

September 2015

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THE NEWHALL PRESS



Pastor's Column September, 2015

As I'm writing this article, I can't help but be proud that this church has so many gifted preachers. As we have proceeded through our summer series, "What Jesus would teach us from TV?" I continue to be wonderfully blessed by members of our congregation who put such effort into preparing their sermons each week and bless us with the insights into scripture that the Lord has placed upon their hearts. It takes a lot of prayer, searching, and work to put together a sermon. I remember when I was an intern at Arcadia Presbyterian Church we hosted my homiletics professor from Fuller, Ian Pitt-Watson who told a story about preparing a sermon: *"Because I'm leaving on Tuesday for Korea, I am not as well prepared as I ought to be. And I am reminded of the pastor who thought, when he had difficulty preparing a particular sermon, 'Perhaps the Holy Spirit will tell me what to say on Sunday morning.' This thought returned to him several times during the week, and when at last he stood silently before his congregation, he turned to the Holy Spirit for guidance, and a celestial voice said to him, 'Tell the people you are unprepared!'"*



Experts tell us that public speaking is one of the worst fears a human being can have. Whenever someone stands to share about our Lord and Savior they are putting themselves on the line. There is the fear that what you say will not be blessed by the Holy Spirit (or is and someone will hear it contentiously), which brings to mind an old story: *A bus driver and a minister are standing in line to get into Heaven. The bus driver approaches the gate and St. Peter says, "Welcome, I understand you were a bus driver. Since I'm in charge of housing, I believe I have found the perfect place for you. See that mansion over the hilltop? It's yours." The minister hears all this, and begins to stand a little taller. He also thinks to himself, "If a bus driver gets a place like that, just think what I'll get." The minister approaches the gate and St. Peter says, "Welcome, I understand you were a minister. See that shack in the valley?" St. Peter had hardly gotten the words out of his mouth when the irate minister says, "I was a minister; I preached the Gospel; I helped teach people about God; Why does that bus driver get a mansion, and I get a shack?" Sadly St. Peter responds, "Well, it seems when you preached, people slept. When the bus driver drove, people prayed."*

That was not the case this summer, nor in summers past as so many rose to the occasion of opening scripture and explaining its meaning to us in light of their lives and experiences. We are blessed and what a great message that sends to our community. "We are a family in which many of us wrestle with Holy Scripture and apply it to our lives in such a way that we can share these insights with one another." How do you tell the story of what Jesus has done in your life?

After all, it is said that: **The easiest way to stay awake during a sermon is to deliver it.**

In His Grip,

Rev. Dr. Bill Barnes

September Events:

DONATE PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY
All Month

ArtSLAM
September 3 6:00 PM

YOUTH PARENT NIGHT/LOCK-IN
September 12 6:00 PM

WASH 'N WORSHIP
September 13 10:00 AM

NEW DIRECTIONS (Widows' Group)
September 16 1:30 PM

FAMILY PROMISE FUNDRAISER
September 20 9:30 AM

ORGAN CELEBRATION & CONCERT
September 20 3:00 PM

SENIOR LUNCH
September 23 11:30 AM

BOX CITY SLEEPOVER
September 26 4:00 PM

PW RETREAT
September 26 9:00 AM

SAN ANTONIO WINERY TRIP
September 27

FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING
September 27–October 4

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 10 AM; 5 PM

HANDCRAFTERS
2nd & 4th Tues. 10:00 AM

LADIES' NIGHT OUT
Last Tuesdays 6:30 PM

MEN AT WORK
3rd Saturdays 8:00 AM

MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY
Fridays 11:00 AM

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES
Various Times & Places (See p. 8)

RECYCLING (For Camp Scholarships)
1st Sundays

RING TONES REHEARSAL
Sundays 2:00 PM

STANDING TOGETHER
2nd Wednesdays 7:00 PM

TGIF (Children's Program)
Fridays 6:00 PM

YOUTH GROUP
Sundays 6:00 PM

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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 Wed. Leaders 5:30 PM
Ed. 6:30 PM
Groups 8:00 PM

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

2nd Tuesdays 7:00 PM

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

1st Tuesdays 7:00 PM

YOUTH COMMITTEE

1st Wednesdays 7:00 PM

Upcoming Events:

GLAD TIDINGS INDIA BOOK DRIVE

October–All Month

LIFE ACADEMY BEGINS

October 4

STEWARDSHIP LAUNCH

October 5

AMOR FAMILY TRIP

October 9–12

NEW MEMBERS' CLASS

October 18 & 25

PASSAGES MUSEUM

October 31



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.

SUMMER BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

George Watts Sept. 3
Wanda Lewis Sept. 24

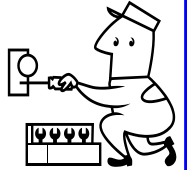
LADIES' NIGHT OUT

September 29–6:30 PM
Marstons Restaurant
24011 Newhall Ranch Rd.

MEN AT WORK

Next meeting: September 19, 2015

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 at Ellie Fuller's home to discuss *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* on Thursday, September 10 at 4:00 pm.

A.J. Fikry's life is full of the unexpected~ his bookstore's horrible sales and a mysterious package that appears on his doorstep.

Ellie Fuller's home - 25035 Greenmill, Newhall

RSVP for discussion and salad supper: 661-259-4983



HANDCRAFTERS

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



SAN ANTONIO WINERY TRIP

On Sunday September 27 we will carpool to the San Antonio Winery in downtown Los Angeles after the 10am service. We will have lunch together at the Maddalena Restaurant inside the winery (you are responsible for your own lunch). After lunch



Church Life will treat you to a wine tasting and we will also tour the winery. We do need you to sign up for this event so we will have enough cash on hand for your wine tasting and also so we know you are planning to attend this trip. Sign-ups for this event will be Sept 6, 13 and 20. Contact person and host of this trip is Rod Belcher. San Antonio Winery is located at 737 Lamar Street, Los Angeles, 90031



Please remember that the church office is closed every Friday.

FRIDAY MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY

If you seek an on-going Bible study, you have a wonderful opportunity to learn more about God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit through the scriptures each Friday from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Evans Room.

This fall we will continue our study of the Holy Spirit through scripture and two excellent books: The Holy Spirit: An Introduction by John Bevere and The Forgotten God by Francis Chan.

We will begin on Friday, September 11, 2015, at 11:00 am. Please bring your Bible and lunch or a snack, if you wish. We always have a great time as we share our thoughts and feelings about our Christian lives and the amazing Holy Bible. We will see you there.



Worship

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.

100 YRS OLD AND STILL "CLEARING ITS PIPES"!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

September 20, 2015, 3PM. Will you be there?

Join us in the Centennial Celebration and Rededication of our Organ.

It has spoken loudly and proudly for 100 years, and each week it continues to fill the Sanctuary with Hymns of Praise, Meditation, Reflection, Celebration, and Joy. Its sound can fill our hearts, minds, and souls. We join together as it leads us in singing, as it wraps us in its voice. It is our instrument, let us join together and celebrate its 100 years of service and rededicate it, as well as ourselves, to being its shepherds, watching over it, protecting it, and finding ways to maintain and improve it.



Join us as we visit the history and "life of the organ," some of the original music first played on it as well as classical and liturgical pieces.

What is really behind that lattice wall in the front of the Sanctuary?

How many pipes make up the organ??? Any guesses??? (And no, Phil, you'd best not go into the chambers and count them!)

Be prepared to have these and other questions answered as well as joining us as we sing a Hymn to Joy in celebration.

We look forward to seeing all of you there.



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

Are you part of the FPCN PIE?



Find out how you can become an ingredient in this bountiful, baked beauty beginning on Sunday, October 5th at the launch of Stewardship Month.



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.

Come visit the Youth Group at the City of Santa Clarita's
ArtSLAM
 Thursday September 3rd , 6:00 - 10:00 pm

Wow! Tell me you had an awesome time this summer.... because the fun has only just begun. Youth group will resumes on August 30th from 6 to 8 pm. But there is a ton going on in September, so write it all down, put it in your phones, or use the good old calendar. Either way be sure to be at our September events.

SEPTEMBER 12TH: PARENT'S NIGHT AND STUDENT LOCK-IN. Meet at church at 6pm for dinner, a dialog with parents about our youth group, information about our mission trip, and ways to empower our kids. After the parent dinner portion is over around 7:00, kids are invited to stay the night for a scavenger hunt and a lock-in. This is a free event. Pick up is Sunday after church when Wash 'N Worship is over.



SEPTEMBER 13: WASH 'N WORSHIP. Kids will already be at church after the lock-in, but parents are invited to join us for our first fundraiser of the year for our mission trip. Please come at 9 am to help us wash all the cars in the parking lot, to help us raise money for our high school mission trip.

SEPTEMBER 20TH: Kids who are planning to participate in Box City are encouraged to join us on the patio before and after church to help solicit donations for their **FAMILY PROMISE FUNDRAISER**. Family Promise is a local mission outreach for Santa Clarita families who have become homeless. We are asking any of our kids participating to please try their best to raise at least \$100 in donations. This can be reached much easier if they meet on September 20th at church.



SEPTEMBER 26: BOX CITY SLEEP-OVER. Students who have raised donations for the event will meet for an overnight sleepover at Heritage Park. This event is filled with music, food and fun- but more importantly it gives the participants the opportunity to sleep in a box so they have a tangible idea of what it means to be homeless and to fight back against it. If your student would like to participate see Sarah ASAP so we can fill our spots. More information can be found at http://www.familypromisescv.org/?page_id=239. The estimated time to arrive on the 26th is 4:00 pm, but final time is TBD. Pick up will be on Sunday after church the next day. Your student will need to fill out a permission form and turn it in to Sarah on or before the event. Forms can be downloaded from the website and will also be at the September 12th meeting.

Our youth sponsors and staff team are excited to start our Fall kick off with you, and know that it is going to be an amazing year! Be praying for our events and programs that are coming up. Thank you for all of your support.

Little Shepherd's Nursery School

at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall



Little Shepherd's Nursery School was thrilled to start off it's 2015- 2016 school year with freshly painted classrooms! Thank you Buildings and Grounds Committee! The rooms look fantastic!

We are pleased to report that we are near full enrollment, and have another wonderful new addition to our staff. We wouldn't be where we are without the continued support of the congregation. Thank you for all you have done to keep us moving forward.



There are over 8,000 promises in the Scriptures that God made to men; very few promises from men to God. In today's churches, many people believe the essence of Christianity involves making promises to God. But you don't find that in the New Testament. You only find promises made by God to men.

Why is that? As Paul said, we stand by faith. We are not saved by striving or our efforts. We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ. Most people think they are saved by being good – good people go to Heaven and bad people go to Hell. But that's not true because we have “all sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God” (Romans 3:23). We are only saved by having faith in Jesus Christ.

Why salvation by faith alone? So that salvation may be of grace – by the totally unmerited favor of God – totally unearned, undeserved, unworked for. Salvation by faith is the finished work of Christ and is the salvation we cannot earn. Salvation by faith equals salvation of grace.

And why is it salvation of grace? So that it may be of God. Salvation is by faith so that it may be of grace, and it is of grace so that it may be of God.

The promises of God are the basis of our faith and a channel for the grace of God in our lives. Christianity is God's successful effort to provide His own Son as atonement to take away the penalty for sin, so that we might be reconciled unto Him.

Humans don't keep their promises. God does. It used to be that a man's word was his honor. A handshake was as good as a signed contract. No wonder there is so much distrust nowadays. Look at the wedding vows that we take at the altar before God and our family and friends – Forsake all others...until death do us part. People can't even keep simple vows anymore.

With the promises of God, we LOOK UP and we take hold of them by our faith and then we are LIFTED UP by God. This is the Christian method of spiritual growth. This is when we see that salvation is all of grace.

God's promises never fail. This truth is the substratum of all of God's character, all of His work, and all of His promises. Therefore, it is the basis of Christian salvation. And we inherit these promises in Christ. Here are a few of those promises: abundant life (John 10:10); heavenly home (John 14:1-3); new name (Isaiah 62:1-2); answered prayer (1 John 5:14); comfort (Isaiah 51:3); guidance (Isaiah 42:16); hope (Hebrews 6:18-19); provision for needs (Titus 3:5); resurrection (Romans 8:11); rich rewards (Matthew 10:42).

Each of these promises, and several thousand others, are written by God. They are His promissory notes. These promises are signed by God on the treasury of Heaven. But there are people going around in spiritual and temporal poverty when they have vast treasure available to them. They just don't know how to claim them.

How do we obtain God promises? According to D. James Kennedy in his book, Freedom From Financial Fear, there are five steps.

The first step is that we must find them. Read His Word. The promissory notes from God are contained in the Bible. Find them and mark them somehow in your Bible.

Step two is to learn them, memorize them, and hide them in your heart. You can cash them in time after time after time. They are unlimited!

Step three is to go to God and claim each promise. Say something like “Lord, you have promised in your Word (fill in the blank) and right now, in Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord, by faith, I claim that promise.”

The fourth step is to check and fulfill any conditions appended to the promise. For example, in Exodus 1:12, in order to live a long life, you must honor your father and mother. In Malachi 3:10, you must, first, bring the tithes and offerings into the storehouse, then you can claim the blessing.

Finally, you must trust Him. Believe in the promise. Search out God's promises; learn them; claim them; believe them; and enjoy seeing how God fulfills them in your life. This is what Christianity is all about – God loves us so much that He gave and gives again. It's about human hearts so touched and moved and transformed by God's love and grace that they will willingly and gladly and eagerly follow Him.

Do you trust Me for this? God asks all of us. Our answer is in the evidence of growth in our spiritual lives found in trusting Him for everything – standing on the promises of God.



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 PROMISE

First and foremost, THANK YOU, to all of the volunteers who contributed either their time, a meal, or gave their talents during this past hosting period for Family Promise (August 2nd-9th 2015). We had a tall order hosting eleven people and we all came together to make it happen. When we host, I make it my personal mission to ensure quality care for our guest families, and this past time we accomplished it with exceptional skill. Everyone who gave to our families created an atmosphere of joy, of love, and (in good Presbyterian fashion) none of the families left the dinner table without rolling out of their chairs.



During this hosting week, we had volunteers from several places: Saint Stephen's, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and even the local elementary school Albert Einstein Academy. Through everyone's generous giving of talent and time, we had a few fun event days. On Tuesday, we had a spa day pampering with haircuts and nails. You should have heard the laughter and oldies music playing, just a like your local corner salon. We had so much food from all of our wonderful cooks (you know who you are; we know who you are), including the best tri-tip and lasagna ever! There were fun dessert nights and an amazing breakfast made Saturday morning by our very own caring members. We spent the last night together watching a projected family movie with an abundance of popcorn and candy.

The families left our care knowing that the First Presbyterian Church is a church filled with wholesome caring people. Again, thank you to all who gave. Mark your calendars; our next hosting period will be September 27th-October 4th, 2015. The families look forward to seeing us all again.

Our church, along with other churches and synagogues, has been serving homeless families in this area since July 2011. Coming up are **two major fundraisers** for **Family Promise**:

Dancing with Our Stars occurs August 29, and one of the former dancers on the TV show "Dancing With The Stars," Georgio, is dancing to represent Family Promise. He had a mean Michael Jackson routine when he was on the program two years ago.

Box City, occurs September 26-27 and is youth oriented. The youth from our church have participated in past years to help raise money for Family Promise and they always have a meaningful experience. (See p. 4.)

GLAD TIDINGS INDIA (CHRISTIAN LITERATURE BOOK DRIVE OCTOBER 2015)



Save your books for the month of October 2015. The Mission Committee is asking donations for Bibles and other Christian literature to ship to India to contribute to their ministry. Our donations will go towards educating their children in understanding Jesus through a new VBS program. If you would like to help, donate, or want more information, please check out www.indiavbs.com and www.needbiblesandbooks.com. Check out their mission statement to see what they are all about, and

please **BRING YOUR BOOKS IN OCTOBER!**

What makes *Glad Tidings India* and *India Bible Literature* different from most Mission Organizations?

- **Proven Track Record rooted in Experience** - Over 50 years experience in ministry in India through founder/missionary, Dr. William Scott. *India Bible Literature* is run in India by indigenous leadership with 15-40 years of tenure, trained and mentored by Bill Scott and others. They work only with proven and trustworthy partnerships within India.
- **Donations leveraged into Self-Sustaining Ministries** - All donations are used to purchase Bibles in 17 Indian languages which are then sold at affordable prices. Proceeds are reinvested in other ministries of IBL:
 - ◊ Training & Equipping Evangelist Church Planters
 - ◊ Conducting Bible-based literacy classes
 - ◊ Assisting Christian school expansion

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- ◇ Hosting Vacation Bible Schools for children
 - ◇ Providing individuals & churches with income-generating enterprises which encourage self support
- **Low Overhead** - They seek to keep to their policy commitment of *Money for Ministries, not Organizations* by maintaining a very lean organizational structure in the United States, thus keeping overhead low and allowing more funds to go directly to ministry in India. Currently, staff members maintain home offices and the staff consists of one full-time staff member (the President), one part-time secretary, one part-time contracted staff member to handle the financial work, and founder, Dr. William Scott, who works without remuneration. Given additional funds, ministry in India could increase fourfold without increasing overhead or adding staff.
 - **Indigenous Strategy** - This is the uniqueness of partner ministry in India - *India Bible Literature*. Initially founded and directed by Drs. William and Joyce Scott, it is now entirely indigenous, controlled and administrated by Indians residing in India. The Executive Director is assisted by a Management Committee, whose five members have been with India Bible Literature from 15-40 years. All of them, like the former packing boy Velu, who is now the Executive Director, began in the organization at lower levels and have advanced to leadership positions.
 - **Grassroots Directed** - Areas for ministry and targeted people groups are selected by the local churches in India which also carry out the ministries they are led by God to do. Churches submit requests to *India Bible Literature* who filters and prioritizes them. *India Bible Literature* then makes them known to partners for funding, such as *Glad Tidings India* and provides accountability within India for ensuring the proper usage of all funds received.

Submitter by James Allison, Elder for Mission Committee

AMOR HOMEBUILDING FAMILY TRIP OCTOBER 9TH – 12TH

Come Build Hope this Fall

Because of Amor, a family receives a house every 20 hours. AMOR has a goal to build 35 more homes this fall. That is 35 families that would have had to wait until next spring to get a house. That is 35 moms, dads and couples who can sleep better knowing their kids are warm and safe.

We will leave the church on Friday morning October 9th and return on either on Sunday the 11th after lunch or Monday the 12th in the morning. (Monday is Columbus Day.) Our goal is the have a crew of at least 17 so that we can finish a structure. The slab will have

already been poured to save our backs!

These are always inspirational trips as we help needy families build Amor homes. To us the house is more like a garage, but this structure with a concrete floor, a good roof, windows and a door is a generational life-changing gift for these families.

Susan Fletcher after one of these family trips said, “I might have been uncomfortable a few times that weekend, but the blessings I returned home with are immeasurable, and I would not have missed it for the world. So I encourage all of you – do this. Do this with your children. It can become a family tradition like no other.”

Amor ministries has been serving God by mobilizing His church to build hope for families in need. It began 35 years and 20,000 homes ago! www.amor.org

Contact John Favalessa at amor@presby-newhall.org or Art Moore for details. Sign-ups on the patio will start in September.

All the blessings we enjoy are Divine deposits, committed to our trust on this condition, that they should be dispensed for the benefit of our neighbors. -John Calvin



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.



During the month of September, PW is asking for donations of peanut butter and jelly (in plastic jars) for **Help The Children**. Needy families and individuals in the community sign up with this organization, providing minimal information. Each household receives: 1 box of non-perishable items, 1 box of dairy products, juice and meats, and limited bags of produce and bakery items. Shopping is available to each family/individual once per week. In keeping with their policy of providing a hand up, families contribute a nominal fee per visit. Limits on items are based on incoming donations.

Please place your donations of **peanut butter** and **jelly** on the shelf in the Evans Room marked for "Help The Children."

2015–2016 *Horizons* Bible Study \$10 per guide ***Come to the Waters***

by Judy Record Fletcher

In this study, we consider the waters of chaos in Genesis, and the River of Life in the last chapter of Revelation, where chaos is no more. Water plays a central role in the stories of creation, the delivery of God's people (through the parting of the Red Sea and the crossing of the Jordan River), judgment of a people weak in faith, and the adoption of the people of God through baptism. Sometimes there is too much water (Noah & the Ark) and sometimes there is too little water (Droughts and the desert). Together, we will explore some of the Bible's 800 references to water in a participatory way.

VISIT A PW CIRCLE and try a few Lessons. – This is an Open Invitation to all Women 18 years and older. Bring along a girlfriend; No membership required. Contact the Circle Moderator or email CarolRam60@gmail.com for details.



L E S S O N 1: BIRTHING WATERS— Creation Scripture: Genesis 1:1–2:4 Lesson Focus: Out of the waters of chaos God created everything. God saw the goodness of creation and gave humans responsibility for caring for it. The seventh day, a day of rest, is part of creation, too.



L E S S O N 2: LIFE-GIVING WATERS— Baptism Scripture: Matthew 3:13–17 Lesson Focus: The waters of baptism give life. Lesson Two considers the meaning of baptismal waters—for Jesus, the early church, and for our lives today.



L E S S O N 3: ABSENCE OF WATER— Thirst and Longing Scripture: Exodus 17:1–7; Psalm 42:1–2, 63:1; John 19:28 Lesson Focus: We have dry spells in our lives—our bodies and our souls thirst. How do we survive times of little or no water?

(Nine Lessons in the series.)

Submitted by Carol Ramnarine

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) - Meets first Monday of the month at 9:00 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.



For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free— and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. --1 Corinthians 12:12-27

About the Gathering

What is the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women? By Beverly Stokes

The Gathering, held once every three years, was an empowering opportunity for me and other Presbyterian women from across the country and around the world to be together. We worshiped, studied, built communities, and had fun renewing our faith. One thousand nine hundred (1,900) women and several men participated in Minnesota. During the gathering we raised \$30,000 to impact Human Trafficking and \$32,000 toward the education and protection of Native American children, both Presbyterian Women Mission Projects.

I enjoyed workshops, tours, forums, and plenary sessions with inspiring speakers and worship. PW's triennial Business Meeting also took place during the Gathering, where budget, leadership and programmatic emphases were decided. The PW USA aligned its bi-laws to reflect more current language and wording that better matched changes in the Synods and Presbyteries of the main church. In addition, the voting representatives approved the Mission Projects for the next three years.

I had the thrill of being with two of my youth group childhood friends at the conference. I enjoyed singing and dancing calypso with Global Exchange women from Guyana. Plus, after 43 years I meet again the wife of the pastor who married Patrick and me in Puerto Rico.

The PW Synod of Southern California and Hawaii put on the "Sister Act" skit based on the movie. We brought down the house in laughter when 25 women sang "My God" with their half-slips pulled over their heads. Tossing a beach ball into the crowd we livened up the evening. I shared the "Her Hymn" written by Roland for the use by other congregations and women's events. It was well received.

The 2018 Gathering is likely to be held on the West Coast. I recommend you attend.



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.

Announcing the next New Members Class coming this October

If you missed the last class in June, the next new members' class is just around the corner in October, on Sundays the 18th and 25th. The classes are informal and led by Pastor Bill. Any and all questions are encouraged. New members will be invited to the Session meeting on October 20th to see how the business of running this church is accomplished and also to meet with the Elders. There is no obligation to become a member, but if you choose to, you will be received into this family of faith before the congregation on November 1st.

One of the distinctive characteristics of Christian faith is that it is *shared*...in community in the company of others. In Matthew 18:20 Jesus states, "for where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in the midst of them". Paul described the church as "the Body of Christ". No one person is the whole body, each is a part. We need each other's gifts to complement our own. Membership means we are all necessary parts of the whole.

If you are not a member yet and want to be a part of this caring church family of faith, please contact the Outreach Committee chairperson John Favalessa (661) 755-4269 (email favalessa@yahoo.com) or Sandy in the church office (661) 259-0555 (email churchoffice@presby-newhall.org).





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 is celebrating seven years of Life Academy (started in the fall of 2008) and introducing several new classes, Saturday morning “mini retreats” lasting from 9:00 to noon, and a seven week Grief Recovery Class limited to six people. To celebrate Life Academy we are inviting everyone to participate in at least one class.

GRIEF RECOVERY METHOD - Held on Monday evenings starting on October 5

Rev. Rosie Kwak is certified as a Grief Recovery Specialist with the Grief Recovery Method which addresses grief head-on and allows the group participants to move through grief toward completeness and freedom. This seven week group is for persons who want to work through their season of grief and begin a journey through self-discovery which will lead to completing what was left unfinished due to loss (any kind of loss). The cost is \$90 plus the cost of the book which is \$20. Group limit is 6 participants and attendance every week is important. *(Just a reminder that if you are suffering and want help walking through the problem to recovery, call Phil Aijian or Sandy McIntosh, You will be assigned a Stephen Minister to help – at no charge.)*

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS – 3 pm to 4:30 pm

A FAITHFUL RESPONSE TO THE EPIDEMIC OF GUN VIOLENCE - October 4

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA passed a resolution in 2010 calling for the Presbyterian Church at every level to be actively engaged in gun violence prevention and the recognition of the sacredness in every person. Gun violence is a public health epidemic that takes the lives of 32,000 persons every year in this country. This retreat will move beyond the false dichotomy of pro-gun/anti-gun, and will frame gun violence from a public health perspective. All forms of gun violence will be addressed, and the Gun Violence Restraining Order, which will go into effect January 1, 2016 will be introduced. Please join Loren Lieb and Virginia Classick to become educated and equipped to confront and prevent gun violence both individually and as a faith community.

FUN FALL FLAVORS WITH VAL BOSS - October 11

Sign up to learn how to make Keilbasa and Kraut which is a quick and easy dish, and Butternut Squash Soup which is so worth the wait! These recipes are packed with flavor and are healthy too!

We need to know ahead of time if you're coming so we can prepare enough food! There is space for 15 people and the cost is \$10 to cover the cost of the ingredients. It's a wonderful afternoon of creating, sharing cooking tips, getting to know each other, laughing and of course eating!

THE HOW'S AND WHY'S OF CAREGIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA! - October 18

Are you or someone you know dealing with someone who has Alzheimer's or Dementia? Are you going crazy trying to answer the same questions over and over again? Is your loved one accusing you of stealing (or worse) from them? Well then if these statements ring true welcome to the world of Alzheimer's /Dementia caregiving! Do you know that 64% of Caregivers of AD are hospitalized or die before their loved ones do because of stress! Vic Mazmanian believes with Education and God you can navigate this difficult journey successfully! He has given this presentation worldwide at many churches and the audience always leaves with smiles on their faces and thanking the Lord for giving them *Hope!*

THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH IN AMERICA: HOPEFUL SIGNS AND HAPPENINGS - October 25

Many people observe that protestant denominations like the Presbyterian Church in the USA (PCUSA), are seeing a great decline in membership. However, there ARE signs that God is indeed doing a “new thing” in the landscape of American religion, even right here in our San Fernando Presbytery. PCUSA has an ongoing program called “1001 Worshipping Communities,” to plant new churches, and has been successful in planting more than 100. Rev. Jim Milley is head of Bridges, a non-profit agency that trains Christians to be missionaries right here in America, reaching out to the unchurched in their own neighborhoods and social groups. Bridges' vision is to train 1000 lay leaders who will start 1000 Christ-following Communities by 2012, all across America.

TOE-TAG PAROLE - TO LIVE AND DIE ON A YARD - November 1

In August, HBO featured a documentary entitled Toe-Tag Parole-To Live and Die on A yard; a film about rehabilitation programs for inmates in men's a prison in Los Angeles County. Sister Mary Hodges, a nun who works for the Los Angeles Archdiocese has given her life to help “lifers” parole. Why should you care? As Christians, Matthew is clear about visiting those who are in prison.

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As citizens, the reality is many offenders we once believed would get life will get a release date and will come to live and work in our communities. Sister Mary will be joined by a panel of men, former lifers who engaged in a two year program called PREP (Partnership for Re-entry program) and were released by the Board of Parole. These men have made a successful transition to the street, never having used a cell phone, computer or a motor vehicle, and now work with Sister Mary to guide others.

SATURDAY MORNING “MINI” RETREATS – 9:00 a.m. to noon (Refreshments Served)

SPIRITUALITY – ROSIE KWAK - October 3

Our Book Of Confessions states that our "chief end (purpose) is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." This is a great summary of the Christian life. But how? This is where Christian disciplines are relevant. Through the practices of Bible reading and prayer and meditation along with other disciplines, we grow in our self-awareness, our relationships to others and to God who is in our midst. We will look at and even try some Christian disciplines during the morning. Bring a pen, paper, your Bible and walking shoes because our journey might take us on a nature walk on the grounds of the church.

LIVING WATERS – ART MOORE AND JACK AND BARBARA IRWIN- October 17

“Whoever gives a drink to the thirsty, does so to me.” – Jesus’ words in the book of Matthew. Clean water is the number one sanitation problem around the world and methods must be found to help people produce clean water in their own homes and neighborhoods. Living Waters for the World, a Christian Mission based in the Presbyterian Church USA, is providing a solution at the local level for peoples around the world. Living Waters has designed a simple water filtration system which can produce about 300 gallons per hour of pure water and also educates parents and children in those communities about sanitation, germs, and cleanliness. You will also meet members of Laos Partners in Fresno who will share their 12 year ministry to Christians in Laos and stories of the water systems installed there.

GOD’S PLAN AND ACTS TO REDEEM CREATION AND HUMANKIND – BILL BARNES & JACK IRWIN – October 24

What will you learn? We will discover together the “Greatest Story Ever Told.”

Do you look at the world around us and conclude it is really corrupted and messed up? Want to know what the Creator God is doing about it? We will explore this question by looking at God’s promises and covenants in the Bible.

Did you know that Old and New does not mean the New Covenant replaced the Old, but that the New Covenant is a fulfillment of the Old Covenant?

Is the Bible confusing with its 66 books, written over a history spanning from 1800 BC to 100 AD? We will start with the first book Genesis and sketch our way through to the last book Revelation.

Do you have trouble with the time line of the Bible, all those names, kings and nations. Yes, the Bible is not mythology but grounded in real history. This course will give you an overview of the chronology of Biblical history and God’s Covenants from the Garden of Eden, to Noah, to Abraham, to Moses, to David, to the prophets, and then Jesus and the church.

Bring your Bible and a notebook. You will receive a booklet with all the handouts to take with you.

PASSAGES – October 31

We will meet at Passages when they open at 10 am. At noon we will break for lunch at Presidente, which is being arranged by the Church Life Committee. If you save your ticket, you may return to Passages after lunch.



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 kiddoz and familia! We had an amazing VBS and summer camp. Thank you to all who participated. A special thank you to all of those who were diligent in inviting people outside of our church community to be a part of our summer children’s programs.

TGIF will start back up on Friday September 11th from 6 to 8pm. All kindergarten through 6th graders are invited to join us in Fellowship hall for dinner, games, and a kids Bible study. Invite friends, and neighbors! Sign-ups can be made with Ms. Sarah. The cost is \$5 per child for dinner and \$35 (once) for each child for registration costs. We hope to see you all there!

The Newhall Press

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SEPTEMBER 2015



Sunday Worship Services

Traditional Worship 10:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship 5:00p.m.



Deadline for the October Newsletter: September 20, 2015

Thank you for your articles and
input to the newsletter.

Special thanks to Ellie and Steve Fuller, who faithfully prepare newsletter for mailing.

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