

February 2018

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28			

# 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 FEBRUARY 2018

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

### February Events:

FLAMINGO FLOCKING BEGINS

Feb. 1

SANTA BARBARA MISSION CONF.

Feb. 2-3

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

Feb. 4

ONE SERV. +CONGREGATIONAL MTG.

Feb. 4 10:00 A.M.

VALENTINE'S COUPLE'S GARDEN

Feb. 10 4:00 P.M.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS DISTRIBUTION

Feb. 11

ASH WEDNESDAY

Feb. 14 7:00 P.M.

MEN'S GATHERING

Feb. 24 7:00 A.M.

SAN FERNANDO PRESBYTERY HERE

Feb. 27 5:00 P.M.

### Recurring Church Events:

BIBLE BOYZ

Mondays 5:30 P.M.

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.

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.

Cont. on page 2

February is actually a month that is full of shifts and changes. It begins with Superbowl Sunday on February 4, then proceeds through the month with the voting and preparing for the Academy Awards, finally celebrated on March 4. This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 14, which is also Valentine's Day. In addition (if you are interested), Presidents' Day is celebrated on February 19, Chinese New Year is celebrated on February 16, and Purim begins at sundown on February 28.

February is a busy month. It is also, for many people, the coldest winter month. Maybe people keep busy because they need distraction from this bleak winter month? Maybe, in preparation for Spring, we take time to walk the Lenten road with our Lord preparing ourselves for our Easter celebration on April 1?

Yes, in the center of the month, on February 14, we begin our Lenten fasts and pilgrimages again to prepare ourselves for the Greatest Event in Human History. Contrary to popular culture, this is not the Superbowl or Valentine's Day, rather it is the resurrection of Jesus as the only begotten Son of the Father. This year during Lent we will observe and contemplate actors in the original story. In worship we will see characters "under the cross" as they reflect on their observations of this inglorious event. Many of you will join a weekly Bible Study to further reflect on these characters and events.

Maybe it's not so strange that Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day share the same date. As Frederick Buechner put it so well: *"Romantic love is blind to everything except what is lovable and lovely. But Christ's love sees us with terrible clarity and sees us whole. Christ's love so wishes our joy that it is ruthless against everything in us that diminishes our joy. The worst sentence love can pass is that we behold the suffering which love has endured for our sake and that is also our acquittal. The justice and mercy of the judge are ultimately one."*

As we enter into the observation of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 14, with our Ash Wednesday Worship service at 7 pm, we will be reminding ourselves that great love of Christ who redeems and directs our very lives.

In His Grip,

Rev. Bill Barnes



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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 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:**

- YOUTH MISSION DINNER  
Mar. 11
- OFFICERS' RETREAT / HAVEN HOUSE  
Mar. 10
- AUDITIONS FOR "CHRISTMAS DRESS"  
Mar. 14, 17
- YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO HOUSTON  
Apr. 2-6
- SUPPER IN THE UPPER ROOM  
Apr. 8,22 4:00 P.M.
- AMOR HOMEBUILDING IN TIJUANA  
Apr. 13-16
- COWBOY CHURCH  
Apr. 22 8:00 A.M.
- SUPPER IN THE UPPER ROOM  
May 13, 20 4:00 P.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.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

Dee Lewis	Feb. 1
Evelyn Shifferd	Feb. 3
Lillian Wilson	Feb. 3



## GENTLEMEN:

Please join us for the Men's Gathering, Saturday, February 24th at Shepherd Church in Porter Ranch 7:00 am - to 1:00 pm.



## FPCN will host the San Fernando Presbytery

It will be a great honor for our church to host the regular meeting of our Presbytery on February 27. We will serve dinner for 50 to 70 delegates from the various churches at 5:00 and then help facilitate the meeting. Volunteers are needed for various hosting activities. Let Bob Balkcom in the office know if you can help in any way. Whether you help host or not, you are welcome to join us. You will find it inspiring and enlightening.



Ladies Night Out hits the town every month to enjoy one of Santa Clarita's favorite restaurants!

We always have a great time, enjoying each other's company, stories of friends and family, great food, as well as a whole lot of laughs. Whether you are in your 20's, your 80's or somewhere in between, all ladies are welcome. Mark your calendars now for the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. We meet at the restaurant - carpooling encouraged - and we always request separate checks.



month to enjoy one of Santa Clarita's favorite restaurants!

Join us on **February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** as we go to **Rattler's Bar B Que**. Plenty of napkins included!

Stop by the Church Life table on the patio to sign up and to get the list of 2018's monthly locations. You won't want to miss out on all this monthly fun! - Susan Fletcher



### BOOK BUDDIES

Book Buddies will meet on February 8 at 4:00. See Church Life Table on the patio for more information.



### HANDCRAFTERS

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (February 6 & 20), at 10 a.m., people gather in the Evans Room to share their crafting skills, their interests, and their accomplishments. We are the *Handcrafters*, and everyone is welcome!



**The 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.

The Board of Deacons members are now sporting their new shirts which they plan to wear each Communion Sunday. Quickly spot your Deacon on the patio and start a conversation.

We thank you in advance for your Lenten entries. The Lenten Devotional will be distributed on February 11, so be at church to get yours!

As Prayer Chain Coordinator, Connie Luechtefeld thanks you for sending updates on prayer concerns. It is always good to hear that surgery went well, the illness is improving, etc. If you want to be a part of the Prayer Chain, see Pam Trammell for the confidentiality form.

Pam Trammell, Deacon Moderator



### **URGENT CORRECTION:**

The Deacon article in the January Newsletter contained an error in the email address for submission of Lenten Devotionals. If you used this incorrect address and are concerned that your Devotional was missed, please contact Terri DeYoung immediately: [lentenbook@presby-newhall.org](mailto:lentenbook@presby-newhall.org). (The error was mine, not Terri's—editor)



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.

## AUDITIONS!

March 14, Wednesday, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

March 17, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

## THE GREEN VELVET CHRISTMAS DRESS

Written by Melea J. Brock

Produced by Vicki Edwards

Directed by Susan Fletcher

To be presented for the Santa Clarita Valley and surrounding communities

at the First Presbyterian Church, Newhall

Performance dates: Friday, 11/30/18 at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 12/1/18 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Calling all actresses! Auditions will be held in March for an all-female cast of

THE GREEN VELVET CHRISTMAS DRESS, a story of the way God’s grace works in our lives and connects us through generations to bring healing and hope.

Mark your calendars now for this wonderful new event in the life of our church. Watch for more information in the coming months!

There are parts for 10 adult women, ranging in ages.

We will also have an abundance of opportunities for many people in our church to help as crew members.

If you are interested in auditioning or volunteering, please contact:

Susan Fletcher (661-904-3541) or Vicki Edwards (818-429-0343).

Proceeds from ticket sales to go to FPCN Stephen’s Ministries in support of the healing and hope they bring to our community.

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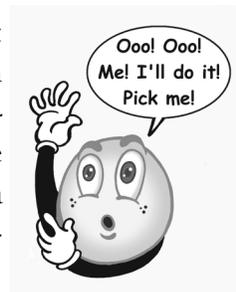
## HELP WANTED!



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 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.

## I BID FAREWELL TO AN AMAZING COMMITTEE by Sonja Tweedie

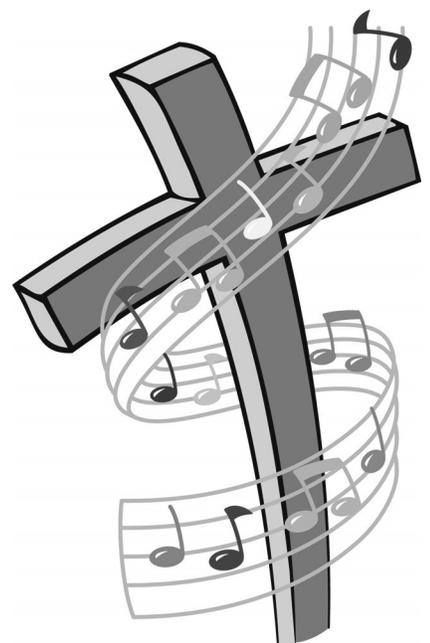
After eighteen years of serving three different churches as ruling elder of their Worship and Music Committees, I can finally say farewell. I wish the best to the new elders who will be leading an amazing and talented group of people here at Newhall Presbyterian. Next to teaching, worship has been my second profession, both of which were God-chosen and Holy Spirit-led. I guess one could say, "Serving the Lord with Gladness," the theme of this year's Lenten Devotional has been my motto and continued prayer, as it has been a joy to serve in this capacity.

I must give credit, however, to those who served with me:

- **Kathy Bressler**, co-chair, for her beautiful devotionals and for writing our minutes each month.
- **Bill Barnes**, for his superb leadership and wonderful thought-provoking sermons.
- **Sam Besse**, who, besides being an excellent 2nd service bandleader, prays the most beautiful and thoughtful prayers.
- **Connie Woodson**, who has made our choir sound glorious throughout these many years. It was a joy to sing under her direction.
- **Lorraine King** who has made the Ring Tones sound like the bells of heaven. What a blessing to have her contribute her talent.
- **Jim Parodi**, a true blessing from God, who has brought our organ to life and filled our sanctuary with glorious music.
- **Kathy Rakness**, who graciously uses her gifts to make sure ushers are present to serve at both services each Sunday.
- **Tina Pulliam**, who uses her creativity to decorate the sanctuary so beautifully.
- **Pam Jenner** for her wonderful, spiritually-thought out and researched banners.
- **Jerre Crosier** whose love and dedication to our organ diligently keeps it in tip-top condition.

I will miss the warm fellowship of our committee.

A special thanks to the Elders and Deacons who joyfully served communion and acted as Elder Assists during the past three years. Thanks also to those of you who participated in the Advent Candle Lighting ceremonies each Advent. Thanks to all for what you have done and will continue to do to enhance the Worship at FPCN.





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.

## ANNOUNCING OUR NEXT AMOR HOMEBUILDING THIS APRIL



We will leave Friday April 13 and return April 16! This will be our church's 22nd year building and working on 38 home structures! Easter comes early this year and so does our AMOR trip. We already have some young adults coming from Jung's Korean church. Contact Art Moore or John Favalessa for details. More information is available at [amor@presby-newhall.org](mailto:amor@presby-newhall.org).



Let the planning begin!

## Little Shepherd's Nursery School

at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall



February is here and we are busy making parent Valentines to mail home to our moms and dads. We will have a Valentine exchange in each classroom as well as a special treat to celebrate the day! The Wednesday class will have the opportunity to make and decorate cookies.



February is also when we learn about community helpers! We invite anyone who is willing to share the way they help us in the community to speak to the children. If this sounds like something you would like to do, please call the school office to make arrangements with us!

Later in the month we will take our annual and only trip for the year to Hart Park. We traditionally have a Winter Picnic at the park which is planned (and prepared by the children) after reading the story "The Winter Picnic" by Robert Welber. We also spend some time looking at all the farm animals. This year the Pre-K class will take a hike up to the top of Hart Park and tour the mansion. Thanks to a friend of Miss Sharie's, we are getting a private tour of the mansion! We might even see some bison which roam an area up there. These are descendants of the Disney American bison from about 50 years ago!

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, plus an adult (usually a parent). 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.

Here is a little poem for Valentine's Day:

*I put my thumbs together  
And my fingers too  
And when I turn them upside down  
I've made a heart for YOU!*



Happy Valentine's Day from the staff of Little Shepherds Nursery School! -Sharie Telles



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.*

## PER CAPITA????? By Dorothy Ng, Church Treasurer

If you have ever looked near the upper left-hand corner on the back of the weekly bulletin, you saw a little message about per capita. This year it says that the 2018 per capita is \$38.00. You may have asked yourself, "What is per capita?" Well, I will answer that question for you.

The dictionary definition will tell you that it is a Latin prepositional phrase which means "for each head" or "by the head." It is commonly used in statistics, economics, and business to report some kind of average per person.

The official definition of per capita for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as found on its website, is the following:

*Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the mid councils to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians.*

In other words, per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Every Presbyterian shares in the PC(USA)'s system of government, so every Presbyterian is asked to share in the coordinating and performing of the functions of that system. Per capita is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together.

Congregations, through their sessions, pay an annual amount of money per church member which is called the per capita apportionment, to their presbyteries. The annual amount is a combined request from the congregation's presbytery, synod, and the General Assembly based their respective budgets for the coming year.

In 2018 the Per Capita Apportionment is \$38.00 per member. This is broken down into three components:

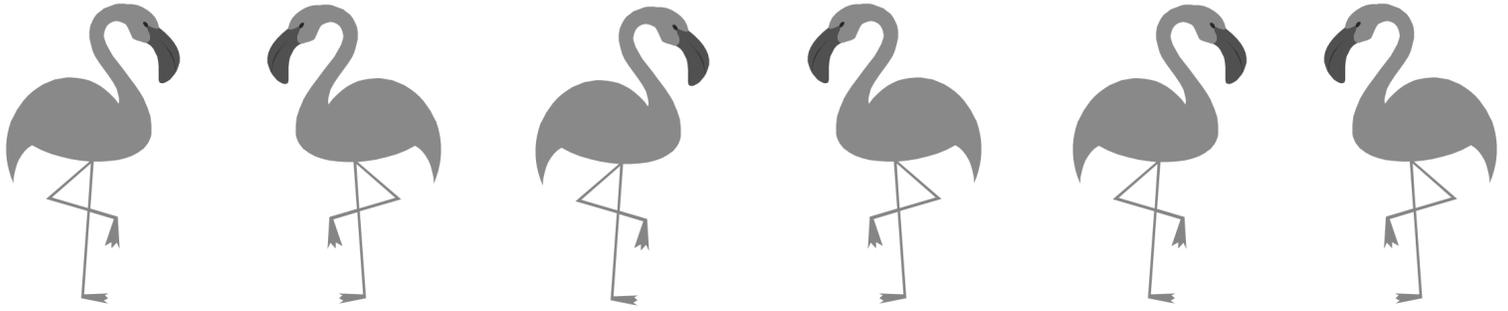
General Assembly	\$ 7.73
Synod of Southern CA & Hawaii	\$ 2.85
Presbytery of San Fernando	\$ 27.42

This amount is multiplied by our church's reported membership for the year 2016, which was 329. That means the church owes the Presbytery of San Fernando \$12,502. Don't worry. We don't pay the amount all at once. I make 3 payment over the year. And each year it is a line item expense in the annual budget so the session makes sure the money is there to pay. However, it takes money away from other church projects.

So if you are a member who can do so, please consider reimbursing the church the \$38.00. And if you are not a member but you attend the church on a regular basis, maybe you could contribute the money for someone who cannot. If you have already given your \$38 for this year, I say thank you. If you have not, please pray about it. Your \$38 contribution might just help keep the air conditioning going through the summer.



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.



## YOUTH

The New Year is among us!!!! Clearly, some people just couldn't contain their excitement.

Many exciting things are on the horizon for our youth. We are in full planning mode for our annual **Youth Mission Dinner** that will take place on Sunday, March 11 up in Fellowship Hall. The menu will consist of BBQ items such as: Ribs and Brisket. Tom Bailey has graciously agreed to be our Chuckwagon Boss in the kitchen and has many more options that will leave you salivating.



Director of Youth Ministries, Bryce Morrow, donning his finest salesman suit (compliments of



From l-r: Senior, Kristine Kokkinos and Assistant Youth Director, Sam Spigelman

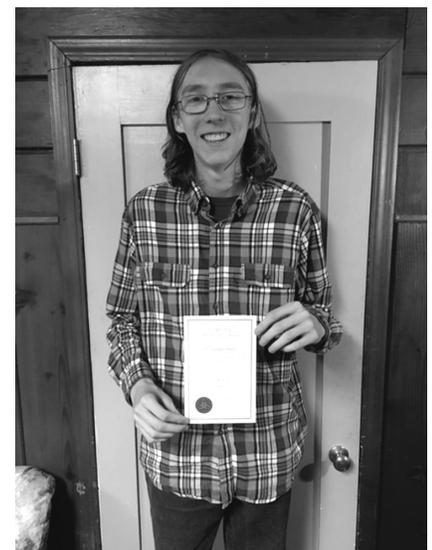
Our **Mission Trip** destination will be to Houston, TX. We have many projects slated for our arrival. Our trip will be April 2-6 or 7.

Be on the lookout for our **flock of pink flamingos**. We have begun selling "flocking insurance" to protect those delicate lawns. This fundraiser helps fund our mission trips each year. We'd be so grateful for your contributions!

And lastly, our own **Jonathan Johnson**, who is a junior at Golden Valley High School, has been honored to receive an award for the **National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists Award of Excellence** in Boston, MA. To hear more about Jonathan's prestigious honor, be sure to stop him on the patio between services to offer your congratulations to him. We are SO proud of him!

Thank you all for your continued support! If you have any questions regarding our youth group and/or its activities, please feel free to email me at [youth@presby-newhall.org](mailto:youth@presby-newhall.org).

Blessings,  
Bryce Morrow



Jonathan Johnson

**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 FEBRUARY, 2018

During October, November, and December, 385+ cans, jars, boxes, and bags of foods have been donated to Help the Children. That means that over 1,328 donations have been collected and given for last year! Thank you for making a big difference to the families in the Santa Clarita Valley who gratefully receive these goods. Help the Children is so appreciative of our help, and PW thanks all of you for your generosity! We will continue this as our mission project for this year. For the month of February, we will focus on canned beans, e.g. black, refried, chili, baked, etc. Please put your donations on the shelves in the Evans Room. Again, thank you for your continued support of PW's mission project!



### 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:** Sonja Tweedie (298-1190) - Meets second Tuesday of the month at 6:15 p.m. in various homes and shares a salad dinner.

Peace Starts  
With A Smile



## WHY I LOVE LENT BUT DON'T PARTICIPATE IN LENTEN DISCIPLINES by Roland Wrinkle



We just took down our Christmas decorations. So, naturally, it's time to write about Lent. Lent isn't in the Bible. Rather, it's a tradition that got started nearly four centuries after Christ and never really took a foothold in the Protestant churches. But our congregation takes a pretty good go at it each year and I think that's a very good thing. The idea is to formalize our anticipation of the crucifixion and resurrection of the Messiah of Israel as the embodiment of the creator God, through disciplines and practices of self-examination and penitence, demonstrated by self-denial, such as giving up something you ordinarily wouldn't want to go without. *"By this small gesture of sacrifice, I remind myself of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made on my behalf."*

Moreover, Lent occupies the 40 days before the bodily resurrection of the executed son of God—and 40 days, in the Bible, is a really big deal: In Genesis, the flood which destroyed the earth was brought about by 40 days and nights of rain. The Hebrews spent 40 years in the wilderness before reaching the land promised to them by God. Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the ten commandments on Mount Sinai. Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry. These are all critical markers of our own discipleship to the one who is the centerpiece of all of these stories.

More importantly, Lent is a sign pointing to the actual, historical and very real bodily resurrection of the Word-of-God-Embodied-As-Jesus the Messiah. And this is a big deal because Paul says that the resurrection of Jesus is the *"first fruits of those who have died...the resurrection of the dead has come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ"* and then adds that this is the foundation upon which all of our Christian faith and hope depends. So, Lent is an advent, an anticipation. In the same way we celebrate Advent Season, eagerly awaiting the anniversary, as it were, of God's decisive move to become human for the singular purpose of ensuring the success of His Grand Rescue Operation, we also observe the Lenten Season in anticipation of a much more important anniversary, i.e. God's decision to sacrifice that very Son through and in whom God Himself became vulnerable flesh and blood. However, as I understand things, there is a Third Advent. Every moment of every day we stand in glorious yet watchful anticipation of the Second Coming of Jesus to finish what He began on the cross, when Heaven comes down to and merges with earth, when there will be no more suffering, death will be abolished and God will, once again, walk among His People.

Now, back to this Lenten Advent, our church does a great job of expressing this 40-day focus on the resurrection by launching a whole bunch of Lenten Study Groups, with Bill and Phil preaching on a popular book we can all read and discuss. This entrenches us in the very Bible that has been gifted to us by God as the revelation of His own thoughts and plans. Many permanent Bible study groups and Bible studiers and leaders have grown out of these Lenten Study Groups. We then continue to read, study, think about and discuss the Bible until, well...we suffer bodily death.

Now, back to my Lenten non-practices. My friend is very serious about giving up certain pleasures/vices for Lent. I'm not. I'll tell you why. As a matter of personal judgment only, I am concerned about the *"Separation of Church and Life."* Since coming late to Bible fidelity, I slowly came to realize that, if all this stuff is actually true, then I've got to change—and change big time. Not change from a child molester or unscrupulous business man to a pious saint. But from one who saw the world through eyes of the Enlightenment and provable scientific truths to the better and more sure truths of the Bible which encompass, not just evolution, wave theory, the three laws of planetary motion and Newtonian physics (all of which I certainly buy), but those realities, certainties and historical discoveries which illuminate the grand narrative of God's program to rescue and redeem, not just me, but all of Creation and all of those who chose to become His children.

## WATCH FOR THIS SPRING'S UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS!

+++**Santa Barbara Mission Conference**— February 2-3 We have a great group of people attending from our church. Don't miss this chance to enjoy Christian learning, fellowship and beautiful Santa Barbara. Check Santa Barbara Mission Conference web site for details. (Or ask Jack Irwin or Art Moore)

+++A Valentine's Day Treat! **Couples Garden** led by **Rebecca Mealer**— Saturday, February 10 at 4 PM followed by a dinner date with your sweetie!

+++Always a favorite...**Small Lenten Study Groups**...Locations and dates to be announced.

+++**Supper in the Upper Room** Various programs followed by a casual supper. Second and fourth Sundays in April and May at 4 PM in Fellowship Hall. Watch for updates.

Cont. from P. 10

It's just that I don't want to leave the Bible, Jesus, God, New Creation, God's plan for us and the meaning of all of it at church on Sunday. I don't want to go five minutes without putting whatever I am doing into the larger context of what I understand from scripture or whatever I am thinking into how I and we fit into this plan. Where are we? What time is it? What does God want of me right now. Big things and small things. Big thoughts and mundane thoughts. This big story is going somewhere and I want to be where I am supposed to be and know as much as I can about what is going on in the now and yet-to-be Kingdom of God. I am afraid that, if I devote a particular 40-day period to this endeavor, it will become somewhat and somehow lessened the other 325 days of the year. If I promise to love my wife for 40 days each year, good luck the other 14,300 days we've been married so far.

Paul said, "*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*" The apparently rather devout "rich young ruler" asked Jesus what would it take to be a part of the *age to come* (*zoe aionios* means just this, not "eternal life") when God would fully establish His Kingdom here on earth. Keep all the laws of Torah? He did that. Love his neighbor as himself? He did that as well. Observe all the festivals and keep the Sabbath and visit the temple as prescribed by scripture? Yep, check that. But Jesus said that wasn't enough. He had to undergo a much more **radical change**. If I let this thoroughly distinctive (peculiar?) worldview slip away for too long a period of time, I worry that my Bible life will become more like the study of Einstein's Theory of Relativity and something less than the Living Word of God which is intended to inform everything I do and think every day of the year and saturate me with the person of Jesus and His holy intentions each waking minute. I am acutely aware of my deficiencies in this regard and, therefore, fear that devoting myself to such concerns for a specially-carved out period of 40 days will encourage me (give permission) to backslide the rest of the year. Once I take down the Christmas lights, I don't think about them much until the next year. But that's just me.

# The Newhall Press

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

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## FEBRUARY 2018



**Sunday Worship Services**

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



**Deadline  
for the  
March Newsletter:  
February 18, 2018**

**Send articles and photos to our  
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### ***The Newhall Press***

*First Presbyterian Church of Newhall*

24317 N. Newhall Avenue

Newhall, CA 91321-2721

(661) 259-0555

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

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

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