January 2016										
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	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				
31										

#### January Events:

**CHANGE IN WORSHIP TIMES** 

January 3 9:30 & 11:00 AM

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** 

January 10 10:45 AM

LIFE ACADEMY—CHRIST & TIME

January 10 & 17 11:00 AM

STEPHEN MINISTRY CLASS BEGINS
January13

JUNIOR HIGH WINTER CAMP

January 15–18

LAOS MISSION REPORT

January 17 4:00 PM

SANTA BARBARA MISSIONS CONF.

January 22–23

OFFICER TRAINING

January 26 7:00 PM

CHILDREN'S WINTER CAMP

January 29–31

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

January 31 Both Services

### **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 9:30 & 11:00 AM

**HANDCRAFTERS** 

2nd & 4th Tues. 10:00 AM

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Last Tuesday 6:30 PM

MEN AT WORK

3rd Saturday 8.00 AM

MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY

Fridays 11:00 AM

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES

See Schedule Page 9

**RECYCLING** (For Camp Scholarships)

1st Sunday of each quarter

RING TONES REHEARSAL

Sundays 1:30 PM

STANDING TOGETHER

2nd Wednesdays 7:00 PM

TGIF (Children's Program)

Fridays 6:00 PM

YOUTH GROUP

Sundays 6:00 PM

# THE NEWHALL PRESS



Wow! Here we are in 2016. The years REALLY DO fly faster, I'm convinced. And once again we fill our minds with questions of what this year might hold for us. We live in a world that becomes smaller and smaller each passing year, through telecommunication and video; and the information and actions most recorded and communicated continue to frighten us. (The old adage, "Fear Sells" seems to be true.) Whether it's the escalating Middle East, terrorist bombings and threats (recently Paris), the safety of our streets, or the Far East and nuclear threats, it never ends.

Yet I'm reminded of a Kindergarten class which went to the fire station for a tour and some instruction in fire safety. The fireman was explaining what to do in case of a fire. He said, "First, go to the door and feel the door to see if it's hot." Then he said, "Fall to your knees. Does anyone know why you ought to fall to your knees?" One of the little tykes said, "Sure, to start praying to ask God to get us out of this mess!"

What can we do? Something that faithful followers of Jesus have done since the beginning, pray! Our recent study of the Heidelberg Catechism in our evening service gives us a foundational answer to live our lives by: Q: What is your only comfort in life and in death? A: That I am not my own, I but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

If someone asks you if prayer works, what would you answer? I answer a resounding "YES!" But in my experience, mostly what prayer changes is the person who is praying. Prayer can change us from being anxious to being grateful. Still, we are not asked to believe in prayer, we are asked to believe in the God to whom we pray.

As a youth I was taught an acronym for the order of prayer. It is ACTS. Adoration or Acknowledgement of God's glory is our first assignment. Next, Confession for where we have let God, ourselves, and others down, and need to ask God's forgiveness. That is followed by Thanksgiving for all the blessings we've received and the gratitude it rightly deserves. Only then should we move to Supplications, or asking for what we want God to do for us. I still teach this clever method.

There is, however, a problem with that formula. The Bible is filled with prayers that don't abide by those rules. The best prayers are found in the Psalms. Sometimes the psalmist cries out in lament and lost-ness from beginning to end. Other times a prayer only focuses on one of these other types of prayer. Since prayer is a way of renewing our relationship with God, like all lively relationships, the communications cannot be reduced to formulas.

Have a Blessed and Comforted New Year, Pastor Bill Barnes

1

January 2016									
Sun	Мо	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat			
					1	2			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
10	11	12	13	14	<i>15</i>	16			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
31									

# Continued from Page 1 Leadership Meetings:

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1st Wednesdays 7:00 PM

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE
1st Mondays 7:00 PM

1st Mondays 7:0 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 Wednesdays See Calendar

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

2nd Tuesdays 7:00 PM

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

1st Tuesdays 7:00 PM

YOUTH COMMITTEE

1st Wednesdays 7:00 PM

#### **Upcoming Events:**

HIGH SCHOOL WINTER CAMP

February 26–28

MISSION DINNER FUNDRAISER

March 6

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

April 2 - 9



Reminder: The Church Office is closed every Friday.





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

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

Isabel Hyche January 4
Dorothy Rodriguez January 18
Mary Kay Daniel January 22



# LADIES night

# LADIES NIGHT OUT

January Ladies Night Out will be Jan 26 at 6:30 pm, Piccola Trattoria 18312 Sierra Highway, Canyon Country 91351.

# **MEN AT WORK**

Next meeting: January 16, 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

Book Buddies meets Thursday. January 14th at 4:00p.m. to discuss Fannie Flagg's novel *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion.* 

This is a comic mystery story about two women who are forced to reimagine who they are.

The discussion and salad supper will take place at Pam Trammell's home: 22254 Oxford Lane; Santa Clarita. R.S.V.P. 661-255-1727

# HANDCRAFTERS

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (Jan 12 & 26), 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!



## What: OUR ANNUAL 2015 VARIETY SHOW

Who: Church Life, hosted by the unsilenceable Rod Belcher

Where: Fellowship Hall, First Presbyterian Church of Newhall Saugus California

Why: Because it was time

When: Sunday evening November 22<sup>nd</sup>. 6:00 pm.

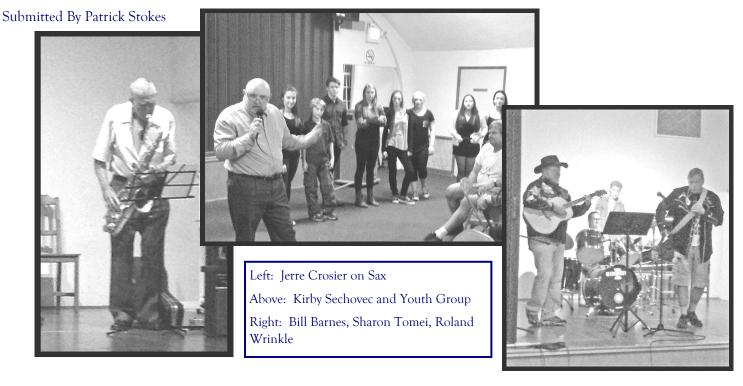
How: By the Grace of God Here's what happened....

A Fellowship Hall full of Presbyterians gathered for a **Holy Spirit Pot Luck** and our annual **Variety Show**. A good time was had by all as we gathered for a wonderful potluck dinner and to enjoy some of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall's not so renowned entertainers.

In the Beginning...The Ringtones lead off the evening with a wonderful little tune called Campos Sonos, and then performed obviously one of their favorite tunes, Didn't the Lord Deliver Daniel, both lead by their Director Extraordinaire Lorraine King. We then enjoyed Jerre Crosiers Saxophone performance of Green Eyes, followed by an off-the-wall performance by our Youth Group. Then we all enjoyed a side of John Favalessa few on the earth have ever experienced, his delightful blend of Classical Guitar and comedy—a combination rarely seen anywhere!

Then we all got a glimpse of **Kirby Sechovec** with some of his off-podium humor and insights. We were blessed to hear **Pastor Bill** and **Roland Wrinkle** on Guitars, with **Sharon Tomei** on the Drums. Finally **Roland** serenaded us with one of his greatest hits.

Kudos to Church Life Committee, lead by Elder Sharie Telles for a wonderful and fun time. See you next year.



We had about 65 people of all ages join us **on Dec 6 for** our annual **Advent Dinner** in Fellowship Hall. Under the direction of Patrick Stokes, the Church Life Committee served a really nice dinner which included ham, salad, potatoes, green beans, rolls and dessert (home made by the Stokes family) all for the very low price of \$5.00!! The tables were beautifully set thanks to Patrick's commitment to serve our church family with fine dining plate service for this event and the committee who helped him carry out this vision. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this dinner and also to all who stayed to help clean up. But mostly thank you to Patrick and the committee for all of the time put in for this and all events in 2015. "By blessing others we also are blessed." - Sharie Telles

The purpose of <u>The Mission Committee</u>, 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.



# Thank you From the Mission Committee



month at 7:00pm in Classroom 5.

Cheers from the Mission Committee! What a year we have had! From hearing what is happening on the mission field directly from PCUSA representative Sarah Henken to raising over 1800 books of Christian literature to send to India, not to mention our two successful Amor trips hosted by John Favalessa, (We couldn't do it without you) and sending two of our very own, Art Moore and Jack Irwin to Laos, the mission committee has been busy positively disrupting the lives of our congregation. Keep a look out for when our annual review is distributed; you might see something that interests you or find a program in which you would like to make a contribution. We have a lot of fun at our meetings with games, jokes, and positive ways to change the world. Join us on the **first Tuesday of every** 

# Building the Kingdom

What's next? Oh, we didn't think you'd ask. As we look ahead to the next year, we will continue to give to our four **special offerings**, host our families in **Family** 

Promise, encourage our missionaries local and distant, present Minute for Missions, schedule guest speakers that serve in the mission field, build a home in Tijuana, Mexico, in partnership with the AMOR organization (two trips planned), Alternative Christmas display, Giving Tree opportunity, and so much more! We hope to have you

Alternative Christmas display, Giving Tree join us as



S

expect 2016 to be even a better year!

Hi everyone. This is **Art Moore** in Quito Ecuador. I have just returned from Tena in Napo province of the Amazonas. Tena is our (Santa Clarita's) sister city. We were there to conduct a survey for the installation of a LWW purification system. The experience that I just had in Laos with Jack and the others was invaluable. I learned techniques from the installation of a Nyuth Khea, but a good deal more from the challenges that have developed in the six other systems in Laos. Thank you for allowing me to have the experience in Laos and the opportunity to work in Ecuador. -Art Moore, Missionary Extraordinaire.

I, Pam Trammell, joined the Mission Committee because Jesus calls on us to help others. I am proud of the church's

involvement in helping homeless families through participation in Family Promise. Yes, you might be uncomfortable with homeless people ("What do I say?") but going out of our comfort zone is good for us! This is a chance for congregants to be face to face in the mission field without going farther than our home church. I also feel Alternative Christmas provides an opportunity for church attendees to think of the less fortunate rather than the latest Black Friday or cyber sale, and give to others through organizations that sparks their interest. -Pam Trammell, Mission Committee Member, Family Promise Advocate.

I John Favalessa, have been asked why I do this twice a year when there's so much need here in the states. Well, we are also involved with Family Promise here at home which helps homeless families rebuild their lives, but the poor in Mexico make our poor seem rich. The people of Mexico, specifically Tijuana, are desperately poor and they are our hard working neighbors who have been disabled by their political system (which is slowly changing). The Kingdom of God is for all nations and peoples. Amor will have approximately 8,000 folks come his year to help build hope. They have a goal this fall - from their website: Because of you, a family receives an Amor house every 20 hours. By 2017, Amor has a goal of reducing that hourly rate to 17 hours. Help us reach that goal! With our Fall Home Drive, our goal is to build 35 more homes this fall. That is 35 families that would have had to wait until next spring to get a house. That is 35 moms and dads who can sleep better knowing their kids are warm and safe." I will add - hey, we are keeping a family dry during this winters extreme El Nino. Let's work our butts off for the Kingdom we pray to come! —John Favalessa, Amor Coordinator Extraordinaire

Jack Irwin here! What a rewarding project in the name of Jesus and to advance His Kingdom. We pray, "Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven!" There is a part of that Kingdom in place now in Yodkuea, Laos. In the photo, notice the cross on the water bottle, to indicate the Christian presence brought into this village through the provision of clean water. (It's there; use your imagination!!) Thanks to all who supported this project! Thanks to many at University Pres in Fresno and at First Pres in Newhall, plus others of our families and friends and other churches – all who gave and prayed and encouraged us to go half way around the world to make friends and to do something beautiful for God. –Jack Irwin, Mission Enthusiast Extraordinaire.

# <u>SANTA BARBARA MISSION CONFERENCE -</u> <u>RECONCILING ALL THINGS</u>

Join others from First Pres at the: Santa Barbara Mission Conference, held at the Santa Barbara Presbyterian Church

Jan. 22-23, Friday-Sat., 2016

Theme "Reconciling All Things"

- Learn about Christians in the forefront of reconciling people groups to fulfill the Will of Jesus.
- Learn from the keynote and breakout session speakers.
- Speak with over 25 exhibitors about missions-related projects.
- Join in wonderful, Spirit-filled worship.
- Meet new people from all over.
- Learn what God is doing in other churches and with other Christians in America.

Ten people from First Pres attended the 2015 Mission conference.

Look for information about registration soon.

Or look up the conference at

http://sbmissionconference.org

Heroes in Laos

Without a drink of water,
How thirsty they did be.
And not much else did matter,
Not even Christmas glee.

So they did pray a miracle, For water clean and pure, To God who sent two heroes To implement a cure.

Then they purified the water In Laos this Christmas season.

Because they have such grace and love, They need no other reason.

And so these unsung heroes Shall have their song sung here.

'Cause we will always love them, And hold them very dear.

They are a true example
Of an altruistic heart,
And privileged we to know them,
Our heroes, Jack and Art.

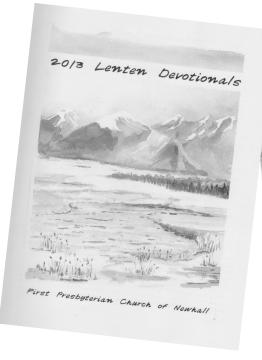


### THE LENTEN DEVOTIONAL 2016

Have you ever experienced a miracle?

It is amazing to think that Easter is around the corner and we are now prepared to celebrate the 40 days of Lent. The Deacons invite you to contribute to this year's Lenten Devotional. The theme for this year is, "Have You Experienced A Miracle?" Write about a miracle when you felt God working in your life. What Bible verse best describes the feelings you had during this time? How did it change your life? End with a prayer for the day. As usual you are not limited to just this topic. Please email to churchoffice@presby-newhall.org, or bring your entries to the Church office by January 24th or give to Deacon Terri DeYoung.

Did you know the Outreach Committee includes the devotional in the welcome bags? There is no better way for a visitor to get to know this loving family of faith. Each year we learn a little more about each other also and how faith and God's love work in each one of us.







<u>The Youth Committee</u> 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.

**Winter camp** is here! Junior High Camp is January 15th through the 18th, a whole extra day because of the Monday holiday. The weekend will be full of great times in the club house, sitting by the fire with friends, staying up late with goodies, live bands and much, much, more! Winter camp is a great time to get away from distractions of the regular world and learn more about the Lord.

BOTH High School and Junior High camps are amazing! High School Camp is February 26-28. Both camps are \$250 per student but payment plans are available based on need.

If you would like to sign up, you must talk to Ms. Sarah. Spots are limited. In order to reserve your spot, please be sure to sign up no later than 3 weeks before the camp date departure. If you have any questions or would like to check out pictures, please visit the Forest Home Website www.foresthomeministries,org.

This is such an amazing opportunity to really feel the Lord's presence without the distractions of home or technology.

# Get ready ... get set ... pygmy flamingos are ON THE LOOSE!

Please, please, please protect your home from these pesky pests!

**Pygmy flamingos** are just the START of Youth Mission Trip alerts that you will be seeing informing you of the coming Mission Trip to San Francisco, **April 2 to 9!!!** 

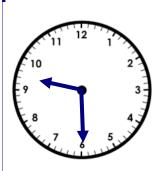
The Mission Dinner and Silent Auction is set for March 6th upstairs in Fellowship Hall!

If you have large or small items to donate to the Auction, please email Barbara Irwin (<a href="mailto:barbblissirwin@gmail.com">barbblissirwin@gmail.com</a>) or Sarah Bolin (<a href="mailto:dce@presby-newhall.org">dce@presby-newhall.org</a>) with some description! YAY!! Spring is COMING ... WATCH FOR FLAMINGOS...





<u>The Worship and Music Committee</u> 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.



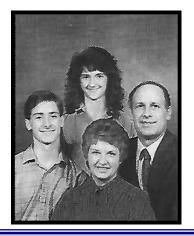
## SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES TO CHANGE:

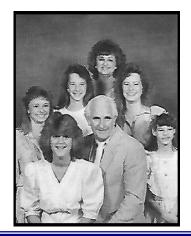
The long-awaited decision has been made! As a result of the comprehensive questionnaire completed by the congregation, the Town Hall Congregational Meeting on November 8th, and many hours of discussion by our Worship Committee, the decision has been made to change our Sunday Worship Service times back to two morning services. Starting January 3rd, our traditional service will move to 9:30 AM, and our Contemporary service will be at 11:00 AM.

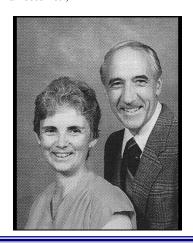


# History Quiz:

Here are some more photos from our 1987 church directory. Guess who they are (two people are in Heaven now), then confirm your answers by peeking at page 11. (Thank you Glenda Johnson for sharing your collection of church directories!)







# **ADVENT MEMORIES**



Pastor Bill assists EllaRose Tidwell hang her ornament

CAROLING AND TREE-TRIMMING DECEMBER 6TH



Visitor from the North



Lighting the Advent Candle–Kevin, Jonathan, Jacqueline and Emily Johnson



Children's Choir



Second Service Band

Merry Christmas

Photo-op for Brenda & Bill Barnes

2015

# STEPHEN MINISTERS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

The Stephen Ministry program is an international, non-denominational method "to train individuals to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ centered care to people who are hurting."

Our first class began in January 2010 with 20 people taking a leap of faith into a new venture called Stephen Ministry. None of us knew then that the training would provide a safe haven for our own personal growth.

On January 13, 2016, we will begin our fourth class of Stephen Ministry training. This time around, we know how much personal growth can happen during the training, and how exciting and rewarding the training itself can be. Then, as a bonus, every time a Stephen Minister walks through a crisis with someone, he or she can rejoice in the personal reward, the "getting back more than I give," the joy of befriending another.



There are 34 people who have completed this training at our church, and of those, 18 remain active in the program and in providing one-to-one care for others. After 6 years of teaching classes and ongoing education, we leaders know the methods work!! If you can spend 3 hours a week learning to take good care of both yourself and others, come join our team (NOW because the next class will not begin until mid-2017).



<u>Presbyterian Women</u>, 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 strengthes the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

# MEMORIES OF PW BRUNCH AT MARIE CALLENDER'S ON DECEMBER 12





# Kidney Beans Lina Beans Pinto Beans Black Beans

#### JANUARY PW MISSION PROJECT

The families of Help the Children loved and appreciated the boxes of cake, brownie, and cookie mixes that were donated last month! During the month of January, we will focus on any kind of canned beans: refried, pinto, black, baked, chili, etc. Please place your food donations on the shelves in the Evans Room. Thank you so much for supporting PW's mission!

#### PW CIRCLES-ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!

<u>Elizabeth:</u> Stephanie Linn (259-3914) – Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the Evans Room. Babysitting is provided. <u>Lois:</u> Florence Craig (255-1389) – Meets second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Evans Room.

Lvdia: 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.



<u>The Adult Education Committee</u> 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.

# WHY WE KILL "IN THE NAME OF GOD": BECAUSE WE MISREAD (WITH FRIGHTENING CERTAINTY) OUR HOLY TEXTS By Roland Wrinkle

"To such heights of evil are men driven by religion" Lucretius (1st Cent BC)

Three months ago, fanatical, fundamentalist leaders of a Wahabist sect (an ultra-conservative branch of Islam; think Saudi Arabia) in Syria commanded and coordinated the murder of 128 innocent folks in Paris, claiming their actions to be "in the name of God." They perceived that the Quran dictated as much, based on the decadence found in the City of Lights.

Two months ago, a right-wing Christian terrorist walked into a Planned Parenthood office in Colorado Springs and murdered three more innocents, shouting "baby parts" and believing that Christ's forgiveness, as found in the Gospels of the New Testament, would justify his actions.

Thirteen years ago, a Hindu fundamentalist group, the Bajrang Dal, murdered 97 Indian Muslims, following by five years its burning a Christian missionary alive, all in the name of Hindu nationalism.

More recently, Asia has experienced a horrible murder spree fanned by extremist Buddhist monks, who preach a dangerous form of religious chauvinism to their followers, contrary to the concepts of nonviolence and loving kindness propagated by Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, 2,500 years ago.

Four hundred years ago, John Calvin sanctioned the burning alive (with his books) of Michael Servetus, his fellow Protestant Reformer for heresy, i.e. he disagreed with Calvin on some points of biblical interpretation.

Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther responded to his own question, "What shall we Christians do with this rejected and condemned people, the Jews" with this answer: "First, to set fire to their synagogues or schools ... This is to be done in honor of our Lord and of Christendom, so that God might see that we are Christians ..."

Two thousand years ago, the religious elite of Israel (charged in Genesis 12 to "be a blessing to all the nations") murdered the "Author of Life"—its own promised Messiah and Savior, shouting that Jesus had blasphemed against the "name of God", feeling compelled to do so by misreadings of their own (Old Testament) scriptures.

All murders. All committed "in the name of God." All executed with pious certainty. All based on holy texts. "But what's this got to do with me? I haven't killed anyone and have no intentions of doing so." Here's what it's got to do with me and you: Jesus refined and expanded the scope of the Ten Commandments. "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder';... But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement...." (Matt 5:21). "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer...." (I John 3:15) The very first commandment was, "You shall have no other gods before Me." (Ex. 20) But Jesus came along and said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34); "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:31); and "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father...." (Matt 5:44)

Most assuredly, Paul's little buddy implored, "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,..." (2 Tim. 3:16) But our disagreements over scripture all too often lead to hatred and walking away. This is anti-biblical. We cannot divide the body of Christ. Every letter in the New Testament contains at least one command to believers to live at peace with one another. We are repeatedly instructed to love one another (John 13:34; Romans 12:10), to live in peace and harmony with one another (Romans 15:5; Hebrews 12:14), to settle our differences among ourselves (2 Corinthians 13:11), to be patient, kind and tenderhearted toward one another (1 Corinthians 13:4), to consider others before ourselves (Philippians 2:3), to bear one another's burdens (Ephesians 4:2), and to rejoice in the truth (1 Corinthians 13:6). Conflict is the antithesis of Christian behavior as outlined in Scripture.

It is right to be horrified at, and readily condemn, any killing "in the name of God." But we must also look inside ourselves. If God considers hating a form of murder, we must be careful how we handle disputes over our sacred texts. As Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn confessed: "If only it were all so simple! If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?" If we are to truly "love our enemies," this surely includes our attitudes towards those who differ with us over biblical doctrine. Solzhenitsyn was tortured by those who believed that he had blasphemed the Soviet credos. Instead of concentrating on the murderers who imprisoned him, he turned his insight within himself. Where and when do we hate? Do we hate "in the name of God." Do we hate (murder) those with whom we disagree about Christian doctrine and what is not sanctioned by scripture? I'm no terrorist. But I'm no fully-formed Christian either. It's such a struggle.

# Life Academy - Adult Education

The Adult Education Committee is trying a new format for their Life Academy classes. Instead of offering all the classes during a six week period twice a year, we will be offering classes throughout the year (one or two a month). The first class will be:

Dates: Sundays, January 10 and 17

Time: 11:00 a.m. to noon Location: Fellowship Hall Class Topic: "Christ and Time"

Have you wondered what time it is on God's Calendar? Jesus has been gone so long is He really returning? Can we know the time of His return? Looking back, can we pinpoint the time of His birth? What calendar did Jesus use? This is a great follow-up to the course by Pastor Bill and Jack Irwin on the Covenants of God's salvation plan in the Bible. Come and explore the Bible together with Jack Irwin - bring your Bible, written material will be distributed in class. Sign-ups will be on January 3<sup>rd</sup> but walk-ins will be welcome.

# KIEDS: KIEDS: KIEDS:

<u>The Children's Ministry Committee</u> 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.

Santa has come and gone... but there is plenty of fun to be had this NEW YEAR! We are already gearing up for our 2016 FOREST HOME WINTER CAMP! That's right, all the 3rd -6th graders are invited to join the awesome winter camp staff at FOHO.



January 29-31 will be a weekend full of snow ball fights, staying up late, singing and dancing, and most of all- time to be with the Lord. Winter Camp is a great way for kids to get closer to God, and grow closer to their community. Check out the Forest Home website to see pictures of the 2016 Children's Winter Camp page. www.foresthomeministries.org

The cost is \$200.00 per camper, but payment plans and scholarships are available based on need.

If your son or daughter is interested you MUST sign up with Ms. Sarah no later than January 10, 2016. Spots are limited so be sure to reserve your spot as soon as possible.

History Quiz Answers:

Ken & Florence Craig, with children Jon & Kathy; Robert (Dec'd) & Marilyn Chase with children Wendy Lynn, Wendy Lee, Amy, Noel & Julie; John (dec'd) & Ellie Fuller.

11

# The Newhall Press

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

Change Service Requested

Non Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Santa Clarita, CA Permit No. 49

# **JANUARY 2016**



### **Sunday Worship Services**

Traditional Worship 9:30:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship 11:00 a.m.



# **Deadline**

February Newsletter: January 17, 2016

Thank you for your articles and input to the newsletter.

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

#### The Newhall Press

First Presbyterian Church of Newhall 24317 N. Newhall Avenue Newhall, CA 91321-2721 (661) 259-0555

**E-mail**: churchoffice@presby-newhall.org

Web Site: http://www.presbynewhall.org

Pastor: Bill Barnes (ext. 1)

Pastoral Support: Phil Aijian (ext. 2)
Dir. Christian Educ.: Sarah Bolin (ext. 4)
Assoc. Children's Dir: Lelia Meadows

Assoc. Youth Dir: Ian Fletcher

Office Administrator: Sandy McIntosh (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

(661) 254-2312