

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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 FOR JANUARY 2017

January Events:

NEW YEARS DAY—One Service

Jan. 1 10:00 A.M.

LAOS MISSION REPORT

Jan. 15 4:00 P.M.

PARENT-TOT PROGRAM (LSNS)

Jan. 25-Mar. 14

SANTA BARBARA MISSION

CONFERENCE

Jan. 27-28

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.

MEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

Mondays 5:30 P.M.

MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY

Fridays 11:00 A.M.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES

See Schedule Page 10

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.

The year is closed, the record made,
The last deed done, the last word said,
The memory alone remains
Of all its joys, its griefs, its gains,
And now with purpose full and clear,
We turn to meet another year.

Robert Browning (1812–1889)

I am impressed by the last line of Browning's Poem. We must all turn to meet the new year, but how will we turn? What course will we set? How will our lives reflect the joy and meaning of the Christmas we have just celebrated? That is our choice as we face the New Year. What steps will we take to improve our relationship with God? ...to improve our relationships with others? ...to grow as Christ-bearers in our community, family, and world?

Or we could simply take the attitude of Lucy.

One of my favorite Peanuts cartoons was printed many years ago when little Sally was still a toddler. *One day as she was crawling by, Linus and Lucy were watching her progress and Linus asked, How long do you think it will be before Sally starts to walk? Lucy comes back: Good Grief! What's the hurry? Let her crawl around for awhile! Don't rush her! She's got all the time in the world. Once you stand up and start to walk, you're committed for life."*

I'd like to think that "God is not finished with me yet, and has more to accomplish in this year ahead." That is my prayer as I enter 2017. It is up to me (with God's help) to realize that statement in the actions and effects of my life. But we don't want to end up like the man who was given some bad news by his doctor.

A man had a check-up and then went in to see his doctor to get the results. The doctor said he had bad news and worse news for him; which did he want to hear first? The man was a bit non-plussed and said he guessed he'd hear the bad news first. The doctor said, The bad news is that you only have twenty-four hours to live." At this the man jumped up, totally flabbergasted and distraught. He paced the doctor's office and complained, Twenty-four hours to live? I can't possibly get my affairs in order that quickly. I can't believe this, it is incredible! What could be worse news than this? The doctor said, The worse news is that I was supposed to tell you this yesterday but I forgot."

PHOTOS NEEDED

We would love to publish your photos of church and personal events in the newsletter.

Please send one or two of each event to newsletter@presby-newhall.org.

Include the name of the event and identify the people shown if possible.

More information about the event is always welcome.

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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:

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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

CHILI COOK-OFF

Feb. 12 After Congregational Mtg.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Mar. 1

YOUTH FUNDRAISER/AUCTION

Mar. 5

EASTER

Apr. 16



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.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

Isabell Hyche	Jan. 4
James Graves	Jan. 12
Nancy Goyette	Jan. 17
Dorothy Rodriguez	Jan. 18
Mary Kay Daniel	Jan. 22



HANDCRAFTERS



Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (January 10th & 24th), 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 will discuss "The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend" by Swedish author Katarina Bivald on Thursday January 12th at 4:00 p.m.

Sara comes all the way from Sweden to visit her book-loving friend Amy. She stays to open a book store in Wagon Wheel, Iowa.

A wonderful read for book lovers.

Come to Ellie Fuller's home for discussion and salad supper. 25035 Greenmill Ave., Newhall. RSVP 661-259-4983



LADIES NIGHT OUT

Ladies Night Out - January 31st at 6:30 pm. Stop by the Church Life table on the patio between services in January to sign up and to find out where we will meet. We will have our list of 2017 restaurants available there to whet your appetites! Won't you join us, ladies?

Thank you and Happy New Year!



DECEMBER 4—ADVENT TREE TRIMMING AND DINNER

By Kathy Bressler



Our Children’s Ministry and Church Life Committees cooperated to make our traditional Advent celebration particularly memorable. At 5:00 pm families gathered in the sanctuary. We sang carols with the accompaniment of our fabulous EverThirst Band while the children made trip after trip to the narthex to choose decorations to hang on the two trees. The Children’s Choir performed several numbers. My favorite was “I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas.” We ended with a chaotic contest to see which side of the congregation could

outdo the other with the “Twelve Days of Christmas.”

At 6:00 pm we rushed to Fellowship Hall and found seats to enjoy the wonderful ham (with all the trimmings) dinner as prepared by our Church Life Committee. Jolly fellowship prevailed throughout the evening. Finally the guest-of-honor showed up; yes, the old man in the red suit entertained us with some hilarious jokes, then ushered families downstairs to take Photobooth pictures compliments of John and Theresa Howell.



It was a wonderful time of family celebration, and I noticed several three-generation families in attendance. We really got into the Christmas spirit.



CHRISTMAS EVE



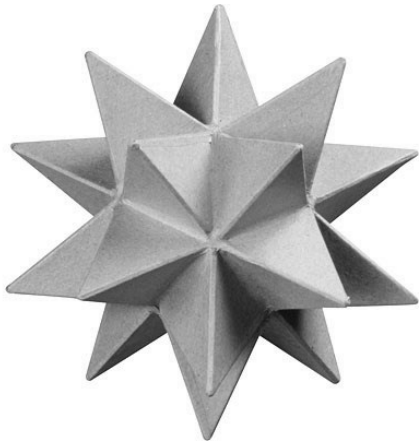


The Worship and Music Committee will strive with God's guidance and grace, to create Christ-centered worship experiences, inspiring God's people as they respond to the Word proclaimed in prayer, glorious music, scripture, sacrament and message.

REFLECTIONS ON OUR SANCTUARY CHRISTMAS DÉCOR by Tina Pulliam

During the Advent season, many families decorate their homes with a Moravian star. I hadn't heard of these stars until a recent trip to North Carolina. We had stopped in Old Salem, a Moravian settlement, established in 1735, in search of Moravian cookies. I had never tried these cookies, and since there was chocolate involved we had to stop. While on the quest for the cookies, I became fascinated by the large multi-pointed-stars hanging everywhere. In the museum/gift shop I learned their history.

The Moravian Church began as a Protestant denomination in Bohemia/Moravia during the late 14th century. Its founder, Jan Hus, rejected the Catholic Church one hundred years before Martin Luther. He was burned at the stake in 1415 and his followers were forced into hiding. In 1722, the group established a small village and became known as Moravians, which translates "The Lord's Watch." They were to watch for God as God was to watch out for them.

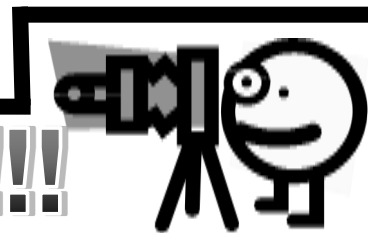


The Moravian star originated in Saxony, Germany, in the 1830's. It was a craft project to help demonstrate geometry lessons to young boys attending a Moravian school. The stars were then adopted by the Moravian Church as a symbol of the birth of Jesus, representing the star of Bethlehem. Tradition has it that the star is hung the first Sunday of Advent and remains up until Epiphany.

There are many forms of Moravian stars, and the most commonly seen and most widely available is the 26-point form, composed of eighteen square and eight triangular cone-shaped points. This shape is technically known as an "augmented rhombicuboctahedron." What better way to teach my 6th graders about polyhedra than to construct a Moravian star. I purchased an instruction booklet and a few small stars to give as Christmas gifts not knowing I would be using these fascinating stars decorations for our Advent season... Devine inspiration?

PS: I did find the cookies... And that's another story.

PICTURE THIS!!!



Scouts from Troop 609 assist Eagle Scout candidate Trent install lights in our patio.



Pam Jenner and Charlotte Fries get crafty on Church Clean-up Day, December 3rd.



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OJAI COMMUNITY CHORUS JOINED FPCN'S CHANCEL CHOIR FOR AN AMAZING CHRISTMAS CONCERT ON DECEMBER 11

By Florence Craig

A concert doesn't just happen. It begins in the mind of our director, Connie Woodson, as she compiles a selection of the pieces that will make up the concert. Then we, the members of the choir need to learn the pieces. This year, for several reasons, we had less time than usual to prepare. Connie, accompanists, and choir members found time for a couple of extra practice sessions and many of us put in extra time with a keyboard or You Tube to learn our parts. When we have become familiar with the music, Connie works with us to turn notes on a page into a musical expression. Thank you Connie and all of the musicians.



The presentation doesn't just happen. Thanks to Ken Craig making a request at our building and grounds committee, a whole group of men, perhaps ten in all, appeared following church on December 11. They made quick work of moving the chancel furniture and setting up the many pieces that comprise the risers. Our second service band, Everthirst, disrupted their set up and moved their equipment into a more compact formation which provided a place to put the chancel furniture. And John Favalessa worked his magic with our sometimes temperamental sound system to enhance our sound. A BIG thank you to all of these participants you did not even see or know about.

And, finally, what a downer it would be to put in all of that effort if no one came to listen to us! You were a wonderful audience. We get much enjoyment from sharing our music with you. We hope it pleased you and enhanced your holidays. Thank you for coming

The only true Christmas gift is love,
And all other gifts are only
Outward signs that we love.
Anyone can give it,
But you can't wrap it
In expensive paper and pretty bows.
You can't buy it,
Yet it is so rare and unique
That only you can give it.
It is very precious,
Yet it is as accessible to the poor
As to the rich.
A poor baby in a crude manger
Came to teach us about it,
And we come together today
To celebrate His birth
And the love that He gave.

There ought to be
A warning label attached to love,
Because you cannot give it away
And keep it from coming back to you.
Real love can't be taken back
And exchanged for something else
You can't give it only to those
You really want to give it to;
Because once love has touched you,
It will become who you are.
You'll find yourself
Trying to find ways
To love even your enemies.
You'll spend your whole life
Trying to give it away,
And the more you give it,
The more of it you will have to give.
Submitted by Robby Robinson



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.

Successful November 2016 Water Mission to Laos

Come hear about the Mission with Art Moore, Scott Bullock and Jack Irwin on January 15th in Worship and an extended presentation at 4 pm with refreshments, First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, Sponsored by the Adult Education and Mission Committees

WE EXCEEDED ALL OUR GOALS DURING THIS WATER MISSION!

Praise to the God of Heaven! We planned to, and in fact did, visit each of the seven clean water systems that Lao Partners has installed, in cooperation with the Lao Evangelical Church (LEC) in Laos. Art Moore, Scott Bullock and Jack Irwin from First Pres Newhall joined 5 members of University Presbyterian Church (UPC) in Fresno on an 18-day Water Mission to Laos, leaving Oct. 24th and returning Nov.11th. Rather than installing a new system, we visited every site to operate, inspect and repair the systems where necessary and to provide training for system operators and training on hygiene to the village leaders.

2016 VISITS TO THE SITES IN VILLAGES AND AT TWO TEACHERS' COLLEGES

Ban Phou Koud, Xieng Khuang Province: The system at a junior high school was providing clean water to two nearby villages. Last year we found that the ozonator was inoperative. This year Dave, Charlie, Art and Scott helped the operators replace the one faulty ballast (of two) that powers the light tubes, which we had purchased and brought from the US. That site is now operational. Jack, Marilyn and Thim conducted a hygiene class for 15 enthusiastic teachers. Hearing of their needs, we gave the school librarian 400,000 kip (\$US50) to help purchase books and paper for student's writing and artwork.

Ban Vanh, Xieng Khuang Province: This system is a prime example of success. The system was found to be in good condition. We conducted a hygiene class for both men and women who are village leaders and operators of the system. The sand filter installed by Lao Partners is working well to trap sediment in the incoming water.

Luang Probang Teachers College: Art researched ways to address the calcium residue in cookware, which we were told made people reluctant to use the clean water. He was pleased that his ideas of a water softener or special filter to trap the calcium were not necessary, since the College is now getting city water to the campus. We found the system in good shape and our test of the city water found it low in total dissolved solids (which would include calcium). They will be getting the clean water system back in service soon. Luang Probang is the ancient capital of Laos. We toured the king's palace, ate in restaurants overlooking the mighty Mekong River, visited the popular night market to buy gifts, worshipped at the LP House Church, which had spawned 58 other house churches in the district, and even visited another village to test their pond water as a possible future source for a clean water system.

Khan Kai Teachers College in Phonosvanh: This water system also has not been operational for several years. We crowded into the Office of the Director of the College and learned that the problem was the water from a surface well at the adjacent lake that was unacceptable. He told us that sometime in 2017 the city water system will be extended to the college, when it will feed the clean water system for resumed operation.

Ban Yod Kheau, Xieng Khuang Province: The operators of our 2015 installation are producing 20 to 30 bottles of clean

Cont. on P. 7

water each day to villagers. They “sell” the 5-gallon bottle for 1000 kip, or roughly 12 cents US, to generate funds for parts and supplies. We conducted a hygiene training class for the system operators, talking about germs, clean hands and uses of clean water. We also re-visited the Primary School (grades 1-3) to present school supplies and T-shirts that Art had brought from Newhall Pres. and the City of Santa Clarita. We also talked with several village women at their homes. Upon learning we had brought the clean water system, they were profuse in their thankfulness.

Naxay LEC Church in Vientiane and nearby Ban Nang Sang Pai We worked with the operators to install a second pressure gauge at the Naxay system and corrected problems with the ozonator air tubing at both sites.

PLANS FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND ADVANCEMENT OF THE CLEAN WATER SYSTEMS

Installation by LEC: We learned that LEC leaders are preparing to install the clean water system at another village on their own in the next few months. Their experience installing systems with us over the past seven years is enabling this next step in sustainability and advancement. They have requested our help with operator training and also hygiene education during our 2017 visit.

Ban Hoy Nam Yoon: John Bosavanh took us back to “his” village, where his daughter Seng lives. There we were welcomed with a wonderful lunch by the village. We had tested water here last year. Later the village bored the well deeper to get better quality water, to no avail when we tested it this trip. We tested other wells and found one of acceptable quality for the clean water filtration system. We plan on returning to install the system in November 2017.

In-Laos Clean Water Network: During our mission, we and LEC appointed two ‘Site Observers’ (one in Vientiane and one in Xieng Khouang) who will visit each site monthly and report to LEC and to John Bosavanh of UPC on a regularly scheduled basis.

In-Laos Supplier Found: While driving around Vientiane, the capital city, we found a supplier of water filtration systems who could be a one stop shop for filters, equipment, and even ozonators. We hope LEC and the Site Observers can use this source to save “running around,” even to Thailand, to get parts.

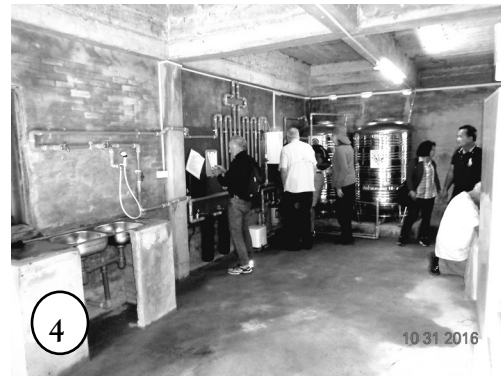
THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THE LAOS WATER MISSION

No one on the 8-member team was taken ill --- thank you for your answered prayers.

The need for \$6900 to support Art, Jack and Scott was met with donations of \$6,888. Thank you all. Not only did this pay for air flights, hotels and meals, it also provided



1. House church, in a neighborhood of Vientiane, capital city. We worshipped with them.
2. Village of Yod Kheau -- we gave gifts to the primary school -- supplies, shirts.
3. Village of Yod Kheau --- we gave certificates to those who attended our hygiene class.
4. Khan Kai teachers College --- we are inspecting the system





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.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Johan & Evelyne Vandersande

Johan was born and raised in Holland where he also served in the military, which was mandatory. He attained an engineering degree and had a long career in pharmaceutical manufacturing, but is now retired. He has lived in California for 30 years. Johan loves water sports including sailing and scuba diving, and belongs to an astronomy club. He, and the love of his life, his wife, Evelyne, have been married for 45 years!



Evelyne was born in France and was raised Catholic. Later in life, while in Holland she attended a progressive Mennonite Church. She loves nature and has been a docent at the Nature Center for 30 years! She also writes their newsletter and educational nature articles. They feel very blessed having two children. Their daughter, who also has a love of nature, is a vet here in the valley. Their son became an engineer and works for a medical device company in Irvine. They were looking for a church, which did not feel like a big “church show”, but was instead informal and family like. Also, connecting with the pastor is important for both.

Kevin & Jacqueline Johnson

Jacqueline is a born and bred “kiwi”, (as from beautiful New Zealand). There, her grandparents were the ones who took her to church at St. Paul’s, Presbyterian. St. Paul’s has a similar history to our church with earthquakes, it was heavily damaged by an earthquake in 1931 and rebuilt. This is also the church in which Kevin & Jacqueline were married. Kevin and Jacqueline started coming to our church 16 years ago on a Christmas Eve, when she was pregnant with their son Jonathan. They also have a daughter, Emily, who is 9 years old. They loved the music and the family-like atmosphere of our church. Jacqueline feels very blessed in her life having successfully gone through many rounds of chemo and radiation treatment in 2003. She loves crafts and quilting. Kevin grew up in Montana and was raised in the Dutch Reformed Church. His grandparents & great grandparents donated the land and physically help build the church, which was literally Kevin’s family church! Sadly, they had to shut the doors two years ago. This is one of the reasons they have decided to become members here...after attending for 16 years...as we are a loving church family with similarities to the one he grew up in. Kevin has a degree in film and TV from Montana State University and is currently an on-line editor in the entertainment industry. Kevin loves the outdoors and nature activities, including hunting, fishing and camping.



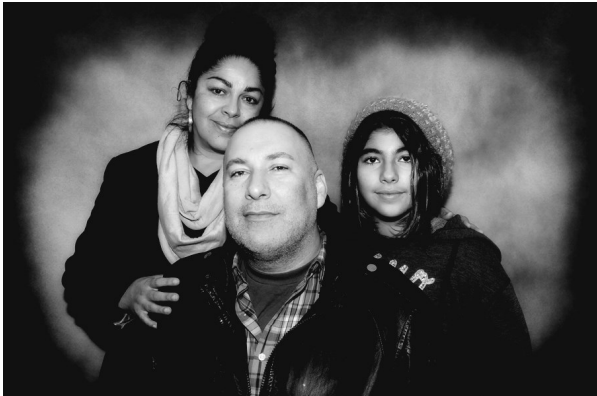
Jennifer Maloney

Jennifer grew up in Bend Oregon where she was raised in a Baptist church. She attended college in Portland and found a wonderful church family there. Her sister and her family also live in Santa Clarita. She is currently a graphic designer and spends her leisure time reading, crafting and playing Minecraft! Jennifer enjoys our traditional style of service and our interactive prayers of the people. Our church reminds her of her church in Portland where people get to know and encourage each other like a family.



Verenice and Joe Gomez,

Both Vere and Joe grew up Catholic. They have three boys; two are twins and a daughter Kimmy (who has a terrific voice and sang at our church birthday party last year). They had been attending here off and on as their life was extremely busy, but as time went by they grew into the Lord and knew they needed to find a church for their family. Pastor Bill's sermons made them feel that this was a welcoming and accepting church. Vere is especially touched by our Amor homebuilding trips and hopes to participate in the future with the family. Vere was a teacher in special education, worked in group homes and as a therapist and now a coordinator with Family Services. Vere loves serving people in need. She loves the arts, music and dance. Joe worked in film, but then in switched careers and has worked with at-risk youth for the past 8 years. His cases come from the Probation Department, Family Services and the Department of Mental Health. Joe is on call 24 a day in this challenging job.



The Deacons of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, following the example of Jesus Christ, are committed to provide supportive services and care to the community of faith.

WRITE YOUR THOUGHTS FOR ANNUAL LENTEN BOOK

Happy Holidays everyone,

As we stop to reflect and celebrate the best gift of all, the birth of our Lord, what a wonderful gift He gave to us! Please take a moment to reflect on God's grace for us..

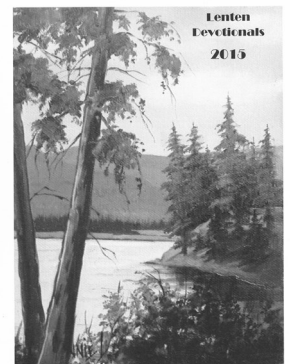
Lent is early again in 2017, so we need to start thinking about the Lenten Book and our submissions. For your information, the first day of Lent (Ash Wednesday) will be March 1st. Easter falls on April 16.

The theme for this year's Lenten Book is: "How do you feel transformed by God's grace?"

As you have just celebrated His birth, thank you for taking time out to meditate on what God would have you write for the Lenten Book.

God has truly blessed our congregation with many gifted writers, all of whom help us to come to Easter in His frame of mind.

Many Holiday Blessings,



First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, California

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 JANUARY

Many thanks from "Help the Children" for your generous donations last month. In January we will focus on cans of refried beans and fruit. 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

The New Year is here and with it we count our blessings at Little Shepherds Nursery School! Here are some of our most recent ones:

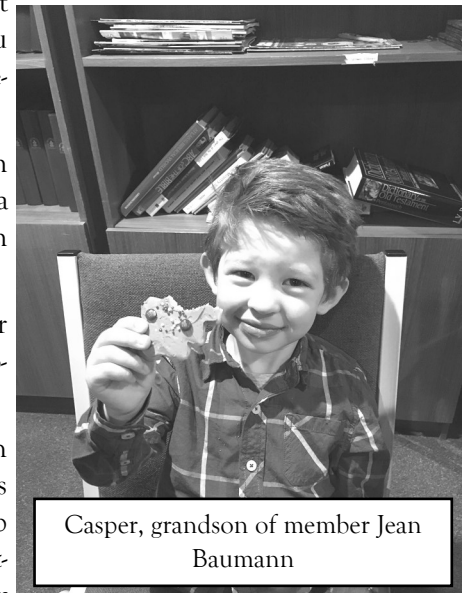
~We are restarting the Parent / Tot program with two 8-week sessions, the first one will run from Jan 25 to March 14 and the next

one will run from April 12 to May 31. This is for tots who are walking, up to age two. If you know of someone who might be interested in this program please refer them to the preschool and Miss Dawn, or I will be happy to help them.

~We enrolled a few more children in December who will begin in our preschool program in January, this brings our school up to full status in both our Pre-k and 2's program with a few openings in older 3/young 4's and we also have a few spots in our Wednesday program for all ages.

~We have a few special days coming up at preschool in January which support our winter theme. Our snow day is always popular and the children also enjoy our PJ and hot chocolate day.

~Our Christmas Program in the sanctuary was wonderful and seemed like it was over with the snap of our fingers! We enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate afterwards in the Evans Room and wish to thank our preschool board and also Miss Geni for helping to set that up for us. Thank you to the preschool staff for all your hard work, especially in December, getting the children ready to sing and making parent gifts. Now it is your time to enjoy family and rest up! Preschool resumes on January 10th, Happy New Year to everyone! ~Miss Sharie~



Casper, grandson of member Jean Baumann

Studying the Bible by Sonja Tweedie

In this New Year, we, who continue to discover amazing insights from the bestselling, most popular book ever written and printed — the Holy Bible — encourage you to consider joining a Bible study. Bible study and exploration are not boring or repetitious; it is exciting, refreshing and new every time we read a familiar passage.

Our Friday Midday study is exploring the Book of Hebrews. The writer is telling the Jewish Christians, who have become disillusioned with Christianity, how Jesus is so much better than their familiar rituals and traditions. We learned about *apostasy* and what may happen when we fall away from our faith in Christ. (Chapter 6 of Hebrews is considered the most controversial chapter in the NT!)

Did you know that Jesus talked about being “born again” 33 times in the New Testament? (You will hear more about this from Pastor Bill in John 3:1-21 as Jesus tells Nicodemus, “You must be born again.”) Are you aware that God created Judaism for the sole purpose of preparing His “Chosen People” for the coming of his son, Jesus Christ, the Messiah? The Old Testament is filled with scripture telling of Christ’s coming to earth, bringing salvation and eternal life to all! It is all there!

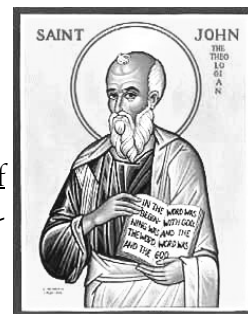
Join a Bible study; there are several ongoing within our congregation. Learn, discuss, question, wonder, be awed by what you read and hear. All are welcome. The Friday study meets from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Evans



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 11 am to noon. After a short break, the study will continue on January 11th, 18th, and 25th, and 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 at jirwinme@sbcglobal.net (213-369-6991) for more information. Your first breakfast is on us! See you there!

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
24317 N. Newhall Ave.
Newhall, California; 91321-2721

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Sunday Worship Services

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



Deadline for the February Newsletter: January 15, 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

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