

# THE NEWHALL PRESS



June 2014

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

*Summer is here with all of its fun.  
We'll begin this month with a party in the Son.  
A birthday party is for what we will search;  
One hundred twenty-three years of His Bride, the Church.*

We will begin on June 1<sup>st</sup> with one worship service at 10 am. It will be stylized in Dr. Seuss fashion. And will be accompanied by a picnic, games, and homemade ice cream (made by our own Deacons). It will be a creative day.

Summer is about the renewal and growth of life. In the heat the seed bursts with new life. As we watch green leaves grow; as we take trips; it is also a time of fun and imagination. Our VBS theme this year is WEIRD ANIMALS. During it we will challenge our children to use their creative imaginations to bless God's creation. I once saw an expression of imagination at a freeway onramp near a University. As finals were over, the time for vacations had begun and that ramp was loaded with college kids hitching rides. They had signs saying, "Sacramento" or "L.A." and other destinations which they held up for the passing motorist to see and hopefully respond. Particularly impressive was a young man with a sign saying simply, "MOM IS WAITING." How could anyone resist?

We also will use our fun and imagination in worship as we offer a first person sermon series, *Villains of the Bible*, beginning July 6th. In it our goal is to discover how God provides for us stories to teach us how to battle the powers of selfishness and evil through the lives of people in our Holy Scripture. As always we will offer an opportunity to hear the creativity of members of our own congregation as they present these stories from the Bible.

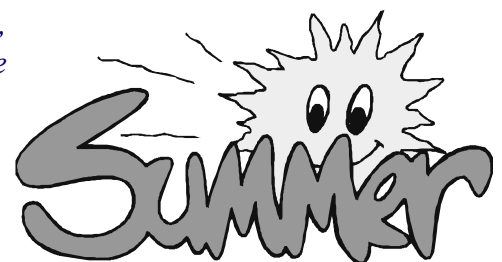
Thanks to Church Life, *Summer Magic* will be back as a weekly time for Brenda and me to invite you into our home for 3 consecutive Wednesdays of swimming, eating, playing games, and enjoying one another, from 5-8 pm, on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

For our children and youth summer involves camping. A Surf Camp for youth begins the summer at the Wrinkle Ranch in Carpentaria from June 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. Then Summer Camp at Forest Home will be offered to 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Graders, Jr Highers, and Sr. Highers.

Again, through creative thought, I heard a story from church summer camp where one of the counselors was leading a discussion on the purpose God had for everything He created. The participants began to find good reasons for clouds and trees and rocks and rivers and animals and just about everything else in nature. Finally, one of the children asked, "If God had a good purpose for everything, then why did He create poison ivy?" The discussion leader gulped and, as he struggled with the question, one of the other children came to his rescue, saying, "The reason God made poison ivy is because He wanted us to know there are certain things we should keep our cotton-pickin' hands off."

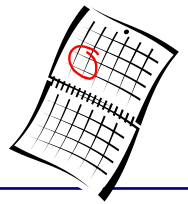
*Wherever you are this summer, take time to rest, to imagine, to laugh, to love, to grow, and to thank our wonderful Creator God for this world in which we live.*

*In His Grip,  
Pastor Bill*





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.

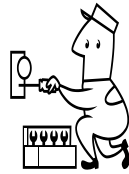


**MEN AT WORK**

Next meeting: June 21st.

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.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

June 1	Church Birthday Party–Ice Cream Social
June 4 & 11	Alpha (Life Academy)
June 6-11	Surf Camp (Youth)
June 8	Pentecost Sunday
June 10 & 24	Crafters
June 12	Book Buddies
June 15	Fathers Day
June 17	Praise in the Park starts (Youth)
June 19	Messy Games (Youth)
June 21	Men at Work
June 23-27	Vacation Bible School (VBS)
June 24	Ladies Night Out

**BOOK BUDDIES**

Book Buddies will discuss Jamie Ford's latest story, *Songs of Willow Frost*, Thursday, June 12th 4:00 P.M. at Jane Roger's home.

William Eng, a Chinese American boy, confronts the mysteries of his past and his connection to the film star Willow Frost.

R.S.V.P., Jane Rogers 251-8955, address 16710 Highfalls St. Canyon Country.



**JUNE BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S**

Glenda Johnson	June 6
Betty Morris	June 9
Lois Williams	June 9
Norma Thompson	June 11
Marilyn Tanner	June 20

**GREASE SING-A-LONG**

We are going to the Hollywood Bowl on Sunday July 13th for the fun-filled *Grease Sing-a-long*. Tickets are \$25/person. We'll start with a picnic dinner in Fellowship Hall at 5 pm, then carpool to the Bowl shuttle bus. Show starts at 7:30. Ticket sales end June 8th. Questions? Call Candy Belcher at 661-297-2445.



**LADIES NIGHT OUT**

Our gathering this month will be on June 24th at 6:30 PM. Location will be announced. All women are welcome to join this wonderful time of relaxation and fellowship.



**DODGER NIGHT MEMORIES**

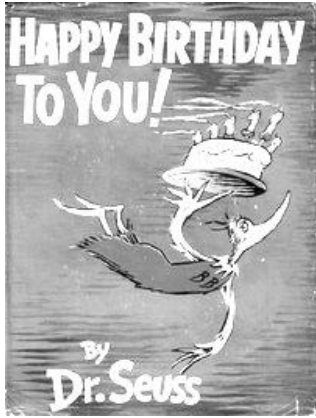
Fifteen loyal Dodger fans attended SCV Dodger Night on April 26th. We cheered for the home team as they beat the Colorado Rockies ...6 to 2. We feasted on Dodger dogs, peanuts and cotton candy. Thanks Church Life for organizing the outing.





## CHURCH BIRTHDAY PICNIC

You are invited to celebrate our Church's birthday with a Dr. Seuss theme on Sunday June 1st, from 11:30 am to 2 pm. There will be one worship service at 10 am. Then enjoy pulled pork sandwiches, cake, and homemade ice cream from our Deacons. Bring a lawn chair and a side dish or salad to share. Binge on the largest birthday cake



ever! Play games and enjoy your church family as we celebrate being 123 years old—and counting!

FLASH! There will be a Dr. Seuss theme poetry contest. Add your creative efforts to these two gems!

## GOOD NEWS

I have some news about June first

I have to tell you before I burst

I will *not* come to church at 9

I will *not* come to church at 10:45

But I *will* come to church at 10.

We will have a church service

And then a blast

So mark this on your calendar fast.

I will do this to be at the party –

A great, big church party.

So, don't forget June 1<sup>st</sup> is the date

And please be ready to celebrate:

Yummy food all made with care

That we are all happy to share.

~ Linda Weingarten

## **GREEN LEGS AND ABRAHAM** By Roland Wrinkle

The Terramonsoos of Gitchy-kan-goo

Were a family of five green Morphs.

A mom and a dad

A lass and a lad

And a little green Morph horse--of course.

They jumped on the back of that little horse Mac

Thought "*West was the Best*", you know

Gave Mac's rump a whack

And clickity clack

'Twas Newhall-in' they did go.

On to four tiny green legs, jumped little sister Megs

Father Abraham and big brother Klaus

And then mother Sarah

It was all Mac could bear- a

Brood of Terramonsoos and their house.

O'er hills and through ponds, they went very long gone

Travelin' on hot dusty dirt streets.

'Till finally one day

They came here to stay

In Newhall of the Santa Clareet.

They were homesick and 'lone, being so far from home

But what was so, so, so, so, so, so, so very much worse!

Sunday came 'long

The dawn came up strong

And Terramonsoos had no church.

So they prayed and they prayed, with faith unafraid

For the body of Christ they were seekin'

Then just o'er the hill

Boomed the voice of *Big Bill*

And *Upside-down Phil* and his Deacons.

So the Terramonsoos of Gitchy-kan-goo

Were welcomed like kings to a throne!

(Recruited by Jack

For this and for that)

At Presby-the-Bestie, God's home!



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.

## MEMORIES OF PW SPRING TEA

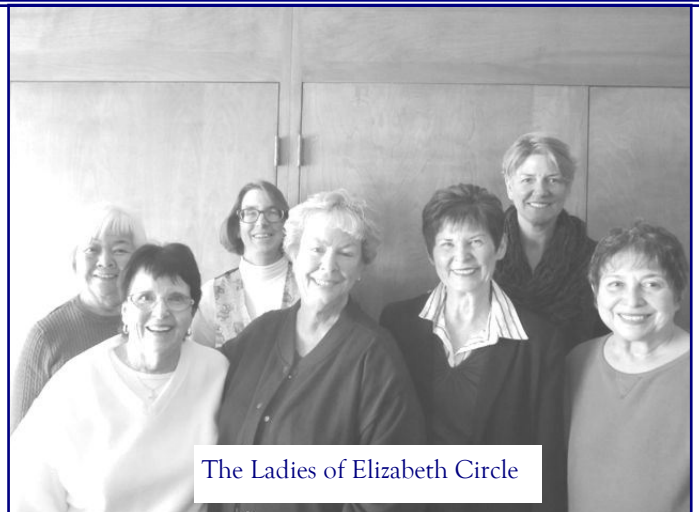


## ELIZABETH CIRCLE by Stephanie Linn

I first joined Elizabeth Circle when my children were attending Little Shepherds. It was a wonderful opportunity to get together, study the Bible and enjoy lunch and grown-up time with the ladies while our children enjoyed playtime in childcare. I benefitted from the life experiences of Jacquie Moore and Millie Tanner and others who had joined when their children were young. Stacey Perkins-Rock was also a part of our Circle.

Friendships that started over 30 years ago are still strong. Elizabeth Circle has long provided a support network for mothers, sisters, working moms, and now grandmothers to gather and talk about raising children, relationships, serving in the church, leadership and understanding God's plan for our lives.

Our Circle used to meet once a month and provide lunch, then we switched to twice a month, brought a brown-bag lunch and dessert was provided. Currently, we meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the Evans Room. We each take turns leading the study and bringing refreshments. We have continued to adapt to the changing times. Our study is more like a book club as we are always open to suggestions. We are currently studying "Angels" and the ministry angels have in our lives.



The Ladies of Elizabeth Circle

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## MARILYN TANNER HONORED!—2014 Honorary Life Member of Presbyterian Women



**This is what they say about Marilyn Tanner (as written by Beverly Stokes):**

From her daughter - I am the luckiest daughter in the world, I have a great mom and I'm the favorite child. She doesn't ask for much in life and is very kind-hearted and giving. She's a strong role model in our family. I am so grateful and thankful I get to call her mom.

From her granddaughter - I am the favorite grandchild.

From her other granddaughter - And I'm not, but we love each other anyways.

From her son-in-law - When my Mother-in-Law moved in with us several years ago, I had no idea what a tremendous blessing she was going to be. I didn't realize what a super mom she was. She helps our family in so many ways. She single handedly makes our sometimes crazy household, run smoothly. She supports us in our dreams and makes some of life's problems a little easier to bear, while always sharing some of her dreams and adventures with us. Having her in our lives has been a great joy. We are so proud of her that she is being honored here today.

From Phil: The best Deacon ever and she is my favorite.

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Marilyn Tanner has been a big part of our church since she joined on November 21, 2004. She is part of Elizabeth circle and has been moderator of this group several times. She has been a Deacon for one term and filled in for another term. As a Deacon she started the Memorial receptions program for the members of the church. She taught Sunday school, served on Church Life Committee a couple of years and worked on church family camp two years and on many other projects. Even though she is not currently a ruling Deacon and doesn't like to be recognized, you will see her working in the back ground, making dinners, visiting members and making phone calls to check on members of the church.

She was born in Evansville, Indiana to Alma and William Musgrave. She had 3 brothers and 3 sisters. She was married to Robert Tanner for over 50 years and had 5 children. She is the mother of Crystal, John, Bob and Beverly. She has 15 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren and 4 great, great grandchildren.

She graduated High School late in life; she went back to school at the age of 43! She graduated with high honors from Carson High School, 6 months before her youngest daughter.

She worked several jobs that included being a secretary at Dewey Pest Control, worked for AT&T for 10 years and after she retired she opened a home day care and, of course, all the kids called her grandma.

She loves to travel, belongs to a Bunco group, likes to play draw poker on slot machines in Las Vegas, cook, and garden, read, and feed and watch birds in her backyard in her swing. She started using a computer a couple of years ago, so her next project in life is to write a cook book with her family recipes for her children and grandchildren.

She is proud to tell everyone her age, next month she will be 82 years old.

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this year's Presbyterian Women, Honorary Life Member Marilyn Tanner.

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### From the 2014 Honorary Life Member of Presbyterian Women

There are so many ladies in this church worthy of the title of Honorary Life Member of Presbyterian Women. I can't tell you how honored I feel in being chosen for this year of 2014. To say I was surprised is putting it mildly. I was dumbfounded and speechless. I am so happy to be a member of this church. I am always willing to talk to others about how friendly you all are. In fact I talk a lot and have been known to give my opinion on things. But at the tea I was speechless when I heard my name being read. I can tell you it is one of the highlights of my life. Bless you all and I will remember that day all the rest of my life any maybe even beyond. Who Knows!!

Gratefully,  
Marilyn Tanner

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### **PW CIRCLES—ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!**

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

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

**Lydia:** Cathy Johnson (263-7193) & Wanda Lewis (296-2354) - Meets first Monday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the Evans Room.

**Mary Martha:** Karen Sandoval (298-7977) - 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.



**SPOTLIGHT**

The Stewardship Committee will strive to build stewardship disciples of our church family by: *transforming the hearts of believers to reflect the image of Christ, to become generous "as Christ is generous in being rich toward God" in the stewardship of all our gifts; to empower God's Kingdom work to be fully staffed, funded and shared throughout our community, country and world; and, as a committee, to monitor the fiscal responsibilities of our church ministry.*



## **Spotlight on Stewardship**

We are blessed to be Presbyterians for lots of reasons!!! One big one is that our congregation at First Pres Newhall is truly OURS! We choose Elders and Deacons who are regular people, just like us, to lead us. The Session of Elders has 13 Session committees which oversee the activities and ministries through which our church serves God.

Jesus taught us that the church is the "body" and each member is necessary to complete the whole "body" in the way that God intended. And the way our committees fulfill God's purpose is to invite all of us to play an active role in our family of faith through participating in these committees and their activities.

Each month this year we are spotlighting one of the Session committees. It has been enlightening and fun to learn about each one...who the members are, what they do, and the difference they make for our congregation's work for God's Kingdom.

This month the Spotlight is on our Stewardship Committee, which has the incredible responsibility of making sure that all of the other committees have the funds to do their work!!!! So every time we have heard of the wonderful work of our many committees, the Stewardship Committee is expected to keep them on track financially to make their work possible. We are humbled and awed by the job we are committed to doing.

Our Elders on Stewardship are Jim Linn and Laurie Swingle. They are joined by Cam Stewart; Tim Pulliam; Linda Lynch; Dorothy Ng, our treasurer, and Pastor Bill.

Our member's length of service ranges from 25 years of service to having joined within the last two years. That gives us both historical continuity and fresh perspective.

### **Here is Our Stewardship Mission Statement in a nutshell:**

Our Stewardship Committee strives to help our church family transform our hearts to reflect the image of Christ..... by becoming

#### **STEWARDSHIP DISCIPLES...who**

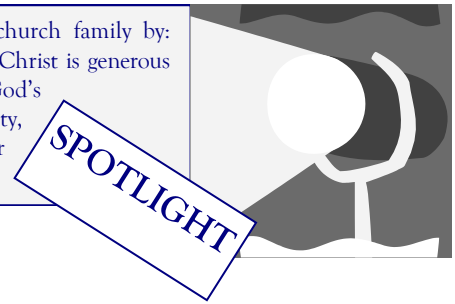
Give all of our gifts .... of time, money, and talent, as generously to God as Christ gives His gifts to us.

Participate in fully staffing and funding our church to support the work of God's Kingdom throughout our community, country and world.

Facilitate a program that strengthens Newhall First Pres to continue its service to God far into the future.



The Stewardship Committee will strive to build stewardship disciples of our church family by: transforming the hearts of believers to reflect the image of Christ, to become generous “as Christ is generous in being rich toward God” in the stewardship of all our gifts; to empower God’s Kingdom work to be fully staffed, funded and shared throughout our community, country and world; and, as a committee, to monitor the fiscal responsibilities of our church ministry.



**Our Stewardship Committee is responsible to lead this effort by:**

- Faithfully monitoring the fiscal responsibilities of our church.
- Completing an annual campaign to receive pledges to fund the church’s yearly budget.
- Educating and encouraging members to give their tithes and pledges without interruption by using their Bank Bill Pay program or Parish Pay through the church office.
- Providing the format for Session committees to calculate and organize their annual budget requests.
- Coordinating, for the final approval of Session, the annual church budget to fit the projected income.
- Providing monthly oversight of the financial statements.
- Updating the congregation regularly on how we are meeting our budget and any need for intervention.
- Providing, with outside counsel, an annual audit of the financial statements for the approval of Session.
- Providing a program to ensure that First Pres Newhall is able to continue funding our church in the future.

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The ***Future Fund Program*** is now available to enable planned gifts from members to support the church in the future. The purpose of the Future Fund is to expand and enrich the mission of the congregation, not to support the annual operating budget. Unless a donor specifies otherwise, all principal amounts will be retained and only the income expended.

These gifts will usually not come from regular monthly income, but rather from assets, estate proceeds and other planned gifts, such as:

- Wills and bequests
- Gifts of appreciated stock
- Gifts of Life Insurance
- Creation of a Charitable Trust

Future Fund gifts are always tailored to fit the circumstances and desires of the donor and therefore are handled on an individual basis. A private confidential appointment can provide a family with various options that will not only enable a gift to the church, but may also offer significant tax advantages and/or sources of income.

The accompanying form is a way for you to let us know if you would like to schedule an appointment to explore the options available to you. Please return it to the Stewardship Committee via the Church Office.

# KIDS 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.

VBS June 23–27 9am–noon



Pre-K (potty trained) - 6th grade

*FUN through games, crafts, skits, music, and meeting new kids!*

Register NOW\*: \$35.00 per child

Volunteers needed; \$5 per t-shirt



Fun with the SON!

July 7, 14, 21, and 28

9am–noon

Pre-k thru 6th grade

In this mini-VBS format, children will learn to be secret agents for Jesus through music, stories, crafts, playing, preparing & eating snacks.

Register NOW at VBS table.

Cost is \$15 per child/day; family deal is \$25/day.



## Summer Camp



July 20–25 (sleep away) for 4th grade–6th grade

Kids will come home jazzed about God's love for them.

*Space is limited so register NOW!*

Cost is \$400 per camper: \$100 deposit due by July 5th; balance due July 20th.

## Bean Counter's Corner



by Dorothy Ng

Here is a question I want you to answer honestly. Think about it for a few moments before you answer. What is the secret to a Christian life? In other words, what is it that makes our lives different from people who are not Christians? Here's the simple answer: believing the promises of God. It sounds so easy to do but many people live their entire lives and never grasp this truth. Yet it is the essence of the Christian faith.

And what is faith? It is taking God at His word. Dr. D. James Kennedy in his book, Freedom From Financial Fear, in chapter two entitled "Fully Persuaded," writes the following: "If we are to see God's abundance in our lives, if we are to be used in a great way by God in this world, it is going to be on the basis of our faith in the promises of God."

Abraham believed fully in God's promises. Even though he and Sarah were old and childless, he trusted God that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in heaven. As it is written in Romans 4:20-21, "Yet he (Abraham) did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised."

Are you fully persuaded that what God has promised, He is able to perform? Don't be of feeble faith which is an affront to God. God can do all things. He is the God of all truth. Place your faith fully, confidently, and totally in God.

Cont. on P. 9





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

### *June at a glance...*

**SURF CAMP:** This is our kick off to the summer! We will be staying overnight in Carpenteria where Pastor Bill will be showing us how to surf. It's going to be a blast, so be sure to pack your sunscreen, towel, overnight bag, and snacks for June 9-11. Meet at 7 am at the church on June 9, and we will return by 5 pm on June 11. Bring \$50 for meals plus a signed permission form.

**PRAISE IN THE PARK:** Every Tuesday starting June 17, we will be holding youth group at Valencia Glen Park. Drop off time is 6 pm; pickup time is 8 pm. We will have games, music and a lesson. This program will be for youth: incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders through graduated high school seniors. This is a fun environment and a great way to introduce your friends to our youth group. Park address is 23750 Via Gavola, Santa Clarita.

**MESSY GAMES:** On June 19, we will meet at church at 1 pm to go to Castaic Lake and have the messiest games of all times! Bring \$5, bathing suit, towel, and crummy clothes. There will be a food Slip 'n' Slide, catsup fight, cake on our head contest and much more. It's going to be so much fun, and the more the merrier! We will return to the church at 5 pm.

**VBS:** One of the biggest events for Children's Ministry is our Vacation Bible School, and we ask all our Jr high and Sr high kids to volunteer to help. During June 23 - 27 we will be meeting at 8:30 am to help our VBS director and team. If you would like to volunteer, please see Mrs. Lelia Meadows or register at the VBS table and donate \$5 for your t-shirt. It counts for community service hours as well as allowing you to have a great time. We need all the help we can get to make our VBS a HUGE success.

### *Sneak Peak at July...*

July 13 - 18: High School camp

July 27 - Aug. 1: Junior High camp

Cost is \$450 per camper and space is limited! See Sarah to reserve your spot.

## **Bean Counter's Corner**



**by Dorothy Ng**

Cont. from p. 8

I know you're saying, "Of course, I believe I'm totally faithful to God. I'm a Christian, after all." But how faithful are you when the offering plate is passed at church or when the pledge card arrives in the mail? Doesn't your faith waver a little bit and you don't give as much as you should? But listen to the promises of God.

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

"For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" (Jeremiah 29:11)

Need more evidence? How about Malachi 3:10 or Mark 10:29-30? Let's just summarize it by saying that stewardship and the fulfillment of God's promises are not a matter of finances but of faith.

"Faith is a gift from God; it is also an act of man," Dr. Kennedy states. "God gives it, and we exercise it. It is through the Holy Spirit that faith comes. Therefore, we pray for faith."

Let us all pray to God to be people of strong faith, fully persuaded that God is able to do that which He has promised. And after praying, we should step out in faith and believe God. He will keep His promises. Trust Him fully.



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

## DOING THEOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: VISITING WITH BISHOP (RET.) N. TED WRIGHT, ESTEEMED NEW TESTAMENT SCHOLAR

Reported by Jack Irwin, M.Div., May 16, 2014

On May 1-3, 2014, we (Art Moore, Carol Cogley, John Favalessa, Judy Carter, Jack Irwin, Tim Knox and John's friend Rev. David Ratcliff) gathered at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena with 2000 others to hear a wonderful, engaging, and educational series of lectures by Prof. N. Ted Wright. Since 2010, Wright has been Research Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at St. Andrews University in Edinburgh, Scotland. He is a retired Anglican Bishop in England and previously taught at Oxford and McGill (Toronto).

Wright is one of the leading scholars on the New Testament and early Christianity and has written with his pastoral heart for the church laity. He is a prolific author of both academic works and books for the laity of the Church. Judy is reading "Simply Christian." Jack taught "How God Became King" in Life Academy and is reading Wright's "The Climax of the Covenant." Roland is reading Wright's just published academic tome, "Paul and the Faithfulness of God."

Wright wants the Western Christian Church to return to right Biblical thinking. Here are some of Wright's correctives for Western Christianity.

**Heaven is where God is. It is not a geographical or cosmic location.** The church has overemphasized heaven as a "place" we go when we die. Some Biblical images describe heaven as "up there," and our culture locates heaven as a separate place somewhere in the cosmos. Wright says the basic Biblical concept is that heaven is wherever God is present. Heaven is like a "sixth dimension" all around us. See Colossians 1:16 "... in him [Christ] all things hold together," which emphasizes God's presence throughout his creation.

**The Gospel of Christianity is more than personal salvation. It is about God's plan to redeem you and me, the earth, and the cosmos, all of Creation from its death spiral.** The Western Church has generally preached a truncated Gospel as "death insurance," preaching that accepting by faith that Jesus died for your sins gains you entrance into heaven (God's presence) when you die. For Wright the Gospel is much more than that. It is God's plan to redeem all of creation - humanity, the earth, the cosmos - to return it all to God's sovereign reign. See Genesis 1-11 (see the movie NOAH) where sin, evil and death entered into the Lord's Creation and consumes the human race. See Revelation 21 and 22 where God's redemptive plan to rid His creation of evil, death, corruption and sin is consummated.

**The earth will be redeemed and become the place for eternal life. It is not a corrupted globe to be disposed after we escape to heaven.** The Western Church has overemphasized going to heaven and generally regarded the earth as a corrupt place we will leave behind forever. Wright says, God's redemptive plan is to redeem the earth where heaven will be united with earth and bodily eternal life will be lived. See Revelation 22 where heaven (God's presence) comes to earth. God shall dwell among all the peoples of the earth. This fulfills Psalm 72:19b "...may the whole earth be filled with His glory."

**The Biblical answer to death is the resurrection of the body, not the Platonic idea of the soul leaving the body and escaping to "heaven."** Caught up in the idea of heaven as a place to escape to, the Church has de-emphasized the bodily resurrection of all believers. If you say the Apostles Creed, you are reminded that we believe in the "resurrection of the body and the life everlasting." Our bodies will be raised from death to be like Jesus' resurrection body, free of sin, corruption, and death. Bodily existence is lived in one place: Earth. While Paul wrote in his letters that when we die we are with the Lord, he does not explain it as the transmigration of the "soul" to heaven. Wright says the basic Biblical answer to death is a time of waiting for the bodily resurrection, the hope of glory promised. The Presbyterian memorial service for the dead is titled, "A Witness to the Resurrection," meaning the eventual bodily resurrection of the believer from death when Jesus returns.

**The Story of the Gospel is told in the whole Bible, from Genesis right through to Revelation. The church has deemphasized the "Old Testament" and forgotten that God's plan for redemption started back with Adam and Eve and with Abraham.** Some Christians think the "New Testament" replaced the "Old Testament." As Wright shows, you cannot understand Jesus Christ or God's plan revealed in the New Testament without understanding the plan that started in the Old Testament. The

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



Lord promised Eve that, while the Serpent (Evil) will strike at the heel of her seed, her seed will strike the serpent's head, killing it. (Gen. 3:15) This promise is fulfilled by Jesus Christ. God's plan of redemption continued with the Lord's covenant with Abraham, through whom God would save not just Abraham's people, the Jews, but all nations, tribes and peoples of the earth. (Gen. 12:1-3)

We live in the "in-between" time, between Jesus' first advent and his final advent, when He comes as Lord of lords, and King of kings. (Rev. 19:16) We have something to do as Christians during this time – to work to spread the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Western Church has de-emphasized this purpose for our lives, in emphasizing "personal salvation" in which believers just wait around to die and go to heaven. Jesus Himself commanded his disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age," when He comes again. (Matthew 28:19-20) Obeying Jesus means telling people about the love of God in Jesus Christ and also acting in word and deed as people of God's Kingdom, who are under God's reign. This is true religion - not just attending church, but acting justly and working for justice, loving mercy and expressing mercy, as well as walking humbly with the Lord, our Heavenly Father. (Micah 6:8) Wright told us that primary ministries of the Christian Church to the world are to pray for the world and to identify with, stand by and help those in the world who are suffering and in pain. By this, the Church lives and acts as a witness of Jesus Christ and the Lord's plan of redemption.

These are a few major highlights of the Biblical insights Wright has made through his academic and pastoral ministries. As you can sense, Wright's first love is the Church of Jesus Christ and he encourages the Church to be true to its foundation and to its calling as the People of God. His writings are very relevant for the Western Church in the 21st Century. They give us all food for serious thought and reflection on how we as individual believers and as a congregation live our lives as Christians. If you want to join in the discovery, just ask any of us who went to this convocation for one of Wright's books to read.



### Pentecost Banner

The Pentecost is found in the book of Acts and marks the anointing of the Apostles by the Holy Spirit, and is noted as the anniversary of the creation of the Christian church.



**Dove:** the primary symbol of the Holy Spirit, reflecting that the Holy Spirit was represented by a dove at the time of the baptism of Christ. Hence the water drop that the dove is in.

**Fire:** represents the presence of God in His glory. Also, it symbolizes the presence of God in the Spirit (Acts 2:3).

**Wind:** the Spirit which blows as needed according to God's plan.

**Wheat:** the symbol for the Bread of Life, being the fundamental ingredient in bread. Bread is a symbol of God's provision of life, just as He continues to provide for the church even after Jesus's ascension by sending the Holy Spirit to live in our midst.

**Hearts:** 50 of them represent the days between Easter and Pentecost. The heart is a symbol of love and devotion. According to Scripture, the heart is the inner person, the moral and spiritual center. God engages our heart, mind and spirit in relationship with Him.

# The Newhall Press

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

Return Service Requested

## June 2014



### Sunday Worship Services

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



**Deadline**  
for the  
**July/August**  
Newsletter is  
**June 15, 2014**

Thank you for your articles and  
input to the newsletter.

Special thanks to Ellie and Steve Fuller

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Pastoral Support: Phil Aijian (x106)

Dir. Christian Educ.: Sarah Bolin (x104)

Assoc. Children's Dir: Lelia Meadows

Assoc. Youth Dir: Ian Fletcher

Youth Worship Leader: Chris Clewett

Office Administrator: Sandy McIntosh (x101)

Music Conductor: Connie Woodson

2nd Service Worship Leader: Sam Besse

Treasurer: Dorothy Ng (x107)

Custodian: Nelson Orellana

Groundskeeper: Steve Fuller

Nursery Care Provider: Linda Weingarten

**Little Shepherd's Nursery School**

Director: Dyana Vos