followed by performances from some wonderfully talented people.



The sweetest moment of the evening was watching Miss Ellarose Tidwell, Master Noah Michael, Miss Kristina Clardy and Master Reed Morrow dance to **"I Want a Hippo for Christmas."** There were big smiles everywhere and tears of joy as well.

We loved the Youth Praise Band vocalists consisting of Chris Gilbert, Violet Kwak, Camryn Montalvo and Hannah Buhle. They sang a beautiful rendition of **"Oceans"** with Owen Allen at the piano and Sharon Tomei on percussion under the direction of Sarah Bolin.

We always love hearing from Jerre Crosier and his saxophone. It was also great to have Jung Favalessa (above) bring a little class to the show with her **Korean Folk Dance**, which is always a blessing. It was sweet to welcome Noeleen Lauermann to the stage for a hilarious skit called **"A Letter from an Irish Mother to Her Son."**

Church staff performed a skit **"Our Church Staff"** by our own Susan Fletcher and our beloved Upside-Down Phil. It was reminiscently funny in the style of **"Who's on First"** by Abbott and Costello. We loved it!



We loved seeing our fearless James Allison and our dear friend Teeg (left) perform a high energy cover of Journey's **"Don't Stop Believing"** that really brought out some hidden talent from both of them.

We always like hearing what Kirby has to say as he shared some recent insights, while Roland blessed us with some great music and humor. And finally, Pastor Bill (above right) broke out his guitar and closed us out with some music from his youth pastor days. It was a terrific show!



Thank you to all who performed and all who contributed to the delicious potluck. Church Life is very grateful to all who helped with cleaning up. It would not have been such great event without each one of you!

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Join us the last Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. for good times and good eats with good friends! Eat as much or as little as you like. Glass of wine? Iced tea? It's up to you; we all get separate checks! We do not meet in December; we will start up again in January. Stop by the Church Life table on the patio to vote for your favorite restaurants to visit in 2017. Next month's Newsletter will have the list of places we chose. This group is changing and growing into a favorite activity for so many of us! Come and get to know the youngsters, the older, and the middles. Let's celebrate what it is to be a Lady every month!

PICTURE THIS!!!



NEW MORROW ADDITION

From Left: Bryce, Reed, Seeley, and Emily.
Seeley (of Old French origin meaning, "blessed"; also of English origin, meaning "very happy or silly") Knowles Morrow was born on Friday, November 11th, at 8:54 p.m. at Kaiser Permanente in Panorama City. He weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz. and measured 21" long.



First Presbyterian Church Family had a wonderful time playing flag football at Central Park early Thanksgiving Morning. It has been tradition for over a decade that keeps getting better and better each year.



Ellie Fuller welcomed her newest great-grandchild, Noah Dietz (born June 5th) when he visited along with his parents Eli and Taylor. Eli is the son of Ellie's daughter Jane.



James Allison gave a father-son relationship speech to commemorate the occasion of newly recognized Eagle Scout Conor Lauremann.



On November 20 the Adult Education Committee's Life Academy presented Cyril Gordon of Jews for Jesus. He taught us about the holiday of Hanukkah. Did you know that Jesus was present in the Temple in Jerusalem on Hanukkah? Read John 10:22 and following. It was then called the Feast of Dedication. We learned many interesting things about Hanukkah and Jewish culture.



Dorothy Ng celebrated at the Stewardship Cupcake Party on October 30th by becoming a cupcake herself!



The Worship and Music 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, glorious music, scripture, sacrament and message.



A CHRISTMAS PARTY IN A PEAR TREE

CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT Sunday, December 11th at 4:00 P.M.

Please join our talented and dedicated Chancel Choir singers for a concert of upbeat holiday music. Our pianist, Marjorie Poe, will be joined by a wonderful band of Ojai musicians providing an added sparkle to the program.



Featured will be a surprising rendition of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* as arranged by Bob Chilcott. You will be humming variations of "Five Gold Rings" for the rest of the Advent Season! John Rutter's *Gloria* (the first of three movements) will inspire feelings of joy and praise as we approach the day that we celebrate the birth of the Savior. There will be a free-will offering to support the



SAND FIRE BENEFIT CONCERT -



Jan Sanborn

On November 6th all of the music elements of the church presented a benefit concert to raise a love offering for Jan Sanborn and Loren Janes who lost their home in the Sand Fire. The concert was a huge success on many levels, the most obvious being the collection of around \$4,000 for Jan and Loren. Perhaps more important was the palpable feelings of blessing to be a part of a community of faith that loves and supports one another. The "Guest Artist" who had tweaked our curiosity as we read the publicity was, of course, Jan Sanborn herself! Her comments to the audience were filled with love and gratitude, and her piano rendition of "Over the Rainbow" touched our hearts. The musicians of the Chancel Choir, the Ring Tones, EverThirst (our Second Service Band) and pianist Marie Gilbert were all at the top of their games. Many people from the community attended, thanks to the outstanding publicity. The concert was videoed by SCVTVnews, including interviews with Jan Sanborn and Connie Woodson, our church's Music Director (and inspiration). Afterwards we enjoyed refreshments and fellowship, thankful for favorable comments shared by the community members who attended.

Ring Tones Handbell Choir Seeking Substitutes

A substitute list is being compiled of those wishing to substitute for ringers who are absent for a few weeks to a month. We'll teach you how to ring bells. Reading music and attending practices are musts. Please contact Lorraine King, 661-251-0535, if you are interested.





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.

Peace Pole Presentation: The Mission Committee, the representatives of the Interfaith Council, and members of Standing Together all shared a precious moment in celebrating our relationship with a gift of peace. Through your heartfelt donations, First Presbyterian Church was able to obtain two peace poles to symbolize our relationship with our local Muslim brothers and sisters. Each pole has eight languages written on it that state, "May Peace Prevail on Earth": English, Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Spanish, Russian, French, and German. One pole was cemented in the ground (picture below) located in our garden, and the other was given to our Muslim brothers and sisters during our service Sunday, November 20th. It is our mission to seek out light in the midst of darkness. We are called to be agents of hope, and I (James) am proud of our church members who are all agents of hope. It is a blessing to be among this community of faith.



Members of Standing Together (Kay Harris, James Allison, Macy Zayyad, Jeff Wheeler, Carole Wheeler and Judy Reinsma) celebrate the presentation of the PEACE POLE.

Christmas for Foster Children: The Mission Committee is excited to be a part of something precious in the lives of children who are currently looking for a forever home. Bob Levy, Family Recruitment Director for Child Share, gave us the idea and your session approved us to host a **Christmas for foster children on December 24th, 2016, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**. This will be a time to give children in the foster care system an opportunity to have Christmas at our church. Your gifts from the Giving Tree will go towards this precious event. We are looking for volunteers to help serve hot coca, cookies, and food donations for the event. If you would like to volunteer, contact James Allison at jwallison13@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing many hearts and hands at this event.

Alternative Christmas: Our Alternative Christmas is on December 4th and 11th, and it is a great time to give to the many organizations with whom we share a relationship. We will have the opportunity to get to know and donate to 16 organizations including items to purchase from African Team Ministries, and hopefully a few special guests. Here is a list of the organizations we support: African Team Ministries, PREP Ministries, Glad Tidings, Pastor Ramazon Arkan and the Antalya (Turkey) Evangelical Church, Bread for the World, Living Waters for the World, Samuel Dixon Health Center, SCV Senior Center, Help the Children, Santa Clarita Shelter, Child Share, Family Promise, Little Shepherd's Nursery School, SCV Food Pantry, AMOR Ministries, and Free Wheelchair mission. We look forward to spending time with you all in supporting our mission together.

Giving Tree 2016 for Foster Christmas (Located in Narthex): Your donated gifts of an unwrapped toy or money certificate (all ages) will go to a child who is currently in the foster care system. These gifts will be given at our upcoming Foster Christmas 2016. You can donate anytime from **December 1st until December 23rd**. We accept gifts throughout the week. We will do pick-up's if needed. No child should go without a Christmas present, nor should they go without feeling the love that we are called to share. The simple joy of receiving a gift could mean everything to a child; it can change the world of a young family; it's not just a gift, it's an expression of love.

Christmas Joy Offering: This will be our last opportunity to give to our wonderful missionaries and different causes represented by the PC (USA). Check your pews for giving envelopes during the first few weeks of December. A gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related ethnic colleges and schools around the world. (PCUSA, specialofferings.pcusa.org/christmasjoy, 2016).



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SANTA BARBARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSION CONFERENCE

The premier Mission Event in California for Presbyterians!

“On Earth As It Is in Heaven” Jan. 27-28, 2017

Since 2003, when 80 attended, this Missions Conference has grown to over 400 people from all over California, not only Presbyterians, but also many from other denominations. We will hear spectacular speakers who are on the cutting edge of Christian Missions. We will attend 10 workshops that all speak to the challenges of today. We will peruse over 30 exhibitors displaying information on missions at home and globally. If you have a heart for missions or want to explore Christian missions, you won't want to miss this event!

SCHEDULE:

Friday, Jan 27, starting at 6 pm: Keynote speaker Prof. Juan Martinez (Fuller Theological seminary), a world-wide expert on Ministry to Hispanic and Latin culture. Worship. Reception following.

Sat, Jan 28, morning and afternoon: Keynote speaker Dr. Richard Mouw, (past President of Fuller Theological Seminary), an expert on Christianity and the Public Culture in America. Workshops led by experts. Lunch (provided).

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

- The Refugee Crisis
- The Crisis of Homelessness
- The Immigration Dilemma
- Illiteracy
- The Crisis of Trauma and Christian Healing
- At Risk Youth
- Immigration, Transnationalism, and Diaspora Missions
- Collaborative Mission of Santa Barbara Churches to the Westside Community
- Two Faiths, One Friendship Initiative- by Founders Michal Muelenberg and Sondos Kholaki.



Prof. Juan Martinez



Dr. Richard Mouw

HOW TO REGISTER:

Many of our members attend this Conference annually. Make a weekend of it! The Conference has arranged discounted hotel rates for Friday and Saturday nights at \$129 to \$149 per night at three hotels. We hope to stay together. You can make a longer weekend, after the conference closes late Sat. afternoon, by staying over until Sunday. However, Santa Barbara is close enough that you can drive up each day if you wish. We will make plans to eat together and to have a special fun event after the Friday night conference activities.

The Adult Education Committee will have registration materials on the patio in Dec. The Conference cost is \$60 for adults and \$25 for students. Adult Education Committee will help with the conference fee for the first 20 people to sign up. This spectacular Conference is co-sponsored by the Missions, the Adult Education and the Church Life Committees.



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

The Biblical Foundation for Why We Do Good Works: Because We Will Be Resurrected to The New Creation Here On Earth

By Roland Wrinkle

I love this “church” (body of the Messiah). I love its members (my family). Perhaps most of all, I love the good works they consistently, tirelessly, ubiquitously, untiringly, obsessively, unselfishly, pridelessly and lovingly do. [It was right here that I started to list the people, offices, committees and such that contribute to the church, the community and the world before I quit in frustration, overwhelmed by the task of merely writing them down.] As the Apostle John said, “*But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.*” (John 20:25)

My present concern here is: Why? Is it because they are all terrific people? Yes, of course, but Jesus never said, “*Follow me and I will make you terrific people and you will do good works.*” Or is it because we will be rewarded for our good works by our soul going to heaven when our body dies? No, for two reasons: 1) The 66 books of the bible do not tell us that we go to heaven when we die; and 2) We cannot earn our salvation ourselves. Or is it the traditional reason given by the reformed church is the answer, i.e. that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and, in gratitude for that, we vow to do good works? No. That is no more the message of the biblical narrative than going to heaven when we die.

I believe the true biblical answer lies in the promise that, because Jesus was bodily resurrected from the dead, we will also be bodily resurrected to the new creation here on earth (what John describes as “a new heaven and a new earth” (Rev. 21:1); what God says to Isaiah will be, “a new heaven and a new earth” (Is. 65:17) and what Peter tells us, “But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth....” (2 Pet. 3:13)

My answer is this: Because the single, dominant thread that holds all of the books of the bible together and constitutes the grand narrative of scripture is that God will bring salvation and blessing “to all the families of the earth” (Gen. 12:3) by bodily resurrecting His people from the dead to populate God’s restored Good and New Creation here on earth. From the beginning, God chose us to serve as His royal agents to restore (through Christ and with the Spirit) that which we had corrupted. Given free will to decide as we please, we always have the choice whether or not to participate in the Kingdom launched by Christ on the cross. And that intentional participation never consists of a profession of faith or repeating the Sinner’s Prayer while sitting on the couch letting others do good works (“*just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family [fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger, visited the sick or the prisoner], you did it to me.*” Matt. 25:38). There are no spectators in the Kingdom of God. No one will be cheering from the sidelines. 100% of the population will be active participants. That is what it means to be in the Kingdom of God. It is definitional—and non-negotiable. No fish will ever live in the sea if it refuses to breathe under water. No person will be declared a member of “My family” and walk the earth when “*The home of God is among mortals [and] He will dwell with them and they will be His peoples*” (Rev. 21:3) if they are not engaged in the business of the Kingdom—if they are not doing Kingdom work.

Paul makes this point so explicitly as to be uncontroversial (although we seemed to have missed it for centuries). The most detailed, extended and emphatic declaration and explication of the bodily resurrection of Jesus forming the basis of our own resurrection to the New Creation is found in 1 Cor. 15. For 57 verses lawyer Paul carefully lays out his argument that we will be resurrected in a “resurrection body” (Paul had to make up a new word combination to express this new reality, *soma pneumatikon*) because Jesus was bodily resurrected from the dead and then declares that, if all of this is not true, “*then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain*” (v. 14). But then watch what happens in the 58th verse immediately after he concludes this elaborate argument, i.e. he says, “*Therefore, let’s all go out and collect money to feed the poor!*” “*Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. Concerning the collection for the saints...on the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that ...I...will take your gift to Jerusalem.*”

Because we will be resurrected from the dead, **because** we will be given resurrection bodies, **because** we will be inhabiting the Kingdom of God as the New Creation and the New Heaven and New Earth, now **therefore** we do good works. We do Kingdom work **because** we are Kingdom people. Just look at the person sitting in the pew next to you.

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.



PW CHRISTMAS BRUNCH will be held at Marie Callender's, 27630 The Old Rd. Valencia on December 10, 2016 at 9:00 AM. The tickets are \$15 each and are on sale on the patio. Tickets will also be available at circle meetings. Enjoy delicious food and entertainment, and awesome fellowship. Celebrate with PW as we install our new officers for 2017.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MISSION PROJECT FOR DECEMBER

"Help the Children" thanks you for your generous donations of pasta and tomato products and other food supplies last month. In the past few months we have donated 222 food items! In December we will focus on dried rice and beans. Please put your donations on the shelves in the Evans Room. PW appreciates your support in our mission. Thank you!



PW CIRCLES—ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!

Elizabeth: Stephanie Linn (259-3914) - First & Third Tuesdays of the month at 11:30 a.m. in the Evans Room. Babysitting is available.

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

Lydia: Judy Reinsma (296-6869) - Meets first Monday of the month at 10:00 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.

Little Shepherd's Nursery School



This is a very busy time of year at Little Shepherd's Nursery School! We had our Halloween Parade at the end of October and wish to thank those who helped make trick or treating at church and during our classroom parties a great time for the children: Miss Chi and Mr. Gary Kanagi, Miss Dorothy Ng aka: "Captain Cupcake", Miss Geni Tanner, Mr. Steve and Miss Ellie Fuller, Mr. Bob Balkom, Miss Dawn, and the many parents who donated items for this day.

Three weeks later, in November, we had our Thanksgiving Feast. We wish to thank the church staff who joined us for this event: Pastor Bill, Mr. Bob, Mr. Steve, Miss Dorothy and Mr. Art Moore. Once again we had many people who donated towards this event .

By the time you read this we will be looking forward to our Christmas Program and you are welcome to join us for this event: Thursday December 15 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. (And, as I tell the parents, don't be late, it will be over before you blink your eyes!) This program will be followed by cookies and hot chocolate in the Evans Room. Yes, it takes a village to



Kimmy Munter enjoys Thanksgiving



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 of Newhall.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE ~ (LITERALLY) by Kathy Bressler

The NEWHALL PRESS has been around for a long time. I haven't been able to pinpoint exactly how long. If anyone has that information, please let me know. I do know that Florence Craig worked on it a few years back. The newsletter traditionally has been an administrative responsibility and thus, for the past several years, entrusted to the capable skills of Sandy McIntosh, our former office administrator. I became involved in March of 2013 when I agreed to be a clerical assistant on the newsletter with Sandy as my tutor in the complexities of the PUBLISHER computer program. The church had just inherited a laptop from the estate of member Jackie Skelley, and I was off and running. In addition to Publisher, I had to learn a few other things such as the structure of the church leadership and what was appropriate to include in the newsletter and what wasn't. (Do I know that yet???)

Bob Balkcom came on board as Office Administrator last summer and with all he had to assimilate, he seemed more than happy to promote me, giving me primary responsibility for the newsletter. That was a scary prospect! Bob and I (along with Pastor Bill) agreed that oversight would be a good idea, and the Outreach Committee under elder John Favalessa agreed to take us on.

You may have noticed a few changes already, especially if you contribute articles. The biggest change is having our own email address! All articles are either sent directly or forwarded to newsletter@presby-newhall.org. That is really improving our efficiency.

This month we are adding a mission statement which will appear under our banner on page one from now on. In addition, we have defined the types of information and activities which have been and will be included in the newsletter:

The NEWHALL PRESS seeks to bring the gift of community and connection to the members and friends of the FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWHALL through an attractively constructed, magazine-style monthly NEWSLETTER.

The Newhall Press includes the following elements:

A pastor's column focused on the pastor's vision for our church and the community of faith.

Advertising of upcoming activities as planned by our committees.

Reports and photos of recent events.

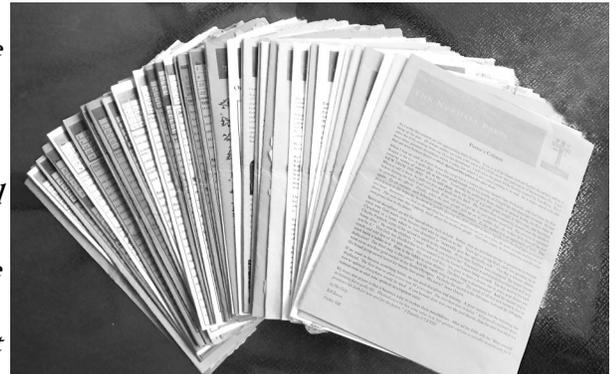
Inspirational and informative articles addressing spiritual growth and thought.

Human interest stories relating to church members and friends and the history of the First Presbyterian Church of Newhall.

Seasonal articles about Lent, Advent, Stewardship and other significant times in the church's year.

Articles about Missions and the many ways our church looks beyond our doors and ministers in the community and the world.

Articles encouraging the activities and spiritual growth of our children and youth, including Little Shepherd's Nursery School.



We have several more ideas which we will be developing in the future, and we would appreciate ideas from anyone, especially on how we can make the newsletter more helpful and attractive as a tool of communication for the congregation and other friends of our church. Send your ideas to the newsletter email address listed above or talk with someone on the Outreach Committee: John Favalessa, Lorraine King, Kathy Bressler, Coleen Knox, Teresa Howell, Bryce Morrow, Jim Combs, and Rod Belcher.

NEW MEMBERS INSTALLED

On November 20 we welcomed our wonderful new members (from left: Jacqueline Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Jennifer Maloney, Vere Gomez, Joe Gomez, Johan Vandersande, and Evelyne Vandersande). A lunch reception in their honor was provided by the Outreach Committee between services on the patio. Watch for photos and profiles of our new members next month in the Newhall Press.



The Newhall Press

First Presbyterian Church of Newhall
24317 N. Newhall Ave.
Newhall, California; 91321-2721

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DECEMBER 2016



Sunday Worship Services

Traditional Worship 9:30 a.m.
Contemporary Worship 11:15 a.m.



Deadline for the January Newsletter: **December 18, 2016**

Send articles to our new email
address:

newsletter@presby-newhall.org

Thanks to Bob Balkcom, office administrator, Ellie and Steve Fuller, who faithfully prepare newsletter for mailing, everyone who contributed articles, and Lorraine King for help with proof reading. —Kathy Bressler—Editor

The Newhall Press

First Presbyterian Church of Newhall
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Web Site: <http://www.presby-newhall.org>

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Pastoral Support: Phil Aijian (ext. 2)
Dir. Christian Educ.: Sarah Bolin (ext. 4)
Assoc. Children's Dir: Lelia Meadows
Assoc. Youth Dir: Bryce Morrow
Office Administrator: Bob Balkcom (ext. 0)
Music Conductor: Connie Woodson
2nd Service Worship Leader: Sam Besse
Treasurer: Dorothy Ng (ext. 3)
Custodian: Nelson Orellana
Groundskeeper: Steve Fuller
Nursery Care Provider: Linda Weingarten

Little Shepherd's Nursery School

Director: Sharie Telles
(661) 254-2312