

October 2017

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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.

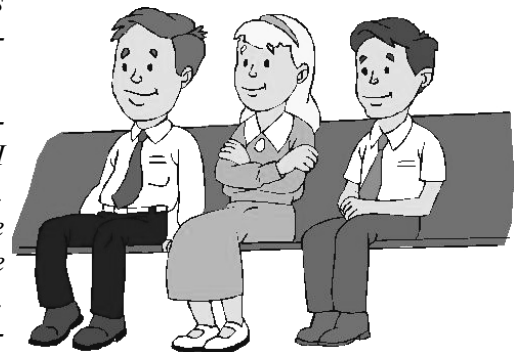
PASTOR COLUMN OCTOBER 2017

We just celebrated the 50th birthday of our own LITTLE SHEPHERDS which is the oldest Nursery School in the Santa Clarita Valley. It was marvelous to have dignitaries of our Valley, including Mayor Cameron Smyth, a graduate, former parent, and supporter of Little Shepherds in service to celebrate a wonderful space where children developmentally learn and grow.

Then we had a great Ministry Fair which celebrated all the terrific ministries of our church. I was eager to meet with our ushers (or as I call them the HOSTS of our church family) after worship on that Sunday, September 17. Becoming an Usher is a great way to serve our church family and particularly become the “face of church” to anyone who chooses to visit our worship services. (If you’re interested in serving, see Kathy Rakness.) Speaking of questions that might come up to an usher, consider the following story asked to a church mouse named Chester by a 1st & 2nd grade class:

Dear Chester, Why do you call the benches that you sit in pews? 1st & 2nd grade Sunday School Class.

*Dear Class, That is a very interesting question. There are two explanations that I remember from Church Mouse University. One -- Many years ago in Germany where the Lutheran Church started, the people would have to walk many miles to church. When they finally got where they were going, the first thing they would say to each other at the church was *Pew, we made it.* That thought is also expressed sometimes in today's church if the sermon is especially long. Two -- Not so long ago, the people would have to stand during the whole church service out of respect for the Lord. This was very hard to do, especially for the old folks and little children. A movement started all across the country and its purpose was to change the worship pattern so that people could sit. The movement promoted benches that would be placed in rows to allow people to sit during different sections of the service. The name of the movement was “People Enjoy Worship Sitting” or as it was abbreviated P.E.W.S. Now you know the rest of the story. Chester*



P.S. There are probably other explanations. A likely one is that the word “puie” is a French word meaning, a compartment in the church where a group of people sit.”

Also, note in our monthly calendar that our Children’s Committee is holding their annual Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat a week before Halloween for our kids and neighborhood children on Saturday, October 21. This is a great event to show the community that as Christians we care about our community and the children in fun and hospitable ways as well as their spiritual health.

Have a Blessed Fall,

October Events

- ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE BEGINS
Oct. 1
- WORLD-WIDE COMMUNION & OFFERING
Oct. 1
- PASTOR BILL’S STUDY GROUP
Weds, Oct. 4–Nov. 15 10:00 A.M.
- FALL AMOR TRIP
Oct. 6 to 9
- SUPPER IN THE UPPER ROOM
Oct. 8 & 22 4:00 P.M.
- FALL YARD SALE
Oct. 13–14
- MYSTERIES OF THE BIBLE
Oct. 15 11:15 A.M.
- FALL FESTIVAL & TRUNK ‘R TREAT
Oct. 21 5:00 P.M.
- MOVIE “LUTHER”
Oct. 15 4:00 P.M.
- PLEDGE DRIVE ENDS
Oct. 22 10:00 One Serv.
- MEET THE REFORMERS
Oct. 29

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 -IHOP 7:30 A.M.
- BIBLE BOYZ
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.

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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.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

Oct. 5	Millie Tanner	Oct. 15	May Valiton
Oct. 8	Laralea McLaughlin	Oct. 21	Don Trout
Oct. 10	Jim Combs	Oct. 29	Becky Combs

Leadership Meetings:

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE	1st Wednesdays	7:00 P.M.
BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE	1st Mondays	7:00 P.M.
CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE	1st Mondays	7:00 P.M.
CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE	1st Wednesdays	7:00 P.M.
DEACONS	1st Mondays	7:00 P.M.
FUTURES COMMITTEE	2nd Tuesdays	
MISSIONS COMMITTEE	1st Tuesdays	7:00 P.M.
OUTREACH COMMITTEE	1st Wednesdays	7:00 P.M.
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE	1st Fridays	8:00 A.M.
SESSION	3rd Tuesdays	7:00 P.M.
STEPHEN MINISTRY	4th Wednesdays	6:30 P.M.
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE	2nd Tuesdays	10:00 A.M.
WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE	1st Tuesdays	7:00 P.M.
YOUTH COMMITTEE	2nd Wednesdays	7:00 P.M.

Future 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.
TREE TRIMMING—ADVENT DINNER	Dec. 2	5:00 P.M.
NEW MEMBERS MEET & GREET	Dec. 3	Between Services
CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT	Dec. 10	4:00 P.M.
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES	Dec 24	5, 7, 9 P.M.
YOUTH MISSION TO PUERTO RICO	Apr. 2—6	
COWBOY CHURCH	Apr. 22	8:00 A.M.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

If you haven't been to Ladies' Night Out lately, you have missed out on the fun! We are typically at least 15 in number as we gather to eat, laugh and enjoy each other's company for a night at a different local restaurant each month. We solve the problems of the world, Santa Clarita and our lives with just a little idle talk thrown in for good measure. We have been blessed by having new members join our group, and some friends who don't even attend our church. So, grab a friend or just meet us there and get in on the fun! All are welcome at this table!

Whether you are in your 20's, your 80's, or somewhere in between, all ladies are welcome to join us the last Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. —Susan Fletcher



October 31, 6:30 pm
El Trocadero Steak House
24274 Main Street,
Newhall CA 91321

ANNUAL FALL YARD SALE

Mark your calendars. The date is fast approaching. Church Life Committee will be having its Annual Fall Yard Sale. It is scheduled for Friday, October 13 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, then on Saturday, October 14 from 7:00 am to 12:00 noon. It will once again be held on the front lawn of the Church.

So collect any gently used housewares, working small appliances, electronic gadgetry, furniture, CDs, DVDs, games, toys, clothes, home linens, fine art and not so fine art, books, holiday decorations, sporting goods and pet supplies.

Feel free to drop it off at the church during the week prior, and we will store them in Classroom 5. If you have anything big that needs to be picked up and you can't arrange its delivery, please contact Rod Belcher.

HELP!!! Church Life is looking for a little bit of help from the congregation. We need people who can help sell what we have collected, as well as people who can put the merchandise onto the tables and keep it accessible and the tables full. Look for sign-up sheets on the patio after first service. We will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Workers will have refreshments available and be invited to our Church Life Committee Holiday Party (the best committee party of the season).

The money collected will be used to offset the costs for Church Life events, so more people can attend. —Patrick Stokes



AN EVENING AT THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL

By Patrick Stokes & Nicole McCreery, Church Life Elders



JOHN WILLIAMS AND HIS MUSIC FOR THE MOVIES

On Sunday, September 3, 40 fellow Presbyterians gathered together to enjoy a little dinner, fellowship and some great music from our favorite movies. We began our evening gathered in Fellowship Hall for a chicken dinner and all the fixings. As soon as dinner ended we hopped in our cars and headed to the Studio City, Hollywood Bowl shuttle lot. There we boarded the shuttle to transport us to the Hollywood Bowl. As we approached the bowl, we were showered with a beautiful, soft summer rain. It quickly dissipated as we walked into the bowl, and it turned out to be a beautiful evening for some wonderful music.

The concert began with Composer David Newman, who is the son of Composer Alfred Newman, conducting the LA Philharmonic. They performed music from Robin Hood, Dracula, A Star is Born, and Wuthering Heights. It was wonderful music with some video accompaniment; a beautiful first half of the tremendous concert. We were all enthralled by these works of art.

Then the star of the show, John Williams—the man, the myth, the legend—came onto stage. We were treated to music from the 1995 movie Sabrina, Indian Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, Star Wars, Close Encounters of the 3rd Kind, as well as Superman and several others.

About half-way through the second half, the bowl audience was treated to a once in a lifetime event. Kobe Bryant, former star of the Los Angeles Lakers, came on stage and read a small story he had written in 2015 to summarize his career as a basketball legend. It was called “Dear Basketball”, with music written by John Williams. It was wonderful to hear Kobe narrate it live on stage along with a video by Disney artist Glen Keane. It was an emotional moment for all.

The highlight of the evening was the L.A. Philharmonic’s performance of John Williams’ Overture to his classic movie, Star Wars. Seeing thousands of light sabers waving while it played was quite a sight to behold.

One of the sweetest things we witnessed was little 5-year-old Kristina Clardy (daughter of Eric and Marina) waving her arms and helping John Williams conduct that great orchestra. It was too cute.

After four encores, we all decided to call it a night and head home. It was a beautiful evening with glorious music. What a blessing.

Church Life hopes and prays you can join us next year.

Kudos to the Church Life Committee Staff who put this evening together. Rod Belcher, Jim Creighton, Sandy Gravitt, and Dan & Cyndi Signet.



BOOK BUDDIES

Book Buddies will gather Thursday, October 12th at 4:00 p.m. to talk about Helen Simonson's book “The Summer Before the War”.

We go to East Sussex, at the end of summer 1914, when Barbara Nash arrives in the coastal town of Rye to teach Latin.

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



HANDCRAFTERS

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (October 10 & 24), 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!





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.

REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2017

Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

By Jack Irwin, M.Div. (Copyright by Jack Irwin 2017)

THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION OF THE 1500'S

This fall we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. On Oct. 31, 1517, the Roman Catholic priest Martin Luther posted his "95 Theses" (complaints) protesting certain practices of the Roman Catholic Church, on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. The Catholic Church, led by the Pope Leo X in Rome, was the only Christian church all over Western Europe, from Italy and Spain to Sweden, England, Ireland, Scotland, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Hungary and Switzerland.

Luther, along with other Roman Catholic priests and Christian scholars, wanted the Roman Church to reform certain non-Biblical practices and doctrines. However, the Church attacked Luther and ordered him to recant. In his most famous words, he said, "Here I stand and can do no other," to the assembled Church jury. To prevent the Church from arresting Luther, the German princes secreted Luther away in one of their castles. The Church excommunicated Luther as a heretic and condemned this reform movement.

Luther's rebellion caught on rapidly in Europe north of the Alps. Governments there shielded protesting pastors, enabling them to found separatist churches, known as the Protestant Churches. The "Lutheran Church" was founded by Martin Luther in Germany, which also spread to Sweden and Denmark. John Calvin in Geneva and Ulrich Zwingli in Zurich founded the Reformed Churches (1519). Reformed churches sprang up in the Netherlands and as the Huguenots in France. Rev. John Knox led the Reformation to found the Church of Scotland (1560), breakoffs from which founded the line of Presbyterian Churches in Scotland. King Henry VIII of England founded the separatist Church of England, also known as the Anglican Church (1537).

Thus, in the space of one century, Western Europe moved from one Roman Catholic Church to a multitude of independent churches. However, Roman Catholic parishes still persisted in all places. The Catholic Church finally responded and conducted its own "Counter Reformation" to reform itself during the years from 1545 to 1648.

Over the next several centuries many emigrated from Europe to America, seeking religious freedom and bringing their new-found churches with them. In 1620, the Puritans, known as the Pilgrims, founded "Plymouth Colony" in Massachusetts, after being thrown out of England, because they protested practices of the Church of England. Emigres brought all kinds of Protestant Churches: Baptist, Anglican, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Reformed, Methodist, Congregational, Quaker, Lutheran, Mennonite and many others that dot our country's culture and landscape.

Emigres and missionaries spread the new Protestant theology and churches to many other countries. Fifty-six Presbyterian and Reformed Denominations were planted in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Australasia. Starting in 1884, missionaries from the US Presbyterian Church planted Presbyterian Churches in Korea. So successful was the growth of Korean churches that now in our time, they have been founding congregations in the US and sending missionaries around the world.

American constitutional concepts were born in the Protestant Reformation. While the Lutheran Church in Germany and the Church of England were state sponsored, many of these new Protestant churches, founded in the cauldron of national strife, sought freedom to practice their way of faith. They did not want to be sponsored or controlled by the government. They came to the American colonies for religious freedom, and so our country's founders established our US government with religious freedom and without any state sponsorship of a specific "church."

THE REFORMATION'S IMPACT

1. The Bible was translated into the languages of the common people. From the fifth to the sixteenth centuries, the Roman Church used the Vulgate, a Latin translation from Greek and Hebrew texts by St. Jerome, who finished the work in 405 AD. A common language for centuries, Latin was increasingly replaced by local vernaculars. John Wycliffe, a priest and professor at Oxford University in the 14th Century, addressed this problem by preparing the first English Bible translation, but it was banned and copies burned by the Roman Church. With Gutenberg's development of the movable printing press about 1452, the means was laid for the publishing of Bible translations in local languages. The most important revolution of the Reformation was making the Bible accessible in the people's language. Luther composed the first complete German language Bible translation (1534). English scholars made several English translations in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries,

the most famous, and still beloved, being the King James Translation completed in 1611 for the Church of England. Today, around the world, there are now translations of the Bible, either in whole or in part, in 3,200 of the 7,000 known languages.

2. The true Biblical “Good News” is that salvation is not earned, obtained or assured by what we do but is solely based on accepting God’s gift of salvation. The Roman Church taught and required the common folk to fear punishment for sin and promulgated pilgrimages, acts of penance and the purchase of “indulgences” to secure release from punishment and from purgatory, where the Church believed unconfessed sins were “worked off” after death. “No,” said Luther! Based on his study of the Scriptures, especially *Romans* and *Galatians*, Luther rediscovered the Biblical truth that salvation cannot be earned, but is the free gift (or grace, meaning gift) of God received by one’s faith or trust that accepts the gift.

3. Church governance was transferred to local levels of the churches. The Roman Church was a “top-down” government from the Papacy, through the hierarchy and down to the priests. Instead, Protestant churches developed governance jointly shared by pastors and the lay members. In Presbyterian churches, the lay people elect their representatives to the governing bodies—the local Session, the Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly. This “representative democracy” was adopted by America’s founding fathers when they designed the governing bodies in America.

4. The ministries in the Protestant churches were turned over to the people. In the Roman Church, the ministries were performed by the priests and members of special “orders,” e.g. the Franciscans. Instead, Protestant churches expected the laity to be the ministers, whom the pastors were called to train, teach and encourage. This was, and still is, called the doctrine of “The Priesthood of Believers.” The people of the churches plan, organize and run the missions and ministries.

5. The spread of many different protestant churches around the world. Protestantism resulted in many different church denominations, some coming about due to disagreements leading to splitting and schisms. This proliferation has resulted in nine different Presbyterian denominations in the USA. Some decry the disunity of the world-wide church of Christ created by this proliferation. The Roman Church currently calls Protestants the “Separated Brethren” and wishes we would rejoin them.

THE CONTINUING REFORMATION: REFORMED AND REFORMING

The Protestant Reformation of the 1500’s unleashed the most cataclysmic change in the history of the Christianity. Is Reformation continuing?

1. Reformation of denominations: Churches need to respond to changes in the culture, but it is very difficult for church denominations and congregations to change. Ones that reform themselves will survive. Some will die. New ones will be born. We see this happening in our own era where mainline denominations have lost millions of members.

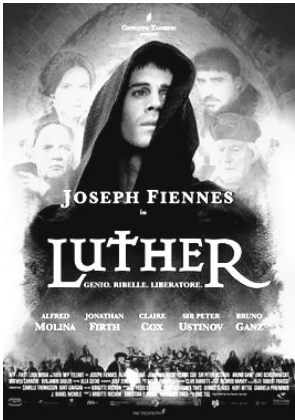
2. Reformation of theology continues. Just as Luther inaugurated a huge shift in Christian theology, so today another is underway. Luther’s rediscovery of faith, and not by our own work, as the way to receive salvation, leaves many believing they don’t have to do anything else in life for God. However, Christians are called by their Lord Jesus to represent Jesus in and to the world, not just to wait to go to heaven after death. “Get out of our pews and into the world” is a call heard today, but it requires sacrifice. N.T. Wright’s new book *The Day the Revolution Began* (2016) is all about this current reformation.

3. Reformation in the Way of “Doing Church.” “Traditional church” invites people to church programs, but people today are staying away. Churches that ignore this change in the culture will die, but those who learn how to move out into their communities to meet, love and serve people will survive. Jesus calls us to get out of the pew and into our communities, and that requires a different “life style” for Christians who are used to just “going to church.”

4. Reformation in how Churches are organized. Millennials and younger generations are wary of large institutional churches, denominations and program-oriented church life. Many new churches will be small, tight knit “house churches” which don’t own buildings or have professional pastors and staffs. Their emphasis will be on relationships of love and caring within the house church, and they will be missional, that is, looking outward to love and care for those in the world around them, while sharing the Good News of Jesus.

5. Reformation of the Center of Global Christianity: Well into the 20th Century, the Western Nations were the center of worldwide Christianity. However, now that Western secularized populations are ignoring the church, the center of Christianity is shifting to the “Third World” where churches are growing by leaps and bounds in Latin America, Africa and Asia. In Europe, Muslim emigres are converting to Christ and starting to fill the empty church buildings. By 2030 China will have 200 million Christians, more than any other country. But in the non-Western world, where nations do not have a tradition of “religious freedom,” persecution of Christians is on the rise, abusing over 200 million Christians. Strange as it may sound, the persecuted church always grows.

As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, we know that The Reformation was and continues to be one of the most climactic events shaping world history. While we look back at our Reformation heritage, our PCUSA denomination’s motto “Reformed and Reforming” looks to the future, when each age must grapple with the ways that God is leading us to reform our practices as Christians.



THE MOVIE “LUTHER” SHOWING AT FIRST PRES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 4 PM.

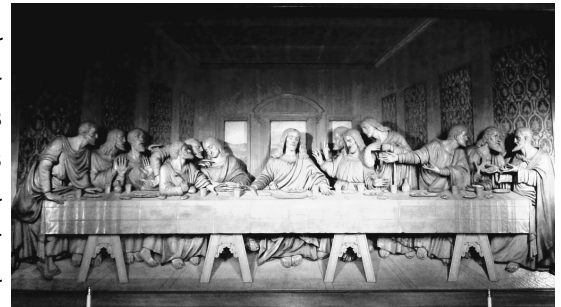
To celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, Adult Education Committee is showing this Wonderful Portrayal of the Life of Martin Luther, whose actions started the Protestant Reformation on Oct. 31, 1517.

This 2003 MGM full length feature will engage you in the life of Martin Luther. Joseph Fiennes stars as Martin Luther in this two-hour movie that shows us Luther’s extraordinary quest for the liberation of the German peoples from the control and wrongful practices of the Roman Church. You will witness Luther’s trials before the Church juries, the Roman Church’s declaration of Luther as a heretic, and the formation of the new Protestant churches in Germany under the protection of the German princes and the leadership of Martin Luther. From this beginning, other Protestant Churches started forming all over northern Europe, including the Presbyterian Churches under Rev. John Knox in Scotland, from whom we trace our heritage.

EXCITING ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR FALL ARE IN FULL SWING!

Join Us For

Supper in the Upper Room: Offered at 4 PM on alternating Sunday Afternoons, this is a look at basic Christian and Presbyterian beliefs. Then, during November we will focus on preparing our hearts for Advent. Each class will be followed by a delicious and casual supper prepared for you. This class is particularly for new members and for those who would like to refresh their understanding of Christianity and Presbyterianism. Mark your calendar: October 8 and 22, and November 5, 12 and 19. A five dollar donation is suggested for supper. This wonderful combination of learning and fellowship is led by **Lynn Parkinson** and **Rebecca Cranert**.



The Mysterious Bible—A guided Bible study: Read through the Bible throughout the year on your own—your time, your speed—with guidance, support and encouragement from the Adult Ed Committee. The experience of reading through the Bible to fully comprehend the overarching story and mysteries of the Bible is life changing. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to strengthen and deepen your relationship with God. It is led by **Jack Irwin**. In order to get participants off on a good solid footing, "The Mysterious Bible" will offer monthly meetings throughout the year with dates and times to be determined. Email Jack at jirwinme@sbcglobal.net. He will send you the details plus materials for you to “catch up.”



Reformation Sunday, October 29—A Grand Celebration of 500 Years of Being Reformed and Reforming: Enjoy a special drama by the Adult Education Committee starring **Jack Irwin, Roland Wrinkle** and **Art Moore**. This will be followed by a late afternoon presentation by **Pastor Bill Barnes** further illuminating The Reformation. A Scottish themed supper will conclude the afternoon.

Faith Talk on the Patio— Join the short Q & A session on the patio led by **Roland Wrinkle** each Sunday morning before first service. This is a good chance to discuss and clarify spiritual questions in a scholarly yet casual atmosphere.

Also watch for the new **Adult Ed Library** as well as a “Just in Time for Christmas” **Bible Sale!**



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.

COME TO THE TABLE, Part 2—Submitted by Pam Trammell; Photo by Jung Favalessa

In Part 1 talked about how some of the Deacons felt about preparing and serving Communion as an officer of the church. Part 2 focuses on the thoughts of Connie Luechtefeld, Prayer Chain Coordinator and Deacon:

“I love preparing and serving Communion. I am always in awe of the love and respect that is shown as we prepare, serve and then clean up after service.

“For example—removing the clean linens from the supply closet, carefully laying them over the Communion table, smoothing out all of the wrinkles and carefully placing the elements on the table, ready for God’s people to partake.

“Finally, carefully removing the linens from the Communion table, folding them and putting them away in the closet. When I close that door, I always say a little prayer that I have put everything away correctly and that they will be ready for the next Communion service.

“Communion is a time of being completely humble for me. I feel small; I feel quiet; and I feel that I am being of service to our church and its people.

“P.S. As Prayer Chain Coordinator, I have added 12 new people to the prayer chain—12 additional people to pray for the needs of others. Adding prayer warriors is ongoing; see Bob Balkcom in the church office or Pam Trammell, the Deacon Moderator, for the confidentiality form to fill out to join us.”



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

We are 15 strong so far! (There is always room for more!)

From all of us AMOR devotees, we want to thank this congregation for your support for this ministry through the past years...this church has completed at least 36 homebuilding trips! Think of it this way, there are 36 families with much better housing than they had before we came. Things we take for granted like a roof that doesn’t leak, a concrete floor instead of dirt, and strong stucco walls (instead of walls made of cardboard or old garage doors). We leave October 6th and return on the 9th. I know this crew will give it their all.



Last year we were serenaded by the children of the village.

Please keep us in your prayers as we work for another deserving family.

Building for the Kingdom - Art Moore, Candy & Rod Belcher, Dan & Cyndi Signett, Natalie Besse, Johan Vanersande, Bob Balkcom, Tom Bailey, James Allison, Kevin Fletcher, Amanda Newman (Art’s granddaughter), Alex (Amanda’s friend), and John & Jung Favalessa



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.

Meet the Newbies in YOUTH MINISTRIES!!

It is with **great** delight that the Youth Committee presents some ah-MAY-zing information about our new Youth personnel.....

First: **Samantha Spigelman** grew up in this church! She is a life-long member of FPCN!! She *even* went to Little Shepherd's Nursery School! Sam was in our junior high and senior high youth groups, and until a few years ago she volunteered as a sponsor working with our high schoolers. She is now a student at University of LaVerne and has bills to pay. She is a lover of Disney, a **fierce** board game competitor, and a **Jesus believer!** **AMEN!!** *She is our Assistant Youth Director.*

Second: **Bryce Morrow**, (AKA Reed's Dad, Emily's Husband and Seeley's Dad) *is the Youth Director*, and he is an AV-ID sports fan (*basketball: Kansas Jayhawks, football: Denver Broncos, baseball: Boston RED Sox*) as well as a committed blood donor and a registered bone marrow donor. He appeared in one of the funniest all-time Super Bowl commercials (2008, for Toyota Corolla), and graduated in 2010 from Second City, the famous Hollywood improvisational center. Sweet tooth?? Oh yesss. Take him to Bakersfield and get him a Matterhorn Cake at Sweet Surrender!

But, MUCH more important, he is a **Believer in Christ!!! AMEN!!!!**

Check in with Bryce and Sam to see how they survived the **FIRST LOCK IN** of this year, and the **WASH 'n WORSHIP**. It was a **GREAT** way to 'break in' the *New Adults on the Block!* **WE ARE PRAYING FOR ENERGY!** **And that the Holy Spirit empowers their ministry with our youth!**



BRYCE'S DADDY DEVOTIONAL—September 22 (from Facebook— excerpts reprinted with permission)

. . . I went back later the next afternoon to grab a photo of the sign. As I returned home and started looking at the photos that were taken, I noticed that there was a glare in each photo. I thought, "these are unusable." I went back early the next morning to get a clearer photo.

But, then I got to thinking... How many times in my life do I not see God's stoplight for my life? How often is my perception causing a glare of His will for my life? Am I really discerning His signals?

. . . This month (September), I accepted the new title of Director of Youth Ministries at my church, a position that had been held by the same person for the last 10 years! Again, God's green light.

And while I am beyond blessed to continue my ministry with our thriving youth, while continuing to cultivate my relationships with the parents, our congregation, and community, I think back to the times I hadn't been obedient to His call.



How many times was I stopped at a red light too long in my "career." How many green lights has He shown me throughout my life when I was too scared to step out in faith? And lastly, His yellow lights don't mean "gun it" through to the other side; no, His yellow lights are there as simple reminders to slow down, to take the time to listen and to discern His next move for you.

It all comes down to one word that will define how we should live in our relationship with Him and how we can choose to obey those multi-colored lights that hang above our heads at life's intersections...Obedience.

Jesus replied, "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice." -Luke 11:28
NLT

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 MISSION PROJECT FOR OCTOBER, 2017



“Help the Children” thanks you for your generous donations which totaled 419 cans, jars, bags, and boxes of food during the summer! In October, we will focus on granola bars, crackers, and fruit snacks. Please put your donations on the shelves in the Evans Room. PW appreciates your support for 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 7:00 p.m. in various homes.

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



The Futures Sub-Committee of Session

Here we are, on the corner of Newhall Ave. and 8th Street, and what's NEW? Well, things are growing around us, like that 5-story movie theater and parking structure on Main Street, and we're just *doin' our thing*. But it's okay to be doing our thing, right? What does the Lord ask of us? Why are we here?

We have had some *lovely* events recently, like the 50th Anniversary of Little Shepherd's Nursery School in our worship service, wonderful preaching from our own church members all summer long, the painting of the Market Street House, and of course, the on-going transformation of our Fellowship Hall. What fun it's been to see and appreciate that our church was the FIRST to open a nursery school in this valley!

We have new staff working with our youth, the 'new look' of our plants on Newhall Avenue show they have survived the summer well, and our Ministry Fair that just happened was pretty enthusiastic!

Is there anything new, NEW, coming? We have some Adult Education opportunities that are a bit different (check them out!!), "Supper in the Upper Room," and "Mysteries of the Bible," a monthly class, for the whole year? But radically different?? No. We are continuing to do what this church has done on this corner for 126 years. There may be a few surprises in 2018. Wait for them.



Have you ever been a part of a group working on a Strategic Plan? Yes, I know that's usually a 'business' practice, but it is also an institutional practice, and something Futures Committee would like to do. Are you interested??? Contact us and give us some of your ideas!! I've heard of some new ideas recently! We are **the Futures Committee**, and you can contact me, Barbara Irwin, or anyone on this committee: Carol Ramnarine, Becca Cranert, Dorothy Ng, Bryce Morrow and Tim Pulliam!

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Carol Ramnarine's home. Or send us an email: Futures@presby-newhall.org.



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.

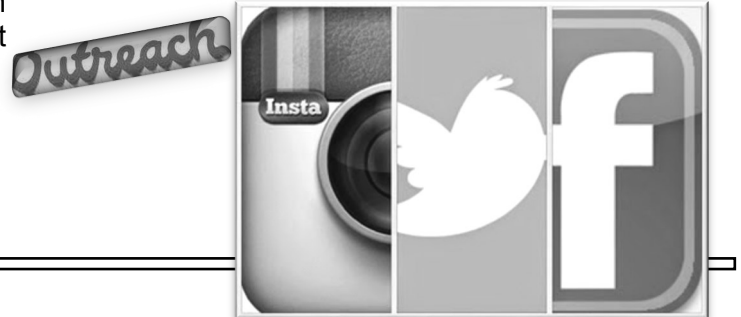
THERE REALLY ARE
FAMILIES



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

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.

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, or contact John Favalessa Elder for the Outreach Committee, at



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.*

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN!

Our annual Stewardship campaign will be in full swing in October. The Theme is “Loaves and Fishes.” The Committee has planned some exciting presentations and events including a party at the end. Be thinking and praying about your financial commitment to the church for 2018.



Amazing Family Vacations at Forest Home

By Jack and Barbara Irwin

Picture this for a non-stressed vacation that the **WHOLE** family will enjoy—a lake, a pool, recreation, a craft lodge, your own cabin, fabulous food (but **NO** cooking), lots of music, meeting other families, great speakers for adults and special programs for kids. Imagine all this in one fun packed week. Not only my wife, but our kids and grandkids claim that this is **THE BEST** family vacation! This is a vacation with an emphasis on growing the faith of all generations of your family members.



The Lake, with the water slides and the “blob”

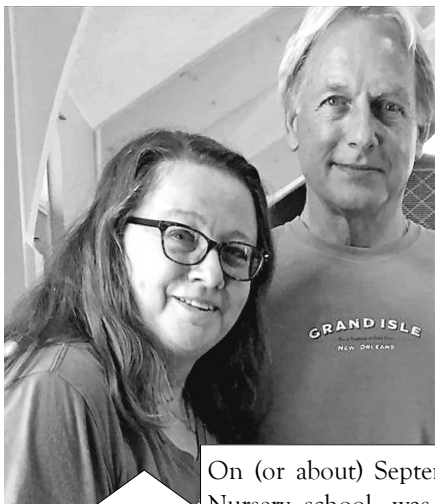
You know that we send our elementary school children, junior highers and senior highers to Forest Home Christian Conference Center for winter and summer camps. Forest Home also conducts week-long summer camps for families. Our family has made a tradition of Forest Home Family Camp. We started this when our children were little—just the two of us and our kids. Now, every other year our whole extended family— including our four married children and all the grandkids - gathers for a week at Forest Home. This year we went the week of June 25. One friend at church told me he was considering renting a house somewhere for a family vacation for his kids and grandkids, and when I told him what Forest Home has to offer, he just said, “Wow! Give me the info.”

Registration starts in January for 2018 summer camps for weeks in June, July and August. Forest Home is only a 2-hours’ drive away, at Forest Falls above Redlands, half-way to Big Bear on Route 38, 5,280 feet high (**One Mile Nearer Heaven**) amid giant pine and cedars, with the Milky Way visible at night and temperatures in the 60 at night to 80’s in the day. Very pleasant. Go to www.foresthome.org.

Any questions? Please talk to us.



Hormel Hall, with children singing with “Music Mama”



PICTURE THIS!!!



A spruced up **James Allison** preached on September 3, enlightening us on the many **ALIENS** in the Bible.

On (or about) September 10, **Sharie Telles**, director of Little Shepherd’s Nursery school, was wished “Happy Birthday” by actor **Mark Harmon**. NCIS was filming nearby and the cast and crew were enjoying the studio’s excellent catering service set up in the Newhall Presbyterian parking lot.





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.

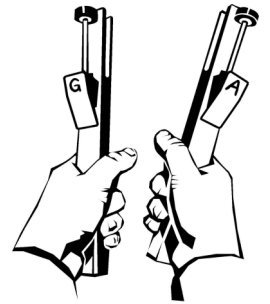
The Legacy of a Three-Octave Set of Handchimes

by Lorraine King, Director, Ring Tones

Handbell music originates from the church tower bells in the United Kingdom. In order to facilitate the arrangement of tower bell music, handbells were created. As an instrument with unique playing techniques, handbell ringing became an avant-garde performing arts. A handbell set is a combination of individual bells of different pitch and each bell resembles an enlarged piano key (use your imagination—white handled bells and black handled bells!). The first tuned handbells were developed between 1696 and 1724. The bells became more finely tuned, and they were fitted with hinged clappers that moved only in one place. The existing range of handbells nowadays is seven and a half octaves (our church has a four-octave set). Different handbell ringing techniques produce sounds of a different tone quality.

Handchimes are musical instruments which are rung by hand, similar to handbells. Typically, they are tuned square tubes with an external clapper mechanism. Handchimes produce a mellow tone; less techniques are required in ringing them. They are less expensive, easier, lighter, and more resilient than handbells, which makes them more accessible for children, elderly, and disabled musicians.

In the 1990's, I joined Santa Clarita Presbyterian Church (SCPC) which began meeting at Saugus High School. (I had already been ringing handbells at Granada Hills Presbyterian Church since 1987.) My father talked about the importance of having interesting activities for children attending church to keep their attention and help them be excited about returning to church each Sunday. He bought me a **Three-Octave Set of Handchimes** in 1991 to begin a chime choir at SCPC. There were many children attending church services; a chime choir was formed, and it participated in the worship service from time to time.



Handchimes

I began directing Gloribells at Granada Hills Presbyterian Church (GHPC) in 1994 (and did so for 15 years). As I looked at music, it became obvious that several handbell music composers included measures of music for handchimes within handbell music. Thus, the **Three-Octave Set of Handchimes** brought variety and a new richness to the handbell program at GHPC.

My friend and work colleague Gail Tonkinson and I talked one day about using the handchimes for a choir at the Hart District Office for the holidays. That endeavor began in the early 1990's, and the Hart District Chimers successfully completed its 25th year of performing in 2016.

In 2010, Richard and I joined the Newhall Presbyterian Church family. Not long thereafter, I became the Director of Ring Tones. Handchimes are used frequently in pieces that the choir rings. Listen carefully the next time Ring Tones participates in a worship service. If there's a different sound, it could be a different handbell technique or....it could very well be chimes from that **Three-Octave Set of Handchimes**.

A couple of weeks after I retired from the Hart District, I received a call from Claire Blackwell, the administrator of the Master's University handbell program, and the facilitator of BellFest, a unique gathering of handbell choirs once each year to ring individual choir music as well as practice and perform a couple of pieces, en mass, for a community concert. She asked me if I was interested in ringing with a group titled Serendipity, which at the time was a trio. The group has also rung as a quartet and quintet. Well, why not ring? I gained a new perspective by ringing in a small ensemble where a ringer could be responsible for five to ten (or more) bells in a piece of music, as well as sharing bells with other ringers.

Serendipity rings at least twice a year for assisted care facilities in the Santa Clarita Valley. Following the programs at the facilities, we open the **Three-Octave Set of Handchimes** and, using prepared music for singing with notations when chimes should be rung, we have a songfest with residents. What a delight it is to share music with individuals who have a variety of musical abilities and just want to have some fun.

The legacy of the **Three-Octave Set of Handchimes** my father so generously gave me back in the early 1990's has brought enjoyment to hundreds and hundreds of people.

Little Shepherd's Nursery School

at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall



September 10 was a great day celebrating 50 years for Little Shepherds Nursery School. Ours was the first Nursery School established in Santa Clarita! We were honored with five recognition certificates from various state and local representatives. It was a great reunion of those who came to help us celebrate this special day including long time director Miss Esther Kloth who recited our traditional "Children Are Like Kites" poem by Erma Bombeck!

Special thanks to the 50th Birthday committee headed by Dorothy Ng, the preschool board and staff for all the work getting ready for this special day, and the many volunteers from our church. We would also like to thank Buildings and Grounds Committee, Boy Scout troop 609 and Miss Chris for installing the new water feature in the playground and planting our fruit trees in time for our 50th celebration!



Esther Kloth reading "Kite" poem

Children are Like Kites by Erma Bombeck

You spend a lifetime trying to get them off the ground.
You run with them until you are both breathless.
They crash. They hit the rooftop.
You patch and comfort, adjust and teach.
You watch them lifted by the wind and assure them
that
someday, they will fly.
Finally, they are airborne;
They need more string and you keep letting it out;
But with each twist of the ball of twine,
There is a sadness that goes with joy.
The kite becomes more distant and you know it won't
be long before that
beautiful creature will snap the lifeline that binds you



Dorothy Ng, Sharie Telles, State Assemblyman Dante Acosta

In October we look forward to cooler weather, Fall class pictures, a lot of Fall-themed curriculum, our Halloween Parade in the preschool yard for the parents and trick or treating to the church office, where some of our church staff and preschool board members will be stationed with treats. This is always a fun day for all.

We still have a few openings in all age groups for this school year so if you know anyone thinking of enrolling their child in preschool, please send them our way. Preschool families get a discount off of one month's tuition for referrals.

Happy Fall everyone, Miss Sharie

“READ THE BIBLE, PLEASE! THANK YOU.” GOD

by Roland Wrinkle



Most of us grew up in the faith. Many attended Sunday school. A good portion have participated in Bible studies, read devotionals which highlight helpful and comforting snippets from scripture, showed up at teachings and other educational opportunities and we all listen to the sermons on Sundays. From this rainbow of exposures to the written word of God we can't help but pick up bits and pieces here and there, verses that we have memorized, stories we can recite with ease and our favorite sayings of Jesus. We know this doctrine or that doctrine is true because we can recite a passage that, it seems to us, supports what we want to believe or we have been taught by now-ingrained tradition, to believe. We do a massive amount of good work in the name of Jesus. The disciples of this church do so much. I once admitted that I started to name all of the activities we do and gave up enumerating them all out of sheer exhaustion. We are restless and tireless in the service of God. **But we don't read the Bible.** A poll conducted six months ago showed that only 11% of professed Christians have read the Bible through once, 9% have read it more than once and 12% have read most, but not all of it. That leaves 80% of us who have not read the entire Bible, or even most of it. Why? The reasons given are: Don't prioritize it (27%); Don't have time (15%); Have read it enough (13%); Disagree with what it says (10%); Don't read books (9%); Don't see how it relates to them (9%); Don't have one (6%).

This isn't good—at least how I see it. We are walking proof texters of a library of books we have never actually read.

What does the Bible say about reading the Bible? A lot. “[Jesus said] ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures?’” (Matt); “Jesus replied, ‘You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures’” (Matt); “They asked each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?’”(Luke); “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life” (John); “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.” (1 Tim); “And how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.... All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” (2 Tim).

Do you believe: That we go to heaven when we die? That hell is or is not real? That Jesus was physically resurrected from the dead? That Jesus is coming back? That we will all be physically resurrected from the dead? That heaven will come to earth and all of fallen creation will be restored? Or not? That our sins are somehow mitigated by Christ dying on an ancient Roman cross? That there will be a Rapture? That God gives us free will? That we are totally depraved by our nature or are inherently good? Original sin? Just war?

How can you hope to answer any of these questions and the 2,000 more that gnaw at our faith and chip away at our discipleship without ever reading the source of all answers?

I know it's a big challenge. But God knows it too. He knows we can't do it alone. That's why He promised that “the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John). That's why He gave you the Adult Ed Committee and Jack Irwin who will hold your hand as you and your friends read the Bible together, a church that will give you free Bibles in any style, shape or form you like, and a pastor who leads a Bible study on the Book of Romans (after finishing one on John) and six perennial small group Bible studies on nearly every day of the week and a whole bunch of Lenten Bible study groups and a bunch of men and women in our congregation who would be happy to work with you to develop a game plan, tell you how to get started, how to tackle each book, what to pay attention to, to answer your questions and to encourage you when you feel overwhelmed. Read a children's Bible. Read a teenage Bible. Read a large print Bible (I'll give you one.) **Just read a Bible.**



The poll just mentioned says “The only time most Americans hear from the Bible is when someone else is reading it.” That's not how God intended things. The Bible has out-sold every book that has ever been written and is still sells more copies than any book in the world. It has been translated into more languages than any other piece of literature. But it does you little good unless you actually pick it up and read it. I implore you.

Letter to the editor of The Newhall Press: It would be great if you could include the attached for the upcoming walk. It is an important cause that affects so many families. I would love to invite people to stop by our Therapy Dog Tent in the children's zone. I will be there with Scout, the wonder dog! I encourage families to come out and support the event even if they are not up for a stroll. There will be lots of entertainment and fun! If anyone would like more information they can also reach out to me at donnawiggins@socal.rr.com. Thank you, Donna Wiggins (and Jim and Scout)

Santa Clarita Walk to End Alzheimer's: Signups Under Way

Hundreds of Walkers Expected to Participate in Oct. 7 Fundraiser

Signups are under way for the Santa Clarita Walk to End Alzheimer's, which offers participants an opportunity to take a healthy stroll, experience outstanding live entertainment, honor loved ones who have been affected by Alzheimer's and raise funds to battle the debilitating disease.

"Last year we had approximately 600 walkers, and we are looking to beat that number this year," said SCV Walk Chairman Rick Ferrante, founder and president of Home Care Services Santa Clarita, a major supporter of the event. "This event is not only a great opportunity to support the fight against Alzheimer's but also a chance to be entertained, learn about the disease and socialize with others who support the cause as well."

The Santa Clarita Walk to End Alzheimer's, hosted by the Alzheimer's Association, is scheduled 7:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 7, at Bridgeport Park in Valencia. Signup information and more details can be found at www.act.alz.org/scv and on the event's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1300835523327310/>.

"The walk is designed for everyone to be able to participate," Ferrante said. "It's a little less than 2 miles, so it is more of a 'healthy stroll.'"

Registration starts at 7:30 and entertainment starts at 8 a.m., so be sure to come early to enjoy the festivities. The whole family can enjoy exhibits, entertainment and snacks, including:

An amazing kids' zone with characters, a magician, crafts and reading

Free ice cream truck

Local performers, a nationally renowned professional dance company and famous emcee Barrie Eget

A free drawing for fabulous giveaways

A silent auction for Caribbean vacations

Those who generate the greatest support for the battle against Alzheimer's will be treated to the special AlzStars Section for the 50 highest fundraisers, which will include a free hot breakfast and chair massages.

"We'll also have lots of information about Alzheimer's disease, ways to find support for your loved ones if they are affected by Alzheimer's, and details on how you can help find a cure," Ferrante said. "We're looking forward to a tremendous crowd and a day of friendship and camaraderie in pursuit of a common cause: Bringing an end to a debilitating disease that has become the sixth leading cause of death in the United States."

For general information about the walk, sponsorships and exhibitor inquiries, contact SCV Walk Chairman Rick Ferrante at rfer-rante@homecaresantaclarita.com or Brian Welch of the Alzheimer's Association at bwelch@alz.org.

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The Newhall Press

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OCTOBER 2017



Sunday Worship Services
9:30 & 11:15 AM



Deadline
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Send articles and photos to our
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newsletter@presby-newhall.org

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The Newhall Press

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Assoc. Children's Dir: Lelia Meadows
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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

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