

February 2017

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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 COLUMN FEBRUARY 2017

In our study on the Gospel of John, it has been noted by a number of scholars that the author of John's Gospel had some relationship or history with the Qumran Community, because the images of light and darkness are so prevalent in his gospel. These images are also prevalent in the Dead Sea Scrolls recovered from that ancient Jewish sect. In the Four Witnesses, Robin Griffith-Jones reminds us that in those ancient documents, "Evil (Darkness) seems a power as active as good (light), to have a drive within it that sweeps up individuals, crowds, and nations. Is this evil superficial, a blister on the surface of a beautiful world? Or is it set deep within creation, a cancer from which nothing—and no human being—is ever free?" The author then asks a question: "Do we use good and evil as we use large and small, as categorical opposites? We think of them as powers, as active, urgent forces in our lives, just as love can be, or jealousy."

Evil does seem a direct counterpart to Goodness. White House officials suggest that hate crimes appear to be on the rise in our country, although they point out that the data is inexact, and that the widespread use of the Internet, which can be used anonymously, seems to contribute to its growth. Is hatred the opposite of love? Indeed, there always appears to be a battle between these two forces: good and evil, or love and hate. In the month of February, we celebrate what we pose as the polar opposite of evil; the concept of love. The original St. Valentine was a martyr for the Christian faith and not some romantic cupid shooting arrows of testosterone and estrogen into pie-eyed lovers. Real love is something we commit to; we work at cultivating. As Christians, our Scriptures repeatedly tell us that love is the most important virtue to be nourished in our growth. ***And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor. 13:13 (NRSV)***

I am reminded of a clever story I heard about one woman's way of combating the "evil" habits of her spouse which were irritants to her. "Even the most devoted couple will experience a 'stormy' bout once in a while. A grandmother, celebrating her golden wedding anniversary, once told the secret of her long and happy marriage. 'On my wedding day, I decided to make a list of ten of my husband's faults which, for the sake of our marriage, I would overlook,' she said. A guest asked the woman what some of the faults she had chosen to overlook were. The grandmother replied, 'To tell you the truth, my dear, I never did get around to listing them, but whenever my husband did something that made me hopping mad, I would say to myself, "Lucky for him that's one of the ten!"'"

February Events:

- FAMILY PROMISE WEEK
Jan. 29 to Feb. 5
- SCOUT SUNDAY
Feb. 5 9:30 A.M.
- CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Feb. 12 After 10:00 A.M. Service
- CHILI COOK-OFF
Feb. 12 After Congregational Mtg
- LSNS—VALENTINE PARTY
Feb. 14
- MOVIE "INSANITY OF GOD"
Feb. 26 4:00 P.M.
- MEN'S GATHERING—KKLA
Feb. 18
- LSNS—PICNIC IN HART PARK
Feb. 28

Recurring Church Events:

- EVERTHIRST (Band) REHEARSAL
Thursdays 6:30 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.
- MEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY
Mondays 5:30 P.M.
- MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY
Fridays 11:00 A.M.
- MINUTE FOR MISSIONS
4th Sundays In services
- PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES
See Schedule Page 10
- RECYCLING
1st Sundays of Calendar 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:

ASH WEDNESDAY

Mar. 1

OFFICERS' RETREAT

Mar. 11 9:00 A.M.

YOUTH MISSION FUNDRAISER/AUCTION

Mar. 5

FOREST LAWN MUSEUM

Mar. 25

YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO MIAMI

Apr. 1 to Apr. 7

SPRING YARD SALE

Apr. 7 to Apr. 8

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Apr. 13

EASTER

Apr. 16

PETERSON MUSEUM

May 6

CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTY (One Serv.)

Jun. 4

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Jun. 20-24



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.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

Feb. 1	Dee Lewis
Feb. 3	Lillian Wilson
Feb. 3	Evelyn Shifferd
Feb. 5	Les Tanner



HANDCRAFTERS



Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (February 14th & 28th), at 10 a.m., 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

Book Buddies discussion and supper will be at Chi Kanagi's daughter's home: 24720 Apple Street, Newhall, on Thursday, February 14 at 4:00 pm.



"The Glassblower of Murano" by Marina Fiorato takes place in Venice, 1681. While glass blowing is the lifeblood of the Republic, one of the greatest artists Corradino Manin sells his secrets to protect his secret daughter. Present-day Manin descendent discovers her ancestor's secrets.

RSVP Chi: 661-904-2122 for discussion and supper.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT - 2017

It's Tuesday afternoon; there's nothing in the fridge to make for dinner; you've got to get out of the house or you'll go crazy; you can't stand another night of take-out; you really want to share the ups and downs of your life with someone who can really listen; you

need a little "me" time for a change—

whatever your reason. Won't you plan to join LADIES' NIGHT OUT the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm?



Whether you are in your 20's, your 80's or somewhere in between, all ladies are welcome. We get separate checks, so you don't even have to do math! Stop by the Church Life Table to sign up. We'd love to listen to your story!

A CALL TO ARMS  TEAR DOWN THE BARRIERS!

KKLA MEN'S GATHERING VI

What? A multi-cultural event where men come together with a desire to be challenged, corrected, held accountable, encouraged and united, while standing firm on the Gospel of Jesus.

Who? Men of all ages wanting to be in fellowship with other men, sharpening one another and being a support system.

When? Saturday morning, February 25th, 2017, 7am-1 pm; breakfast at 7 am; event starts at 8 am.

Where? Faithful Central Bible Church, 400 West Florence Ave., Inglewood, CA; event hosted by Frank Sontag of Christian radio station 99.5 KKLA.

Cost? \$10.00 per person plus a \$1.50 service charge. This cost includes a continental breakfast (breakfast burrito, sweet roll, fruit, juice, coffee and bottled water). Purchase your own E-ticket on line by registering at www.KKLA.com/mens-gathering-6.

Speakers? Dudley Rutherford, Senior Pastor of Shepherd of the Hills, Porter Ranch. Sergio De La Mora, Senior Pastor of Cornerstone Church, San Diego. Bishop Kenneth Ulmer, Senior Pastor of Faithful Central Bible Church. Chris Broussard, Fox Sports Reporter. It has been announced that there will be another speaker added.

There will most likely be close to 2,000 men attending this event. These events have sold out in the past. If you are considering attending, get your tickets ASAP.

Our Church Life Committee is helping to promote this event.

For more information, contact Dan Signett at dan.signett@yahoo.com.

CHILI COOK-OFF and DESSERT CHALLENGE

So you think you make THE BEST chili ever? Your friends and family all rave over your grandma's secret cookie recipe? Well, it's time to put it to the test and pit your CHILI or favorite DESSERT against everyone else's! This year's Competition will be held February 12th following the Congregational Meeting. There's only one 10:00 am service that morning, so you will have plenty of time to prep your entries! Prizes will be given to the winners of three Chili categories—Traditional, Fiery, and Alternative—and 2 Dessert categories—Adults and the new Youth Dessert category for chefs age



UNEXPECTED GUEST by Bryce Morrow (Reprinted 1/16/17 from Facebook with Bryce's permission)

To enjoy additional devotionals by Bryce, go to daddysdevotional.wordpress.com

Many of you know that I accepted a staff position at my church as the new Associate Youth Director back in October. It has been so rewarding getting to spend time with our Jr. & Sr. High youth. Well, I just recently returned (today) from this year's Jr. High Winter Camp where we took three of our boys to Forest Home Christian Camps (located up in the San Bernardino Mountains). What a gorgeous setting to connect with God without the use, or at least minimal use of, modern technology. No televisions, cell phones (the service was spotty - and for good reason), tablets, etc.

As this was my first experience at Forest Home, I often relied on our boys and my Sr. High counselor/helper/wrangler/buddy, Chris, who have previously visited before, to fill me in on certain protocol.

For instance, as someone who had traveled quite frequently for business last year, I was concerned about lodging. What were the cabins like? Would I have to share my room? Would we have single or bunk beds? So many questions! I wanted the cabin to accommodate MY needs.

As we unloaded the van, we immediately went to the dining room for a late dinner. (The bridge that shaves off about 30 minutes of drive time was out due to inclement weather/construction.) As we finished dinner, we took our belongings to our cabin up a steep, snowy, asphalt drive, set back from the rest of the camp. Very private and secluded. 1pt. = Forest Home ✓

As we stepped inside the cabin, and I think I can speak for all, as we were quite pleased with our accommodations. There were five of us in our group and this cabin slept roughly 19-20! It had 2 full bathrooms, a great heating unit, and much natural light from the many windows. So... clearly plenty of space for other campers, should additional lodging be needed. Another point = Forest Home ✓

So, I was very pleased with the set-up.

After unpacking and calling out what room(s) we wanted, Chris and I stepped out for a stroll to check out the grounds, while the boys were getting acclimated to their cabin and the freshly fallen snow outside.

As Chris and I were heading back to turn in for the night, we were walking up the railroad tie steps to our cabin's front door that had a small deck attached.

As we approached the front door, I could see a large, bald, burly man with a grown-out goatee through the window—inside our cabin. (Cue: UNEXPECTED GUEST)

Assuming it was a staff member or someone from the Camp, we started to unlock the door. The man proceeded towards the door to unlock it for us. Chris and I said a cordial hello and went to our respective rooms.

□ A little back story about me that I'm not proud of: Whenever something unexpected occurs, I don't necessarily handle it with a calm and dignified demeanor. I immediately go towards, "well this is just great..." followed by these emoticon faces ☹☹. I'm **just being honest** with ya. Like I said, not my finest trait.

Back to the cabin guest: He explained to Chris and me that he and some other youth drove up from San Diego. His girls were staying in another cabin, and he and another young boy needed a place to stay.

While my actions were saying "Welcome", my heart was saying, "NO VACANCY!!!"

"Cheerfully share your home (or cabin) with those who need a meal or a place to stay." -1 Peter 4:9 NLT Some Christian character for you, huh?

Before I went to bed that evening I prayed about it. I asked the Lord to soften my heart, that I could accept our guests as He has accepted me.

That night the Lord worked.

The next morning, I approached the man, appropriately introduced myself, and we shared some formalities with each other.

From that point, our "man" was known as Mike Smith, a husband, a father of two (girls), a landscaper, a returning college student getting a degree in waste water and sludge treatment, a resident of San Diego County and most of all, a Christian with a forgiving heart.

In Hebrews 13:2 NLT it says, "Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it."

Mike and I spent many moments together after that. We led our boys in Cabin Conversations, had a nice fireside chat talking about Tommy Boy and other "old school" comedies. Most of all, he never realized how much he mentored me in my walk with Christ during the weekend.

So Mike - I hope you, Dallas, and your girls made it home safely. I hope I have the opportunity to let you know how much your companionship meant to me over these last few days. Thank you for accepting me and my stubborn nature. You've made me not only a better person, but a better Christian. Thanks for YOUR hospitality.

"If anyone gives you even a cup of water because you belong to the Messiah, I tell you the truth, that person will surely be rewarded." - Mark 9:41 NLT

Thanks, Mike, for sharing your cup.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for sending ordinary people to do extraordinary works on your behalf. Let us all be hospitable to those that are thirsty for your Word and grace. Allow us to serve others in a cheerful way, so that we may claim our heavenly reward. We ask this in your son's holy name. Amen.



“A Scout is reverent” is one of the twelve laws of Boy Scouts.

February 5 is this year’s National Scout Sunday and our Troop chartered by First Presbyterian Church of Newhall will be participating at our 9:30 am service on that Sunday.

All scouts across America are encouraged to participate at their local churches in honor of Scout Sunday. Troop 609

Scouts and Cub Scout Pack 48 with their families, who are of the Christian faith, will be attending our 9:30 am church service. In between services, we will be serving refreshments as a thank you for chartering our Scout Troop for the past 33 years.

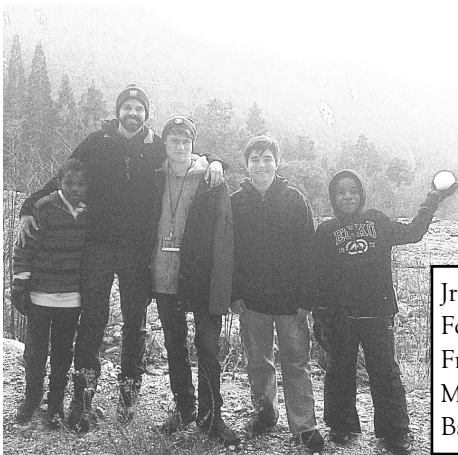
Scout Sunday also coincides with the celebration of the 107th anniversary of Boy Scouts of America founded February 8, 1910.

We hope to see all of you on February 5th for a “Meet and Greet” introducing our new scoutmaster Mr. Chris Sorensen who has been involved with the scouting program for over 39 years.

Thank you for all your support
David Lauermann



PICTURE THIS!!!



Jr. High boys enjoy Winter Camp at Forest Home. (See article page 4.)
From Left: Alan Nereseko, Bryce Morrow, Chris Gilbert, Gus Balkcom and Dylan Nereseko.

Ellie Fuller has a great-grandson born to Camille and Jacob Deitz on January 13th, Josiah Craig Deitz. Josiah is the brother of Noelle Deitz and grandson of Jane and Craig Deitz.





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 Nudges of God

By Jack Irwin with Anne Watts, First Pres Newhall Adult Education Committee

We can all look back in our lives and see **the nudges from God** that spoke to us and influenced our lives. Perhaps it was something spoken during a sermon or something that struck us during a hymn in church. These are little “God moments” in life, where you really feel it is from the Lord. These experiences not only happen to Christians but to those not in the faith. One story we heard in Laos was of a fortune teller who trafficked in the spirit world and was paid by those who came for her soothsayings. She had a dream one night; Jesus appeared to her and told her to go to a church. That was a “God moment” for her, which changed her life forever.

God’s nudges can also come from others around us. Perhaps it was something that another spoke to us. Sometimes these are really short. I remember very clearly the nun who visited us in the hospital room at St. Joe’s after our fourth child was born. In a brief conversation, she told us this little girl is a blessing from God. And indeed that brief comment shaped our faith and lives, and indeed, she has been that blessing throughout and into her adult life.

Perhaps the “God moment” was heaven’s direction that came through another person: an invitation to join a small group, go on a mission trip or join the choir. And suddenly, we entered into something that changed our faith and our lives forever. Those, including the youth, who have gone on the Amor Mission of housebuilding to Tijuana will say, “It changed my life.” We give thanks for those who touch us, speak to us and invite us to do something that ultimately connects us closer to God and to what God is doing in this world.

Anne remembers being in the hospital recently, and the doctor was wearing a cross (she is a Coptic Christian from Egypt). The doctor suggested that it was time to pray for healing. Anne also remembers the nurses when she was in the hospital, many of whom wore crosses and one who was very sweet in suggesting prayer or thanking God for any improvement in Anne’s condition. These “God moments” comforted Anne to know she was not alone and had God’s support.

And we, too, can be that person through whom God speaks to another. In life there are opportunities to share something from our Christian faith that means so much to us. We can be sensitive to these opportunities. Have you ever had someone tell you that what you said to them was a “God Moment.” I remember being called by another engineer who I had met years before at a seminar in San Diego. He called me to thank me for the dinner we had had together with a conversation about church and the Christian faith; he said it changed his life forever. He called to thank me probably 10 years after that “God moment.”

When we look at Jesus in the Gospels we see a lot of “God Moments” in his interactions with people. Anne and I went through the Gospel of John, which Pastor Bill is now preaching through, and found these “God Moments” (these nudges from God through Jesus) in many of His interactions. It is interesting that many of these moments were with people outside the Temple and outside the synagogue. They were people He met in life along the way or people who came to Him as He journeyed through Palestine during His three-year ministry. They were brief encounters that changed people’s lives, ministered to their needs and connected them with God the Father. We list those we found in the Gospel of John for you:



Cont. on P. 7

- 2:1 – 10 The story when **Jesus Changed Water into Wine**: He did this at a wedding, not in a church. The servants did as He told them. The steward of the wedding and the bridegroom were impressed.
- 3:1 – 13 The story when **Jesus Talked with Nicodemus**, Jewish leader, a Pharisee (one of the leading Jewish parties) and a member of the Sanhedrin, the Jew's governing council: At night Nicodemus went secretly to where Jesus was presumably staying. In the conversation, God was nudging this Jewish scholar and leader.
- 4:7 – 26 The story when **Jesus Talked with the Samaritan Woman at the Well**: Jesus was journeying from Jerusalem back to Galilee (His home town Nazareth was in this region) and stopped at a well for a drink. He met a woman who had also come to get water from the well. A great conversation about faith ensued.
- 4:43 – 53 The story when **Jesus Healed the Court Official's Son**: Jesus had returned to Cana in Galilee, where He had attended the wedding, and this Official came to see Him.
- 5:6 – 9 The story when **Jesus Healed the Invalid at the Pool in Jerusalem**: There were crowds at the pool waiting for the waters to be disturbed by an "angel" so that they could be healed. Jesus went there, met and healed this invalid.
- 9:1 – 12 The story when **Jesus Healed a Man Born Blind**: The scripture says, "As Jesus was walking along" (presumably as He was going to Jerusalem), He saw a blind man, approached him and healed him.
- 11:38 – 43 The story when **Jesus Raised Lazarus from the Dead**: He was called by his friends Mary and Martha, both sisters of their dead brother Lazarus. He went to their house and then to the cemetery.
- 20:11 – 18 The story when **Jesus Appeared to Mary Magdalene**: This happened by a tomb in the cemetery on the Mount of Olives, just outside Jerusalem, where Jesus had been buried. Mary had come to grieve at the tomb.
- 20:19 – 23 The story when **Jesus Appeared to His Disciples**: This happened in a room in Jerusalem where the disciples were hiding out from the Jewish authorities and police.
- 21:1 – 14 The story of Jesus and the **Miraculous Catch of Fish**: Jesus stood on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and called to the fishermen. They had been His disciples - Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, James, John, and two others, who had returned to their previous occupations. They recognized the risen Jesus.

What do we see in these stories of Jesus' mission and ministry to people? He touched people whom He met in the normal walks of life. His example encourages us to be involved in His mission to reach people "out there." In Matt. 28:18-20 Jesus passed his mission on to his disciples to spread the Good News to all. In our relationships—family, friends, neighbors, colleagues and others--there may be moments when we can share something about the **Good News** of our faith experiences. It might be a short comment or a longer conversation, or we may just listen and affirm a "God moment" that blesses someone who might or might not share that with us. So we pray that we will be available to God and that God will use us.

Perhaps you can look back and see these "God moments" in your life. Here are two recent ones, we heard: One lady in our church has taken to writing prayers in the comments section of a Facebook post when someone asks for prayer. She receives positive responses.

At a local gym, a man told his trainer that he goes to our church in the course of normal conversation. That trainer has continued the conversation about spirituality during their sessions; he recently shared a story from a radio talk show of a man who experienced heaven while in a coma.

Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is working His mission of outreach to people all around us; some of these people may be church goers and many others may not. Nevertheless, we join Jesus by being open to the moments when we can share something of our faith experience.



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.

It Takes a Community by Sonja Tweedie



As I type this article, our large church sign reads “It Takes a Community,” and indeed it does. I am overwhelmed when I consider how many people are responsible for the smooth-running worship services we hold each week. It begins with Pastor Bill researching and writing an inspirational sermon and with Bob typing the bulletins (including announcements from committees and staff) and Gary and/or Steve folding them. Meanwhile, throughout the week, Steve is busy beautifying our grounds and Don and Dave are checking to make sure our buildings are in tip-top shape. On Friday Bob takes down the circle of Bible

study tables and prepares the Evans Room for worship—and if there is Communion that week, he sets up six chairs in the front of the sanctuary. On Saturday Nelson comes in and makes sure the church is thoroughly cleaned and vacuumed.

Then it is Sunday—the choir members arrive early to rehearse and by then the deacons have already begun brewing the coffee, setting up the kiosk and preparing Communion (on the 1st Sunday of each month). Lorraine has arrived early as well and is waiting to be the first to greet people as they fill out their name tags. She also makes sure that Clarence, and others who may need one, receive a device that will allow them to hear better. Ushers and greeters arrive—and by then Ken has already filled the candles with oil, checked the heating or air conditioning and lighting. John has gone over the order of the overheads that accompany Bill’s sermon so that they will be shown at the right times, and then he checked the microphones and sound system. The deacons have begun setting up the Communion table. On a non-communion Sunday, Tina decorates the table, often with candles, Bill’s beautiful Bible and flowers from someone in the congregation.

By now Roland is outside with his “Faith Talk” group discussing spiritual matters and theological theories. Sarah or Lelia has prepared a children’s sermon. Linda has entered the nursery and is eagerly awaiting the little ones. The choir has completed rehearsal, and Jim has come in to set up the organ and go over the hymns that he and the pianist can play together. The ushers are in place with bulletins in their hands ready to welcome the worshippers. Meanwhile James is welcoming his youth to the Market Street House where he has prepared a lesson. The Sunday School teachers have prepared lessons to teach our elementary kids about Jesus and the Bible.

The choir dons robes and awaits Bill for the pre-worship prayer. Phil has gone over the announcements he must make. As people arrive, the ushers help those who need assistance with walkers and help people find seats, if necessary. Almost everyone is inside now and Jim is playing the prelude. At 9:30 am the pastor, the elder assistant and the choir process down the aisle and so it begins... Meanwhile tables have been set up outside for sign-ups for various activities and the coffee is smelling so good—oh, and there are donuts that Carol and Don brought in! After the service the ushers, who collected the offering, make sure it has been safely locked up; then they go through the sanctuary, pick up bulletins and ensure that hymnals and Bibles are in their places. Second-Service worshippers will be coming in, and they deserve a well-ordered, cleaned up church. The band is practicing, new ushers are in place and worship begins again.

Thank you from the Worship and Music Committee for all of you who help make our worship services welcoming and friendly, a place where visitors want to return and members will never want to leave.

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.

Wow! All I can say is "WOW!" We put on quite a show for Christmas Eve. So many people worked so hard to make our service come together seamlessly.

Thank you to all who participated, stayed for practice, and prayed for a successful Christmas Eve service. So many people were blessed by our children's words and songs.

Just a reminder that VBS season is approaching. Mrs. Lelia is on the lookout for teachers, class leaders and donations for our Maker Factory Vacation Bible School.

This year, our VBS is June 20-24th from 9 until 12:30 each day. Each student's cost is \$30 and siblings are pro-rated. If you bring a new friend, your cost is cut in HALF! What a bargain! The 30 bucks is for games, crafts, lessons, take-home gifts, T-shirts, music CDs, and a great time from Monday through Friday. We will start taking sign-ups in May so get ready for a great summer!!!!

By Sarah Bolin



FUTURES COMMITTEE TALK TO US!

Have you ever talked with a friend or seen an activity in our community and wondered:

WHY IS MY CHURCH NOT HERE, NOT DOING THIS, NOT INVOLVED???

NOW you can do something about it!

Send an email to futures@presby-newhall.org if you want someone to know!



The PC (Presbyterian Church) (USA) is struggling (along with most mainline denominations) to meaningfully impact the 21st Century. Times are changing! Have you noticed? The Session (the Board of Elders) of First Presbyterian Church Newhall has the Futures Committee looking at (and praying about) how to positively impact our ministry in this valley. Our Garden Project along Newhall Avenue is one effort. The Boy Scouts have been helping our physical plant with parking lot lights, moving the big wooden cross, and lighting our walkways!

Do you remember those blue Placemat Surveys??

We HAVE them, we look at them, consider what we are doing well and brainstorm what we might do better. Please keep us in your prayers, and SEND US YOUR THOUGHTS!!

PRAY FOR OUR FUTURE! INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

Your Futures Committee: Barbara Irwin, Carol Ramnarine, Dorothy Ng, Tim Pulliam, Bryce Morrow



The Youth Committee nurtures the Junior High and Senior High-aged youth as 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.

* YOUTH GROUP MISSION DINNER ON MARCH 12 *

Silent Auction Donations please bring on March 10th to the Evans Room

We will put them in baskets for you!

THEME: CUBAN, since our Mission Project is in Miami, FL

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE DONATIONS FOR SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION!!

Contact Barbara Irwin or Sarah Bolin

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.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MISSION PROJECT FOR FEBRUARY

“Help the Children” thanks you for your generous donations of refried beans and fruit and other goods. In February we will focus on soup. 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

at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall



By the time you read this newsletter the preschool will have had two fun days at school at the end of January, our snow day and our PJ day; both great winter fun activities!

Dates coming up in February:

At our Valentine Party on February 14th, children will be making and sending a valentine to their parents. We will roll out dough, cut, and bake cookies to enjoy with our snack. Also, we will make a valentine bag or holder for the valentines we will exchange in class.

Our annual trip to Hart Park for our Winter Picnic is February 28th. We will make our sandwiches in class and pack our lunch for this event. We will walk to Hart Park and have a picnic lunch and see all the animals too! It is a tradition at the preschool to read this story before we go: The Winter Picnic by Robert Welber.

Preschool Registration for 2017-2018 year begins in February for returning students, followed by open registration. At the time of this newsletter prices are not available. If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling a child in Little Shepherd's Nursery School, please have them contact Dawn (our office assistant) or me for more information.

Happy Valentine's Day! Happy Winter!

PER CAPITA:

If you give to the church using the donation envelopes that come in a box, you may have noticed the first envelope in the pack. It's labeled "Per Capita." Well, what does that mean? It's a Latin term meaning "by head," and that gives us a clue. The Presbytery covers much of its operating budget by charging its churches a sort of tax for each member on their rolls. We, as members, are then encouraged, as we are able, to reimburse the church (First Presbyterian Church of Newhall in our case) for this tax that it is required to pay on our behalf. This year's per capita is \$36.58, such a strange number, wouldn't you say? I'm sure there's some logic to it! Well, your leadership would appreciate it if you use your envelope if you have one (or in another way if you don't), and donate this amount over and above your pledge. Remember, each member is separate, so couples are taxed at the rate of \$73.16. Please be assured that the church willingly pays your per capita. After all, it's the Church's tax responsibility, not yours. This is NOT a bill that you owe, and you will never be pressured to pay it.





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.

MOVIE SERIES AT NEWHALL PRES

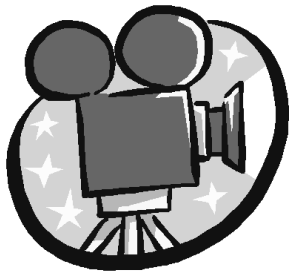
“The Insanity of God”

A True Story of Faith and Persecution

Sunday Afternoon, Feb. 26, 4 pm at Newhall Pres.

Adult Education and Church Life are jointly sponsoring a Movie Series this year at First Pres.

The first movie of this series is “The Insanity of God.” This is the true story of missionaries Nik and Ruth Ripken who endured persecution in Kenya and Somali. After the death of their son, this ordinary couple journeys into the depths of the persecuted church in many places around the world, asking the question—Is Jesus Worth It? Join the Ripkens as they explore and discover how we are taught by persecuted believers to follow Jesus, to love Jesus and to walk with Him day by day, even when it doesn’t make sense.

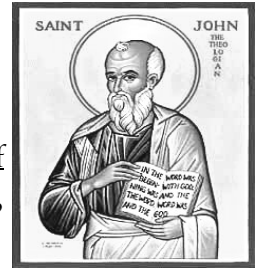


The Adult Education Committee and Church Life Committee will present this movie with a discussion period following the movie. Refreshments will be provided. It will be presented at 4 pm on Sunday, February 26th in the Sanctuary [this is a better venue for movies – can be darkened well and viewed from all seats]. Please feel free to invite friends and neighbors; however, this is a true story of persecution and is not recommended for children under high school age.

The Gospel of John Bible Study

Led by Pastor Bill Barnes

Pastor Bill Barnes has been presenting a thought-provoking Bible Study on The Gospel of John in the Sanctuary on Wednesdays at 10 am to noon. The study will continue on February 1st, 8th, and 15th.



Seeking Interested Men:

A **Presbyterian Men’s fellowship group** has been meeting for years on Thursday mornings from 7:30 to approximately 9:00 a.m. We meet at the IHOP on Bouquet Canyon Road just north of Magic Mountain Parkway. We read the Bible and have an open discussion about what we’ve read. We are seeking men who can commit to rising early and would like to nurture friendships, and enjoy breakfast, fellowship, and discussions of current events, sports, and politics. We always get separate checks, so no drama there! If interested, contact Patrick Stokes at pgstokes4fun@gmail.com (661-903-1094) or Jack Irwin

MONDAY NIGHT MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

A group of men meets at 5:30 pm on Mondays at the various homes of the group members. Study is followed by dinner and revelry. Contact Roland Wrinkle: 818-917-6654, rgwrinkle@gmail.com.

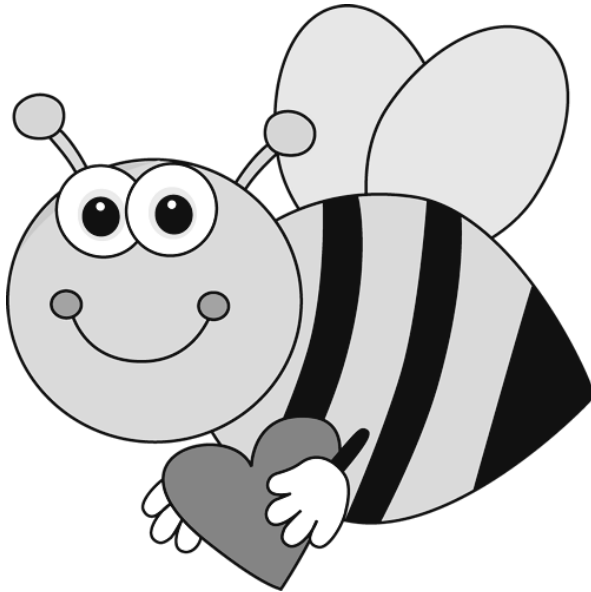
The Newhall Press

First Presbyterian Church of Newhall
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Newhall, California; 91321-2721

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FEBRUARY 2017



Sunday Worship Services

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



Deadline for the March Newsletter: February 19, 2017

Send articles and photos to our new
email address:

newsletter@presby-newhall.org

Thanks to Bob Balkcom, office administrator, for oversight and printing; Ellie and Steve Fuller, for faithfully preparing newsletter for mailing; and Lorraine King for helping with proof reading. —Kathy Bressler—Editor

The Newhall Press

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Assoc. Youth Dir: Bryce Morrow
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Treasurer: Dorothy Ng (ext. 3)
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Groundskeeper: Steve Fuller
Nursery Care Provider: Linda Weingarten

Little Shepherd's Nursery School

Director: Sharie Telles
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