

# The Newhall Press

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

Return Service Requested

## MARCH 2015



### Sunday Worship Services

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



**Deadline**  
for the  
**April Newsletter:**  
**March 15, 2015**

Thank you for your articles and  
input to the newsletter.

Special thanks to Ellie and Steve Fuller

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### The Newhall Press

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

(661) 259-0555; Fax: (661) 259-8054

E-mail: [churchoffice@presby-newhall.org](mailto:churchoffice@presby-newhall.org)

Web Site: <http://www.presby-newhall.org>

Pastor: Bill Barnes (x102)  
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**  
(661) 254-2312

## March 2015

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	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				

### March Events:

**YOUTH DINNER & AUCTION**  
Mar. 1 6:00 PM  
ArtSLAM STARTS (Youth)  
Mar. 5 6:00 PM  
**FAMILY TABLE\*** (Weekly through Lent)  
Sundays 5:00 PM  
**DEACON/ELDER RETREAT**  
Mar. 14  
**ONE SERVICE+CONG. MEETING**  
Mar. 15 10:00 AM  
**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING\***  
Mar. 15  
**SENIOR LUNCH**  
Mar. 18 11:30 AM  
**PALM SUNDAY—EASTER EGG ROLL**  
Mar. 29

### 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, 10:45 AM  
**HANDCRAFTERS\***  
2nd & 4th Tues. 10:00 AM  
**LADIES' NIGHT OUT\***  
4th Fridays 6:30 PM  
**MEN AT WORK\***  
3rd Saturday 8:00 AM  
**MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY\***  
Fridays 11:00 AM  
**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES\***  
See List Page 8  
**RECYCLING** (For Camp Scholarships)  
1st Sundays  
**RING TONES REHEARSAL**  
Sundays 2:00 PM  
**STANDING TOGETHER**  
2nd Wednesdays 7:00 PM  
**TGIF** (Children's Program)  
Fridays 6:00 PM  
**YOUTH GROUP\***  
Sundays 6:00 PM

\*Additional info. in newsletter  
Calendar Continued on Page 2

# THE NEWHALL PRESS



## Pastor Column March 2015

We are in the midst of Lent as I write this article. I am loving reading the Deacons Lenten Devotional that so many of you have participated in preparing. I am also excited about our explorations in the Gospel of Luke during worship and the wonderful Family Lenten Table Times on Sunday evenings at 5pm. And I look forward once again to celebrating Easter; early this year on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

It has been a difficult financial year, but our outgoing Session has prayerfully and painfully created a wise and prudent budget for us as we move forward. We will celebrate our outgoing officers on **Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> as we share in one combined worship service at 10AM and then meet for brunch and our Annual Congregational meeting in Fellowship Hall.**

In addition we have just installed our new Deacons and Elders to their church assignments. And they are a wonderful group of Leaders. I remember an old story when a new incoming board of deacons was being briefed on techniques for making church calls. One newly elected member was obviously timid about her responsibilities. The pastor hoped to encourage her by stressing the power of prayer. "You'll find it helpful, before you make the call, to spend a few moments talking to God about it," he said. When the deacons met later to report, the timid one waylaid the pastor and said enthusiastically, "Oh, thank you for what you said about prayer. I tried it when I went out on my call, and it works." "I'm glad to hear that," beamed the pastor. "Tell us what happened." "Well, I prayed the people wouldn't be home, and they weren't."

This does not reflect our Deacons or Elders, as they lead and minister to us so well. But it does remind us that they do so much and pray for us as their church family. Sometimes we get excited about an idea or an event and in our enthusiasm we can't understand anyone else's disappointment or opposition to an idea or event. Just like families, there are differing opinions about every direction or decision in life. **We do need to pray** for our leaders and their role as our models and leaders in our church family.

Aurelius Augustine once reminded his officers in the church, " *All disturbers are to be rebuked, the low-spirited to be encouraged, the infirm to be supported, objectors confuted, the treacherous guarded against, the unskilled taught, the lazy aroused, the contentious restrained, the haughty repressed, litigants pacified, the poor relieved, the oppressed liberated, the good approved, the evil borne with, and ALL ARE TO BE LOVED.* "

In His Grip,

Pastor Bill

March 2015

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	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				

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**Leadership Meetings:**

- ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
1st Wednesdays 7:00 PM
- BUILDING & GROUNDS COM.  
1st Mondays 7:00 PM
- 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 Wed. Leaders 5:00 PM  
Ed. 6:30 PM  
Groups 8:00 PM
- STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE  
2nd Tuesdays 7:00 PM
- WORSHIP COMMITTEE  
1st Tuesdays 7:00 PM
- YOUTH COMMITTEE\*  
1st Wednesdays 7:00 PM

**Upcoming Events:**

- EASTER SUNDAY\*  
April 3rd
- SPRING YARD SALE\*  
April 11 & 12
- LIFE ACADEMY STARTS  
April 12
- DODGER DAY\*  
April 18
- MEN'S AMOR TRIP  
April 26
- PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S TEA  
May 9
- CHILDREN-LED SERVICE &  
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION  
May 17
- VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL STARTS\*  
June 22

\* Additional info. in newsletter



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.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S**

- Mar. 6 Erma Favalessa
- Mar. 7 Walter Miles
- Mar. 15 Doris Hill

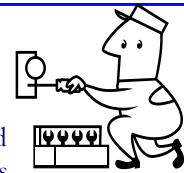
**LADIES' NIGHT OUT**

March 24, 6:30 PM  
Carusos  
18340 Sierra Hwy.  
Canyon Country 91351

**MEN AT WORK**

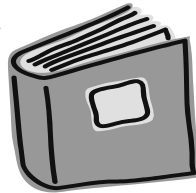
Next meeting: Friday, March 20, 2015

Join the men of the church for a time of fellowship, light Bible Study, and possibly a hands-on project. Watch the bulletin for more details on this first-ever Friday evening meeting. Questions? Call Don Trammell: 255-1727



**BOOK BUDDIES**

Book Buddies' March book selection is courtesy of the city of Santa Clarita's *One Story, One City* program. "In the Heart of the Sea" by Nathaniel Philbrick tells us of the tragedy of the whaleship Essex. Discussion and salad supper will be at Valerie Thompson's home: 30165 Sagecrest Way, Castaic on March 21st at 4:00 PM.



**HANDCRAFTERS**

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (March 10th & 24th), at 10am, people gather in the Evans Room to share their skills, their interests, their accomplishments. We are the *handcrafters*, and everyone is welcome!



**SPRING YARD SALE**

Time to clean out closets, cupboards and cubby-holes for those unwanted treasures. Church Life wants them for the Spring yard sale on Friday and Saturday April 11 and 12. Large items can be picked up the week of April 6th. Volunteer help needed! Questions? Call Rod or Candy Belcher 297-2445 or 645-2449.



**DODGER DAY**

Save April 18 for our ever-popular Dodger Day. (Dodgers vs. Colorado Rockies). Tickets for this event are \$25.00 and will be on sale starting 2/22 and ending 3/22 A portion of the ticket price will go towards the parking fee for the stadium. Game time is 6:10, We will leave the church parking lot at 4:30 and carpool to the game.



**NIGHTS FOR NINE**

Nights for Nine has started, but there is still time to join a group. Call Sharie Telles at 252-4598.



**Catechism Lesson:**



Questions and Answers to Instruct the Faithful: The Ten Commandments Given by God through Moses at Mt. Sinai after the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt (circa 1200 BC). These Commandments tell us how God expects us to live as a response to God's gracious saving acts toward the Jews and toward us, as well.

What is the Third Commandment? "You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God." (Exodus 20:7 and Deuteronomy 5:11)

What do you learn from this commandment? "I should use God's name with reverence and awe. God's name is taken in vain when used to support wrong. It is insulted when used carelessly, as in a curse or a pious cliché." (see Psalms 29:2, 103:1-2 and 138:2; Ephesians 4:29 and Revelation 15:3-4)

What is the fourth Commandment? "Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8 and Deuteronomy 5:12)

What do you learn from this commandment? "God requires a special day to be set apart so that worship can be at the center of my life. It is right to honor God with thanks and praise, and to hear and receive God's Word, so that I may have it in my heart and on my lips, and put it into practice in my life." (see Genesis 2:3, Leviticus 23:3, Deuteronomy 5:12, Acts 2:42-46 and Romans 10:8)

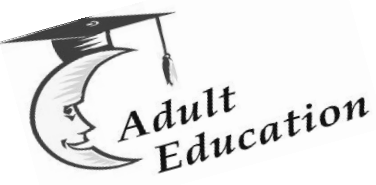
From our 1998 Presbyterian Church USA "Study Catechism." Catechisms have been part of the Presbyterian tradition since the Reformation in the 1500's, presenting questions and answers to explain the Christian faith. We hope these will help you in understanding your Christian faith.

From your Adult Education Committee.

**RESURRECTION SUNDAY ANTICIPATED**

Easter is what we are all about! We are *who* we are because on one particular "First Day of the Week" Jesus defied death, making it possible for our sins to be forgiven and for us to walk through this life in a New Way. We will joyfully join together on April 3rd to celebrate His Love for His creation and for each of us as individuals. Many members of our extended families and community will join us in worship on Easter Sunday, at 8am or 10am, including some who never attend church or fellowship with Christ's people except on our two big holidays. Let's start **NOW** to pray for these precious visitors -that they will be touched by the message of Jesus' resurrection and that it will make a difference in their everyday lives. Let's also make an effort to meet someone new that day and be open to "keep in touch" if the Lord moves us to do so. Few people grow in faith without the encouragement of a caring friend, but unless we move out of our comfort zones out there on the patio, many people will leave our church with little to remember on April 4th.





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.

## WHAT IS YOUR DREAM OR VISION FOR FIRST PRES?

Presented by the Adult Education Committee

**VISIONS AND VISIONARIES:** We all know of people we call visionaries ... let's remember a few:

**William Wilberforce** (1759-1833), who labored 26 years in the English Parliament to end the slave trade (1807) and to abolish slavery (1833) in the English Empire, said, "God Almighty has set before me two great objects: the suppression of the slave trade and the reformation of manners."

**President John F. Kennedy** in his inaugural address, Jan. 20 1961, said "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you--ask what you can do for your country."

**Martin Luther King** on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, on Aug. 28, 1963, said, "I have a dream that one day ... right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers."

**OUR BIBLE** is full of visions and visionaries:

**The Liberator Moses** saw and heard a vision in the burning bush when the Lord spoke, saying, "I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." (Exodus 3:10)

**The Prophet Ezekiel** saw the valley of dry bones and thought of the Jews dispersed from their patrimony into Egypt, Assyria and Babylonia, and he had a vision in which the Lord said, "... these bones are Israel ... I will bring ... back to the land of Israel." (Ezekiel 37)

**Jesus** had a vision when he proclaimed "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ... to preach good news ... to proclaim freedom ... and recovery of sight ... to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

**The Apostle Peter** had a vision when he preached to the crowds gathered in Jerusalem, when the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples, saying that this event was the fulfillment of what the Old Testament prophet Joel envisioned, "In the last days, God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy; your young men will see visions; your old men will dream dreams.'" (Acts 1:14-21)

**What are your visions and dreams?** You are a part of the Jerusalem crowd who became followers of Jesus. As a follower of Jesus, you too have been given the Holy Spirit who will give you visions and dreams.

**What are our visions and dreams as a community of followers of Jesus at First Pres?** What visions do we have for our future, for our common life together and for our Christian mission to our community and to the world around us, whether in Newhall, Los Angeles, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Tijuana, wherever?

While we decry difficulties and struggles in which we find ourselves, remember that the Chinese character for crisis is composed of two characters: one represents danger, but the other represents opportunity. What new opportunities, what new dreams and visions is God giving us, even as old ones become passé? Is God leading us into ministries we never imagined? Let us all talk with each other on the patio, in our groups, in our committees, on the Deacons, on the Session, and in staff meetings about the dreams and visions for First Pres that the Holy Spirit is giving us.

Written by Jack Irwin, M.Div.  
Member of Adult Education Committee

## MEMORIES OF GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY TRIP by Sharie Telles (co-elder)

God gave us a beautiful day for our trip to the observatory!! Richard and I went early to purchase the tickets for the "Center of the Universe" show for the group of 26 while Candy made sure everyone had a ride from the church parking lot (thank you to our drivers: Candy Belcher, Sonja Tweedie, and John Favalessa... who drove the church van!). After we saw the light show we had time to explore the place on our own and also to have lunch in the Wolfgang Puck café. One of my favorite exhibits was the Tesla Coil. It was a wonderful day full of fun and fellowship for all who were able to join us! Perhaps if you missed this outing you can join us for another event with church life.



## 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.



**Calling all kids!** On Palm Sunday we are having a Sunday School **Easter Egg Celebration**. Here is how you can be involved. First, during church our kids will perform a Palm Sunday skit and song for our church. Then, in Sunday School we will have a party! Enjoy cupcakes, candy, crafts and an egg hunt! There will be a golden egg prize as well as the chance to take home a basket full of Easter yummys. Invite friends and family to our Sunday School party. The egg hunt will be during both services of church and your kid won't want to miss it! If your child would like to Participate in the Palm Sunday skit, talk to Ms. Sarah and she will tell you details. It's going to be a great time and the church loves to see our little ones do something special in church. Hope to see you there!

I know it's early, but VBS will be here in just a few months. The dates are June 22-26 and we will start enrollment as early as May. It's going to be great fun for any preschooler through 6th grader. The theme is **Everest, Climbing God's Challenges**. Come join us this summer!

Inviting Everyone to:

## “Family Table”

For All of the First Presbyterian Family and Friends

*Sundays 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.*

*Fellowship Hall*

*March 8, 15, 22 and 29*

*Dinner, singing, activities around the Lenten Scriptures*

*Make your reservations on the patio*

*Children 11 and under: \$2, Children Over 12 and Adults: \$5*

Family Table is a Time to Journey Together  
Through Lent To Easter As a Family of God

Sponsored by the Adult Education Committee

In Cooperation with Presbyterian Women and the Youth Committee

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### LENTEN DEVOTIONALS STILL AVAILABLE

The Deacons have published an inspirational book of daily devotionals based on hymns and music that have inspired the members of the Newhall Presbyterian Church family. Copies are still available on the Narthex Table.

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### FRIDAY MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY

Although evening Lenten Bible studies are not scheduled for this year, the Friday Midday Bible Study will focus on the book, Lent for Everyone - Luke by N.T. Wright, which the Adult Education Committee is making available for \$5.00. The book is a daily scriptural devotional with thoughtful comments by author Wright. On Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. we explore our thoughts and questions about the focused scripture for each day. By the end of Lent we will have completed the Book of Luke. If you are available, we would love to have you join us; bring your Bible and a sack lunch or snack in case you get hungry for *more* than just the Word of God!



D. James Kennedy in his book, Freedom From Financial Fear, spends a chapter discussing Malachi 3. He states that God identified 3 points in these verses. God describes a *Problem* among His people and He then gives them a *Prescription* to solve it which was the condition for receiving a marvelous *Promise* of blessings.

Here was the problem – people had been robbing God and the curse of God hung over their heads and caused them and their nation to languish. The curse was upon their financial well-being. It is a terrible thing to live under God's financial curse. How were the people robbing God? They were not giving God their tithes and offering.

In all languages, tithe means tenth. That means you should be giving God 1/10<sup>th</sup> of all your income. Now some people may ask, “Is that net or gross?” Well, I have a question for you? Do you want God's blessing on your net or gross income? The offering is giving beyond the tithe. Anything less is robbing God.

Now there are reasons why God wants our tithes. The number one reason is that God wants us to understand that He is **THE** sovereign ruler and owner of the world. God is letting us use His world for a while. By tithing, we acknowledge God's sovereign ownership of the earth and all that is within it.

Reason number 2 is that God wants us to learn to trust Him! The greatest lesson in life is to learn is to trust God. It's the subject of the whole curriculum and tithing is one course on how to do it. It is a VERY IMPORTANT course to learn! Tithing is a great lesson in faith. Tithing is not a matter of finances, but of faith. God says if we tithe, He will open the windows of Heaven and pour out a blessing on us. If we don't, we are cursed.

Another reason is that God wants to use this method for the advancement of His Kingdom here on earth. He has chosen us to have a role in winning people to Christ all over the world. When the tithe is withheld, we are cursing people all over the world who will not hear the gospel. Dr. Kennedy describes a time when he saw a car bumper sticker which read “Honk if you love Jesus.” Then a few days later he saw one that said “Tithe if you love Jesus. Anyone can honk.”

Finally, we can tithe without loving Christ, but we can't love Christ without tithing. The motive for giving is not “to get,” but to show love. Dr. Kennedy states, “God so loved that He gave. We should so love that we give. Yet, amazingly, when we do give, God has arranged it so that we don't lose anything, because He promised to bless us!”

So what is God's prescription? It is simple: “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse.” The storehouse equals the church so the tithe should go to the church. Other offerings can go to other organizations but the tithe goes to the church. The tithe is holy unto the Lord and should be given. It is timeless. From the beginning until now, tithe has been part of the worship of the people of God. The tithe helps the work of the church to continue. Churches languish because members do not give their tithes. Therefore, the work of Christ does not go on.

But there is God's promise to look forward to. When we tithe, God opens the windows of Heaven and pours out His blessing on us. Obey His command and there won't be enough room to receive the blessing. The more that is given, the more you are blessed!

The offering shows the true extent of our love and faith in God. Go beyond the tithe and God's blessing is exceedingly multiplied. Show your gratitude by obeying Him and bringing tithes and offerings to the Lord. The purpose of giving to the Lord is to glorify God. Show your gratitude and thankfulness. Advance the work and the cause of Christ. Don't do it simply “to get.”

God's promises are repeated several times in the Bible such as Proverbs 3:9-10, Proverbs 11:24, and Luke 6:38. These promises are opposite of what the world's view is: “Hold onto it and you shall have.” God says, “Give it away and you shall have.”

There was a man; some called him “mad.”  
The more he gave, the more he had!

John Bunyan

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.



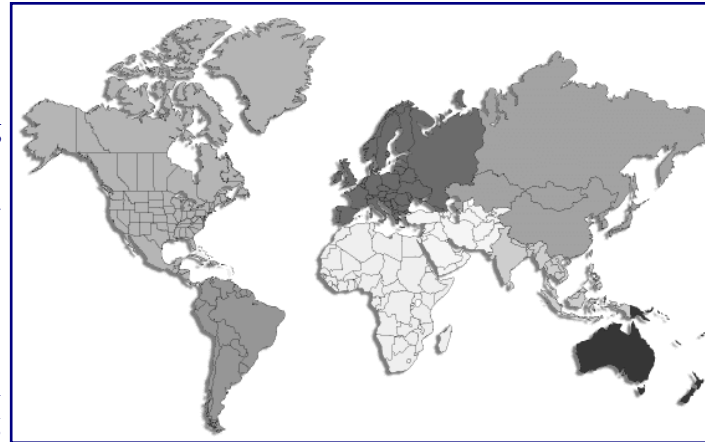
The Outreach Committee is called by our Heavenly Father to extend the hospitality that we find in our fellowship to the community, to visitors, and to new members, in order to draw them into the family of Christian faith at First Presbyterian Church.

## A Love for Mission - - in The World by Carole Wheeler

Carol Weir (1924-2010) devoted her life to mission in the Middle East. In 1953 Carol and her husband Ben were appointed to serve as PC(USA) missionaries in Lebanon. Initially they served in a Shiite Muslim community in south Lebanon. Later they lived in Beirut where Carol taught Christian Education courses at the Nar East School of Theology. Ben was appointed PC(USA) Commission Representative in Lebanon and Syria. He made mission trips to coordinate work in Iraq, Syria, and Iran. They officially served until 1985.

On May 8, 1984, as Carol and Ben left their apartment, Ben was kidnapped by one faction in Lebanon's civil war. He was held for 16 months, 14 months of it in solitary confinement. During his entire captivity Carol and many others worked tirelessly for Ben's release. He was finally freed on September 14, 1985.

Through the entire ordeal, Carol never ceased to urge everyone to pray for all of the people in the war-torn country, including Ben's captors. Though never comfortable in the unwelcome spotlight Ben's captivity thrust upon her, Carol remained a steadfast advocate for peace, understanding, and reconciliation in the Middle East.



I had a chance meeting with Carol in 1985, soon after Ben's release. It was in the dining room of the Presbyterian Conference Center in Montreat, N.C., during a Peacemaking Conference. I asked if I might join a woman for breakfast and soon realized it was Carol Weir! As a result of that chance meeting I read Carol and Ben's book *Hostage Bound, Hostage Free* with great interest. I treasure Carol's words from a 1997 presentation.

"Mission includes some aspect of consciously chosen struggle. In mission we open ourselves up to the reality of the world and we pray for the grace to enter deeply into human suffering. someone has said we will not enlarge the old essence of the gospel by adding old and new dogmas. We will enlarge it by adding the world."

### 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) & Kay Harris (993-0732)- Meets first Monday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the Evans Room.

Mary Martha: Nancy Spigelman & Sam Spigelman (254-0139) - 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.



### OUTREACH IS EVERYONE'S MISSION

A Prayer from "I Am a Church Member" by Thomas Rainer: "When I received the free of the salvation through Jesus Christ, I became a part of the body of Christ. I am humbled and honored to serve and to love others in our church. I pray that I will never take my membership for granted, but see it as a gift and an opportunity to serve others and to be a part of something so much greater than any one person or member. Amen!"

Why do we get new visitors? To name a few reasons, there is the inspirational messages on our marquee, our robust and informative website, our active Facebook social media page, a very visible old cross and, of course, word of mouth.

For 2014, Sunday morning visitors (who put their names in the fellowship pads) numbered 87, which trended slightly downward from 2013. Unfortunately, most new visitors come only one time. Therefore, **we** (that means all of us) **have one shot at demonstrating that we are a welcoming and loving church family.**

The Outreach Committee, (Rod Belcher, Jim and Becky Combs, Teresa Howell, Lorraine King, Coleen Knox, Bryce Morrow, Pat Stokes and John Favalessa), invite you to join us in promoting this wonderful family of faith. See Elder John Favalessa for details.



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.

"The four church wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC(USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church." -PC(USA) <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/>  
Our next Special Offering opportunity will be **One Great Hour of Sharing** on Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015. All of the funds given during this time will go to countless causes such as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People. The assistance to help when disaster occurs or provide food is greater than the money we receive and every penny counts.

Most congregations emphasize *One Great Hour of Sharing* on Easter Sunday, Passion/Palm Sunday or both, while many stress it throughout Lent—however, you can help sustain the important PC(USA) ministries and programs that are supported by *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. -PC(USA) <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs.html>

As we go through the year, we will have three more giving opportunities: *Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness*, and *Christmas Joy*. During each of these time periods the Mission Committee loves to help where we can. We have so many members at our church who give graciously with the time, efforts, and financial assistance. We could not do any change without your assistance. Thank you all for your inspiration and may we continue to strive towards keeping the world a better place for all.

Mission Elder, James Allison



The Worship 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, song, scripture,

*Worship*

## Sacraments of the Church by Sonja Tweedie

A few years ago, there was a survey of questions about our church in which the congregation participated. It was interesting to note that the answer to "How many sacraments do we celebrate in the Presbyterian Church?" was anywhere from 1 to 10+. In other words, some people just were not sure. That is easy to understand when many members came from various protestant denominations and many from the Roman Catholic Church which has seven sacraments.

The PC(USA) (our church) and many mainline denominations have only two: The Sacrament of Baptism and Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper).

Baptism is the sign and seal of incorporation into Christ. Jesus in his own baptism was attested Son of the Father and was anointed with the Holy Spirit to undertake the way of the servant as manifested in his suffering, death and resurrection.

In Baptism we participate in Jesus' death and resurrection as we die to what separates us from God and are raised to newness of life in Christ. The water of Baptism symbolizes the waters of Creation, the Flood and the Exodus from Egypt and links us to the goodness of God's creation and to the covenant with Noah and Israel. Baptism is the sign and symbol of inclusion in God's grace and covenant with the church.

The Baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God's love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. Baptism is received only once. As there is one body, there is one Baptism. The PC(USA) recognizes all Baptisms with water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy spirit administered by other churches.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper is celebrated at different times in different congregations. Many celebrate Communion weekly, some monthly and others quarterly. The Session of each Presbyterian church determines how often Communion is held. Our Session chooses to celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month as well as on Maundy Thursday.

The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. In the Lord's Supper the church, gathered for worship, blesses God for all He has done through creation, redemption and sanctification; gives thanks that God is working in the world and in the Church in spite of human sin; gratefully anticipates the fulfillment of the Kingdom Christ proclaimed, and offers itself in obedient service to God's reign.

At the Lord's table, the church is renewed and empowered by the memory of Christ's life, death and resurrection and promise to return; sustained by Christ's pledge of undying love and continuing presence with God's covenant of grace through partaking of Christ's self-offering.

As the people of God bless and thank God the Father and remember Jesus Christ the Son, they call upon the Holy Spirit to lift them into Christ's presence, to accept their offering of bread and wine, to make breaking bread and sharing the cup a participation in the body and blood of Christ, to bind them with Christ and with one another, to unite them in communion with all the faithful in heaven and on earth, to nourish them with Christ's body and blood that they may mature in the fullness of Christ and to keep them faithful as Christ's body, representing Christ and doing God's work in the world.

These two sacraments keep us focused on Christ and remind us of who we are and whose we are!

### EASTER LILIES

The Deacons will be decorating our sanctuary for Easter Sunday with beautiful Easter Lilies and other potted flowers. We can all help purchase these flowers in honor or memory of someone we love. The lilies will be on sale from March 15 until March 29 for approximately \$10. Order forms will be in the bulletin.



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.

## *A Look Into Youth Group*

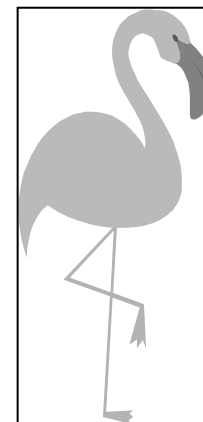
It is now March and we are steadily getting ready for our 2015 **Youth Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic**. This year our youth have a unique opportunity to reconnect with a church in Polo, Dominican Republic, where we visited on our Mission Trip two years ago. This time we are excited to be bringing **Water Systems** to this small village, where for the first time ever these precious townspeople will have clean water accessible to them immediately. Our trip will include the installment of 13 Hydrad water systems, a children's camp for the local youngsters, and ministering to the local community. The 15 missionaries traveling on their Spring Breaks include Zach Buhle, Conor Lauermann, Richard Hauer, Jackson Edwards, Jonathan Redrow, Jared Redrow, Kelli Johnson, Emily Hammonds, Violet Kwak, Kaytlann Ensing, James Allison, Samantha Spigelman, Hannah Bolin, and leaders Sarah Bolin and Ian Fletcher. We are all very excited about our trip and we ask that you pray for us while we are on our Mission. Thank you!!!!

Starting in the month of March the Youth Group participate in the city event called **ArtSLAM**. On the first Thursday of each month, between 6-10 pm, we will have a booth at the city function called ArtSLAM that take place in downtown Newhall on Main St. At our booth we will provide a craft for community members, as well as sell water bottles as a fundraiser. Our first Thursday will be on March 5. This is a fun event that everyone can get involved in. Hope to see you there. For any questions about this event or our participation in it please call Ian Fletcher at 661-414-2373.

## *Youth Auction Dinner*

March 1<sup>st</sup> is the date for the annual **Youth Auction Dinner**. A creative and experienced staff of chefs and youth leaders will be presenting us with a destination themed meal that will set the tone for the evening and transforming Fellowship Hall. Auction items, which are donated by local businesses and members of our church, will go to the highest bidders in our **Live and Silent Auctions**. This year Youth Ministry will be sending 15 missionaries back to the Village of Polo in the Dominican Republic. We have 10 students, 3 sponsors, and 2 chaperones. Please join us in this exciting event and help support our mission team. Call Ian Fletcher at 661-414-2373 for any questions about the evening or donation possibilities.

## *Were You Flocked?*



Many of us found a flock of vibrant pink flamingoes in our yards during the month of February. Or, we were "flocked" in the church Patio on February 1st or 8th. We then had the opportunity to donate towards the Youth Mission Trip to The Dominican Republic which is coming up during Spring Break. Gifts from the congregation towards this trip are still welcome. There is no better opportunity for our youth to experience Christ's presence in the lives of people of other cultures. Every year they enthusiastically report how their Christian Walk has been enhanced by these Mission Trips. We can invest in the Spiritual Growth of our precious teens by helping to finance this trip.

