

The Newhall Press

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

Return Service Requested

September 2014



Sunday Worship Services

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



Deadline for the October Newsletter is

September 15, 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
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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
Director: Dyana Vos

THE NEWHALL PRESS

PASTOR'S COLUMN



SEPTEMBER 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Ten years (in the wink of an eye). What an amazing and wonderful surprise on Sunday August 17th as everyone was wearing leis and Hawaiian wear I noticed something was up! I never had a clue! The Deacons planned a terrific "Surf-theme" reception with cake and "beach water beverage" (you had to be there), and even surf themed music on the patio (with a polka piece that my bride recognized right away as a tribute to her having played in a polka band). Brenda and I are enjoying reading all the cards of encouragement and appreciation. Words are not enough, but THANK YOU ALL so much.

I have been reminiscing about the time 11 years ago when Brenda and I attended your worship anonymously. We crept in the back and there on the back wall was Randy Wallingford (who then was a former minister also back for a visit). I'd overlapped an internship with him at Burbank Presbyterian. Then after worship, Stacey Henderson made a strong impression by



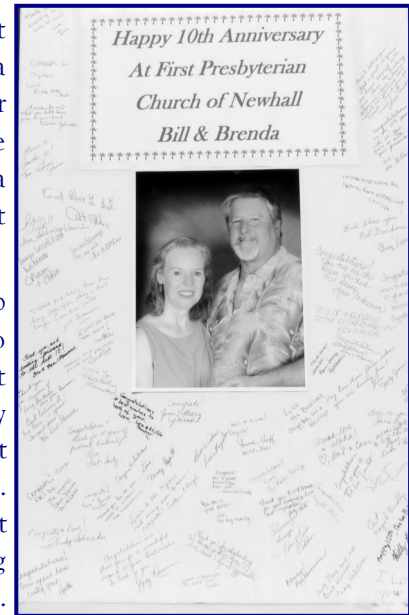
seeking us out and telling us what a great family this church was to her and her family. We decided to apply and were called to meet with your PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee). It was chaired by Jeff Wheeler. Gail Tonkinson was the Secretary, and other members included Scott Bullock, Andrew Cruz, Kay Harris, Cathy Johnson, Star Stilling, and it was obvious how much they loved their church and were proud of its heritage. I loved their passion as they asked me some hard questions, and I could tell they wanted to "test my pastoral and theological knowledge and practice." These great people won me over in their zeal and the courtship moved on. Paul Rock asked me to meet Tom Bailey for coffee. Here was another interview with a terrific man that led to my discovery that Phil Aijian (who was in my first dorm as a college student at Whitworth) was "temporarily" (that is no longer temporary) working with the church through its staff transition.

When I began the interview process I hadn't even heard of Santa Clarita. Of course I knew of Magic Mountain and when I was a little boy my father and I had come out here to Newhall, which was in the country, to buy a pig to roast luau style in our yard. As a teen I'd been to the Saugus Raceway several times and once saw James Garner there to race. And now I found myself falling in love with this 100- year-old congregation that had watched their valley begin to explode with population. Anyway, Brenda and I believed this was God's call to us.



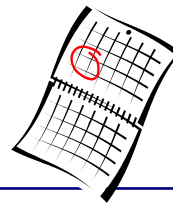
Your PNC seemed to as well and recommended me to the congregation. Presbytery approved, and thankfully, the congregation agreed. It has been a blessing to serve as your Pastor and I look forward to our future together.

In His Grip,
Pastor Bill





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



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.



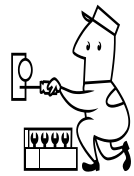
Cont. from P. 10

MEN AT WORK

Next meeting: September 20th.

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 on Thursday, September 11th at 4:00p.m. to discuss "Boys in the Boat." Daniel James Brown's nonfiction story is an account of nine working class boys and their quest for the Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

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



FALL YARD SALE

Time to clean out closets, cupboards and cubby-holes for those unwanted treasures. Church Life wants them their semi annual yard sale on Friday & Saturday October 24 & 25. Large items can be picked up the week of October 20th. Questions call Rod or Candy Belcher 297 2445.



SAN ANTONIO WINERY LOS ANGELES

Sunday Sept 28th. Carpools leave at 12:30 pm for tour and tasting. Cost \$5/ person. Deli style lunch on your own. Sign-up on patio in September.

REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED

We are trying to design the NEWHALL PRESS to reflect as much congregation interest as possible, and to represent all of the many activities of the church, both from the recent past and the future. We invite you to participate in this endeavor by sending us brief articles and photos (one or two per event). Don't worry if there are duplicates or if you lack writing skills; we will sort it out!

PICTURE THIS is a favorite feature of the newsletter. We want to share your family's births, weddings, and milestone events.

Send your photos and articles to **Sandy** at presby2@pacbell.net, or bring hardcopies to the church office. Keep in mind the newsletter deadline announced on the back page of every issue.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- Sept. 5 Youth Group Lock-in
- Sept. 11 Book Buddies
- Sept. 11 Choir Rehearsals Start
- Sept. 13 Couple's Garden
- Sept. 14 Wash and Worship
- Sept. 17 Mom/Tot Program Starts
- Sept. 20 Men at Work
- Sept. 21 Life Academy Starts
- Sept. 27 PW Body and Soul Retreat
- Sept. 27 Box City
- Sept. 28 San Antonio Winery
- Sept. 30 Ladies' Night Out

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

- Sept. 3 George Watts
- Sept. 20 Paul Aijian
- Sept. 23 Marion Redfern
- Sept. 24 Wanda Lewis

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Sept 30th—6:30 PM
Stonefire Grill
23300 Cinema Drive
Valencia, 91355



COUPLES' GARDEN:

Pastors Linsey and Robbie Carnes from Kirk o' the Valley will speak on Gender Roles from a biblical perspective. The date is Saturday, September 13th at 5:30 pm for appetizers in Fellowship Hall, followed by lecture/discussion, then date night to follow. Child care will be provided free (but must be prearranged). Cost \$5/couple.

HOLLYWOOD BOWL MEMORIES:



FRIDAY MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY (sponsored by Adult Ed Committee)

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 will continue with our study of the Book of Acts, beginning with Chapter 12 (with a brief review of Ch. 1 - 11.) 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 will meet Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Evans Room. Our study will begin on September 12, 2014. Hope to see you there.

New Directions met in August, and it was decided to continue this group of people who have been widowed. Meetings will be once a quarter: December, March, June, and September. So, watch the bulletin, newsletters, and your personal mail for more information. If you want to ensure that your name is on the group's contact list, please call the Church Office.

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!

On a Personal Note

I was almost overwhelmed by the loving support that I received from my friends at First Pres during my daughter Bonnie's illness and passing. All the hugs, prayers, cards, phone calls, and the large group of ladies who attended the Memorial Service at her church in Montrose - it all helped us to give her up to God's care. We are so grateful for your loving attention.

Norma Thompson & family



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 Fall 2014 Life Academy Classes

We believe that Christian education is vital to understanding our world today. We are offering the following classes starting on Sunday, September 21st through Sunday October 26th: A brochure will be forthcoming and sign-ups will begin on the patio between services on Sundays, August 31st, September 7th, and September 14th.

Faith Talk on the Patio – Sundays at 8:30 a.m. - Gather each Sunday with friends on the patio benches. Explore any questions you have about Christianity, the world, our church and your faith. It is a simple gathering at the benches for a half hour with Roland Wrinkle. Bring your questions and explore the conundrums, questions and curiosities of faith.

Adventure through the Bible Stories Jesus Taught – Sundays at 10:45 to 11:45 in Fellowship Hall - Have you wondered why the Bible is called “The Greatest Story Ever Told”? Would you like to read and understand the Bible that Jesus taught? Would you like to be able to share this magnificent Story of God with your children or grandchildren, holding them in rapt attention like great storytellers of old? See Old Testament stories from the TV Series “The Bible.” Learn to tell the story of God’s Salvation Plan and Action. With Roland Wrinkle, Jack Irwin and Becca Cranert. Refreshments will be served.

Living Waters for the World – 4 p.m. on Sunday, September 21st by Art Moore in the Sanctuary – Even though most of the surface of our earth is covered with water, only a tiny percentage of that water is drinkable. Many sources of water (fresh water lakes, streams, below ground aquifers) are contaminated by humans and animals, resulting in millions of people throughout the world not having a clean, safe supply of drinking water as we do in the US and Canada or in Western Europe. In many cases people are forced to buy bottled water or boil what is available. The expense, burden, and risk of disease and death is huge.

Fortunately, in our denomination, the Synod of Living Waters oversees Living Waters for the World, an organization that has been in operation for over 20 years. It has developed and installed numerous water purification systems in developing countries such as Guatemala, Cuba, and Honduras.

This last June, Art Moore took the technical training to enable him to eventually lead teams to countries such as Ecuador and the Dominican Republic and install water purification systems. Learn more about his experience and how we all might have a part in providing living waters for the world.

Judith Ward – 2013 PCUSA Mission Experience to Appalachia – 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 5th in the Sanctuary - The Adult Education Committee has joined with the Presbyterian Women of Newhall First Presbyterian Church to bring Judith Ward, one of a group of Presbyterian women who traveled in 2013 to Appalachia for the third USA Mission Experience. This Mission Experience equipped the women to understand the history and culture of the region, the existing ministry of the church there, and the challenges faced by women, children and families living in the area. Judith Ward will share her experiences of the region and the work done by PCUSA to assist the area in getting health care (including dental care), information on proper nutrition, and access to education. The Presbyterian Women will provide refreshments after the presentation and an opportunity to further discuss with Judith Ward the area and its problems.

Afternoon at the Movies - ACTS OF GOD. SEVEN LIVES. ONE QUESTION. WHY? – 4:00 p.m. Sunday, on October 12th - A moment of crisis changes everything. One stormy night a sudden, shattering collision takes an innocent life. Now seven people find their lives intertwined by the accident and hard questions reflected in their own lives. Why do such tragedies occur? If God is good, why does he allow so much pain? As each of them struggles through the challenges and the aftermath, threads of hope and faith along with close friends become the lifeline to a strength they could never find alone.

Faithtalk – 4 p.m. Sunday, on October 19th by Rev. Rosie Kwak in the Sanctuary - Have you ever wanted to express your faith in the Gospel message but didn’t know what to say or where to start? Most of us shy away from talking about our faith because we don’t want to offend anyone or we don’t want to be stuck defending ourselves or what we believe. In our time together we will explore how we can comfortably tell of our own faith stories in our own words, in our own way. This class is for anybody who wants to gently and joyfully speak about the Lord.

Health and Nutrition – 4 p.m. Sunday on October 26th by Tina Pulliam in the Sanctuary (this class will last 1 ½ hours) - In the busyness of her days working with children with learning disabilities, and in her life as wife, mother of 3, grandmother of 9 ½, Tina could easily succumb (like so many of us) to the ease of fast or processed foods. Instead, Tina views food as God’s most natural medicine and developed her food-preparation skills and knowledge by cooking and catering for family and friends. As anyone knows, finding a balance between flavor, nutrition and personal preference takes patience, endurance and sometimes a little sneakiness. To further promote a healthy eating plan and to ensure the enjoyment as well as benefit of God’s bounty, Tina and her husband cultivate their suburban backyard garden to organically produce fresh herbs, berries, and a variety of produce. Tina is happy to share her experience and expertise on how food choice can be a healthy adventure. Using the oldest approved health plan around we will get back to basics and learn to eat with wisdom.

Cont. on P. 11



The Buildings and Grounds Committee is responsible for diligently maintaining and thoughtfully developing the buildings



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
TROOP 609
NEWHALL, CA



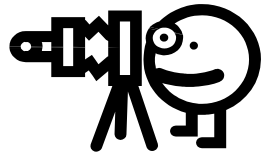
Dear Friends & Neighbors,

My name is Conor and I have been with the Boy Scouts since 1st grade and I’m now presently in 10th grade and a Life Scout. I am currently working on my final rank to become an Eagle Scout and I would like to ask for your support.

I am beginning my Eagle project and choose to provide a leadership role to assist my Charter Organization, the 1st Presbyterian Church of Newhall, to relocate the cross we have in front of our church on Newhall Avenue. It is hidden behind a large oak tree that cannot be pruned as this tree is now a protected oak of the Santa Clarita Valley. My task is to move the 24’ tall cross to a new location on the property to make it more visible from Newhall Avenue. I am also a member of our church so I am honored to have the opportunity to give this service. In addition to moving the cross, I will be arranging new lighting and landscaping around the base.

To help me, I’m hoping you could make a charitable contribution to assist me with the project cost of equipment and material. Please contact me if you are interested in donating any funds or need additional information. Even the smallest donation will be much appreciated. Thank you for your consideration and support,
Conor Lauermaun 661-251-2559

PICTURE THIS!!!



On August 15th Jeff and Carole Wheeler celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary! Carole well remembers tying the knot at the Community Church in Lockeford, California which is in the Central Valley. There were many family members and friends present to help them celebrate. We tend to remember the unusual things that happen at weddings, and Carole remembers being embarrassed as her guests were arriving to the sight of a Pentecostal Trailer parked right in front of the church! Jeff and Carole honeymooned at Lake Tahoe then settled down in the Santa Clarita Valley where they both had jobs. They joined First Presbyterian Church of Newhall that same year. Thus, 2014 is a double 50th anniversary for Jeff and Carole, and we offer double congratulations!

Rawleigh Warner Edward Balkcom, Age 10 months, was baptized by Pastor Bill on July 20th. In this photo Rawleigh looks rather bewildered at the strange attention, but his big brother Gus is obviously delighted. Proud parents, not shown, are Ginger and Bob Balkcom.



Brian and Amber Michael welcomed Noah Matthew Michael on July 28th! Noah weighed 7 lbs, 1 oz, and was 20 inches long.



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, sacrament and message.

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

Who would have guessed that the **Villains of the Bible** would be so entertaining - and offer spiritual insight at the same time? Every Sunday we have enjoyed anticipating the villain of the day popping through the doors of the sanctuary in full costume, and then telling his or her story with admirable acting skills! Who could forget our dear pastor dressed as a caveman to tell us about **Cain** and his struggles with jealousy. Sarah Bolin as **Bathsheba** poignantly taught us about second chances. Connie Woodson put on a full theatrical performance to bring **Herodias** to life. How sad, the lessons that poor queen had to learn about the futility of fame and fortune. Phil Aijian was **Goliath** in full body armor! Just the thought of it brings chills. But we went away thinking about how we tend to fear giants instead of trusting God. Jack Irwin presented several **Critics of Jesus** in a modern setting. It made us think about our own spiritual and personal responsibility towards Jesus, who, by the way is just as alive now as he was back then. **Haman** (See photo) was obsessed with Mordecai who didn't respect him as Haman thought he should. Who do we have in our lives distracting us with real or imagined negativity?

The series continues through September 14th with Eve, Rehoboam, Pilate and Satan.



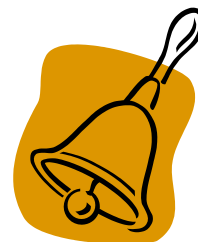
CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS TO START SEPTEMBER 11TH



Now is the perfect time for you to join this dedicated circle of folks from all walks of life who love to make music together and to serve the church with their voices. We are starting up our fall season on Thursday, September 11th with the first rehearsal of the Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary, and will sing the anthem for first service on the following Sunday. You have heard our fabulous soloists and might think such talent and training is a requirement for singing in the choir. Definitely not! If you can hum a tune in the shower, you are qualified. If you can't read music, you will learn, little by little or by leaps and bounds. The beautiful anthems take on extra meaning and vibrancy when you are participating in the midst of the singers. Time commitment includes Thursday evening rehearsals from 7:30 to 9 and early arrival at church on Sunday mornings (8:15 AM). As you can see from the photo, we gather each Sunday morning to pray for the Lord's blessing on the church service, the pastor and the congregation, another activity which we cherish.

RING TONES HAND BELLS PRACTICES TO START SEPTEMBER 7TH

Hand Bell Director, Lorraine King, is seeking at least one additional bell ringer. If you can't sing or play an instrument but love the idea of making music, being a hand bell ringer may be just the place for you! Can't ring music? No problem. Join us at 2pm on Sunday afternoons in classroom # 5, and you'll learn everything you need to become an experienced ringer.

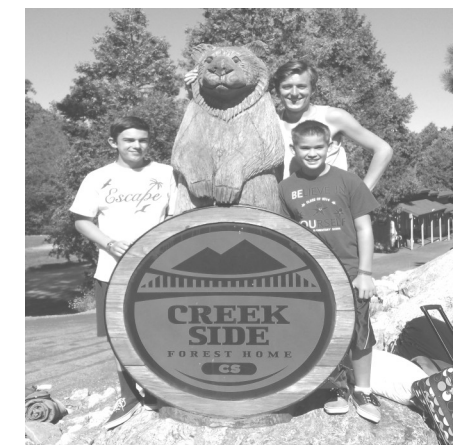


The **Youth Committee** nurtures the Junior High and Senior High-aged youth as well as the college-aged young adults of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, and the community; by providing a Christ-centered program of worship, education, fellowship, and service in order to equip them with a framework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



If you were around for the youth group's summer than you know that it was incredible! Thanks to our staff, our interns and our volunteers we had record breaking numbers for Praise in the Park, summer camp and our surprise day. I can't wait for all the cool stuff that we will be starting in September. Be sure to take note of all that's coming up-it's going to be here before you know it!

- **Youth Group Fall Kick Off Lock-In September 5th-** Bring your permission form (ask to get one from Sarah or Ian) and \$15. We are going to start the Fall off right. Bring friends! Drop off at 8pm pick up on Saturday at 9am
- **Youth Group Begins September 7th-** Youth group will resume at it's normal time and place at 6pm in Fellowship Hall and will go till 8pm. We will be talking about servanthood and gearing up for all that Fall has to offer.
- **Youth Mission Trip Car Wash September 14th-** This is a BIG fundraiser that we host every year. We call it "Wash and Worship". The youth group (even kids who won't be a part of the mission trip) will participate in a church wide car wash. It's also great when we have parents of mission trip participants help at the car wash. Be at church at 7am. We should be done around 1pm.
- **Parent Night September 21st-** This is a night where we ask our parents to participate in youth group. We will answer any questions, play games and show the parents what youth group is all about.
- **Box City September 27th-** This is an event that we partner with Family Promise. It's a fundraiser so check out the website to get your funding forms for ww.scvboxcity.org We will meet at Bridgeport park and sleep in a box-so we can get closer to what it means to be homeless. The kids will be invited to take an active part in helping our homeless community in the SCV area. It's a great time and a way to help those in need. Be sure to get your sponsor forms off the web or ask Sarah or Ian. (Congregation members are invited to sponsor one or more of our youth. Look for them on the patio.) The money will be collected from the participants at the event.



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.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Wow! This summer was JAMMED PACKED full of fun and exciting new adventures. We had an amazing time at VBS, and learned all about what it takes to be an agent of the Lord and became true adventurers at summer camp. Thanks so much to everyone who made this summer a huge success for our little ones. Not only did we have an amazing time learning about Christ's love for us, you all participated in SHOWING Christ's love. During our VBS we asked our students and through the month of August we asked our congregation to search through their closets and to pull out any old shoes and clothing. With the help of Angel Bins, a non profit organization those clothes were shipped over to all parts of Africa and Asia. Our grand total of clothing and shoes collected was **1,493 pounds!** In turn, Angel Bins has given us \$307.15 which will be forwarded to The Heifer Project. Wow, our church is so proud of everyone who was involved in collection, storage and transportation of all that clothing! Way to go folks!

FUN WITH THE SON!

On Monday mornings during July, Fellowship Hall bustled with miniature spies (preschool through 6th grade) as they learned to be secret agents for Jesus through music, stories, crafts and snacks. The miracles and activities of Jesus were presented to these eager learners in ways that made quite an impression on them. Teachers included Lelia Meadows, Dorothy Ng, and Sarah Bolin. The young spies all graduated with honors -- -detective hats, spy glasses, badges and all.



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.



PW BODY & SOUL RETREAT

“When Your Barbie Dreamhouse Has An Earthquake”

Saturday, September 27th

9:00 am-3:00 pm (Registration opens at 8:15 am)

Cost \$30 / Childcare available upon request with ticket purchase- \$10 per child

Scholarships available

Speaker: Kristie Christie

Lunch by Panera Bread (pre-orders taken at time of ticket purchase)

Tickets available between services beginning Sunday August 23rd.

Space is limited

For more information contact Tina Pulliam at 661 296-0796.

PW - Rachel Circle by Sonja Tweedie

A LOVE STORY



It was love at first sight for Rachel and Jacob, but there was no “happy ever after” for them. Rachel found it difficult to conceive and Jacob's other wives, though less loved, were more fertile; they had ten sons. Rachel bore Joseph, but died in childbirth when her second son Benjamin was born. These sons of Jacob were the forefathers of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

We eighteen Rachel Circle “Sisters in Christ” feel blessed to be a part of PW and our monthly Bible studies. Our history is somewhat hazy as most of the original group are no longer with us. My understanding is that those ladies had been in the Lois morning circle and had split off to meet in the evenings to accommodate

women who worked. Those I recall were: Gwen Castle, Janet Parker, Arlys Aijian and Millie Tanner.

When those of us from the Santa Clarita Presbyterian Church joined the Newhall church, we were invited, as a group, to join Rachel Circle. We met at Gwen Castle's home and felt so welcomed and loved: we were “hooked!” Since then our circle has doubled to eighteen beautiful and talented women. We all lead Bible studies, share the leadership and meet in homes where we each bring something for the “spirit-filled” and always delicious salad.

Each August and December we treat ourselves to dinner out, but because we have such an amazing range in age, the past several August outings have also doubled as baby showers. New mothers have included Tiffany Aune, Ginger Balkcom, Andrea Varney and Emily Root.

We love our Lord Jesus Christ and each other. Our belief is that all women of the church can benefit greatly from being a part of a circle fellowship. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 6:15 p.m. and wholeheartedly welcome any of you who are longing for good friendships, great food and fascinating Biblical discussions.

Sisters in Christ include Tiffany Aune, Ginger Balkcom, Candy Belcher, Natalie Besse, Karen Bobby, Susie Creighton, Connie Froeberg, Carol Hauenstein, Jennifer Hill, Jeanne Iler, Pam Jenner, Lorraine King, Linda O'Hara, Tina Pulliam, Pam Trammell, Sonja Tweedie, Andrea Varney and Lynn Viggianelli.





When I was growing up, the number one lesson my parents taught me was to be self-reliant to take care of myself and not to depend on anyone else to support me. The biggest challenge I had after marrying Jerry was allowing him to help support me. It's still a struggle for me today after 20 years of marriage.

There is a word in the Greek language, *autarkeia*, which means a perfect condition of life in which no aid or support is needed: sufficiency of the necessities of life or a mind which is contented with its lot. It is related to the word *autarkies* which means strong enough or possessing enough to need no aid or support from anyone. The goal is to be totally self-sufficient and totally independent. How do we gain complete self-sufficiency?

The answer is simple, at least for Christians: by giving bountifully to the needs of God's people and God's Kingdom, above and beyond the tithe. The state of *autarkeia* doesn't come by self-seeking, by self-advancement, or by self-protection. It comes from a cheerful and joyous service to God and to people of God.

The way to complete self-sufficiency is by becoming independent from other people and relying totally upon God for our livelihood, for we can act in our lives according to the principle and not according to expediency.

However, this is not easy even for Christians. D. James Kennedy in his book, [Freedom from Financial Fear](#), states there is a problem of selfishness and covetousness even in the church. "I have been in many prayer meetings," he writes, "Heard thousands of people pray, and heard people confess many sins, but I have never heard one person confess the sin of covetousness." He says it is the most pervasive sin of all in the church.

Dr. Kennedy also writes that the prevailing principle that existed before the fall of man was the principle of love. After the fall, it was the principle of selfishness. All sins of mankind can be traced to the root of selfishness. Selfishness and covetousness have enthroned themselves in our lives in different ways. Every time we are confronted with a decision, we struggle with selfishness in our hearts. We just don't notice it in ourselves.

"So subtle is its influence," Kennedy continues, "So pervasive its presence, and so frequent its manifestations that we are not even aware of its presence."

We can only be free from this by taking heed to what God has told us - He is able to give us all sufficiency in all things, if we depend on Him.

The average person would be astonished at the biblical principle for financial success, for financial sufficiency, in this world. We, as Christians, should already know it. The great secret of succeeding is by giving. We must restore to the world the last sense of benevolence. This is the remedy for selfishness and covetousness. The Holy Spirit is all about giving. He fills the human heart with the warmth of love that we desire to give. God, whose nature is to give, implants His same nature in us. We become like God when we give like He has always given. We achieve self-sufficiency, *autarkeia*, as we learn to be like God and give bountifully.

As Dr. Kennedy concludes, "I have found that God pours out His blessings on Christians who are mature in the Lord - those who have learned to trust God. They do not covet the things of this world, but rather delight in using that abundance for the advancement of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ and for the glory of His name."

Where have you set your affections? Is it your delight to trust God and receive abundance from Him so that God may be glorified and lost people may be redeemed, and the Kingdom of Christ may be advanced? Or are your eyes still focused on this world?



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.

Tony Anelastro

Tony Anelastro has a vision and a personal mission to feed the homeless in Santa Clarita. Out of his own pocket, Tony prepares paper bag meals with sandwiches and water, gives up his time to make these by hand, and delivers them with love. Tony helps provide meals for over forty homeless people per month. Tony only has the finances to do this once a month, but would like to do it twice a month. The Mission Committee is considering a future fundraiser to provide supplies to assist in the cost of these paper bag meals. Tony has a deep faith and feels that God is calling him to feed the homeless. Tony currently attends Gateway Bible Church and occasionally you will see him walk through our doors. Tony has been with us on countless Amor trips and he has even helped us move furniture within our church. If you would like to reach out to Tony, you can find him at: TONYANELASTRO@gmail.com. Anyone who feels compelled to do God's work through love, deserves all of the assistance we can offer. If you like what Tony is doing, watch for an upcoming fundraiser event where our church just might be able to assist Tony in his mission to feed the local homeless population.

Sam Dixon Family Health Center

The Samuel Dixon Family Health Center has three primary locations - the Val Verde Health Center, Canyon Country Health Center, and the Newhall Health Center. They provide immunizations and vaccines, physicals, screening and diagnostic tests, well baby care, preventative programs, family planning, women's health services, prenatal services, treatment of illness and injury, and more. The SDFHC has two outreach locations at the College of the Canyons and the California Institute of the Arts. Samuel Dixon Family Health Centers Inc. has an upcoming annual **Rubber Duck Festival Saturday October 4th, 2014 at Bridgeport Park from 11am-3pm**. Ducks are migrating back to the Santa Clarita Valley and they are looking for a race. It only costs \$5.00 to rent one racing rubber duck, or you can get 6 ducks for \$25, and even 12 ducks for just \$50. Will you adopt a rubber duck for a race? Grand prize is a \$2,500 gift certificate. All proceeds go towards patient care for the SDFHC. Also, there is a early bird special for this year's event available online at www.duckrace.com/scv.



Little Shepherd's Nursery School

at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall

This fall, we are excited to bring back our Mom-Tot program. This eight week program will meet Wednesday mornings from 10:00- 11:30 September 17th - November 12th. Mom-Tot offers a place for moms and toddlers to play, learn, and socialize. The first half of the session will consist of Moms interacting with their tot through free play. During the second half of the session,

Little Shepherd's will provide supervised play, story and song for the toddlers, while Moms and our director, Miss Jj, discuss all things toddler- including toilet training, picky eaters, positive discipline, sleep challenges and more. Call us at 254-2312 to reserve your spot!

Please find our updated website at www.littleshepherdsnewhall.com

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/LSNurserySchool

And review us on yelp: www.yelp.com/biz/little-shepherds-nursery-school-newhall

Follow us on Instagram: [LSNurseryschool](https://www.instagram.com/LSNurseryschool)

We thank First Presbyterian Church of Newhall for all of the years of continued support. We sincerely appreciate the generous donations we received from the "Giving Tree". The supplies will be put to good use!