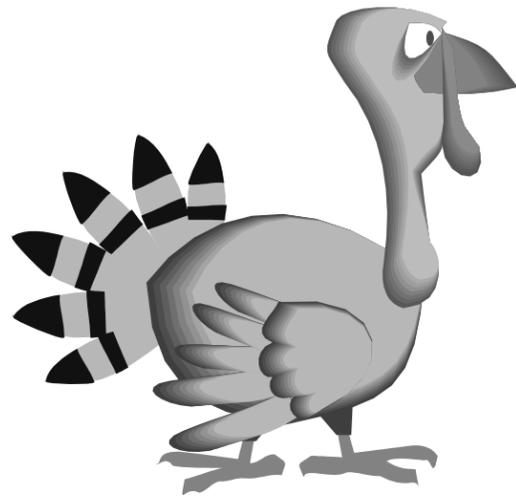


# The Newhall Press

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

Return Service Requested

## November 2014



### Sunday Worship Services

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



## Deadline for the DECEMBER Newsletter is

### November 16, 2014

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  
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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

## THE NEWHALL PRESS

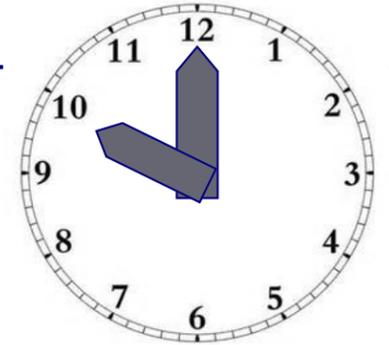


NOVEMBER 2014

### On Sunday November 2nd, it's *all* happening:

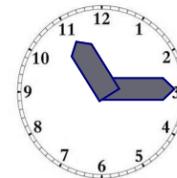
#### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS: *A Time to Reset*

Clocks go back one hour



#### ONE CHURCH SERVICE: *A Time to Worship*

At 10:00 A.M.



#### MINISTRY FAIR: *A Time to be Known*

Learn something new at each Committee table, and have your timesheet punched to be eligible for prize drawings.

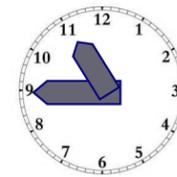


Ministry Fair



#### CHURCH LIFE: *A Time to Taste*

Chili Cook-off & Dessert Bake-Off



#### FALL FESTIVAL: *A Time to Tailgate*

Fun & games for children



## PASTOR COLUMN NOVEMBER 2014

There have been many splits and reunions in the Presbyterian Church over its American history. No surprise that the recent decisions of our General Assembly have been met with some disapproval. That disapproval has cost our community at least two beloved and wonderful families. (We are saddened by their decision – and have let both know that we would welcome them back at any time – and I have prayed with them as they left.) These decisions revolve around three issues:

The **first** regards allowing Pastors and congregations the freedom to officiate/host same sex weddings “as their conscience permits.” *“Exercising such discretion and freedom of conscience under the prayerful guidance of Scripture, teaching elders may conduct a marriage service for any such couple in the place where the community gathers for worship, so long as it is approved by the session; or in such other place as may be suitable for a service of Christian worship. In no case shall any teaching elder’s conscience be bound to conduct any marriage service for any couple except by his or her understanding of the Word, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.”*

The **second** calls for a “season of serious study and discernment” about the meaning of Christian marriage and passed a new definition of marriage that would change the constitutional definition of marriage from “between a man and a woman” to “between two people, traditionally between a man and a woman.”

And the **third** involves a decision to divest our denominations’ investments in a portfolio that includes three companies which supply equipment that is involved in destroying Palestinian communities in Israel.

The conversations about sexual orientation began in 1978. My College Pastor, Don Williams, wrote one of the theological presentations and was instrumental in the resulting authoritative interpretation that year that declared “homosexuality does not accord with God’s plan for humanity.” It has come up time and time again until a moratorium was placed upon any decision during at least two General Assemblies in the 90’s. Until later in the first decade of the millennium I have held a traditional view. Most of the theological work up to that point seemed to me to rely heavily on the “love of God” rather than focus on the brief areas of scripture where homosexuality is discussed. Relying on my reading of Scripture, I could not in good conscience support any change, even though in my clinical world of therapy there was increasing evidence that our sexuality is not a personal choice.

Then I was chosen in 2010 to be sent as a voting delegate from our Presbytery of San Fernando to General Assembly in San Jose. I knew this would be one of many issues that would come from committee to be voted on, so I selected 3 books with conservative theological perspectives and 3 books with progressive/liberal theological perspectives to re-educate myself on the theological debate. These books relied on good exegesis of the 6 seminal passages which discuss homosexuality in Scripture. This study prayerfully changed my perspective and my vote as a delegate at that assembly, but I continue to have great respect people who have a different view, recognizing that all of us are struggling to determine what is right.. (*I have written a lengthy paper on my findings, and did teach an adult education class on my findings when I returned from G.A. in 2010, and will make it available to anyone who wishes to read it.*)

There are times in a Pastor’s life (and many other folks) when we wish that we could bury our head and ignore any change in our comfortable world crying, “Can’t we all just get along?” However, as disciples of Jesus we each must examine our lives using prayer and study to discern where the Lord is leading us. This has been one of those times in my life. However, taking a stand differing from many things I’ve been taught by many wonderful men and women who have guided my Christian growth is very frightening and I walk with fear and trepidation in prayer that God continue to guide me through the Holy Spirit.

These decisions have already caused an exodus from the Episcopalian Church. Change is never easy on any institution, and especially religious institutions. You may be interested to know that other religious organizations sanction Same-Sex Marriages, such as; Evangelical Lutheran Church, United Church of Christ, Society of Friends (Quaker), Unitarian Universalist Association of Churches, Reform Jewish Movement, and the Conservative Jewish Movement, Episcopal Church, and now Presbyterian Church (USA). It is interesting that with the new Pope, that conversation is happening in the Roman Catholic Church as well.

As Presbyterians we welcome and respect the importance of one another’s theology. You may be asking, “What can we do about it?” Talk to one another. If you have questions or concerns, I encourage you to share them. If

Cont. on P. 32

## Presbyterian Women

*Building upon a Solid Foundation!*

*With a history of more than 200 years, Presbyterian Women is committed to nurturing faith, supporting the church's mission, working for justice and peace, and building community.*

*The Horizons Bible study connects women across our connectional church.*

*This year's study is RECONCILING PAUL: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians*

*PW is not just your grandmother's organization; it's yours and your daughter's, too!*

*Learn more about Presbyterian Women at*

*[www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org)!*

*(Lifted from an ad in Presbyterians Today)*

SAVE THE DATE for the PW Christmas Brunch  
Sat., Dec. 13, 9:00 a.m., Marie Callender's Restaurant, \$15

### 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.

### ON A PERSONAL NOTE

To my dear, sweet fellow Presbyterians,

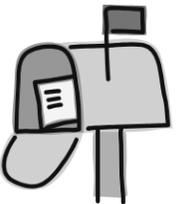
I take pen in hand to thank every one of you for your well-wishing cards and phone calls to me these last several months. I especially want to thank Pastor Bill and Brenda for their thoughtful kindness and John and Jung for the wonderful lasagna dinner that they gave me. Forgive me for not naming every one of you; you and I know who you are, and I am very grateful to you all.

Most important, I want to thank you all for your prayers. The truth is you prayed for me, and I got better. That is not a matter of faith or hope! It is an absolute fact, and my recovery is all the proof anyone needs to demonstrate that prayer really does work.

Last, but not least, I want to thank Lorraine for all the care, work, and love that she put into my recovery. I could not have made it without her. Among all that she did for me, there is one thing that stands out in my mind. Because of a leg brace that I had to wear after my second surgery, I could not reach my feet. As a remedy, she washed my feet every single day. It makes me cry just to remember that she did that for me. In my mind’s eye, I can see the image of Jesus smiling down on my dear sweet wife, Lorraine.

And so I want you to know that I have said a prayer for each and every one of you. It is that God has someone in your life who cares enough for you that they will wash your feet, and more importantly, that God has someone in your life whose feet you will gladly wash.

God bless you all. Richard King



Presbyterian Women, as forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, commit ourselves: To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the Church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.



## Presbyterian Women BODY & SOUL RETREAT Remembered!

What a marvelous retreat the Lord blessed us with today (Sept 27th)! And here are some photos of you gorgeous gals!!!

From the moment our ladies stepped on our campus and registered, enjoyed the coffee and tasty snacks, soaked up Kristie's message—to the delicious lunch and "parting gifts", everything was "perfectly lovely"!

Thank you, all of you on the committee, for working so hard to present such a marvelous day for our women at FPC ~

I am sure each lady was blessed by the Holy Spirit, as only He can orchestrate!

((hugs)))

Lynn Viggianelli



Cont. from P. 2

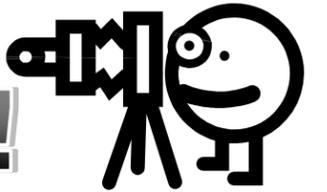
enough of you are interested, we could form a class or small groups out of Adult Education. Our delegates at Presbytery, 2 Teaching Elders and 2 Ruling Elders [elected by Session], will be voting at some undetermined time in the next year and a half. (Remember it will not happen until ratified by a majority of the Presbyteries.) Also, pray for the Church (both here and at large) for wisdom, direction and faithfulness. Also, that we remember that we are much greater than any one issue and pray for our continued growth as disciples and the work God is calling each of us to accomplish.

In the meanwhile I will be working with members of Session and Outreach to talk about what this means for the growth of our church. I continue to believe that First Presbyterian is a very special church family, and that God has a plan to prosper our church. I was thrilled to welcome a class of 16 new members in June, and there are others who have been attending and wish to join. I look forward to working with all of you to make that happen.

In His Grip,

Pastor Bill

## PICTURE THIS!!!



On October 10th we celebrated the baptism of Dominic Elliot Murrietta, son of Gino Murrietta, Jr. and Amy Porter Murrietta.



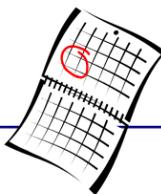
On September 21, we rejoiced in the baptism of Myles Tanner Meehan, son of Stacey Ann Tanner and Todd Meehan.



The editors would like to chronicle all of your milestone events. Please e-mail your photos and brief descriptions to Sandy at [presby2@pacbell.net](mailto:presby2@pacbell.net), or text them to Kathy at 818-720-1017...



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.

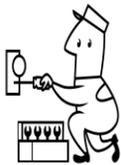


### MEN AT WORK

Next meeting: November 21.

Join the men of the church on the third Saturday of each month at 8:00 am for breakfast and a time of fellowship.

Each month there will either be a guest speaker or a project at the church or in the community.



### BOOK BUDDIES

Book Buddies will meet Thursday, November 13th 4:00p.m. at Sharon Dziubala's home to discuss *The Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff.

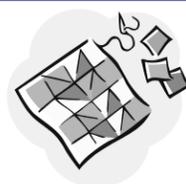


This is a true story of a young boy living off the streets and an advertising executive who become friends.

Sharon's home; 27003 N. Roswell. Valencia RSVP 661-297-6200. Join us for discussion and salad supper.

### HANDCRAFTERS

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



### LADIES' NIGHT OUT

No Meeting in November due to Thanksgiving.

### SAN ANTONIO WINERY REPORT by Patrick Stokes

On Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup>, after 2nd Service, your Church Life Committee sponsored a trip to downtown Los Angeles to visit the San Antonio Winery. It is just minutes from downtown Los Angeles and 2 minutes off of the Interstate 5 Freeway.



Founded in 1917 San Antonio Winery is the oldest winery in Los Angeles, and it has been run by the same family since its opening. It was the only winery permitted to stay open during Prohibition, after it petitioned to stay open to produce wine only for Holy Communion.

Fifteen of us from First Presbyterian Church of Newhall caravanned down there for a delicious lunch, a tour of the winery and then a little bit of tasting of some of their wonderful wines. It is always great getting to know each other better over a nice lunch and a little wine. We also enjoyed some wines from Italy as well as wines from other wineries in California. Then we all did a little shopping in their incredible gift store. Some of us also had a chance to meet the founders Stefano & Maddalena Satragni. It was a wonderful afternoon. We hope you can join us next time year, or maybe even sooner.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- Nov. 2 Daylight Savings Ends
- Nov. 2 10am ONE Combined Church Service
- Nov. 2 Ministry Fair - Chili-Cook-off
- Nov. 2 Children's Fall Fun Festival
- Nov. 7 Afrizo Concert
- Nov. 13 Book Buddies
- Nov. 16 Variety/Talent Show
- Nov. 16 & 23 Bible Book Sale
- Nov. 21 Men at Work
- Nov. 21 Family Feast
- Nov. 27 Thanksgiving & Turkey Bowl

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

- Nov. 1 Daniel Waters
- Nov. 22 Ed Rodgers
- Nov. 23 Shirley Schneider
- Nov. 30 Durwood Lewis

### CHILI/DESSERT COOK-OFF

Do you have a killer chili or heavenly dessert recipe? Then enter Church Life's annual **COOK-OFF** on Sunday **November 2nd** during the **Ministry Fair**. Prizes and bragging rights to the winners.

### VARIETY/TALENT SHOW

Got Talent? Then Church Life wants you for our annual Variety/Talent Show. Start practicing now. We need instrumental musicians, singers, dancers and even comedians. Potluck at 5pm with show at 6pm on Sunday **November 16th** in Fellowship Hall.

### *Four Rabbis, A Big Fish, Russell Crowe And How They All Might Just Teach Us Something About How To Read The Bible. (Part One) by Roland Wrinkle*

*The Four Rabbis:* Somebody pretty smart once said, "*The basic task of exegesis* [how to figure out the meaning of biblical passages] *is to address, as a whole and in parts, the historical questions: What was the author saying to the readers; and why? These questions ultimately demand an answer at the broadest level in the form of a hypothesis to be tested against the verse-by-verse details.*" It has always seemed to me, that the testing hypothesis can usually be found in the understanding that the great authors of the Old Testament books were great storytellers – invariably living in an oral culture. God is the master storyteller. All of the Bible is set ablaze by stories – stories which are all one story. When his son climbed up to the top of the mount (and when he came down off of it), he was telling stories – stories which could be understood within the context of the singular, overarching story told by his father. Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel (in the tradition of his, and our, Jewish forefathers) tells this wonderful tale:

*"When the great Rabbi Israel Baal Shem-Tov saw misfortune threatening the Jews it was his custom to go into a certain part of the forest to meditate. There he would light a fire, say a special prayer, and the miracle would be accomplished and the misfortune averted. Later, when his disciple, the celebrated Magid of Mezritch, had occasion, for the same reason, to intercede with heaven, he would go to the same place in the forest and say: "Master of the Universe, listen! I do not know how to light the fire, but I am still able to say the prayer." And again the miracle would be accomplished. Still later, Rabbi Moshe-Leib of Sasov, in order to save his people once more, would go into the forest and say: "I do not know how to light the fire, I do not know the prayer, but I know the place and this must be sufficient." It was sufficient and the miracle was accomplished. "Then it fell to Rabbi Israel of Rizhyn to overcome misfortune. Sitting in his armchair, his head in his hands, he spoke to God: "I am unable to light the fire and I do not know the prayer; I cannot even find the place in the forest. All I can do is to tell the story, and this must be sufficient." And it was sufficient."*

*"God made man because he loves stories."* Those to whom Jesus was speaking from that mount were familiar with God's story. What Jesus was trying to get them to understand was that the familiar story was now all being reworked around him. The problem for us is exactly the opposite, i.e. we are all too familiar with the story of Jesus and all too unfamiliar with the story that he assumed his audience was steeped in. If either story is ignored, the pieces just won't fit.

*The Big Fish.* Now, let's test this hypothesis against the verse by verse details of the story of Jonah and the Whale. Who was the most despicable enemy of the Jews? Clearly, Assyria. Jonah was so appalled by God's request to have him give fair warning to Nineveh (capital of the Assyrian Empire), he took off in the opposite direction. It was unthinkable to this Hebrew prophet that he would be asked to aid in the salvation of the wicked city which had dedicated itself to tormenting Israel. He tried to hide from God (not exactly a brilliant idea) but God caught up with him and Jonah got himself swallowed up by apparently a really, really big fish. Jonah then pleaded to God in what sounds a lot like a Psalm but amounts to an ancient version of "God, get me out of this pickle and I promise....." God answered him and then promptly sent him back to finish the job of rescuing Nineveh—this time successfully. But Jonah was so ticked off that he had played a part in granting salvation to the gigantic city of Israel's most hated enemy he wanted to die. He grew a bush to give him shade and God killed the bush. Here's how God responded to Jonah:

*"You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"*

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus might well have said, "*You have heard it said God loves your enemies because they are all his precious ikons (images of God); now, you need to love your enemies as well.*" Well, that's pretty much what he *actually* did say. Then we bellyache, "That's just too much to swallow [get the pun?]-there must be another way to read this passage." But "*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*" is not a metaphor. It cannot be circumvented by root-word studies in ancient Aramaic or Greek. It is simply and plainly a working out of the story of Jonah in the new context of all of accepted scripture being reworked around and through Jesus of Nazareth as the fulfillment, climax and culmination of all of those scripture stories.

So back to the Jonah tale (another pun). We moderns read this story and say, "The ancients didn't have the benefit of modern science and didn't realize that it would be ridiculous to believe that a man could be swallowed by a sea serpent, be spit out after three days and still live. Well, guess what? Those ignorant ancients knew as well as we do that such a scenario violated everything they knew about the physical world. Sure, they knew nothing about molecular biology but they knew enough not to fall for big fish tales. But they appreciated what we tend to miss, i.e. that the *story was not about a really big fish but was about how God loves our enemies.* He has the *audacity to love our enemies!* How dare he? We (Jonah) tend to get all out of sorts about the ridiculous undeserved grace and promiscuous love of God—at least when it comes to others. I know God loves me and so it only stands to reason that he would hate those who hate me. But that's apparently not the way it works. And that's the reason these stories were told and told over and over again for centuries before somebody decided to write them all down. What was the author trying to say? What is the meaning behind the story? What does God want us to learn from these stories? With the Book of Jonah, the answer is simple: God loves our enemies and it doesn't seem to make much difference that this tends to piss us off—and, now, in anticipation of God's New Age we are being called upon to move in the direction of becoming fully human where we will be able to love our enemies as well. **This is a Kingdom story.** If you want science stories, listen to Stephen Hawking. If you want fish stories, listen to the pastor—and read the Bible and search for meaning. Remember, *God made man because he loves stories.*



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.

Adult Education Committee presents a

## Bible Book Sale

### Study Bibles, Large Print, Youth, Children's

Just in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas

Two Sundays only, November 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

10:15 – 12:00 noon

Advent Calendars will also be distributed, *free*.



# AFRIZO!

Concert on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at Newhall Pres.

Do you remember the concerts at our church in 2008 and 2010 by the amazing AFRIZO singers from Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya?

They have returned to the US for a concert tour this year from Aug.- Nov. 2014 to raise \$250,000 in scholarship support for Daystar students. The tour started at Daystar US offices in Minneapolis and is taking them through churches in the East, then Texas and Arizona, ending in So. Calif. with Westmont College, 1<sup>st</sup> Pres Newhall, & Trinity Pres. in Santa Ana. There will be 7 students with Hellen Mtawali, their professor and lead singer, as well as two Daystar US staff people driving the van! Plan to bring some friends to enjoy this energetic concert, 6-7:30, then gather for some refreshment with the singers. Discover their life journeys!

East Africa is impacted by many influences: Western European, sub-continental Indian, and Islamic groups (some terrorist groups included). However, Christianity is still growing the fastest in Africa. Many students arrive at Daystar with little or no funding from their home villages. The University tries to keep as many as can possibly be successful, seeking scholarship support for them. Our Mission Committee provides \$2,500 scholarship funding each year for a Daystar student.



Daystar is shining a clear Christian light in East Africa providing higher education for solid moral leadership, service, and business values. Come and support them, exchange with them our Christian warmth and love, and demonstrate our appreciation for all they do in East Africa for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## FRIDAY MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY

If you seek an on-going Bible study, this is a wonderful opportunity for you to learn more about the God we worship, His Son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We continue with our study of the Book of Acts. Bring your Bible and a sack lunch, if you wish. It will be exciting exploring our own questions, ideas and perceptions together. Both men and women are welcome.

We meet Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Evans Room. Hope to see you there.

# 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.

Hey families, TGIF is in full swing, but there is still room for more kids who love to eat fun foods, play great games AND learn all about Christ's love for us. If you would like for your children to participate (or want a date night) drop off the kid-ohs at church on Friday nights at 6pm till 8pm. The registration cost is \$35.00 for the whole season and dinner is a requested \$4.00 donation. We are learning all about "Falling in Love with Jesus". Also, we are having a FAMILY FEAST for everyone to participate in on Friday November 21<sup>st</sup>. bring your family's favorite dish (it can be anything) and your whole family cew for some games, food, and fun for the whole family. Be sure to mark your calendars on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm Bring your friends and neighbors, the more the merrier!



Imagine...snowballs, late night games, hot cocoa, sled runs, and crazy counselors-that's right, it's winter camp! WINTER CAMP is for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders through 6<sup>th</sup> graders who love to have a good time. It's going to be January 23-25<sup>th</sup> and the cost is \$185.00 per participant. If your child is interested in having fun in a cabin with other kids and staying up late and learning all about Jesus, then talk to Ms. Sarah ASAP so she can add your child to the list. Please turn in a \$50.00 deposit to hold a spot. Forest Home is a wonderful place for kids to experience community and a time to hear God's word. Scholarships are available based on need but we will need for your family to fill out a scholarship application before the payment deadline of January 15<sup>th</sup>. You can also check out the [www.foresthome.org](http://www.foresthome.org) website to see pics and learn more about camp. I hope that your kids will be able to be a part of this amazing experience.



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.

Are you ready for some football? We are! It's TURKEY BOWL time. Get your pads, and your old high school football jersey (even if it's too small), and meet us at Central Park off Bouquet Road in Saugus at 9:00 AM on Thanksgiving morning Thursday November 27<sup>th</sup> for some good old fashioned flag football fun. It's kids and youth verses the rest of you guys! Bring your lawn chairs, and warm clothes and meet us for a fun game and community. There will be some yummy breakfast treats as well as a half time turkey bowling show for the little ones. This is an event that is not to be missed. If your not a football fan, join us to watch and join in on the cheerleading fun (the team vs. the kids will need your support!) The festivities will be over in plenty of time for you to cook Mr. Turkey so be sure to meet us at Central park at 9:00. Look for our church banner to find our field. See you at the bowl!



WINTER CAMP time is approaching fast, and we are taking sign ups for spots now. Junior High and High school camp are amazing times for youth to connect to their peers, their leaders and to the Lord. There is time for worship, games, and snow. If your teen is in 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade then they WILL have fun. The Junior High camp is January 9<sup>th</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup> and is a total of \$200.00 per participant. And High School camp is February 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> and the cost is \$240.00 per participant. If your child is interested in going, please talk to Sarah or Ian about spots. Your family will need to pay a \$50.00 non refundable deposit no later than 10 days before the departure date and final payment will be due on the departure date. Payment plans and scholarships are available based on need but your family will need to fill out a scholarship application by the deposit due date. Winter camp is an amazing time and your child will really benefit in their participation. If you have any other questions or concerns about camp talk to Sarah or Ian who both have been there a number of times. You can also check out the [www.foresthome.org](http://www.foresthome.org) website to see pics and learn more about camp. Hope that your kid can make it!



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.

## Family AMOR October 2014 by John Favalessa



Seventeen of us departed Saturday morning October 11th on our adventure to build a home for a desperately poor family. Weeks of planning and preparation were now becoming a reality. We had five “first timers” joining us. After a safe journey we arrived at the AMOR campsite with a couple of hours of daylight left to set up camp and heat the lasagna. The next morning after breakfast we drove to the worksite to meet the family whose lives we’d hoped to make easier.



While all the worksites in Tijuana present challenges, this one was unique. The slab was on the backside of their current home, which had dirt floors but a pretty good roof. There was no room on the sides to walk to the back. So we had to carry everything through the house. We cut all the wood out front and then carried it up the stairs and through the house in a conga line to the back; same for all the building materials including the heavy concrete bags.

Engaging with the family is a treasured part of the experience but not always realized. Well, since they had to take down the back wall of their existing structure we got to peer into their lives. We saw they had two twin beds and a couch...for three children and two adults; we saw mom cooking dinner on a small stove; we saw dad trying to sleep on the couch as he works night shift; we saw the children eating at their makeshift table; we saw mom washing clothes on a scrub board. Monday was a school day and the children wore plaid uniforms. They youngest girl had a white pleated skirt and they all wore white shirts. It was amazing to me that their white clothes were whiter than our white clothes! It was unbelievable as they literally live in dust. The children were well behaved, had bright smiles and sparkling eyes.



This home was a couple of blocks away from the home we built for Sylvia two years earlier. So at lunch we drove a group over to see how she was doing. She had been undergoing chemo for breast cancer when we built her home. Sylvia was so surprised and joyous to see us. She remembered all of us. We learned that she was now cancer free! We hugged and took pictures. We were rejuvenated to go back to our job site and work harder. Later that afternoon, when mom came home from work (she’s a seamstress making wedding sheets) and saw the walls and roof up. In the words of Jana Baker, “She was so happy that she burst into tears. This family of five had lived in two rooms and now we were doubling their living space.” We were all so filled with the joyous emotions of the moment. I knew all the effort that went into this trip was

so worth it. So we were blessed with another safe and tremendously successful AMOR trip where we got more back than we gave.

Footnote: we didn’t finish the roof or start to stucco but Brentwood Presbyterian Church was coming down in a few days and would finish! Building for God’s Kingdom!

Oh, another footnote: It literally took us nine minutes to cross the border into the USA! In the past we’ve waited as long as 4 plus hours!

Our next trip will be after Easter. These trips are expensive as we pay for all the building materials for the homes and it would not be possible without the support of the Mission Committee through your donations. Thank you all!



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## AMOR TRIP REPORT by James Allison

The Lord has blessed us all in so many ways, and one way that he has blessed our church family is by allowing us to have another touching Family AMOR trip. Each trip is so humbling, the people we serve are gracious and we are so touched by their influence. When we travel to Mexico, it takes us to another world, a world that we view as a hardship, a world we see as ever so challenging. Most of us would not survive, **but they do!** Not only do they survive, but they thrive. As we drive along the dirt highways and through their neighborhoods, we might see trash on the ground, sick and abandoned dogs, businesses closed down, graffiti, and homes that could be assembled by things in your own garage; however, as you are driving around their dirt roads you can also see the people with clean clothes and pressed uniforms. Small businesses abound, and neighborhoods come together as families. The people of Mexico are hard working, with hopes and dreams just like us. They may be subject to disadvantages, they may not make that much money in a hard day’s work, but they are definitely not discouraged, and neither should your family be when our next Family AMOR trip comes next year.

