September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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

September Events:

HOLLYWD BOWL- JOHN WILLIAMS Sep. 3 5:30 P.M.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS Sep. 10 9:30 & 11:15 A.M

LITTLE SHEPHERDS' 50TH ANNIV.

Sep. 10 10:00 A.M. One Serv.

SUPPER IN THE UPPER ROOM
Sep. 10, /Sep. 24 4:-00 P.M.

3-DOG NIGHT CONCERT AT COC Sep. 16

USHER RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Sep. 17

MINISTRY FAIR Sep. 17

MYSTERIOUS BIBLE-ADULT ED.

Sep. 17 11: A.M.

SANTA CLARITA RIVER RALLY Sep. 23 8:00 A.M

YOUTH KICK-OFF & LOCK-IN

Sep. 23

YOUTH CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

Sep. 24

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.

MEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

Mondays 5:30 P.M.

MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY

Fridays 11:00 A.M.

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

4th Sundays In Services

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 6:00 P.M.

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.



SEPTEMBER 2017 PASTOR COLUMN

As we jet into the Fall, —I'm convinced that summer gets faster every year— we have had another amazing summer of sermons from our own parishioners. I look back over the lessons our folks learned from the wonderful mentors in their lives; mentors have inspired them with the truths reinforcing Biblical principles. We have visited: Mary's decision to birth our Savior; Noah's promise of rainbows in Genesis even through the storms; the faithfulness Paul promised in Ephesians through parents' love; the Psalmist's reflection on being enfolded in God's love; the ability to discover joy in the basest and most difficult experiences of life; the example of love wildly visible in a mother;



how personal pride is bad when not tempered with humility and laughter being a good mediator between the two; and even a lesson on why we SHOULD sing in church. I am writing this before we hear the last two sermons!

Our Church Life Committee has been busy this summer. There have been a variety of outings and events, with 83 people showing up for our second Summer Magic and a challenge to the congregation to have over 100 descending on our home for our third and final Pool & Chat BBQ.

Dorothy Ng in Pulpit.

This past week we gave Sarah Bolin a grand sendoff for her new ministry with Praying Pelicans and Fellowship Hall was packed as our family turned out to show our love for her ministry here and our support for the new adventure to which God is calling her and EllaRose in Florida.

It was even more special as Building and Grounds folks had just painted and carpeted our Fellowship Hall. And our Handcrafters group, after presenting Sarah with that wonderful quilt remembering all her VBS themes with t-shirt representations woven into it, are now creating sound-minimizing baffles for Fellowship Hall.

Wow, what a summer! And as we close summer down, we will be celebrating our Little Shepherds Nursery School's 50th anniversary on September 10 in one service at 10 AM. It will be a special day as our Little Shepherds was the first Nursery School in this valley. Who says, Church life is boring?

A cartoon depicted a man who on his way out of church being held up by a thief. The robber shoved a sack in the victim's chest and said, "Put all of your valuables in the bag." The next frame showed the man stuffing all his friends coming out of the church into the sack. The moral of the story is that: Friends are indeed our most valuable asset.

In His Grip, Pastor Bill Barnes



Shane Sindle's sermon included a rowdy rendition of "It's Hard to be Humble," with Tod, John & Roland.

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30				

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 MINIISTRY

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:

ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE BEGINS

Oct. 1

FALL AMOR TRIP

Oct. 6 to 9

BOX CITY

Oct. 7

SUPPER IN THE UPPER ROOM

Oct. 8 & 22

FALL YARD SALE

Oct. 13-14

TRUNK R TREAT

Oct. 21

PLEDGE DRIVE ENDS

Oct. 22 10:00 One Serv.

MEET THE REFORMERS

Oct. 29

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

Nov 5

SUPPER IN THE UPPER ROOM

Nov. 5, 12, 19

STRESS-FREE HOLIDAYS (CLASS)

Nov. 19

4:00 P.M.



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

JULY AND AUGUST BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

Sept. 3 George Watts Sept. 23 Marion Redfern

Sept. 24 Wanda Lewis



CHURCH LIFE SEEKING MEMBERS

As always, if you are looking to get a little more involved in church—more than two hours on Sunday—you are welcome to join **Church Life Committee.** We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. It is a great group of members and our work is fun. More hands makes the Lords work easier.

Your Church life Committee is small but mighty:

Nicole McCreery, Elder, Patrick Stokes, Elder, Rod Belcher, Jim Creighton, Debbie Dalton, Sandy Gravitt, Cyndi Signett and Dan Signett

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 start collecting 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 use 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!!!

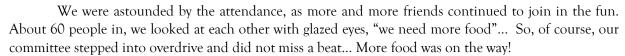
Church Life is looking for a little bit of help from the congregation. We need people who can help sell what we have collected, as well as people who can put the merchandise onto the table and keep it accessible and the tables full. Look for sign-up sheets on the patio after first service. We will be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

SUMMER MAGIC JULY 30TH

On July 30, 2017, Church Life Committee sponsored the second of three Sundays of Summer Magic. We are so appreciative to Pastor Bill and Dr. Brenda for graciously opening their beautiful home for our event.





By the time we were all seated and enjoying our delicious meal, we took a head count; 82 friends, YES, 82, gathered to enjoy fellowship on this beautiful Sunday afternoon. We had more people in attendance than any previous summer magic event held. What a joy to watch 82 of our fellow Presbyterians enjoying this wonderful barbecue. The kids (old and young) splashed in the refreshing swimming pool as others enjoyed the abundant fellowship with other First Presbyterian Church of Newhall funloving members. It was a beautiful day and as warm as a Sunday by the pool should be. We enjoyed pulled pork sliders, hot dogs, fresh fruit, and salads among the many side dishes brought to share.

By the time you get this newsletter we will know if we met Pastor s_Jiy_J challenge of 100 Presbyterians and friends in attendance at our last Summer Magic BBQ on August

Patrick Stokes & Nicole McCreery, Elders, Church Life Committee

BOOK BUDDIES

September 14th "Book Buddies" discussion will be at 4:00 p.m. at the Home of Pam Trammell. We will discuss "Belgravia" by Julian Fellows.

The story begins on the eve of the battle of Waterloo in June 1815 where the British Society has gathered at the Duchess of Richmond's ball.

Join us for a discussion and salad supper at Pam's home: 22254 Oxford Lane, S.C. RSVP:661-607-4632.

LADICS, HIGHT OUT

Girls of all ages are invited to join us at the Lazy Dog Restaurant and Bar, 24201 Valencia Blvd. Santa Clarita (Outside the Westfield Mall) September 26 at 6:30 pm.



ONE NIGHT IN LANCASTER

On Friday, August 12, Church Life Committee featured a great evening of AAA base-ball for 22 members of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall—a game between the Lancaster Jethawks and the Lake Elsinore Storm at the Jethawks home field called "The Hangar."

It was a warm evening, 94 degrees at the first pitch. We were in the shade, and a gentle breeze coming in from right field made it a beautiful evening. We sat just between home base and 3^{rd} base in the 2^{nd} section back (great seats)! It was Harry Potter Night, and Faith Night. So



we happen to be in the Hufflepuff House section of the stadium, which earned us some Free Taco Coupons from "Jack in the Box". There were several events between innings related to The Harry Potter movies, which supported several giveaways.

Oh yeah Baseball... The Lancaster Jethawks won 6 to 4. It was an exciting game and both teams were always in it. Afterwards we were treated to a cool fireworks show featuring music from the Harry Potter Movies. Everybody had a great time enjoying the game, the food, the fellowship and an ice cold brew or two.

Church Life hopes you can join us next time we trek out there to Lancaster for some exciting Jethawks Baseball. Patrick Stokes, Church Life Committee Elder



The purpose of <u>The Mission Committee</u>, 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

LAO PARTNERS



First Pres Newhall's Third Mission Trip to Laos, Nov. 2017

The 2017 Living Waters Project: Lao Partners' Team will work with the Lao Evangelical Church (LEC) to visit two of the "Clean Water" Filter Systems at the villages of Yodh Keau and Ban Vanh in the Xieng Khouang Province for maintenance and repair and to conduct advanced training for the local operators. We will install a sand filter to take out sediment at both of these systems. We will also conduct hygiene education for community leaders at each village or site. We will meet with the LEC to determine future projects which will expand from clean water filter systems to other types of assistance to our brothers and sisters in Christ in Laos.

The Team: Our own Scott Bullock of First Pres will join the team from University Presbyterian Church, Fresno, John and Lorna Bosavanh, who will be the leaders and translators for the team, and three others from UPC, Fresno.

Lao Partners is a mission to the LEC founded by the University Pres. Church, Fresno in 2002. About 25,000 Lao settled in Fresno, some for 40 years. UPC has a Lao congregation, led by John and Lorna Bosavanh, who are PCUSA Commissioned Lay Pastors. Past Lao Partners projects included computer centers, medical facilities, sports equipment and uniforms, equipment for schools, and seven clean water systems. In 2015 Newhall Pres joined Lao Partners, when Jack Irwin and Art Moore joined the Lao Partners Team to install a water system in Yodh Keau. Jack, Art, and Scott traveled with Lao Partners in November 2016 when the team visited the seven sites of the clean water systems, to train operators, give hygiene education, and carry out repairs to the systems.

Laos—A developing country: in 1954 Laos became independent of France. In 1975 the country became the People's Democratic Republic (PDR). It suffered extensive warfare and bombing during the Vietnam War. There are 6.6 million people of 143 identified ethnic groups, the most populous being Lao and Hmong. The official language is Lao (not much English spoken). Laos is landlocked by Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar and China and is 58% Buddhist, 35% ethnic religions and 3.5% Christian. The LEC is a Protestant denomination that is one of the four religious groups recognized by the PDR (also, Seventh Day Adventist, Roman Catholic and Buddhist). Presently, the LEC of some 200,000 is growing at about 7% per year.

Cost of the Mission: the cost for Scott's participation is about \$2300, including international airfare from LA to Vientiane (capital city), and in-Laos expenses for travel, hotels, and meals. The cost also includes equipment and education supplies the team will take or purchase in Vientiane.

Join the Team: We are asking you to consider joining our Team. We need prayer and financial support. The benefits are eternal. Below is a form you can use to indicate your support.

Name ______

Address _____

Email: _____

I will Share in Support at \$25 per share: number of shares _____ x \$25 = _____

Check: ___ I will pray ____ send me newsletters ___ send me daily updates from Laos

Yes, I/we will join the Team with Support and Prayers: Please fill out and return with your check

For Scott - Make checks out to First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, deliver to the church office or mail to the church at 24317 Newhall Ave, Newhall, CA 91321, noted for Laos Mission project.

AMOR - COME BUILD HOPE AND BE A PART OF THE STORY By John Favalessa



Our next homebuilding trip will be Friday, October 6 through Monday October 9. This will be our 37th trip!

Last April, nine of us (plus the recipient family and the Amor field rep) completed the framing, roof, doors, windows, and first coat of stucco on a home for a deserving and wonderful family. The mother cooked chicken mole (the signature sauce of Mexico) for our Sunday lunch. It was unbelievably enjoyable. I was literally drinking the sauce! Then a group of school children in their clean uniforms (I don't know how they stay to clean in the Tijuana dust!) came and sang hymns for us. You never know how we will be blessed on these trips, but I do know the homes we build are a generational blessing for these poor families.

Come help build God's Kingdom by following Jesus to serve and care for the poor. The cost is \$235 per person, which pays for all the building materials, food and gas, etc. We are also paying to have the slab poured by local labor to save our backs! Scholarships are available if needed. Even if you cannot come, your prayers and support are coveted.

Amor ministries has been serving God by mobilizing His church to build hope for families in need for 36 years and over 20,000 homes! www.amor.org

Contact John Favalessa at amor@presby-newhall.org for details or sign up on the patio between services.



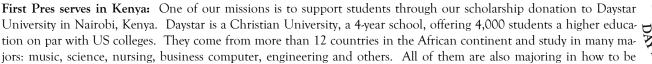
John 14:12: Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

THE GLOBAL OUTREACH OF FIRST PRES by Jack Irwin

Question: what is the biggest organization in the world, with more outlets, more professionals on staff, more clients coming in the doors, in more countries than any other multi-national organization or the UN? No it is not Coca-Cola. Not, it is not Walmart. Hint: you are one of its clients! Give up?

Answer: This is the Christian Church—one Church worldwide that belongs to Jesus, although it goes under plenty of different names. One outlet is named the First Presbyterian Church of Newhall which is part of a global network that is larger than any network on the world-wide-web. Through this world-wide network, First Pres reaches out to support Christians around the world and bring the Gospel in word and deed to people in need, whether in the portion of the globe here in the SCV or as far away as Kenya. First Pres helps resettle homeless families right here in the SCV through Family Promise. First Pres. builds homes for homeless families in Mexico through Amor Ministries. First Pres. assists the Lao Evangelical Church in Laos, the Antalya Evangelical Church in Turkey, and the church in Kurdistan through our mission co-workers Chris and Greg Callison who live there.

DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY—NAIROBI, KENYA





servant leaders, serving Christ in jobs and communities to change and improve the conditions in all of Africa. Jack and Barbara Irwin visited Daystar in 1990 and fell in love with the university. Afrizo, a student singing group that tours, has been to our church three times, sharing its joy and thankfulness

for our partnership with them.



Daystar Graduation: This June Daystar celebrated its 706 graduates, who hail from 13 countries (including South Korea and Canada!). The Theme of the 2017 Graduating Class was "Unleashing Servant Leaders with Great Minds as Trailblazers to Africa and the World." Wow! What an exciting future for them under this theme! First Pres is proud to say that we are part of this "unleashing" of educated and dedicated Christians! Here is a photograph from the June graduation. If you want to see more about Daystar along with awesome graduation photos, go to the website www.daystar.ac.ke. To visit the site of the US Office go to www.daystarus.org.



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.

MINISTRY OF USHERING BY KATHY RAKNESS

Are you aware that ushering is considered one of four important ministries along with preaching, teaching, and singing?

Ushering is a great opportunity to serve the Lord by helping to set and maintain a positive tone for the worship experience. A flexible, rotating schedule helps to make this ministry accessible to anyone who wants to serve.

On Sunday, September 17, following the first service, a brief meeting will be held in Pastor Bill's office for both new and experienced ushers. We will discuss the importance of the ushering ministry followed by a review of ushering procedures. Come join us! For more information, please call Kathy Rakness at Usher Dan Signett hands out 661-259-1815.



bulletins.

RING TONES SEEKING ADDITIONAL RINGERS

Ring Tones is looking for new ringers to join us in September. Try something new! Did you know that learning a new instrument increases your brain power? Handbell ringing is a music ministry open to all ages, and musical experience is helpful. Attendance at practice is a must. We'll teach you everything you need to know. The current ringers, all of whom have been part of the handbell choir for several years, are congenial, helpful, and enjoy the art of ringing. Please contact Lorraine King if you would like to join us: king.lorraine55@gmail.com or 661.251.0535. Practice begins

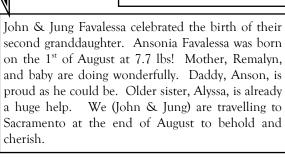
PICTURE THIS!

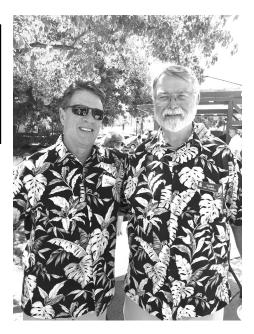




- John Favalessa
- Don Trammell

After serving Communion together August 7.







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

"Come to the table" are the words spoken as Communion begins. We Deacons are the ones who prepare Communion, purchase all of the supplies and sometimes join the elders serving to the congregation as officers of the church. This is my fourth (maybe fifth) time as a Deacon, and I continue to find it an awesome honor to serve the church this way. I remember my first time preparing the table (we have a photograph

that shows where all items go), and turning around as I put the pitcher in its place. I imagined all of the faithful worshippers who would be entering soon, and felt humble to be a part of it. As a Deacon I love serving Intinction style, where we come eye to eye with all the parishioners as we speak the words about the body and blood of Christ.

FYI: The bread and juice that has been blessed by the pastors is not thrown away; instead, it is given back to the elements of the earth.

Following are some of the Deacons' impressions of preparing and serving Communion:

Iudy Jones: "It is an honor and a blessing that I have the opportunity to prepare Communion and serve it

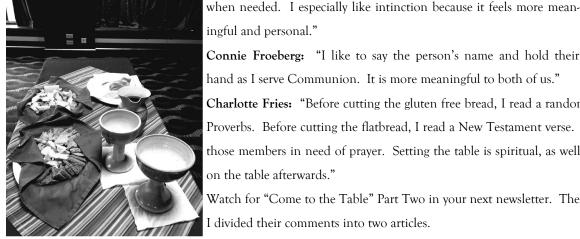
ingful and personal."

Connie Froeberg: "I like to say the person's name and hold their hand as I serve Communion. It is more meaningful to both of us."

Charlotte Fries: "Before cutting the gluten free bread, I read a random Old Testament verse, especially Proverbs. Before cutting the flatbread, I read a New Testament verse. As I prepare the bread, I pray for those members in need of prayer. Setting the table is spiritual, as well as returning the Bible to its spot on the table afterwards."

Watch for "Come to the Table" Part Two in your next newsletter. The Deacons had so much to say that I divided their comments into two articles.

Pam Trammell, Moderator; Photos by Jung Favalessa





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 COMING SOON!

Our annual Stewardship campaign is coming up in October. The Theme will be "Loaves and Fishes." The Committee has planned some exciting presentations and events including a party at the end. Meanwhile, be thinking and praying about your financial commitment to the church for 2018.



HATEDS. HATEDS.

The Children's Ministry Committee at First Presbyterian Church will invite children to EMBRACE the Word of God through worship, games, songs, and other activities; ENCOURAGE their spiritual growth to become closer to our Lord, Jesus Christ; and EQUIP them to go out into the world and share God's love.



FOREST HOME CAMP by J.T. Beiter (Age 10)

On July 9 we drove in the church bus to Adventure Mountain at Forest Home. I was in Cabin 11 near the top. I had a top bunk. Jonathan (Johnson) was my counselor. Cole, Wyatt, Abby, Katie and EllaRose also went. We were Team Kilimanjaro which is named for a volcano in Tanzania and is the highest mountain in Africa. The other teams were Euphrates, Galapagos and Himalayas.

Our Nation Guides (staff leaders) were Astro, Peddle, Wrisk, Torch and Spud. Torch hates pickles.

Our most exciting moment was when there were three bears at Cabin 9, a mother and two babies. The kid in Cabin 9 was scared and threw a piece of bread at the bears. The bears weren't scared; they just ate the bread. Torch ran up there with a shovel and beat it on rocks until the bears left. I didn't see the bears, just the foot-prints.

There were many fun activities. At the lake we had swimming, blobbing, and splash mats. There was a belly flop contest. Cole (McCreery) did a very good flop! There was an obstacle course with the theme of Medieval Times. Wrisk and Peddle put on a play every day.

There was a mystery game where we had to figure out who kidnapped the secret agent. There were also crafts, sports and a nature class. Oh, and don't forget the Dark Maze that we had to navigate without a flashlight!

Every day we had a Bible Study. I learned that God is always with us, not because of what we have done, but because of who we are. On the last night we had a campfire. The Nation Guides made the fire. We sang songs and danced and watched the last skit. The campfire is like the Burning Bush in the Bible. It tells us that God is always with us. Please go to Forest Home Camp. You will have lots of fun and learn about God.

SARAH BOLIN'S JOYOUS/SAD

SENDOFF: Crowds packed newly refurbished Fellowship Hall August 20.



Hayden Beiter's selfie tells the whole story.

Sarah's last performance with EverThirst, with Alicia Richardson-Lamb and Sam Besse.

WHAT A SPECIAL DAY our church family had in celebrating Sarah's 10 years of service to our church!

Thank you, Susan (Fletcher), for making this all come together so beautifully and colorfully!

Thank you, Lorraine and Richard (King), for putting into words how our church family feels about Sarah... brought everyone to tears!

Thank you, Sarah, for faithfully serving our church, our kids and our Lord for 10 years.... the best is yet to come!!!



<u>Presbyterian Women</u>, 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.



"Help the Children" thanks you for your generous donations during the summer months. For the month of September we will focus on pasta and tomato products. 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!

<u>Elizabeth:</u> 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.

<u>Mary Martha:</u> Nancy Spigelman (254-0319) & Sam Spigelman (312-7111) – Meets second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in various homes. <u>Rachel:</u> Tiffany Aune (478-2056) – Meets second Tuesday of the month at 6:15 p.m. in various homes and shares a salad dinner.

FRIDAY MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY

The Wisdom of James

The Friday Midday Bible Study is open to all — men and women — who would like to explore, discuss and study the Bible. This fall, beginning September 8, we will be concentrating on the amazing, although short, Book of James. The five chapters are a manual for Christian conduct— how we as Christians are to treat one another. It is filled with practical ideas we can apply to our lives. James wisely says in verses 1:19-20 "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires."

Along with James, each week we will take a closer, in-depth look at one of the parables of Jesus. We will explore what Jesus is really telling us, as He attempts to show us how we are to live in love and joy. There will also be a sprinkling of the philosophies and apologetics of the Bible (the arguments and writings which attempt to justify what the Bible is telling us.)

Please join us each Friday beginning on Sept. 8 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Evans Room. Whether you are exploring the Bible for the first time or have been studying for years, you will always leave having learned some exciting new concepts of this amazing book. Lunch will be provided for our first meeting, so let me know if you would like to join us. All are welcome!

— Sonja Tweedie: sontwee@sbcqlobal.net; Phone or text: 661-313-9144



<u>The Outreach Committee</u> 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.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

MAY KAWAMURA

May has lived in the area for ten years, moving here after her husband passed away. Both her husband and father had always taken care of her so she had to reinvent her life. She met Joan Baumann at the Senior Center who spoke highly of this church. After a while, she finally agreed to come to a service. Right from the start she felt welcomed. May feels that this church is her sanctuary. It is her safe place, caring and undemanding. She has been attending for five years now. May loves reading and window shopping!



DEBBIE DALTON

Debbie has been coming to our church since Thanksgiving 2016. She knew from her first visit that

this would be her home church. After attending the women's Christmas brunch, she decided to become a member because the women were so welcoming, but without any pressure. Did I mention that Debbie is Kirby Sechovec's fiancée? They met 38 years ago, dated and only recently found each other again. Born and reared in the San Fernando Valley, Debbie was raised Catholic. Later in life she moved to Utah for a few years and became a member of the Presbyterian Church of Springville, also a very welcoming church. She was a deacon then an elder there. She loves children, has been a youth director and is very involved with the Special Olympics. Her gifts include being able to relate to kids by listening, being honest and holding their relationship in confidence.

ROBERTA NICHOLSON

Roberta was born and bred Presbyterian. She was baptized at the Pasadena Presbyterian church; grew up at Santa Maria Presbyterian church; attended Whitworth College, then joined Bel Air Presbyterian with her husband Ray. After his death in 2000 she attended La Canada Presbyterian. Roberta first came to our church last November invited by Cathy Johnson to Jan Sanborn's benefit concert. Roberta knew Jan from Bel Air Presbyterian. Attending that service, she knew right away our church was for her and is loving it and thanks God. Roberta teaches quilting at the Simi Valley Senior Center two days a week. She loves to read. She was a teacher for 36 years at Hubbard Street School in Sylmar and especially loves to teach fifth grade.





Mission Statement

"Through trained Stephen Leaders and Ministers, First Presbyterian Church of Newhall provides one-to-one Christian care to persons with emotional and/or spiritual needs."



Welcome to Stephen Ministry

<u>Stephen Ministries Continuing Education First Presbyterian Church of Newhall</u> *Meeting Time: The Fourth Wednesday of Every Month*

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2.

First Presbyterian Church of Newhall has been invaded by the infectious teaching of the disciple Stephen. As we read in Acts, Stephen was martyred due to his *honest* teachings of Jesus as the Son of God. Little did Stephen know that two thousand years later his teachings would continue. They continue to empower our community of faith (First Pres Newhall) by offering a comprehensive and empathetic education of constructive community engagement. Stephen's teachings have transformed from simple words on pages, to stories inscribed on our hearts.

Stephen Ministry meets once a month on the fourth Wednesday in Fellowship Hall from 6:30-8:00pm. What makes the Stephen Ministry program so special are the members of Stephen Leadership Team who not only have experience in empowering brothers and sisters, but they create constructive community building blocks prior to each and every educational opportunity. Not only are we innovative, but we aim to ensure proper growth of our Stephen Ministers. Our instruction ends to leave enough time for a small group meeting where all participants engage in leadership development.

Stephen Ministry International is built to last. You'll find Stephen Ministry in congregations from more than 170 Christian denominations, across the U.S. and Canada and in 29 other countries. It's going strong for up to 30 years in hundreds of congregations.

Since Stephen Ministries was founded in 1975:

- More than 12,000 congregations have enrolled in the Stephen Series.
- More than 70,000 pastors and lay leaders from those congregations have been equipped at Leader's Training Courses.
- More than 600,000 laypeople have received Stephen Minister training.
- More than 1,500,000 people have had a Stephen Minister to walk with them, providing one-to-one Christian care during tough times.

Facts about Stephen Ministry can be found at: https://www.stephenministries.org/stephenministry/default.cfm/917?mnbsm=1

If it's in your heart to join us, please see Phil Aijan, Dorothy Ng, James Allison, Tina Pullium, Linda Lynch, Fran Powanda, or Val Boss, our premiere Stephen Ministries Leadership Team. We would love to have your interest—and who knows, maybe YOU will be the next Stephen Minister to enhance your skill to fulfill the mandate in Galatians 6:2 through Stephen Ministry education.

Written in Care,

James Allison, Fuller Seminary MDiv Student; Stephen Ministries Leader; B.S.; Recreation and Tourism Management-USMC





Today in history

Today is Thursday, August 3, the 215th day of 2017and the 75 day of summer.

On this date in the SCV: In 1923,

The Signal reported that the corner stone for the new First Presbyterian Church was here, and the dedication service to be held. The committee extended a hearty invi-

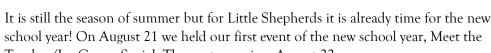
tation to everyone to attend. Among the documents that were to be placed in the little vault in the corner of the building would be the names of the charter members of the church and the names of the building committee that had charge of the construction of the first church. There would be several persons present who attended the dedication of the first church 33 years ago. The names of the members of differ-

ent departments of the church would also be placed in the vault, and Mr. Needham was to furnish a new coin, while the church would furnish a new Bible and a hymn book. The Rev Fredrick W. Mitchel of the Cypress Park Presbyterian church was to deliver a short message, and there was to be a special musical program and a march and song by members of the Sunday School.



Little Shepherd's Nursery School

at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall



Teacher/Ice Cream Social. The next morning, August 22, we started the new school year! We still have a few open-

ings in each age group for our 2017-2018 school year. Please contact Miss Sharie or Miss Dawn for more information.

Our summer program was well attended in July, this was led by Miss Karsyn and assisted by Miss JJ and Miss Dawn. The children always have fun in this all outdoor program which includes water activities and traditionally includes popsicles to end our summer mornings!

We always keep Buildings and Grounds busy. By the time you read this B & G have already worked on



During summer school Miss Karsyn helped the children paint and then plant

the lawn area and installed a privacy shade for our preschool office to complete our new lockdown procedures. There are plans to turn over the sand area to keep us in compliance with licensing,. There are also plans to sand and repaint the posts along the walkway. B & G will also oversee two Eagle Scout projects for the school before September!! We thank these men and women who give so much of their time to the preschool!



"Creativity is contagious, pass it on." ~Albert Einstein

Little Shepherds Nursery School will be celebrating 50 years of serving families on September 10, with a blended church service at 10am, honoring all past and present staff of the nursery school. This will be followed by a celebration in the preschool yard. The nursery school opened its doors on September 11, 1967. A few projects were planned and should be completed by Sept 10 to commemorate this occasion, a raised garden project by one of our Eagle Scouts should be completed by September 1. We are working with Buildings and Grounds to permanently plant two fruit trees on the preschool playground (these were donated to the

school in April by Tony Stewart) and there is a water feature which should be installed by this date as well. Plans for the big 50 have been organized by our 50th Anniversary committee, we thank them for their work on this milestone!

"Children want the same things we want, to laugh, to be challenged, to be entertained and delighted" ~Dr Seuss



<u>The Youth Committee</u> 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.

FALL IS HERE ... well, not officially, but YOUTH is READY TO ROLL!!

Mark your calendars: September 23 and 24!

Saturday 9/23 we will have our YOUTH GROUP Kick-Off and Lock-In at church.

- 6:30 Dinner with parents will begin the Kick-Off event, up in Fellowship Hall.
- 7:00 Parent meeting will follow after the kids leave.
- 7:30 Parents are dismissed. Kids remain at church.

Sunday 9/24 parents will return and help with Wash 'n' Worship in the parking lot.

11:30 Pizza lunch will be delivered for all WASHERS and their parents. YAHOOOO!!

At a certain level of mastery you don't even need confidence or motivation. You just act and succeed as effortlessly as you breathe and blink. - Anonymous

The bridge between knowledge and skill is practice. The bridge between skill and mastery is time. - Jim Bouchard

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service is joy. - Rabindranath Tagore

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth. - Muhammad Ali

In my last article I explained the first two values of my vision statement. In this one, I will finish up with the last two values. Imagine having someone who did not know anything about bookkeeping or accounting taking care of the financial department of your organization. That is what some churches are doing. They have volunteers who have learned enough about the financial system to enter the invoices and deposits, process the checks, complete month-end closings, and print the monthly financial statements. They may do payroll or have an outside company handle that. Don't get me wrong. I am all for volunteers. I am one. And the world could not function without volunteers. But when it comes to handling the money of a church or any organization, you need someone who knows more than the difference between a debit and credit.

Now I have a confession to make: my college degree is not in accounting. I have a BS in Administrative Studies which included courses in both business and public specialties. But in high school I took accounting classes for three years, I had college courses in different fields of accounting – general, financial, and managerial – and all my positions in the business world were accounting. It seems almost my entire life has had something to do with money and keeping track of it. Perhaps it was my destiny to be the treasurer here at church.

But non-profit organizations have a whole set of rules and regulations to abide by than businesses, and churches have additional ones on top of that. That is why "Mastery" is part of my vision statement as a value. When I first started in this position, I read everything I could about non-profit accounting, but there was still a lot of trial and error. Staying on top of the rules, regulations, and laws can be a full-time job especially for payroll, ie. what's the minimum wage and when does overtime apply?

When my mom duties allow, I attend workshops and seminars; I read numerous newsletters and magazines; and I even joined a couple of societies so that I know the latest things that are happening. There are some classes I would like to take, and certificates I would like to attain but it just does not fit into my life right now to do those. But I do all of this so that I can improve the processes of the things I am responsible for and be as much of an expert as I can in my field.

Why do I do all this? The answer is my fourth value – "Service." I do not remember exactly where I heard it—in a college class-room or at a company rally—but this phrase has always stuck in my head: Everyone in an organization is involved in customer service. I thought, when I first heard it, that it was a strange concept. How in the world could I, who worked in accounting, be involved in customer service? But the more I thought about it, the more I believed it. At First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, I may not have direct contact with the ultimate customer, but I have intrinsic customers—the pastor, the Session, and the members of the church; and I have extrinsic customers—government agencies and vendors—who depend on me to give exceptional customer service.

When I pay an invoice on time, make tax deposits in a timely manner, or explain how to create a budget, I make people happy and that has a positive impact on the church. If I do not do these things, then there will be a lot of negative vibes going around the church. Whenever I am in my role as Treasurer, I want to shine the best possible light on the church that I can. It is not for me but for all of you, the people I represent and work for, that I do this.

There you have it: the reasons behind my Vision Statement. I hope it helps you to understand why I do all the things I do. I do not want to be mediocre or average. I have never wanted to be just good enough. I want to be better than that. I want to soar like eagles, not stay on the ground like turkeys. And that means going the extra mile which is hard work. But I do it for the love and service to all of you.



<u>The Adult Education Committee</u> 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.

I GET GOD AND JESUS, BUT WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THE "HOLY SPIRIT?" by Roland Wrinkle

This is the fourth part of our series on the bodily resurrection of Jesus, the bodily resurrection of us (at the Second Coming) and how these realities make sense of the Church, the Spirit, "life eternal", how we are to live now and in anticipation God's final restoration of this fallen world into His Kingdom and the contours and shape of life in that Kingdom—inaugurated by Christ on the cross and to be fully realized upon His return.

THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS THE AGENT OF CREATION AND IS AND WILL BE THE AGENT OF NEW CREATION

Here's how the Bible starts out: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the *Spirit of God* [ruach elohim] was hovering over the face of the waters." Thus, the Holy Spirit was active "in the beginning" as an agent of creation. Now–skipping over 95.8% of the other books of our holy and inspired-by-God scripture—here's how the whole thing ends: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God (is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them...." Wow! (That interjection is mine.) "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches.... *The Spirit and the bride say, "Come.*"" Thus, the Spirit, or the third person of the Trinity, will be active as an agent of New Creation.



THE NEGLECTED THIRD PERSON OF THE TRINITY

So, what has the Spirit been up to in the meantime? Well, first let's take a look at how we have (sadly) diminished the role of the third person of the Trinity. We are God-the-Father and Jesus-the-Son sort of people and not so much Holy-Spirit sorts. The Eastern Church (the Orthodox Church) is really big on the Spirit. The Western Church (Protestant and Catholics) not so much so. Indeed, it was the ostensible issue which caused the first great schism in the Body of Christ (in the eleventh century). When I first started reading, studying and getting sucked into the Bible as the story of God, it just seemed that the Spirit played a lesser role. Then I learned otherwise and, when we remodeled our house and the builders put in a little alcove in one of the rooms, I filled it with representations of each member of the Trinity and (over)compensated for my previous diminishment of the Holy Spirit by putting in a big, honking relief of a descending dove—all to remember that there are three persons of the Holy Trinity. It has actually been only partially successful, but what the heck, baby steps.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AS DESCENDING DOVE AND FIERY SPIRIT

The first image comes from the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River where the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove as the voice of God the Father spoke, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." The second comes from the day of Pentecost (the birth of the Church), seven Sundays after Easter, where the descent of the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus, as tongues of fire as described in the Acts of the Apostles.

THE PLACE OF THE SPIRIT IN THE EARLY CHURCH

I'm a big believer in the early creeds and fear that we have drifted away from eyewitness testimony. Here's what the Nicene Creed says about the Spirit: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son [or from the Father]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophet." The other great early declaration of faith, the Apostles' Creed (summarizing what the actual Apostles thought) instructs us, "I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit.... I believe in the Holy Spirit...the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."

MY BIBLE TELLS ME SO

The Gospels: The four gospels are packed with references to the interaction of Jesus and the Holy Spirit during his earthly life, and the enabling power of the Holy Spirit during his ministry. Take a look at: "Spirit without measure" having been given to Jesus in John 3:34, referring to the word spoken by Jesus being the words of God; the Baptism of Jesus, with the Holy Spirit descending on him as a dove in Matthew 3:13 –17, Mark 1:9–11 and Luke 3:21–23; the Temptation of Jesus, in Matthew 4:1 in which the Holy Spirit led Jesus to the desert to be tempted; the Spirit casting out demons (Matthew 12:28), in the miracle of exorcising the blind and mute man; rejoice the Spirit in Luke 10:21 where seventy disciples are sent out by Jesus. Acts 1:2 says that until his death and resurrection, Jesus "had given commandment through the Holy Spirit unto the apostles." The Acts of the Apostles has sometimes been called the "Book of the Holy Spirit" or the "Acts of the Holy Spirit". Hebrews 9:14, referring to the sacrifice of Jesus to be crucified out of obedience to the father, tells us that Jesus "through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish unto God."

Now Here's the Bigee: When Jesus was telling His disciples that He would soon be leaving them and that they could not go where He was going, the disciples, who had given up everything to follow Jesus started to (understandably) freak out. "What are we going to do without you? Please don't go!" Jesus gave them all the reassurance they needed: "The one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. If you love me, you will keep my commandments,"—Here you can hear the disciples' plea, "But we are just a bunch of dumb, feckless fishermen. How in the heck is all of that going to happen?"—"and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate (a helper, i.e. the Holy Spirit) to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you." (John 15)

What About Paul?

The Holy Spirit plays a significant role in the letters of Paul, even to the point where his discussions of the Messiah become nearly indistinguishable from his teachings on the role of the Spirit. For example, take a look at 1 Thess. 1:6: "And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit..."; and 1 Thess. 4:8 "...God, who also gives his Holy Spirit to you." In Galatians 5:22-25 He taught them (and us), "The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.... If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit." (5:22-25)

Heck, our own precious bodily resurrection from the dead at the Second Coming will be accomplished by the agency of the Spirit: Rom. 8:11 teaches, "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you."

"DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIE BECAUSE I AM COMING BACK" (a paraphrase)

This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:1-11) Jesus, Paul, the Bible—none of it tells us directly what happens to us when we die. But Jesus, Paul and the Bible tell us directly and repeatedly that Jesus is coming back to finally establish His Kingdom here on earth, a project that He began two millennia ago. Well, how are we supposed to live our lives in the meantime—what theologians call the "interim state." We talked some about this in the first three instalments and how Paul made a direct link between our own bodily resurrection at the Second Coming and doing good works, taking care of the poor and loving the entirety of God's good creation. Jack will talk about this in more detail in the next entry. But how are we going to manage getting from now to then? First, we're going to be dead for probably a significant portion of this interim or "waiting" time period—or what scripture refers to alternately as "sleeping" or being "with God"—just as we are now and always will be with God. "And remember, I am with you

always, to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:20) But while we live and breathe and walk this earth, we are to be followers of Jesus.



To be a Christian is to be a disciple and to be a disciple is to be a follower. During our lives here on earth, Jesus instructs, "Apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5) AND "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matt. 5:48). How can we be "perfect" —the Greek word means "mature" or "complete" rather than infallible— when we can't do anything by ourselves? Our best efforts will never get us into the Kingdom of God because what is required is beyond our fallen, broken capacities.

ENTERS (OR REENTERS) THE HOLY SPIRIT

This is why there is a third person in the Godhead. This is why Jesus promised (and did) send the Holy Spirit, Helper, Counselor, Comforter, Advocate, Guide, Indweller Intercessor, Witness, Teacher and Spirit of Life and Truth. The expressions "in Christ," "in the Lord," and "in Him" occur 164 times in the letters of Paul alone. How do I do that? "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34). I might need some help with that one. That is why Jesus promised to send, and did and does send, the Holy Spirit—to do for us what we can't do alone. We are filled with the Spirit of God. To the extent this is not fully true, it is because we have crowded out or turned our backs on the Third Person of the Trinity. That's all on us. Call and the Spirit will come running faster than Domino's Pizza. God knows we can't do this stuff by our own. Thank God! Don't shut Him out.

¹ By the way. Jesus doesn't come and go and then come again in any sense that we can fathom. Rather, He is always here but becomes manifest (or appears). But only when we are ready to recognize and be recognized by Him through the exercise of our own free will. He never forces Himself upon us against our will. This, again, refers to what happens now and in the interim state. When scripture talks about the Second Coming, it is referring to the day when God returns to fully set the world to rights, to destroy evil once and for all and to restore all of creation to the grand and glorious world described through the Bible, and particularly in Revelation 21 and 22.

WATCH FOR EXCITING ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES COMING THIS FALL!

Supper in the Upper Room—Offered at 4 PM on alternating Sunday Afternoon; this will be a look at basic Christian and Presbyterian beliefs. 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. For new members and for folks who would like to refresh their understanding of Christianity and Presbyterianism. Mark your calendar: September 10 and 24, October 8 and 22, and November 5, 12 and 19. A five dollar donation suggested for supper. A wonderful combination of learning and fellowship will be 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. Led by Jack Irwin. In order to get participants off on a good solid footing, "The Mysterious Bible" will offer an initial orientation meeting on September 17 at 11 AM in Room 5. Additional meetings will be offered througout the year with dates and times to be determined.

Reformation Sunday, October 29-A Grand Celebration of 500 Years of Being Reformed and Reforming—Enjoy a special Drama by 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 New Adult Ed Library as well as Ministry Fair with a "Just in Time for Christmas" Bible Sale!

The Newhall Press

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SEPTEMBER 2017



Sunday Worship Services
Fall Schedule Starts 9/10: 9:30 & 11:15 AM



Deadline

for the October Newsletter:

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Send articles and photos to our email address:

newsletter@presby-newhall.org

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The Newhall Press

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