

January 2018

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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'S COLUMN FOR JANUARY 2018

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

**January Events:**

NEW YEARS DAY

Jan 1

EPIPHANY & COMMUNION

Jan 7

PASTOR'S WED. BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Jan 17 10:00 A.M.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL DEADLINE

Jan 28

**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

Every Sunday AM

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.

Dear friends, I'm reminded of a discussion between a husband and wife as they contemplated their new year ahead. As the couple later sat with a marriage counselor for their first session, the good doctor asked them to identify what seemed to be the root of their problems. The wife responded, "It all started when we thought it would be cute to think up each other's New Year's resolutions."

Certainly, it is easier for us to note the needed changes that are apparent in someone else, but New Years should be an opportunity to reflect on our **OWN** lives—questions like: "What might God want to do with me in the year ahead?" or "How would I like to change the way I reflect God to my family? ...my work? ...my neighbors? ...or my church?" Such things can be a useful exercise.

After all, as Christians, we have an obligation to carry what we know and what we've experienced of Jesus into all our hopes and dreams for the future.

Helen Keller wrote that there is a legend that tells that when Jesus was born the sun danced in the sky, and the aged trees straightened themselves and put on leaves and sent forth the fragrance of blossoms once more. These are the symbols of what takes place in our hearts when the Christ Child is born anew each year. Blessed by the Christmas sunshine, our natures, perhaps long leafless, bring forth new love, new kindness, new mercy, new compassion. As the birth of Jesus was the beginning of the Christian life, so the unselfish joy at Christmas shall jump-start the spirit that is to rule the new year.

In an episode of the comic strip Nancy, Nancy is sitting at a table writing: "9. Be nicer to people, 10. Eat only healthy food, 11. Share with friends, (all the way down to number 28 which is 'Stop being so pushy.')

29. Cut down on sweets, 30. Be less critical of others." Now sitting next to her is her friend Spike. Spike asks: "New Year's resolutions?" Nancy replies: "It's that time of the year again." Spike says, "I'm impressed. These are really good goals . . . but do you think you can keep all of them?" Nancy replies: "Why should I? These are for you." Then she hands the list of resolutions to him! When we hear about repentance and conversion, about changing our ways, we immediately think of how others need this message -- others need to repent or to be converted. "Scripture isn't talking to me -- the preacher isn't talking to me -- they are talking to those other people out there, the sinners! They need to be converted, not me!" Yet, in fact, the message of repentance and conversion is for all of us.

Recall and consider **Jeremiah 29:11** *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans*



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### 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

2nd 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:

#### YOUTH MISSION TO PUERTO RICO

Apr. 2-6

#### AMOR HOMEBUILDING IN TJ

Apr. 13-15

#### COWBOY CHURCH

Apr. 22 8:00 A.M.



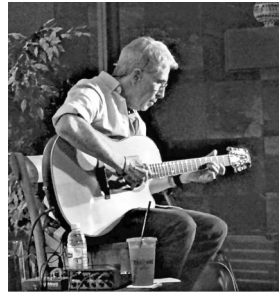
The Church Life Committee promotes fellowship and fun activities for the church family by providing a variety of church, community, cultural and special events throughout the year.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

Jan 4 Isabell Hyche  
 Jan 12 James Graves  
 Jan 17 Nancy Goyette  
 Jan 18 Dorothy Rodriguez



## Musical Newhall Presbyterians Share Talents with Community



On December 2, "Second Service Band" (EverThirst) Leader, Sam Besse entertained patrons at "It's A Grind" Coffee Shop in Castaic.



On November 12, our Music Director Connie Woodson and her singing partner Don Snyder presented "A Cabaret Reunion" at the Los Angeles Breakfast Club.



On December 10, Jeffrey Gilbert conducted the Santa Clarita Philharmonic and the Valencia High School Concert Choir at the Performing Arts Center at C.O.C. He also completed his Master of Music Degree in Choral Conducting from CSUN. Here he is congratulated by Sue Stanger and Barbara Irwin.



## CHRISTMAS 2017 MEMORIES



WE'VE ADMIRERD THIS NEW PAINTING IN THE NARTHEX & IN THE SANCTUARY.

HERE'S THE STORY!

After many discussions about the birth of the Baby Jesus, it was brought to my attention that young children today do not understand the birth of Baby Jesus in a "manger" or in a "stable." I tried to create a painting of the nativity that would be more visually relevant for today, and easier for children (and the rest of us) to identify with and understand.

My painting of the nativity depicts the birth of this precious baby in an "alley," with no paramedics and no ambulance. I hope this painting conveys a mother who is exhausted, and a father who is overwhelmed.

I hope when you look at this painting you will see a Baby Jesus who came into this world with nothing, and who subsequently gave us everything.

Thank you,  
Connie Luechtefeld



Ladies  
Night Out

Ladies' Night Out will be on January 30 at 6:30 PM. Restaurant to be announced.

BOOK BUDDIES

The January 11 Book Buddies 4 p.m. meeting will be at Carole Wheeler's home to discuss "Behold the Dreamers" by Imbolo Mbue.

An immigrant family from Cameroon comes to the United States to have a better life while exploring the American dream.

Discussion and salad supper will be at Carole's home  
23549 Via Eliso, Valencia.

RSVP Carole: 661-259-4615.



HANDCRAFTERS

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (January 9 & 23), at 10 a.m., people gather in the Evans Room to share their crafting skills, their interests, and their accomplishments. We are the *Handcrafters*, and everyone is welcome!



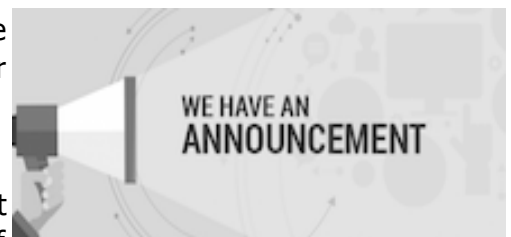
Deacon's  
Corner

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

Hello fellow worshippers. As we enter the New Year, we need to finalize our articles for the Lenten Book. We will be asking for your entries earlier this year, because Lent is earlier. Please consider our topic:

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

We will be asking for your submissions by January 28 as Easter and Lent come early. Send them to [lentenbook@presb-newhall.org](mailto:lentenbook@presb-newhall.org). God bless all of you as you enter this New Year and as you share with us what God has laid on your heart. Terri DeYoung





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.

# MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

## Valerie Weld

Valerie met her husband George on a blind date. He was the “finest man who ever lived” and “spoiled” her for 46 wonderful years. He died in 2016 after battling cancer. Also in 2016, she unexpectedly lost her sister. Earlier in life they suffered the tragedy of losing their eight-year-old daughter to a drunk driver. Valerie moved here recently to be with her daughter and our also new member Natalie Cozzani.

Valerie was a professional dancer who performed on Broadway. She started a dance studio in Florida with her sister and they ran it for 51 years. After the death of her husband and sister, to keep the legacy of the studio going, she handed over part of the studio to some of the children who grew up in it but are now adults. The studio is doing well and is still open!

She loved teaching the Sunday school class in her Florida church and feels blessed to always have had church in her life. She was raised Methodist. Later she started going to a Presbyterian church where she felt blessed to have many gifted pastors influence her through the years. One had a “wonderful voice”, but “could put you to sleep”. She said that is not a problem with Pastor Bill! Another challenged her to read the bible which she has done several times cover to cover.



## Natalie Cozzani

Natalie grew up in Florida and was raised in the Presbyterian church there. Her husband, Federico, is an **Italian Italian** who was raised devoutly Catholic. They have three beautiful boys, Marco 9, Giorgio who turned 4 in December and Enzo who turned 1 year in November. The older boys were baptized Presbyterian and Natalie feels that giving their boys a spiritual background is important.

She lost her dad and aunt in 2016 and uncle in 2017 which was a difficult time and also caused her mom to move from Florida and live here. Her mom is our new member Valerie Weld!

Natalie was a professional dancer and dance teacher. She now works for Princess Cruises where she met Federico. They are amateur home winemakers which have included the varietals of Sangiovese, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and a little blending! (I’ve sampled some and they are truly good! - john f)

She loved the intimacy of her Presbyterian church in Florida and looks forward to making a connection with Pastor Bill and having a relationship with our church family.



## Pam Edge

Pam was raised twelve years in Catholic schooling and never enjoyed it. She was always the questioning type which didn’t sit well with the nuns, but ultimately she joined the Good Shepherd’s Convent in Upstate NY. The Church’s ministry was to care for and rehabilitate troubled teenage girls. After a short time, the Convent closed and Pam found a career in sales. She moved to New York City and worked in the fashion industry. She moved to Southern California forty years ago and became a professional fine artist and worked as an airbrush artist doing restoration for the studios including Disney. Pam also worked on the restoration of the Wizard of Oz. She moved to the Santa Clarita Valley twenty-five years ago and later became disabled due to a bad back.

Pam thanks God every morning she wakes up alive! “I’m so surprised!” On Sunday mornings when she arrives at church her dog becomes so excited that she lets out a happy yelp! She loves the choir, the sermons and experiencing a real church family “practicing genuine Christianity in their actions”. She sees that everyone really cares about one another and feels so welcomed.



Watch for new member **Pam Koons**’ picture and bio in the February newsletter.

# The Patio Fellowship Table by Lorraine King

Have you visited the Patio Fellowship Table lately? Yes, you can complete your nametag, but there are other items of interest at the Fellowship Table:



**Flower arrangements for the sanctuary on Sunday mornings:** Sign up for a particular Sunday to honor a birthday or anniversary or in honor/memory of loved ones. The list is reviewed by the church office (Bob Balkcom) every Sunday. He will contact you regarding the flowers. You can bring your own flowers or designate a dollar amount, and Bob will order the flowers for you. (Please reimburse the church for the dollar amount within the week and take the flowers with you after second service.)



**Adult Education Lending Library:** Books are displayed every Sunday with a sign-out sheet. There is no charge, and no deadline in returning the book you've selected. Peruse the book selection as it changes every few weeks.

**Sign-up Lists for New Member Classes and Senior Lunches:** There are notifications in the newsletter and the bulletin for these events. Stop by and sign up at the Fellowship table.

**Names Tags:** Folks often say, "Everyone knows me, and I don't need to complete a name tag." In reality, not everyone knows you (including those manning the table). Name tags are for other folks to call you by name, put a name with a face, and the opportunity to chat and get to know you. Red tags are for first-time attendees so those of us who attend church on a regular basis can greet the newcomers. First-time visitors also receive a "welcome bag" with information about the church and the past year's Lenten Devotional.

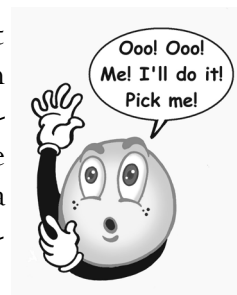


We look forward to seeing you Sunday mornings!

## HELP WANTED!



Outreach Committee is looking for a volunteer or two to help with the editing and production of the NEWHALL PRESS, YES, the very publication you are reading now. If you enjoy working with words and editing, this might be a good way for you to contribute to our wonderful church. Basic familiarity with computers would be an important skill to start with. If you have worked with Publisher, you are way ahead of the game. A major benefit to working on the newsletter is the networking. You will get to know your brothers and sisters in the church family on a deeper level, and that's what the Church is all about! Text or call Kathy at 818-720-1017.





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.

## SANTA BARBARA MISSION CONFERENCE

“ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN” is the theme of the annual Santa Barbara Mission Conference to be held February 2 and 3, 2018 at the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara. For us Newhallers, this will be the fifth year in a row that we have attended this inspirational and worthwhile conference. There will be workshops along with displays of what others are doing to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to Earth. At the conference in 2014, Jack Irwin and I learned about “Living Waters for the World.” Now we have a water purification ministry in conjunction with the University Presbyterian Church in Fresno.

There is a list of impressive speakers who will be presenting workshops on such vital subjects as immigration, city ministries, human trafficking and working for the Kingdom in Gaza and Jordan. One of the keynote speakers is someone of special interest to us. He is Dr. Craig Barnes, President of Princeton Theological Seminary. He is not familiarly related to our own pastor, Dr. William Barnes, but is a close colleague in ministry. Bill speaks very highly of him and we can look forward to some inspiring messages. The cost of the registration is \$60 (\$20 of which can be reimbursed by the Adult Education Committee).

Check out [www.sbmissionconference.org/2018-details](http://www.sbmissionconference.org/2018-details) for more information, or contact me.

Let us pray that our participation will empower us to realize the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven to Earth. Art Moore

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## GREETINGS AND CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FROM THE HOMETOWN OF THE REAL ST. NICHOLAS!

*During our Church-sponsored trip “In the Footsteps of Paul” in 2012, we formed a life-long bond with Pastor Ramazan Arkan of the Antalya Evangelical Church in Southern Turkey. Here are parts of his Christmas letter. If you feel called to support Ramazan’s ministry, please see details at the bottom of the page.\**

After a sad family trip to Akron, Ohio, to say goodbye and to bury Karen’s wonderful father, we are back in Antalya and getting ready for the season of Christmas. Thank you to all who sent your condolences and stood beside us and supported us through this difficult time. Please continue to pray for Karen and her family as they grieve the loss of Earle. He was also like a father to me.

As many of you have heard from me and from the news, the political and economic problems that Turkey is currently facing are great. Globally, there is strain on Turkey’s relationships with many European countries and with America. You may have even heard that first America and then Turkey stopped giving out visas to one another’s citizens. All of these political problems concern us and affect us and we appreciate your prayers that God’s will be done and that He use these things for His glory and to bring people to Himself. Pray also for our missionaries. Some missionaries in Turkey have been kicked out of the cities where they are serving. Some others have not been given visas to stay here in this country. Our congregation, really values the contributions of the missionaries who work with us. We would suffer if they do not continue to be given permission to live here. Please pray for this.

Many of the churches in Turkey are facing pressure and various legal problems. We believe this is a form of persecution from the government. Fortunately, the churches here in Antalya have not been affected in this way yet, but we think about problems that may arise in the future. We are also concerned about our brothers and sisters in other churches across the country. The Association of Turkish

Churches, is working hard to address some of the persecution and problems and in two months we will come together and meet to discuss these things. Please pray for strength and wisdom for the Turkish Church as a whole.

We have planned three events to celebrate the birth of Jesus and to reach out to unbelievers at the same time. First of all, we will host a classical music concert to connect with people from the community. At the concert, we will have a time in which we share the gospel message and invite the guests to also attend our church services. Please pray that many people would come to this event and that God would work in their hearts. We will also have two Christmas church services. One service will be especially for unbelievers and the other will be primarily for church members. We will be passing out flyers in the streets for the concert and for the outreach Christmas service. We will also advertise these events on a large billboard in the city. Please pray for the safety of those who hand out the flyers and pray that many people would receive the invitations and join us for the concert and the outreach services.

Thank you for keeping our family in your prayers. Since we returned from America, Josh was able to adjust well back to 2nd grade and Levi started attending preschool. He's doing very well and learning Turkish, which of course is a must.

Many blessings to each of you in 2018!!

**Ramazan Arkan, Pastor of  
Antalya Evangelical Church**

\* Make checks payable to “Son Raise Missionary Services” and send to P.O. Box 43, Byron Center, MI 49315. Indicate on a separate note (not on the check) that your gift is for Ramazan & Karen Arkan.





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.

## NEW YEAR - NEW RESOLUTIONS?

What are you resolving for the New Year of 2018? Less Chocolate? More exercise? Less TV? More reading? More time with friends, children and spouse? Accomplish those items on your "bucket list"? Unlearn a bad habit?

What resolutions would you make as a disciple of Jesus? How would you like to grow in your spiritual life? The Cross of Jesus shows us the two dimensions of the spiritual life. The **Vertical Beam** of the Cross points to our relationship with God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The **Horizontal Beam** of the Cross points to our relationships with the world around us, with fellow Christians, with others, and with the Creation God gave us. How would you like to grow in the Vertical and the Horizontal dimensions of your Christian life? Below are areas of the Vertical and Horizontal spiritual Life with Bible verses which will help you to think about what 2018 resolutions you want to make for your life as a Christian. Some verses I have paraphrased. *By Jack Irwin for the Adult Ed Committee*

### **Your Spiritual Life with God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

Jesus: "Who do you say I am?" Peter: "You are the Christ [the promised Messiah], the Son of the Living God." (Matt 16:16)

Jesus: "If anyone would follow me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matt. 16:24)

Jesus: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matt. 7:7)

Jesus: "When you pray do not keep on babbling like some non-believers, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." (Matt. 6:7-8)

Jesus: "I am the true vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." (John 15:5)

### **Your Spiritual Life of Faith, Hope and Peace from Jesus**

Jesus: "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and cast into the sea,' and it will obey you." (Luke 17:6)

Jesus: "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." (Matt. 21:22)

Jesus: "No sparrow falls without the Father's knowledge. The very hairs of your head are numbered. So be not afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." (Matt. 10:29-30)

Jesus: "Peace I leave with you, not as the world gives. Do not be troubled or afraid. I have overcome the world." (John 14:27 & 15:33)

### **Your Spiritual Life of Holiness**

Jesus: "Do not set your heart on what the world runs after, but seek God's Kingdom," (Luke 12:29-31)

Jesus: "When you pray, say ...Do not lead us into temptation, but forgive our sins." (Luke 11:2-4)

Jesus: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." (Matt. 5:8)

Jesus: "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. Then my Father will love him and we will make our home with him." (John 14:21)

### **Your Spiritual Life with God's People**

Jesus: "If you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." (Matt. 6:14)

Jesus: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than to lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

### **Your Spiritual Life of Witness and Testimony**

Jesus: "But love your enemies and do good to them." (Luke 6:35)

Jesus: "Come and follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mark 1:17)

Jesus: "Go and make disciples of all nations in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19)

Jesus: "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

### **Your Spiritual Life of Service and Good Works**

Jesus: "You took in strangers, you clothed the naked, you looked after those ill, you visited the imprisoned, you gave drink to the thirsty." (Matthew 26:34-36)

Jesus: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, but store up treasures in heaven." (Matt. 6:19-20)

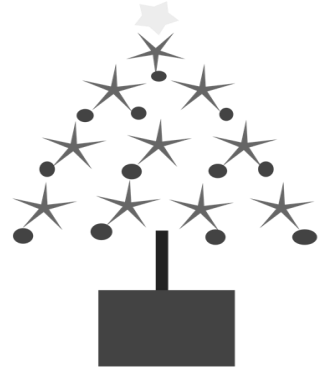
Jesus: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." (Matt. 5:9)



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,

## The Decoration Miracle

It takes a village to decorate a sanctuary for Christmas, or so I thought. This year on Friday, December 1, I watched as Bob Balkcom and Steve Fuller walked in with the boxes from the Market Street House. I blinked and two trees were set up. Then, in walked Ken and Florence Craig. I blinked again and the communion table, Advent candle stand and organ were beautifully decorated AND the lights were working on one of the trees! At that point I left thinking we'll work on the wreaths tomorrow and emailed Jacqueline Johnson with what had been accomplished so far, as she had planned to help on Saturday morning.



On Saturday, after the PW brunch, I went to church only to discover that Jacqueline had come in, fluffed the trees and checked the lights; she had fluffed the wreaths and hung them on the doors that lead to the sanctuary. At one point Juli Beiter, Jack Irwin and Sam Spigelman with a few youth stopped by to assist her. This was an amazing and beautiful surprise!

At 1pm, Pam Trammell and Judy Carter arrived. We spent time cutting and placing pins on colored ribbons (which Jacqueline had purchased) so worshippers could wear ribbons according to the color of Christmas each Sunday. (Anne Watts was busy cutting the purple ribbons at home.) Meanwhile Kathy Rakness and Florence had come in and were putting finishing touches in the sanctuary and the Narthex. By 2:00pm (1 hour) we left the church having completed the task of our decorations for the first Sunday of Advent. Each week thereafter Florence changed the communion table to reflect the color of Christmas for the following Sunday.

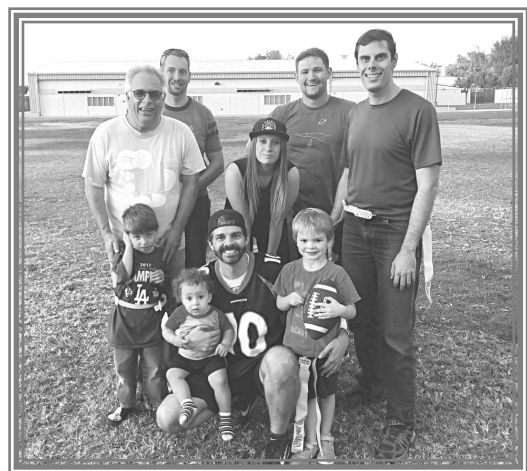
Fast forward to the Thursday before Christmas Eve Sunday when Harry Davis brought in the beautiful poinsettias and with Bob's help, placed them in the plant boxes, in front of the communion table and next to some of the pews. Later that evening some of our choir members worked together to make sure the sanctuary's decorations and set up would be perfect for our four Christmas Sunday services.

As it turns out it didn't take a village; it took a few very dedicated, Christ-loving, church-family folks. I am so indebted to these beautiful friends who miraculously prepared the sanctuary for our celebration of Christ's birth. Thank You So Much!  
Sonja Tweedie



The Youth Committee nurtures the Junior High and Senior High-aged youth as 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.

## ANNUAL THANKSGIVING TURKEY BOWL





**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 JANUARY

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

### PW CIRCLES—ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!

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

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

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

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

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

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

On December 2, Presbyterian Women (and a brave man or two) met at the Valencia Hills HOA Clubhouse for their annual Christmas Brunch. The lovely event was enjoyed by all! Thanks to everyone who planned, decorated and participated in many other ways. Special thanks to Val Boss for the wonderful food and to the Ring Tones for the music. Photos below were submitted by Carol Ramnarine.



# DEAR DAD: *I'M DONE WITH FOOTBALL, SORRY*

by Roland Wrinkle



Dear Dad,

I just finished watching my last football game. I came upstairs to write that this had happened and why. You died 37 years ago at age 68. I am now 68. You raised me to love boxing and UCLA football and basketball. We bonded at the UCLA games and thrilled to the fights at the Olympic Auditorium. On December 15, 1966, you took me to see “The Heavyweight Championship of Los Angeles” between Jerry Quarry and Joey Orbillo. Quarry knocked out Orbillo. It’s what you and I shared together.

What you may not have heard, however, is that 25 years or so ago I started down a lengthy path which wound up with me reading and studying the Bible constantly. Gradually I started to believe all this stuff. Once convinced of the claims of the Bible, it became then inescapable that I had to change some things. Nothing happened over night. But, over these years, I read, studied and pondered whether my enthusiasm for men trying to punch each other into comas (the object of the sport is to “KO”, knock out, the other guy) was consistent with the emerging worldview I had yoked myself to from discipleship to Jesus. Eventually, a few years ago, I made the decision to give up boxing. I am getting rid of thousands of dollars of boxing memorabilia and refuse to watch another fight.

Today, just an hour ago, I came to the same conclusion regarding football. The intention of the game is to inflict debilitating damage on another human of youth and promise. Mayhem is inherent in the sport. This deliberative process took about a year. I was spurred by the courageous stand taken by ex-NFLer, Ed Cunningham, who made a living for his family as an ESPN football commentator. He quit because of his growing discomfort with the damage being inflicted on the players he was watching each week. The hits kept coming, right in front of him, until Cunningham said he could not, in good conscience, continue his supporting role in football’s multibillion-dollar apparatus. As a lawyer I saw up close the lying and fraud by the NFL concerning the seriousness of the massive brain damage which was the price paid for our entertainment.

Young brains continued to slowly die, just as with boxing. College football, seeing the writing on the wall, instituted a “targeting” rule making it a penalty to use one’s helmet as a battering ram to take another human youth out of the game. The ridiculous head football coach of our beloved Bruins keeps fuming and ranting against even this meager measure. Every 15 minutes some brutalized kid gets carted off the field. UCLA’s world-class quarterback didn’t play in my last-watched football game –he suffered a concussion last week. His back-up went off in the third period. Their “healthy” teammates all wear knee braces.

Mothers are no longer willing to sacrifice their babies on the alter of gridiron glory. Football is dying. With no youth football players, there will be no high school football players and with no high school football players there will be no college football players—and eventually no NFL. Neurologists will go out of business. Two of the most prominent and respected pundits on ESPN, Steven A. Smith and Max Kellerman, publicly acknowledged this slowly-evolving objective reality (against their own self-interest).

Provisionally, I just read about the little 4<sup>th</sup> Century monk, Telemachus, who, according to the Church historian Theodoret, tried to stop a gladiatorial fight in a Roman Amphitheatre by running onto the arena floor shouting, “*This is wrong!*”, and was stoned to death by the crowd (or run through by the sword). The Christian Emperor Honorius, however, was impressed by the monk’s martyrdom and it spurred him to issue a historic ban on gladiatorial fights. I watched boxing and football alone in the seclusion of my living room. My quitting will have no affect on my fellow images of God. But I finally, and stubbornly, came to realize that it had an affect on me—and that *does* implicate those with whom I have intimate contact, such as my church family. The Bible has taught me to abhor war or killing of any nature, cause or seemingly righteous justification. I just can’t envision Jesus giving me an approving smile and thumbs-up to kill anyone under any circumstances. No. God has always promised that *He* (not me) will get us through anything and everything, even on the other side of death. “*But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don’t worry or be afraid of their threats.*” 1 Peter 3:14.

It is at this point that you may respond with the accusation taken from the great Christian martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who gave his life (and risked sinning against God) by trying to kill Hitler. Bonhoeffer chided those who could only offer “Cheap Grace.” True enough. But even if I may lack the courage to join an assassination plot against a tyrant, at least I have the ability to let some of the world-changing messages and meanings of scripture slowly sink into my thick skull and stop patronizing 21st Century blood sports.

Sorry Dad. We had great times but New Creation is bulldozing its promised way through this world and I don’t want to get run over. I’m done. (I’ll still watch UCLA basketball—and just hope no one sprains their ankle.)

Love, Roland

PS. Quarry died six years after that wonderful fight, of dementia when he couldn’t find his way back to his cheap Van Nuys apartment. Orbillo quit boxing and is alive and in terrific health today.

# Little Shepherd's Nursery School

at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall



Our Christmas Program in the sanctuary was wonderful and seemed like it was over with the snap of our fingers! We enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate afterwards in the Evans Room and wish to thank our preschool board for helping to set that up for us. We also wish to thank Connie Luechtefeld for offering to play the piano for us this year. We had music for the guests as they arrived and then the children walked in to **Jingle Bells** to start the program and ended with **We Wish You A Merry Christmas!**

If you were able to attend the pancake breakfast fundraiser on December 17, we thank you for your donation towards an Eagle Scout project to build the planter box for the preschool to enjoy! If you were unable to attend but still would like to donate, we could use those donations towards the soil, seeds or plants we will use in the new planter box, which should be installed by the time we come back to school on January 9!

We also will have a new mural on the side of the shed when we return to school, this is a service project being done by Girl Scouts Lily and Claire Walsh who are former students of the preschool and whose mom, Miss Chris, is one of our teachers!

Some of our families are adding a third day of preschool for their child, Wednesdays has been our low day of attendance this year so we are happy that we will have more friends to enjoy this day at preschool. Because we are adding more friends on Wednesday and have interest, we will offer lunch bunch on this day as well from 12 to 2:30!

We have a few special days coming up at preschool in January which support our winter theme, our snow day is always popular with a snow sensory bin outside for the children to enjoy while wearing their snow clothes to school. The children also enjoy our PJ and hot chocolate day.



Guiliana Munter decorating the classroom Christmas tree

We are starting the Parent-Tot program in the Spring so look for more information on that in future articles. This program is for tots (who are walking) up to age two and an adult. If you know of someone who might be interested in this program please refer them to the preschool and Miss Dawn or I will be happy to help them.

And now the New Year is here and with it we count all our blessings at Little Shepherds Nursery School! One of our biggest blessings is the preschool staff, join me in thanking them for all their hard work providing a wonderful program for the children, especially in December which is quite busy getting the children ready to sing for the program, making parent gifts, and preparing for December with their own families. Now it is their time to enjoy their families and rest up! Preschool resumes on January 9.

Happy New Year to everyone!

Miss Sharie

Myles (Les and Millie Tanners grandson) adding a little sparkle to his Christmas tree!

# The Newhall Press

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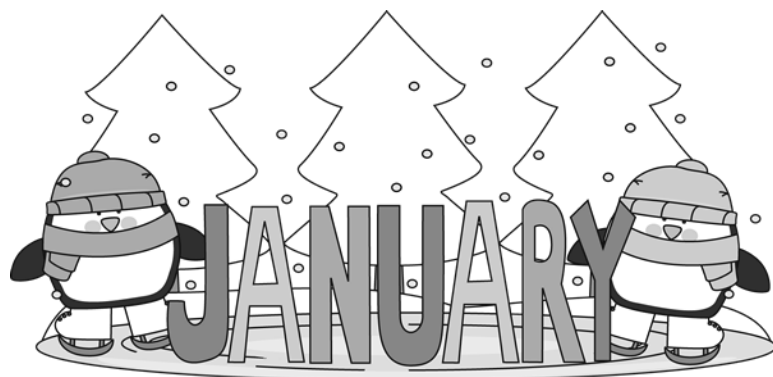
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## JANUARY 2018



**Sunday Worship Services**

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



**Deadline  
for the  
February Newsletter:  
January 21, 2018**

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

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

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### **The Newhall Press**

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Groundskeeper: Steve Fuller

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