

November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# THE NEWHALL PRESS



The NEWHALL PRESS seeks to bring the gift of community and connection to the members and friends of the FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWHALL through an attractively constructed, magazine-style monthly NEWSLETTER.

## PASTOR COLUMN OCTOBER 2017

This month we celebrate 500 years since the date of Martin Luther posting his 95 thesis (or series of questions to which he invited debate with the Roman Church). This, in short sparked what we call the Reformation of the church. To celebrate our Adult Ministry is showing a new film on the life of Martin Luther. On Reformation Sunday (the closest date to October 31<sup>st</sup> when the 95 thesis was posted.) Jack Irwin who has a Master's of Divinity from Fuller as well as a wealth of information on the Reformation will be preaching, allowing me to lead a class on the history of the Reformation for Adult Education at 4 O'clock in the Sanctuary.



Reform of the Church of Jesus, the Christ, has happened throughout all of Christian history. Do you remember the quiet Monk Telemachus?

*When Honorius was Emperor of Rome, about the year 400 A.D., the great Coliseum of Rome was often filled to overflowing with spectators. These had come from far and near to view the state games. Part of the sport consisted in watching as human beings battled with wild beasts or against one another until one or the other was killed. The assembled multitude made Roman holiday of such sport and found its highest delight in the death of a human being. It was on such a day when the vast crowd was watching the contest that a Syrian monk by the name of Telemachus stood up in the vast arena. Telemachus was torn by the utter disregard for the value of human life and so he leaped into the arena in the midst of the gladiatorial show and cried out, "This thing is not right! This thing must stop!" Because he was interfering with their pleasure, the authorities gave the command for Telemachus to be run through with a sword, which was done. Thus he died, but dying he kindled a flame in the hearts and consciences of thinking persons. History records that because of this within a few months the gladiatorial combats began to decline and very shortly they passed from history. Why? Because one man dared to speak out for what he felt was right.*

We each participate in reforming as we read, discuss, and live out our faith in the faithfulness of God each new day.

In His Grip,

*Pastor Bill*

### November Events

- DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS  
Nov 5
- SUPPER IN THE UPPER ROOM  
Nov. 5, 12, 19
- NEW MEMBERS' CLASS  
Nov. 12 & 19 12:15 P.M.
- CHILDREN-LED SERVICE  
Nov. 19 9:30 A.M.
- STRESS-FREE HOLIDAYS (CLASS)  
Nov. 19 4:00 P.M.

Our Online Church Calendar is available at [www.presby-newhall.org](http://www.presby-newhall.org) under the menu choice "Something for Everyone"

### Recurring Church Events:

- BOOK BUDDIES  
2nd Thursdays 4:00 P.M.
- CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL  
Thursdays 7:30 P.M.
- COMMUNION  
1st Sundays 9:30/11:15 A.M.
- EVERTHIRST (Band) REHEARSAL  
Thursdays 6:30 P.M.
- HANDCRAFTERS  
2nd & 4th Tues. 10:00 A.M.
- LADIES' NIGHT OUT  
Last Tuesdays 6:30 P.M.
- MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY  
Thursdays -HOP 7:30 A.M.
- BIBLE BOYS  
Mondays 5:30 P.M.
- MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY  
Fridays 11:00 A.M.
- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
3rd Sunday
- PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES  
See Schedule Page 9
- RECYCLING  
1st Sundays of Calendar Quarter
- RING TONES REHEARSAL  
Sundays 2:00 P.M.
- STANDING TOGETHER  
2nd Wednesdays 7:00 P.M.
- YOUTH GROUP  
Sundays 9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
- Masters College CHRISTMAS SONG CONCERT  
Dec 2 see Church Life
- TREE TRIMMING—ADVENT DINNER  
Dec. 3 5:00 P.M.
- NEW MEMBERS MEET & GREET  
Dec. 3 Between Services

Cont. on page 2

## November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Don't come to church an hour early on November 5... Daylight Savings Time Ends!



For parents of small children, daylight savings is cruel and unusual punishment.

The hour I gain this week is the hour I plan to go to the gym! - the editor

### Leadership Meetings:

<b>ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE</b>	1st Wednesdays	7:00 P.M.
<b>BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS COMMITTEE</b>	1st Mondays	7:00 P.M.
<b>CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE</b>	1st Mondays	7:00 P.M.
<b>CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE</b>	1st Wednesdays	7:00 P.M.
<b>DEACONS</b>	1st Mondays	7:00 P.M.
<b>FUTURES COMMITTEE</b>	2nd Tuesdays	
<b>MISSIONS COMMITTEE</b>	1st Tuesdays	7:00 P.M.
<b>OUTREACH COMMITTEE</b>	2nd Wednesdays	7:00 P.M.
<b>PERSONNEL COMMITTEE</b>	1st Fridays	8:00 A.M.
<b>SESSION</b>	3rd Tuesdays	7:00 P.M.
<b>STEPHEN MINISTRY</b>	4th Wednesdays	6:30 P.M.
<b>STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE</b>	2nd Tuesdays	10:00 A.M.
<b>WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE</b>	1st Tuesdays	7:00 P.M.
<b>YOUTH COMMITTEE</b>	2nd Wednesdays	7:00 P.M.
<b>Future Events: DEACON &amp; ELDER</b>		
<b>CHRISTMAS PARTY</b>	Dec 8	
<b>NUTCRACKER BALLET</b>	Dec 17	see Church Life
<b>CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT</b>	Dec. 19	4:00 P.M.
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES</b>	Dec 24	10am & 5, 7, 9 P.M.
<b>REGAN LIBRARY</b>	Dec 30	see Church Life
<b>YOUTH MISSION TO PUERTO RICO</b>	Apr. 2-6	
<b>AMOR HOMEBUILDING IN TJ</b>	Apr. 13-15	
<b>COWBOY CHURCH</b>	Apr. 22	8:00 A.M.



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.

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

Nov 1	Dan Waters
Nov 18	Carol Cogley
Nov 19	Barbara Moore
Nov 23	Julius Bracerros



## Senior Lunch - Wednesday, December 20

Fellowship Hall, 11:30 a.m., \$7.00



All seniors and their friends are invited to attend this festive annual celebration. Reservations will be taken beginning on November 12 at the Name Tag Table on the patio or by calling the Church Office at 259-0555.

### Upcoming Church Life Events:

- Masters College Christmas Song Concert December 2
- Santa Clarita Master Chorale December 9
- The Nutcracker Ballet December 16 & 17
- Reagan Library December 30
- Descanso Gardens ((date TBD))

# Ladies Night Out

November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30

We will meet at OSTERIA CARUSO'S  
18340 Sierra Hwy, Canyon Country, CA  
<https://osteriacaruso.com/>

MOM CAN COOK is closed on Tuesdays, so we have a chance to try Caruso's after their recent remodel. They have a new look and a new menu that is delicious! Not the old Caruso's at all!

One more chance this year to get together with other ladies to eat, gab and laugh! Share your favorite Thanksgiving story from this year or the past. Get new ideas for Christmas decorations and celebrations.

Join a great group of ladies to just have some fun and a great meal. We will discuss our favorite restaurants to put on our list for 2018. No Ladies Night Out in December.

Sign up at the Church Life table on Sundays!

## BOOK BUDDIES

Book Buddies meet Thursday, November 9 at 4:00p.m. to discuss "America's First Daughter" by Stephanie Dray. Patsy Jefferson became Thomas Jefferson's constant companion after her mother's death. She has to make decisions which protect her father's reputation and political legacy.

Discussion and salad supper at Ellie Fuller's home- 25035 Greenmill Ave. Newhall  
RSVP = 661-259-4983



## HANDCRAFTERS

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (November 13 & 27), at 10 a.m., people gather in the Evans Room to share their crafting skills, their interests, and their accomplishments. We are the *Handcrafters*, and everyone is welcome!



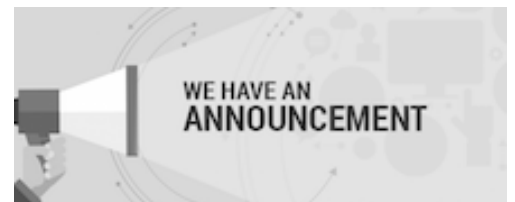
## Deacon's Corner

The Deacons of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, following the example of Jesus Christ, are committed to provide supportive services and care to the community of faith.

Hello fellow worshippers. Just writing to give you the heads up...As we turn our attention to and preparing for the holiday season, we also need to consider our submissions for the Lenten Book. We will be asking for your entries earlier this year, because Lent is earlier. Please consider our topic:

**"Serve the Lord with Gladness: What does that mean to you"?**

We will be asking for your submissions in January as Easter (and lent comes early). God bless all of you as you enter this holiday season and as you prayerfully consider your Lenten Book submission. Thank you, your faithful Deacons.



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.



Your Church Life Committee held its annual Fall Yard Sale on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. It was a beautiful day when we took over the front lawn of the church for about 24 hours. We solicited our congregation for donations and collected saleable goods the prior two weeks.

With an announcement on our marquee, word-of-mouth, a little advertising and several ads put out on the internet, we did get lots of people to stop by and shop a little. The community near the church finds our yard sales valuable events. We struggled to get our volunteers together, but we managed to muster a great team. We then worked our tails off and did what we could to raise money for your Church Life Committee. The money we raised helps us offset the high costs of some of the fun events we do all year long. This fall we raised \$1619.80!!

Nicole and I need to recognize our great Church Life Committee and all the volunteers who worked so hard for this year's fundraiser:

**Your Church Life Committee members are:**

Rod Belcher	Jim Creighton
Sandy Gravitt	Dan Signett
Cyndi Signet	

**THANK  
YOU!**

**This season's volunteers were:**

Candy Belcher	Dale & Gloria Boss
Carol Cogley	Kathy Craig
Susie Creighton	Hilde Deboed
Susan Fletcher	Charlotte Freis
Judy Jones	Sharie Telles
Jim Thatch	Dave Viggianelli
Lynn Viggianelli	

We also need to thank The Hart High School Dance Team who always helps us with our clean up, and their leader Debbie Chediak.

We also need to thank Buildings and Grounds Committee for their cooperation and help.

Thank You Everybody!!!!

Patrick Stokes & Nicole McCreery, Church Life Elders

*Great Parents get Promoted to Grandparents  
(again)*

*Roland & Jane Wrinkle are celebrating the birth of their newest granddaughter, Clover, born October 3.*





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

## Announcing our Fall New Members Class this November

Everyone already “belongs” at First Presbyterian, Newhall - but maybe you are ready to make it “official.”

The dates are set and the Outreach Committee is getting ready for the fall New Members Class. There will be two classes, on Sundays, November 12 and 18 which will start after second service around 12:15 p.m. in Pastor Bill’s office. The classes are informal and led by Pastor Bill. Tacos and drinks will be provided. There is absolutely no obligation to become a member; if you choose to, you will be received into this family of faith at worship services on Sunday, December 3.

One of the distinctive characteristics of Christian faith is that it is shared, in community, in the company of others. 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. Membership also professes the kind of commitment that God looks for from us in our relationships.

### THERE REALLY ARE FAMILIES



WHOSE MEMBERS NOT ONLY LOVE EACH OTHER, BUT SAY IT, AND SHOW IT.

Signup at the Fellowship table with Lorraine King on Sunday mornings, call or email Bob at the church office 661-259-0555, [churchoffice@presby-newhall.org](mailto:churchoffice@presby-newhall.org), or contact John Favalessa Elder for the Outreach Committee, at [amor@presby-newhall.org](mailto:amor@presby-newhall.org).

Church website: [www.presby-newhall.org](http://www.presby-newhall.org)



## PICTURE THIS!!!



Gloria and Dale Boss doing what they do best at a recent Dodgers game! I’ll take two - the editor.



## LET'S GO DODGERS



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.

## AMOR October Homebuilding Update

Twelve of us, supported by this congregation, had yet another successful homebuilding trip this fall. We completing the framing, paper, wire, doors, windows, roof and first coat of stucco on three sides. If we only had one or two more of you we could have gotten stucco on the last wall.

We had a real treat coming home as Gail and Cam Stewart invited us to stop by their new home in Oceanside where they knocked themselves out with appetizers, hamburgers and hot dogs. No stop at McDonalds this year! It was so good to see and talk with them and to see their absolutely beautiful and huge home with a designer backyard. They want to make this stop a tradition with our future trips. What a gift of hospitality that we will definitely take them up on!

Leaving church on Friday morning, we had one of our smoothest and quickest trip down to the border. We even got to Tom's Farm for lunch before they opened at 11am. But getting into Mexico wasn't a great experience. Last year Fernando, the AMOR field supervisor, had built a relationship with the Mexican border authorities and we breezed through. You have to understand that they are getting serious about stopping the flow of guns coming in from the USA. (time for my soapbox - as Americans I hear it said that Mexico is out of control with their drug cartels. I say its all our fault...our insatiable appetite for drugs which funds these cartels with unbelievable amounts of our money, that buys power, corruption, guns and even small armies. We are the root cause of the evil there. I could go on...) but to get back to our crossing, the Mexico government just swapped out the administrators at the San Ysidro border the week before. (My educated guess is they do this to prevent corruption. It is kind of like what we do with our border agents as we come into the USA. They have them change their booths randomly about every twenty minutes so that the cartels can't tell their drug runners, "get in the second lane as we've bought off that agent".) Anyway, we get to the border with our completed detailed cargo list forms and they say, "What are these? We've never seen these before." Fernando negotiates with them and they tell us to just go to the Otay Mesa border crossing. So off we go a twenty-minute drive. There they know the forms. They review and give them a big green stamp. Sweet! But then they tell us we cannot cross there as we have a trailer on the van. We must go back to San Ysidro. Well, we are now in Mexico and have to get in line to cross back into the USA. The Mexican authorities open a gate and we get in the front of a mile-long line. Nice! But then one of our vehicles gets pulled into secondary as one of our names comes up on a USA bad guy list. Hey its just a identical name fellas! Still we are delayed another thirty minutes. We drive back to the San Ysidro crossing. All goes smoothly since we have the green stamp. But then our last vehicle, Art's truck, gets randomly flagged for Mexican secondary inspection! They x-ray the truck as Art and Bob stand behind a concrete wall. They see something they don't like and make Art empty the large metal toolbox and re-x-ray. It turns out to be that Art's nail gun hammer (ramset) looked suspicious. Finally, after almost an hour they are cleared and our caravan proceeds through Tijuana. It's still light when we arrive at the AMOR campsite in rural TJ. We set up our tents, etc., and luckily we planned to have the local women prepare our dinner on Friday and Saturday nights. All was ready for us and good. A lovely evening.

At the job site on Saturday it was hot low 90's but we managed. The family was a lovely young couple and a father. They worked with us and made us a hot lunch on Sunday. Michael, the AMOR field rep, brought his wife and their one and one-half year-old son, James, to the jobsite on Sunday. He had his own little hammer, was starting to talk (all the time) and was such a joy to have around. We worked hard and completed the framing on Saturday. Sunday we completed the roof, paper, door and windows, and a coat of stucco. It is amazing to me how our ragtag group of amateurs, whose average age was sixty-three, (brought down by Amanda and Alex from 67), can accomplish so much in two days. Art gave the family the keys late Sunday afternoon. Pure joy. Then back to the camp for our traditional lasagna dinner where we invite Fernando and Michael's families. Wonderful fellowship after working hard building for a poor family. Our next trip will be two weeks after Easter. Hopefully by then the border crossing into Mexico will be back to normal, but we may not bring the trailer or Art's ramset!

Building for the Kingdom of God were: Art Moore, Candy & Rod Belcher, Natalie Besse, Johan Vanersande, Bob Balkcom, Tom Bailey, Kevin Fletcher, Amanda Newman (Art's granddaughter), Alex (Amanda's friend), and John & Jung Favalessa

Humbly in Jesus' name, group leader john favalessa



Group picture with family. The home we built is on top of retaining wall. I'm holding little James.



What a roofing crew! Pictured is Amanda, then Jung, Natalie and Alex. We finished one of our best roofs ever and in record time.



Little James with "mama".



Hamming it up! The first coat of stucco is a rough "scratch coat" so that the smooth second coat sticks. Day groups from San Diego usually come to finish.

Our next homebuilding trip is most likely April 13 through 16 two weeks after Easter. **Please come join us!**

God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing. Eph 2:10

Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove. James 2:18





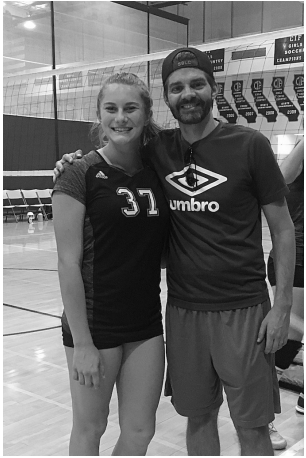
The Youth Committee nurtures the Junior High and Senior High-aged youth of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, and the community; by providing a Christ-centered program of worship, education, fellowship, and service in order to equip them with a framework in which they can realize their spiritual gifts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

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

This past month our youth group was proud to have helped out with the Fall Festival! We all thoroughly enjoyed participating. Our youth also celebrated Halloween in style, with a fun costume party! A spooky time was had by all!

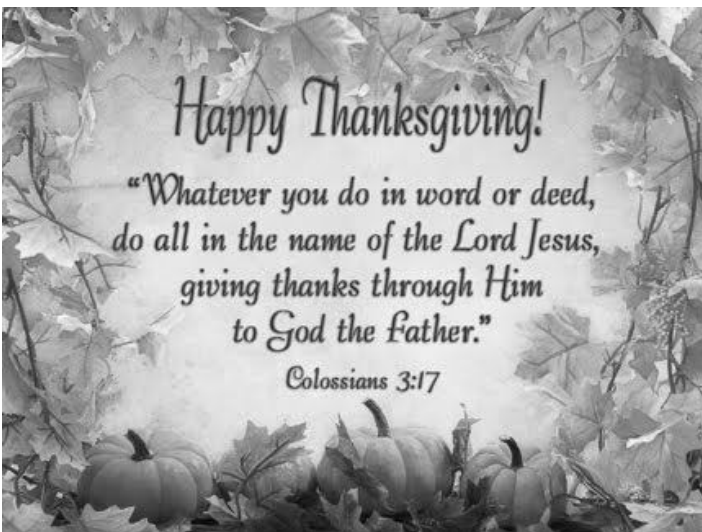
Pictured at right is Sam Spigelman and Kristine Kokkinos as Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy from Spongebob.

Youth Spotlight: Kristine Kokkinos played an amazing soccer game, both Bryce and Sam were able to catch and Shay Tomei crushed her volleyball game with Bryce in attendance!



As always our regular Sunday School and youth group continue to meet and flourish, and our youth continue to shine!

*WE DON'T NEED MORE TO BE THANKFUL FOR.  
WE NEED TO BE MORE THANKFUL*



### HURRICANE RELIEF TRIPS

IMPACT will be sending multiple teams in Spring and Summer of 2018 to help with relief efforts in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico in the aftermath of hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.  
*Minimum age: 15*

**SPRING 2018: March 24<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>**



- Team 1: Florida
- Team 2: Texas

*\*Applications Due December 15<sup>th</sup>!*

**SUMMER 2018: June 25<sup>th</sup> - July 10<sup>th</sup>**



- Team 1: Florida
- Team 2: Texas
- Team 3: Puerto Rico

*\*Applications Due February 10<sup>th</sup>!*

To apply, visit [impact-theglobe.org](http://impact-theglobe.org)  
or contact [director@impact-theglobe.org](mailto:director@impact-theglobe.org)!



**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.



# Joy Joy Joy

PW will hold our annual Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 2, at the Valencia Hills HOA Clubhouse, 24060 Oak Vale Drive, Valencia, 91355. The Brunch will begin at 10:00 AM. TICKETS will be on sale, \$12.00 each, on the patio on November 12, 19 and 26! Plan to carpool with a friend! That makes it so much more FESTIVE! Our amazing Ring Tones, with Lorraine King directing, will be our entertainment. Please invite a friend or two and PREPARE for the HOLIDAYS!

## PW MISSION PROJECT FOR NOVEMBER

"Help the Children" thanks you for your generous donations. In November we will focus on soup. Please put your donations on the shelves in the Evans Room. PW appreciates your support in our mission. Thank you!

## PW CIRCLES—ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!

**Elizabeth:** Stephanie Linn (259-3914 - First & Third Tuesdays of the month at 11:30 a.m. in the Evans Room. Babysitting is available.

**Lois:** Sharon Dziubala (297-6200) - Meets second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Evans Room.

**Lydia:** Judy Reinsma (296-6869) - Meets first Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Evans Room.

**Mary Martha:** Nancy Spigelman (254-0319) & Sam Spigelman (312-7111) Meets second Monday of the month at 7:00PM at various homes.

**Rachel:** Tiffany Aune (478-2056) - Meets second Tuesday of the month at 6:15 p.m. in various homes and shares a salad dinner.

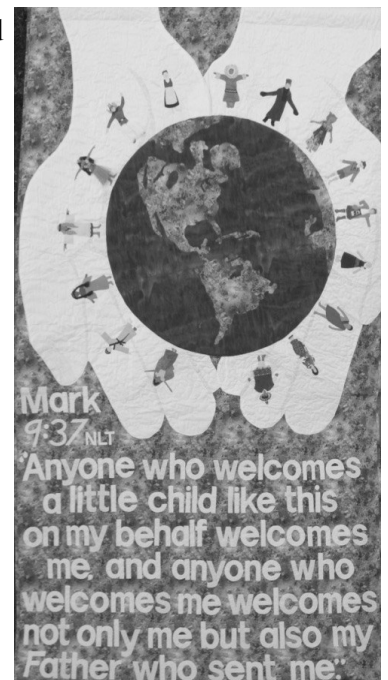


**The Worship and Music Committee** will strive with God's guidance and grace, to create Christ-centered worship experiences, inspiring God's people as they respond to the Word proclaimed in prayer, glorious music, scripture, sacrament and message.

## Our Newest Church Worship Banner -by Pam Jenner

I have finally made a new banner after not making any for a number of years! When I presented a sermon two or three summers ago, I asked everyone what they wanted to see in a new banner. The items that came through the loudest were family and children. With God all around us, thus, I made the hands in an iridescent white to represent God. All of the background is green showing us we are in ordinary times. White is a good way to symbolize God because it says purity and holiness. Green is growth, life and hope.

I took 16 children and made them in paper doll fashion in cloth. I tried to represent as many countries as I could with the limited space for children I had to work with. I also put the world in the center of the hands to signify all the many cultures in the world.



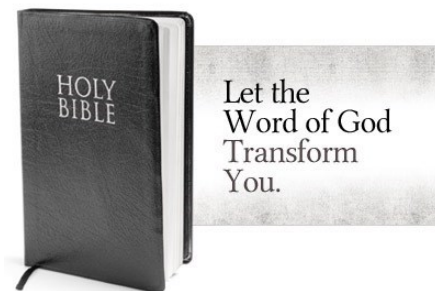
I talked to several people to find out which Bible verse would fit in this banner. In the end I took the first verse I had picked after Pastor Bill said the same one. I kept thinking of the song "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands", but this is not a Bible verse. I enjoyed the process of making another banner and I am glad that the whole church helped in the starting of this one. This brings all of us closer together as a church family. And we are all children of God!



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

## Adult Education Opportunities

Your Adult Education committee has been busy at work this fall bringing you new and innovative opportunities to enhance you walk with the Lord. Both the **Mysteries of the Bible** year long, guided self-study of The Bible program and the **Supper in the Upper Room** program are off to great starts. In addition, through a survey completed by the committee, it has been determined that the vast majority of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall members participate in regularly attended Bible Studies and instructional Bible classes through men's study groups, Presbyterian Women, Bible talk on the Patio and independent Bible studies in various homes. Adult Education is alive and thriving at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall!



**Supper in the Upper Room** will round out the Fall season with presentations that will help us prepare for Advent and the Christmas Season. On November 5, Marriage and Family Therapist, Rebecca Mealer will discuss **managing the stress the season sometimes brings**, so that we can truly enjoy the Peace of the Season. On November 12 and 19 Rebecca Cranert will present various ideas for **developing or enhancing your own family traditions throughout the Thanksgiving and Christmas season**. Such traditions bring families closer together and help keep the focus of the Season where it belongs. We will look at several categories ...cooking and baking...arts and crafts...music and, of course, spiritual Bible based possibilities.

**Reformation Sunday** takes place on October 29 We are looking forward to this celebration of our Presbyterian History. Don't miss Jack Irwin's special sermon that morning! And as a real treat, **Pastor Bill Barnes will further enhance our knowledge of the Reformation at a special Supper in the Upper Room**. Bill's talk will be followed by a delicious Scottish style supper. Don't worry...no haggis!

**The Santa Barbara Mission Conference** takes place **February 2 and 3** at the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara. An amazing line up of speakers is in place, including the President of Princeton University, Craig Barnes. For more information go on line, or talk to Jack Irwin. Rebecca Cranert has information regarding overnight accommodations. Scholarships are available.

The Adult Education committee is planning for our traditional **Lenten Study Groups** for the early Spring, during the Lenten season, and continuing **Supper in the Upper Room** programs on alternating Sunday afternoons throughout April and May and June.



Your Adult Ed team

# Little Shepherd's Nursery School

at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall



This is a very busy time of year at Little Shepherd's!

In October we had our School Picture Day with lots of smiles included! We also had our annual Halloween Parade followed by trick or treating to the church office, by the time you get this newsletter these events will be things of the past, we will have to share pictures in our next newsletter. We now look forward to November and start that month with parent-teacher conferences. Later in the month we have our Feast Day, another annual event where we invite church staff to join us for a Feast in Evans Room.

We have added another friend to our school and are still looking for a few more! If you are a current family and refer another family to our school you will receive 10% off your next month's tuition!

October also brought our annual visit from Community Care Licensing which went quite smoothly, this is often a dreaded event by most schools but I have to say our current analyst is very pleasant! Even with an anonymous complaint filed regarding the campus homeless situation (which has improved by the way and we continue to work on this) our analyst was quite satisfied with the current operations of the school and after a two hour visit left us until next time. You may have noticed some changes in the past month, a few of those are our new and brighter outside lights in the preschool walkway area and we are now a locked preschool campus unless a school or a church event is happening. Thank you to Buildings and Grounds for their work to help make our campus safer, there are more changes coming!!

We have much to be grateful for don't we?

Happy Thanksgiving to all, Sharie



# MINISTRY FAIR OCTOBER 2017

## GET INVOLVED - JOIN A COMMITTEE

**Adult Education Committee** - 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. *meets first Wednesday of the month.* Elder Lynn Parkinson

**Building and Grounds Committee** - is responsible to diligently maintain and thoughtfully develop the buildings and grounds of the Church facility that the Lord has provided, so that we may carry out His Ministry. *meets first Monday of the month.* Elder Don Trammell & Jim Combs



**Christian Education - Children Committee** - invites children to embrace the word of God through worship, games, song and other activities; to 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. *meets first Monday of the month.* Elder Eric Clardy

**Church Life Committee** - promotes fellowship and fun activities for the church family by providing a variety of community, cultural and special events. *meets first Wednesday of the month.* Elders Patrick Stokes, and Nicole McCreery



**Futures Committee** - plan for and embrace the future. *meets second Tuesday of the month.* Elder Barbara Irwin

**Mission Committee** - our purpose in order to further share the gospel of Jesus Christ, is to responsibly use the resources of the Church 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. *meets first Tuesday of the month.* Elders Geoff Harms and Benny Goldstein

**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. *meets usually on the second Wednesday of the month.* Elder John Favalezza

## GET INVOLVED—JOIN A COMMITTEE

**Stewardship Committee** - strives 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. *meets second Tuesday of the month.* Elder Jan Fraser and Sue Stanger



**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. *meets first Tuesday of the month.* Elders Kathy Bressler and Sonja Tweedie

**Youth Committee** - nurtures the junior and senior high aged youth of the church 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. *meets second Wednesday of the month.* Elder Barbara Irwin



### YOU CAN ALSO GET INVOLVED BY:

Praying - see Sunday Bulletins Prayer requests.

Join the prayer chain. Contact Connie Luechtefeld at: [prayerchain@presby-newhall.org](mailto:prayerchain@presby-newhall.org)

Volunteer to provide a meal. Contact your Deacon

Come build a home for a poor family in Mexico. Contact John Favalessa at [amor@presby-newhall.org](mailto:amor@presby-newhall.org)

Join Living Waters for the World with our Lao Partners. Contact Jack Irwin or Art Moore.

Become an usher

Sing in the choir

Ring in the bell choir

Help with Sunday School

Come to an Adult Ed class

Join a Bible Study or Circle

## THE DAY THE WORLD ENDED (Or So It Seemed)

By Roland Wrinkle



It was Monday October 8, 2017. My youngest daughter's in-laws had to evacuate their home in Santa Rosa as furious wild fires rampaged through the heart of this heavily populated residential community. They moved in with their daughter's family. Then that family had to evacuate. Then my best friend called to tell me that his son, a builder who also lived in Santa Rosa, had to evacuate his home after he watered down the roof and that a home he was building had itself been consumed in the inferno. I was visiting my oldest daughter and my five-day old granddaughter when my four-year-old grandson came into the house screaming from a freshly-broken arm. And it all came in the withering aftermath of devastating hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. And, that very morning, my dog died. I crawled under my bed and waited to be crushed by an earthquake. Much of our country was left in an unquenchable need for emergency relief and aid. (And the stock market soared while the palaces and mansions retained their glory.)

If we read the Bible, go to church on Sundays, profess to be disciples of the bodily resurrected Messiah of Israel, try to see the world and all of its happenings through a biblical lens and believe (trust?) God's promises, what are we to make of all of this? These are the very same things talked about by Isaiah, Jeremiah, the other prophets, the psalmists and by Jesus himself [*"There will be famines and earthquakes in various places"* (Matt 240)]. They all lamented just like we did on October 8<sup>th</sup>: *"Oh God... You have caused the land to quake; you have torn it open; ... You have made your people suffer hard things"* (Ps 60). *"You have rejected us and abased us, and have made us like sheep for slaughter"* (Ps 44). *"O God, why do you cast us off for ever? Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture? Why do you hold back your hand?"* (Ps. 74).

This is where a quite odd word comes into play: **hevel**. And it comes in the strangest book of the Bible, *Ecclesiastes*. Its teachings are presented by, well, the "Teacher." To make sure we take seriously what the Teacher has to teach, the book is attributed to the smartest and the richest (most successful) man in the bible, Solomon. If you open your pew bible, you will read: *"Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity."* But, importantly, that's not what the Teacher said. He actually said, *"Hevel of all hevels....All is hevel. What do people gain from all the toil at which they toil under the sun?"* He even characterized all of his own wisdom and riches as *"but a chasing after wind."* *Hevel* does not mean *vain* (at least as we understand it). And I believe it is even misleading to translate it as *meaningless*, although that is closer. It means "smoke" or "vapor"—something that is illusory and blows away at the slightest breeze, something elusive or deceptively unattainable. And he uses it 38 times. Solomon worked his entire life to acquire wisdom and wealth and he winds up declaring it all to be worthless, to be *hevel*. Why? What is the lesson here? It's in 5:16: *"This is what I have seen to be good: it is fitting to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of the life God gives us."* When we toil under the illusion that we can control outcomes, it will all turn out to be *hevel*. But if we release all outcomes to our good and loving Creator, we can begin to enjoy all the goodness God has given us and will give us according to His unfailing promises.

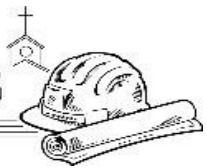


I, personally, had to understand my own powerlessness, that I am not in control but I have a part, and perhaps a very important part to play. That is what the Teacher is talking about, i.e. to not chase the wind, to not try to use our wisdom to grasp at smoke or vapor. How presumptuous of me to think that I can control outcomes. When my goals and all my planning turn out to be *hevel*, I wind up *"eating in darkness, in much vexation and sickness and resentment."* But if I release all of how everything is going to turn out to God, I am now free to *"eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of the life God gives us; for this is our lot."* I certainly have my role—because God has strangely

deputized me and us as His agents to carry out His plan of restoring fallen creation. But I am not the one in charge of how it all turns out. And it all leads to a great unburdening—and relief.

Psalm 73 starts out with, *"Such are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches. All in vain I have kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence."* But this is how it ends, *"God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever. Indeed, those who are far from you will perish; you put an end to those who are false to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, to tell of all your works."* You bet! Me too!

# Buildings & Grounds Committee



The Buildings and Grounds Committee is responsible for diligently maintaining and thoughtfully developing the buildings and grounds of the Church facility that the Lord has provided, so that we may carry out His Ministry.



Yet another Boy Scout Troop 609 project in conjunction with our Buildings & Grounds Committee has been completed to transform and beautify our church campus.



Nicholas Schiermeier from Troop 609 here at the First Presbyterian Church in Newhall has managed a project to pour concrete sidewalk from our original churches steps in the front to connect to our patio. In order to complete this project, he had to contact a number of businesses to solicit funding. Our church is very fortunate as Nicholas was able to get all the necessary materials donated. To quote Nicholas, "Scouting has given me great opportunities, such as making friends, learning leadership skills, and enjoying the outdoors. Thanks to First Presbyterian for chartering our troop for all these years, and I hope you enjoy the new sidewalk." Nicholas is currently a Life Scout and Senior Patrol Leader of the troop, and have been in scouting since he was 6 years old, as a Tiger in Cub Scouts.



Pouring, leveling and smoothing cement is back breaking work!



Sharie and Richard welcome their newest little love!!

Tata and Grammy are so excited!

Harper Rose Siwanowicz, born October 18parents Jason Siwanowicz and Monica Aquin



# The Newhall Press

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

---

Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Santa Clarita, CA  
Permit No. 49

---

Change Service Requested

## NOVEMBER 2017



**Sunday Worship Services**

**9:30 & 11:15 AM**



**Deadline  
for the  
November Newsletter:  
November 15, 2017**

**Send articles and photos to our  
email address:**

**[newsletter@presby-newhall.org](mailto:newsletter@presby-newhall.org)**

Thanks to Bob Balkcom, office administrator, for oversight and printing; Ellie and Steve Fuller, for faithfully preparing newsletter for mailing; and Lorraine King for proof reading. —john favalessa, temporary editor

### ***The Newhall Press***

*First Presbyterian Church of Newhall*

24317 N. Newhall Avenue

Newhall, CA 91321-2721

(661) 259-0555

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

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

Pastor: Bill Barnes (ext. 1)

Pastoral Support: Phil Aijian (ext. 2)

Youth Director: Bryce Morrow

Assoc. Youth Dir: Sam Spigelman

Assoc. Children's Dir: Lelia Meadows

Office Administrator: Bob Balkcom (ext. 0)

Music Conductor: Connie Woodson

2nd Service Worship Leader: Sam Besse

Treasurer: Dorothy Ng (ext. 3)

Custodian: Nelson Orellana

Groundskeeper: Steve Fuller

Nursery Care Provider: Linda Weingarten

### **Little Shepherd's Nursery School**

**Director: Sharie Telles**

(661) 254-2312