

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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



PASTOR COLUMN MARCH 2016

March Events:

MISSION DINNER FUNDRAISER	March 6	6:00 PM
BOOK BUDDIES MEET AUTHOR	March 12	7:00 PM
SENIOR LUNCHEON	March 9	11:30 AM
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS	March 13	
NEW DIRECTIONS	March 16	1:30 PM
PALM SUNDAY	March 20	9:30 & 11:00
MAUNDY THURSDAY	March 24	7:00 pm
EASTER	March 27	8:30 & 10:00

Recurring Church Events:

BAND REHEARSAL	Thursdays	6:00 PM
BOOK BUDDIES	2nd Thursdays	4:00 PM
CHOIR REHEARSAL	Thursdays	7:30 PM
COMMUNION	1st Sundays	9:30 & 11:00
HANDCRAFTERS	2nd & 4th Tues.	10:00 AM
LADIES' NIGHT OUT	Last Tuesday	6:30 PM
MEN AT WORK	3rd Saturday	8:00 AM
MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY	Fridays	11:00 AM
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES	See Schedule Page 9	
RECYCLING (For Camp Scholarships)	1st Sunday of each quarter	
RING TONES REHEARSAL	Sundays	2:00 PM
STANDING TOGETHER	2nd Wednesdays	7:00 PM
TGIF (Children's Program)	Fridays	6:00 PM
YOUTH GROUP	Sundays	6:00 PM

What would you say to a friend of yours who was not a religious person, but asked you to define GRACE? Maybe that friend had heard you use the term a lot, and wondered what it meant to you. I can tell you why I hear myself reflectively using it all the time—I'm so in need of GRACE that it's always on my mind. For me GRACE is what moves me forward when I experience the shame of realizing my selfish or disappointing behavior. But GRACE is also what challenges me to behave better as I move forward in life.

Yet it is easy to forget that not all people experience the concept of GRACE in life. There are many people who long for something that they can't describe, but wish they could experience. Maybe that is because the Christian virtue of GRACE is displayed so rarely in our culture. Upon reflection, I'm embarrassed to admit to you how often I am unwilling to offer GRACE or incapable of doing so, and how demanding of it I am from others.

In the funny pages I came upon a Cartoon where Winthrop and his buddy are walking to school. Winthrop says: *"My Mom made me broccoli sandwiches for lunch. Yesterday she made me liver sandwiches. She's still getting even with me for that lamp I broke."* We can identify with that because, even though we know it's wrong, sometimes we try to get even. Sometimes we think that's the way God acts too. But the Good News is that God is filled with GRACE and merciful and forgiving.

I am convinced, though, that we will look back on 2016 and measure it largely through the lens of GRACE - and that our assessment of the year, looking back, will be based on how freely or reluctantly GRACE was distributed in our homes, workplaces, and worshipping communities, in our neighborhoods, on Facebook and in the voting booth.

As our society becomes more polarized, as differences between us are magnified, as political and theological turf is staked out, GRACE will be the gift that allows us to hold on to unity and peace, or its paucity will be at the root of our divisiveness and fear.

During this reflective season of Lent, let us consider carefully the importance of GRACE. The world at large may not know the word for unmerited favor, but it hungers for it nonetheless. After all, as Max Lucado is reminding us in our Lenten studies, **"It's Not About Me."**

In His Grip,

Pastor Bill



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27	28	29	30	31		

Leadership Meetings:

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE	1st Wednesdays	7:00 PM
BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE	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 MINISTRY	4th Wednesdays	See Calendar
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE	2nd Tuesdays	7:00 PM
WORSHIP COMMITTEE	1st Tuesdays	7:00 PM
YOUTH COMMITTEE	2nd Thursdays	7:00 PM

Future Events:

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP	April 2 - 9
LIFE ACADEMY	April 3 & 17
SPRING YARD SALE	April 8-9
TEACHER APPRECIATION	April 17
DEACON MEET & GREET	April 17
AMOR MISSION TRIP	April 22-25
LIFE ACADEMY	May 1 & 15
NEW MEMBERS' CLASS	May 15 & 22
NEW MEMBERS' INSTALLATION	June 5
MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY	June 12
CHURCH 125TH BIRTHDAY PARTY	June 12
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	June 20-24



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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

Erma Favalessa (100+)	March 6
Walter Miles (100+)	March 7
Doris Hill	March 15



LADIES NIGHT OUT

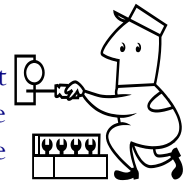
Tuesday March 29th at 6:30 pm
 Wolf Creek Restaurant & Brewing Co.
 27746 McBean Pkway
 Valencia, CA 91354



MEN AT WORK

Next meeting: March 19, 2016

Join the men of the church on the third Saturday of each month at 8:00 am for breakfast and a time of fellowship. Each month there will either be a guest speaker or a project at the church or in the community.



BOOK BUDDIES

"Mary Coin" the 2016 One Story, One City book selection will be discussed at the Book Buddies gathering on Thursday, March 10th at 4:00 p.m. The author Marisa Silver uses Dorothea Lange's Migrant photograph for a novel of two women and their chance encounter.

Come to Ellie Fuller's home for discussion and salad supper. RSVP Ellie 661-259-4983.

Meet author Marisa Silver for a free author program Saturday, March 12th at 7 p.m. at the Newhall Library.



HANDCRAFTERS

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (Mar. 8 & 22), at 10am, people gather in the Evans Room to share their crafting skills, their interests, and their accomplishments. We are the *handcrafters*, and everyone is welcome!



HOLY WEEK

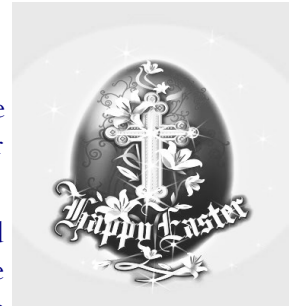
Easter is early this year so be sure to put Holy Week activities on your calendars now.

PALM SUNDAY: On **March 20th** we will celebrate Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem with a processional by the children and music by the Children's Choir. Bill's message will be "*It's All About Him.*" During Sunday School Time, the kids will enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES: Throughout the week the Lenten Bible Studies will continue. (See p. 11.)

MAUNDY THURSDAY: The traditionally solemn Service on **March 24th** at 7:00 PM will include music by the Chancel Choir, challenging us to "Lift Our Eyes to the Hills" and a message from Pastor Bill (*Struggles and Success*). Experience the "Draping of the Cross."

EASTER: We will welcome the Risen Savior an hour earlier than our usual Sunday services, at 8:30 and 10:00 am on **March 27th**. Expect color, decorations, flowers, joyful music and an inspirational message by Pastor Bill (*Dwelling on God*). Invite your friends and neighbors! Child care will be provided at the first service only.



Easter Lilies

Watch for information in the bulletin about purchasing Easter Lilies in memory or honor of someone special in your life. After Easter, lilies not claimed by their donors will be taken to shut-ins in our congregation and community.



FRIDAY MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY

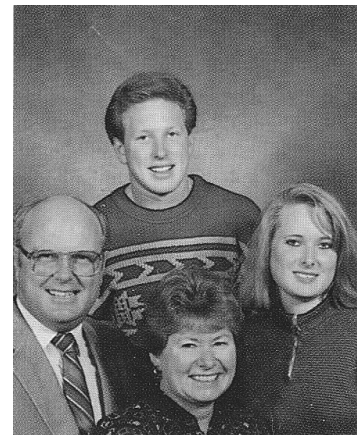
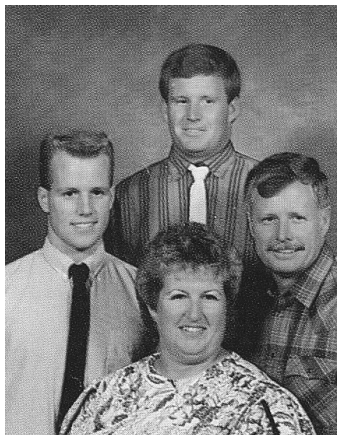
The Friday Bible Study welcomes both men and women to enjoy a delightful fellowship together as we open our hearts and minds to the Bible's message for our lives. Throughout Lent, we will be following the book our pastors and small groups will be studying, *It's Not About Me* by Max Lucado.

We will meet from 11:00 to 12:30 each Friday in the Evans Room. Bring your Bible and a sack lunch, if you wish, as we often attempt to nourish our bodies along with our souls. We hope you will join us.



History Quiz:

Here are some more photos from our 1987 church directory. Guess who they are (one person is in Heaven now), then confirm your answers by peeking at page 8. (Thank you Glenda Johnson for sharing your collection of church directories!)



Missionaries pro-

Mechanical engineers from Newhall church travel to Laos to offer water filtration system to poor residents

Art Moore, 79, has gone on mission trips most of his life, inspired by his faith to help others that needed it most. He'd been to Mexico to build houses and Ecuador for a medical mission trip. So when his longtime friend Jack Irwin, 69, suggested they look into a mission trip to Laos with Living Waters for the World to install a water filtration system, Moore's interest was piqued.

Moore and Irwin have been mechanical engineers and Christians their entire lives. The two attend church at Presbyterian Church of Newhall. Building a water filtration system in a developing country appealed to both their professional talents and Christian beliefs to help others.

"It's a way of caring for people and letting them know Christ isn't something to be afraid of," Irwin said. "Jesus said, 'Care for the thirsty, poor and hungry.' We are just there to help and love them."

The two were sponsored by the Presbyterian Church of Newhall and connected to University Presbyterian Church in Fresno, which has gone on mission trips to Laos for 14 years with their group, called Lao Partners. Moore and Irwin attended training in Oakhurst, meeting Lao Partners, which had been searching for more people to help with the missions to Laos.

"They told me they had been praying for more people to make the trip happen," Irwin said. "That's a God moment. He just put us together."

With three other people from Lao Partners, the team made one trip to Ecuador to survey a site for a similar system before they could be ready for the trip to Laos.

"It was not an easy system, but came relatively easy to us, considering our background," Moore said.

They went for 17 days last November, meeting representatives from both the People's Democratic Republic government and the Laotian Evangelical Church to guide, facilitate and translate. They visited seven villages to survey and troubleshoot systems but spent much of their time in Yod Kuea installing that system and training the local village, which had about 50 families.

"You go through culture shock; in every way it is different there," Irwin said. "This really isn't for everybody. You have to be ready to be immersed in their way of life which is completely different from America."

Revealing God through actions

The group faced many challenges and differences that would test them, such as language, food, customs and even having readily available clean water. They were told not to proselytize or share their faith in any verbal way. Despite the adversity, they felt the trip was rewarding and helped them fulfill their calling.

This is how I preach the gospel, by using my gifts as an engineer to help others," Moore said.

Irwin and Moore both noted the country's history with the U.S. has been difficult. They saw shell casings and craters from bombs and heard stories of people who lost family members from the bombing done during the Vietnam War, what Laotians call "The American War."

"I didn't realize how much damage we had done there," Moore said. "We made mistakes as a country, but our trip showed we are trying to meet some of their needs and we really do care; we want to give them clean water."

Even with the complicated history, the villagers welcomed the missionaries with open arms. Nearly everyone was grateful for the help the missionaries offered. The lieutenant governor of the Xiengkhuang province attended the closing ceremony and was pleased with the work the group did. The water system will offer each family in the village five gallons of clean water a day.

"We went to a strange country with a Buddhist culture, communistic type of government and spoke the gospel through what we did, not what we said," Irwin said.



Women from the Yod Kuea village in Laos fill up bottles with clean water at the filling station.



Jack Irwin, right, and Khampane, leader of Yod Kuea village, stand in front of the water filtration system installed by the team in Nov.

PLEASE
help our



ESCAPE

for Service

to San Francisco

Youth Mission Trip

Auction & Dinner

March 6, 2016

6:00pm

Fellowship Hall



\$10 per person; \$25 per family*



GHIRARDELLI
CHOCOLATE



*reservations
required





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 MEN'S 2016 AMOR TRIP IS APRIL 22ND - 25TH

(women and families are invited!)



How can we live out one of Christ's top passions - the caring for the poor? How do we change our "me-centered" mindset, to a "God-centered" and "others-centered" one as our Lenten series suggests? **Come on an Amor trip.** We could potentially be building a home for an El Nino displaced family. But even if we are not building for a displaced family, the house we build will help keep a desperately poor family safe and dry.

To a watching world it seems radical to spend your vacation time and money on a mission trip to Mexico – enjoying such amenities as camping out in the dirt, taking bag showers and working hard building a home alongside a Mexican family you don't even know yet. Yes it is a financial sacrifice, but that is what Christ-followers do. And it's oh, so worth it...when you risk your comfort so you can be the one who offers hope to those who have little or none.

Please join us this April. The cost is \$235 per person, which pays for all the building materials, food, gas, etc. We are also paying to have the slab poured by local labor to save our backs! Scholarships are available if needed. Even if you cannot come your prayers and any support are coveted.

We will leave the church on Friday morning April 22nd and return on either on Sunday the 24th after lunch or Monday the 25th in the morning.

Amor ministries has been serving God by mobilizing His church to build hope for families in need. It began 36 years and 20,000 homes ago! www.amor.org

Contact John Favalessa at amor@presby-newhall.org or Art Moore for details. Signup on the patio between services will start in March.





There was a time in my life when I had a list of things I wanted to do in my life. I guess now it's called a bucket list. Some of the things on it were visit all 50 states (I've been to 23), be a professional bowler (I joined a tournament club group and made some money but not enough to live on), be a published author (I've had some poems published), drive the Old Route 66, get my master's degree (check that one off), and teach.

As you can see what I planned and what really happened have been very different. Even teaching has been different from what I envisioned. I thought I would teach a college course in accounting or business to working adults. Or hold some kind of seminar or workshop on leadership or writing fiction. But God had different plans for me. My dream of being a teacher is coming true; just not the way I thought.

I have completed a week-long conference to become a Stephen Leader. I am going to train lay people to become Stephen Ministers and give Christ-like care to hurting people. I will also help lead the continuing education of all the active Stephen Ministers. It's not exactly what I thought I would be doing but it's what God had planned. My life is in the hands of the Lord. How awesome is that!

It's the same with my money, or rather, the money of the Ng household. EJ, in case you don't know is going to the University of the Pacific in Stockton. He was also accepted to Cal State Northridge. Northridge would have been a lot cheaper on the family budget but the moment we visited UOP's campus, I knew that's where EJ belonged and it's where he wanted to attend. Jerry worried if we could really afford it with two more children still at home. My reply each time Jerry stated his worries was "Don't worry. We will. If this is where EJ is suppose to be, the money will come." Year one has been paid for.

Money issues can consume an awful lot of your time if you let it. Money magazines and newsletters strive to help subscribers get more money and use it wisely. Amazon.com lists almost 94,000 books on the subject. Yet, we as Christians, know there is only one 'Book' we need to have which will tell us all we need to know about money, And that is the Holy Bible.

The Bible teaches us that everything we have, including money, is from God and recognizing that fact can free people from the anxiety over finances because God will provide enough. He will use our ability to earn money, sometimes in ways that can't be imagined.

God has amazing plans for us all. We just need to get out of His way. It's not about money, bucket lists, or anything else. It's about faith in the abilities that God has given us. I am grateful for the life God has given me. It's not what I had planned for myself but it's a lot better! One way I show my gratitude is by tithing, giving to worthy causes, and using my time and talent to further His kingdom. What could be better than that?

"And it is a good thing to receive wealth from God and the good health to enjoy it. To enjoy your work and accept your lot in life – this is indeed a gift from God." Ecclesiastes 5:19 NLT



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.

FINDING GOD'S DIRECTION

Article and Compass Quilt by Pam Jenner

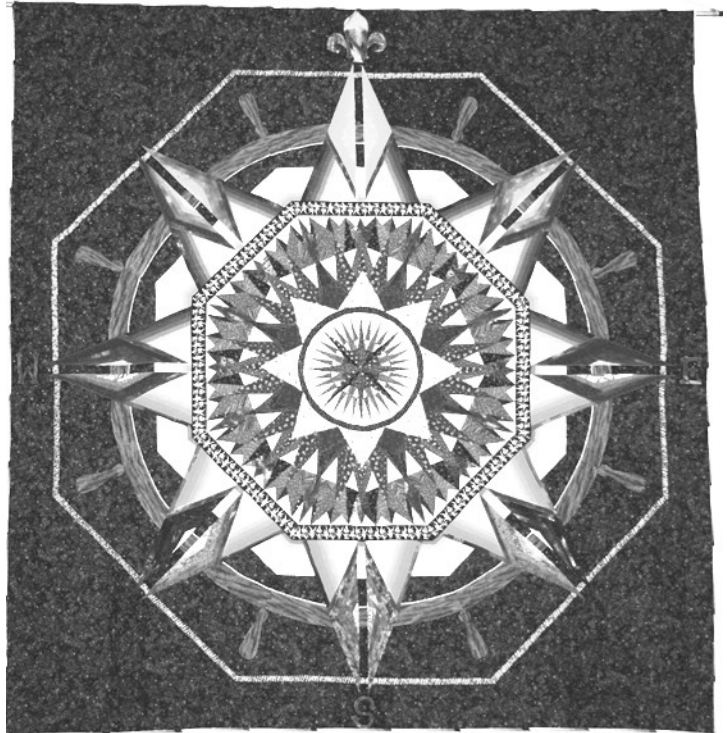
During this Lent and Easter Season your Worship Committee suggests using the compass to help you keep your heart and mind on God. The compass always points North, regardless of the situation or the weather. Our Bible is our compass to God. Whether we are experiencing good times or bad, the Bible always points to God.

As you go through these next few weeks, things might happen in your life to cause you to take a wrong emotional turn. Think of your Bible as sort of spiritual GPS, it can always point you back to God. Using the compass as your reminder to keep God in your heart and mind. God will help you keep going in the right direction regardless of the circumstances life throws your way.

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14: 5-6 NIV

Looking back before there was a compass, people used the North Star as their guide. Using God as your guide or compass and living life the way that Jesus teaches, you won't go down the wrong direction.

Keep your eyes out for the compass pictured here.



Senior Lunch

March 9 , 11:30am

Fellowship Hall

\$6.00 per person

Chefs: Jeff & Carole Wheeler

Please register at the Greeter's Table on the patio.



New Directions

March 16; 1:30pm

Home of Ellie Fuller

Call the Church Office if you're interested in joining this group of widows and widowers who love to share memories, thoughts and laughter with each other.

History Quiz Answers:

Ed & Anna Bolden; Dave & Myra Moore & sons Jeffrey & David; Jeff & Carole Wheeler & children
Jennifer & Scott

Little Shepherd's Nursery School

at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall



February was a month of celebrating love and friendship at Little Shepherd's. We made Valentines for Mommies and Daddies, and dropped them in the mailbox for the mailman to deliver to our homes. We also baked delicious heart shaped cookies from scratch, and frosted them ourselves. And best of all, we exchanged Valentines with our teachers and classmates to remind them that they are special.

Our Priority Registration for Fall of 2016 has ended, and enrollment is now open to the public. But the Early Bird registration discount does not expire until March 16th. Come see if Little Shepherd's is the right fit for your family. Tell a friend!



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.



"Help the Children" appreciates your donations of cans of fruit. During the month of March PW will focus on pasta and tomato products. Please leave your donations on the shelves in the Evans Room. Thank you for your continued support of our mission project. It is greatly appreciated!

PW CIRCLES—ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!

Elizabeth: Stephanie Linn (259-3914) – Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month at 11:30 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) - 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.



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

*HOW THE BIBLE BEGINS AND ENDS**

By Roland Wrinkle

HERE'S HOW IT STARTS: God created the cosmos and every living thing and declared it all "Very Good." He placed humankind in the perfect garden, with the river of the waters of life running down the middle and the tree of life on either side, and He lived with them *on earth*. There was no pain, tears, suffering or death. (Genesis 1)

NOW, HERE'S HOW IT ENDS: *Precisely the same way.* (Revelation 21 and 22, 1 Cor. 15:12-58; Isa. 25:8; 65:17; Acts 3:19-21; Eph. 1:9-10; Col. 1:19-20; Rom. 8:19-23; 2Pet. 3:10-13; Heb. 2:5; and various passages from Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zachariah, Ezekiel, Zephaniah Hosea and Amos)

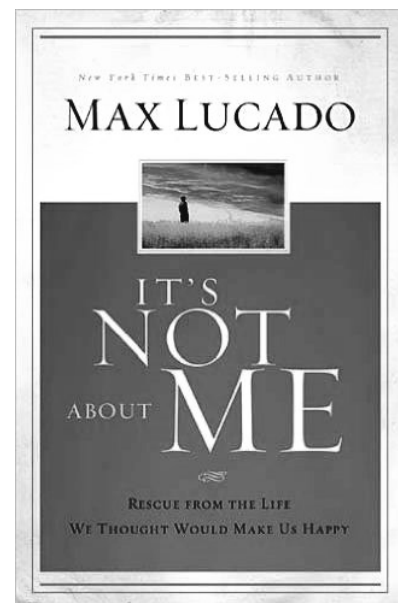
*Empty spaces intentional

LENTEN STUDY GROUPS

Prepare yourself for Easter; build friendships; share life together through our traditional Lenten discipline of Study Groups in homes and at church. This is the sixth year Adult Education has offered this unique experience for all, and some have shared that they look forward all year to experiencing this togetherness once again. Lent started with Ash Wednesday on February 10th and Study Groups have been meeting weekly. Each group will discuss Max Lucado's fascinating book "It's Not About Me" as we follow Pastor Bill Barnes' Lenten sermons on the book's topics.

How can I/we participate?: It's **NOT** too late to join an ongoing group! Just call the leader listed below and confirm the details. We have sold out of books, but you can get one where books are sold, or on line (Amazon) or as an E-book. Reading the book is suggested but not required for group participation. Groups usually meet for 1-1/2 hours, and include refreshments.

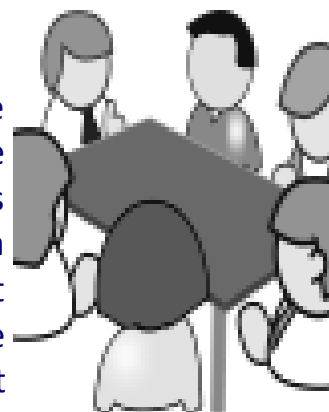
- Mondays at 7 pm** **Kevin and Susan Fletcher**
28986 Sam Place, Canyon Country
661-252-3541
- Tuesdays at 2 pm** **Dale and Gloria Boss**
19903 Avenue of the Oaks, Newhall
(Gated community - no walk-ins, you must pre-register)
661-309-4970
- Wednesdays at 7 pm** **Don and Pam Trammell**
22254 Oxford Lane, Santa Clarita (Circle J)
661-607-4632
- Thursdays at 7:30 am** **Men's Breakfast Bible Study**
IHOP Restaurant on Bouquet Cyn. Rd, near Cinema Dr.
Contact Jim Combs 661-406-7600
- Fridays at 11:00 am** **Friday Mid-day Bible Study**
Evans Room at Church
Contact Sonja Tweedie 661-298-1190
- Sundays at 4 pm** **Fellowship Hall with Family Dinner** at 5 pm at \$6.00 each or \$20 per family. Child care provided
Sponsors Becca Cranert 661-993-0296 and Jack Irwin



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.

Announcing the next New Members Class

The dates are set and so the Outreach Committee is getting ready for the spring New Members Class. The class dates are Sunday May 15th and the 22nd with the installation before the congregation on June 5th. The classes are informal and led by Pastor Bill. There is no obligation to become a member. Signup at the Fellowship table with Lorraine King or call Sandy at the church office 661-259-0555. More information will be coming in the April Newsletter. Questions – contact John Favalessa -Elder of Outreach at favalessa@yahoo.com.



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

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Change Service Requested

MARCH 2016



Sunday Worship Services

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



Deadline
for the
April Newsletter:
March 20, 2016
Thank you for your articles and
input to the newsletter.

The Newhall Press

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

E-mail: churchoffice@presby-newhall.org

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

Pastor: Bill Barnes (ext. 1)
Pastoral Support: Phil Aijian (ext. 2)
Dir. Christian Educ.: Sarah Bolin (ext. 4)
Assoc. Children's Dir: Lelia Meadows
Assoc. Youth Dir: Ian Fletcher
Office Administrator: Sandy McIntosh (ext. 0)
Music Conductor: Connie Woodson
2nd Service Worship Leader: Sam Besse
Treasurer: Dorothy Ng (ext. 3)
Custodian: Nelson Orellana
Groundskeeper: Steve Fuller
Nursery Care Provider: Linda Weingarten
Nursery Helpers: Violet Kwak, Shannon Sindle,
Victoria Stokes

Little Shepherd's Nursery School