

March 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 Column March 2018

Our Online Church Calendar is available at www.presby-newhall.org under the menu choice "Something for Everyone."

March Events:

Deacon & Elder retreat

March 10 at 9am

Youth Mission Auction Dinner

Sunday March 11 at 5pm

Auditions for The Green Velvet Dress

March 14, 7pm to 9pm

March 17, 10am to 2pm

World Famous Glen Miller Orchestra

March 19

Palm Sunday services

March 25, 9:30am & 11:15am

Forest Lawn: Requiem for the Living

March 28

Maundy Thursday service

March 29 at 7pm

Easter Sunday Services

April 1, 8:30am & 10:30am

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

We find ourselves in a time period that harkens back to a very early observance of church history. Known as Lent, I am asked many questions about why we Presbyterians now are celebrating Lent when it was known as a "Roman Catholic" celebration. But it is a very old tradition in the church long before catholic (meaning universal) became the Roman Catholic church.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends 46 days later on Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, doing penance, repentance of sins, almsgiving, and self-denial. Fasting during Lent was more prominent in ancient times than today. Socrates Scholasticus reports that in some places, all animal products were strictly forbidden, while various others permitted fish, or fish and fowl, others prohibited fruit and eggs, and still others permitted only bread. In some places, the observant abstained from food for a whole day until the mid-afternoon or evening. As protestants we have downplayed Lent in favor of a focus on Holy Week, marking the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, which recalls the tradition and events of the New Testament beginning on Palm Sunday, further climaxing on Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday, which ultimately culminates in the joyful celebration on Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our older generations focused in a special way on three events; Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter (nothing was celebrated on Black Saturday as Jesus was in the grave) called the Easter Triduum as a three-day event that begins Maundy Thursday evening, with communion. Then elements of communion were removed from the church as a response to Jesus' question to the disciples sleeping in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Could you not watch with me one hour?" On the next day, the commemoration of the Passion of Jesus Christ is celebrated at 3 pm as people were released from work early on that day.

It reminds me of an old joke often told: A certain Irish priest, newly arrived in New York City, decided to visit the section known as the Bowery, haven of homeless alcoholics and other derelicts. As he walked along one of the Bowery blocks at night he suddenly felt a gun against his ribs. Then he heard a raspy voice: "All right mister, gimme all your money!" Quickly, he reached for his wallet and, as he did, the holdup man noticed his clerical garb. The thief was overcome with shame. He said, "Forgive me, Father. I didn't know you were a priest". To which the victim replied, "That's all right son. Just repent of your sin. Here, have a cigar." The thief replied, "Oh, no, thank you, father, I don't smoke during Lent."

Whatever your practice, prepare yourselves for the Joy and Celebration of Easter!

In His Grip,
Pastor Bill



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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:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Easter Sunday Services | |
| April 1, 8:30am & 10:30am | |
| Youth Mission Trip to Houston | |
| Apr. 2 - 6 | |
| Church Spring Yard Sale | |
| April 6 & 7 | |
| Gene Autrey Museum | |
| April 28 | |
| Supper in the Upper Room | |
| Apr. 8, 22 4:00 P.M. | |
| AMOR Homebuilding in Tijuana | |
| Apr. 13 -16 | |
| Cowboy Church service | |
| Apr. 22 | 8:00 A.M. |
| SCV Dodger Game | |
| May 12 | |
| 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.

Church Life Committee - Our Year at First Glance...

Here is the Church Life Committee's schedule as of Today. We will be adding more events as the year continues, so stay tuned.

Monday, March 19, 2018 **The World Famous Glen Miller Orchestra** at the West Ranch Bicycle Theatre

Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at **Forest Lawn: Requiem for the Living**, featuring Master's University School of Music

Friday April 06 & Saturday April 7, 2018: **Church Spring Yard Sale**

Saturday, April 28, 2018 **Gene Autrey Museum**

Saturday, May 12, 2018 **Dodger Game: Los Angeles Dodgers vs Cincinnati Reds**

Sunday, June 03, 2018 **Our Church Birthday Picnic**

Sunday, September 23, 2018 **Chili Cook Off (first day of autumn)**

Mark your calendars and stop by the Church Life Table between services for sign-ups and more details.



Are you.. "In the Mood"?

In the mood for some wonderful music that is... Well then join the Church Life Committee for an evening with the **Glenn Miller Orchestra** on Monday, March 19th at 7:00 pm at West Ranch High School in Stevenson Ranch. Tickets will be \$20.00 per person and we will meet at the school.

The Glenn Miller Orchestra will present a selection of material from the vast Glenn Miller Orchestra Library, which includes compositions from the civilian band and Glenn Miller's Army Air Force Band. The program for the evening may include favorites such as In the Mood, Moonlight Serenade, Tuxedo Junction, Chattanooga Choo-Choo, Rhapsody in Blue, At Last, Stardust, and Pennsylvania 6-5000.

Stop by the Church Life Table between 1st and 2nd services or track down a committee member for more information.



Time to clean out your cupboards, closets and cubby-holes for those un-wanted treasures. Church Life wants them for

the **Spring Yard Sale**. It will be on Friday April 6th from noon to 6pm and Sat. April 7th from 7am to noon. Large item pick-up will be the week of April 2 through 6. Questions or pick-up call Rod or Candy Belcher at 661-645-2449 or 661-297-2445. Happy cleaning!



SCV Dodger Game Save the date: May 12th for the SCV Dodger game. They will be playing the Cincinnati Reds at 6:10 pm. 60th anniversary hats will be given away. Ticket price and carpooling info at the Church Life table in March.

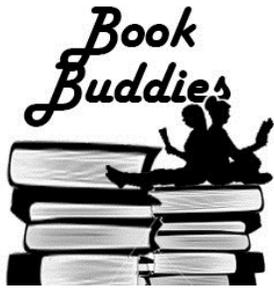


Ladies Night Out

Yes! March 27th @ 6:30 p.m.

Olive Terrace Bar & Grill on Newhall Ranch Rd in Santa Clarita.

Sign up at the Church Life table.



Book Buddies will meet Thursday, March 8th at 4:00 p.m. to talk about Santa Clarita Library's One Story One City Science Fiction Novel "Ready Player One" by Ernest Cline. It's 2044 life on a resource depleted Earth is grim. If you didn't read the book come to

the meeting anyway to tell us of a favorite book you have read of late.

The Handcrafters



Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (March 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.

During our monthly meeting in February, your current Deacons tearfully and gratefully said goodbye to Jung Favalessa and Victoria Stokes. Jung faithfully served us as our Deacon Moderator, the leadership position on which your Deacons depend for guidance and support! And God bless Victoria for her service while completing her studies at Loyola University. You will both be greatly missed!!

We also welcomed the newest Angels to join our team of loving Deacons: Rachael Durley, Pam Jenner, Jana Baker and Jenny Cranert. Rachael has served our church in many ways, most notably in Children's Ministries as one of our wonderful Sunday School teachers (honored member of the beloved family Aijian). Pam's artistry has graced our church sanctuary walls with her beautiful banners. Jana Baker rejoins us to continue her Senior ministry. And Jenny has been an active member of our Youth ministry and currently attends College of the Canyons. We look forward to all your love and service for our church family!

Meet your newest Deacons



Rachael Durley

Pam Jenner

Jana Baker

Jenny Cranert

And last, but certainly not least, our Dynamic Trio of Angels fun bunch: Terri DeYoung, Julia Ballou and Diane Renfro, have agreed to another term of service!

Way to go ladies!!

"As Rainbows bring a variety of colors to a beautiful arch, so do you bring your unique gifts to this life."

Joyfully, Jana Vannini Thatch





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.

Calling all actresses – 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.

This is a story of the way God’s grace works in our lives and connects us through generations to bring healing and hope. 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. Proceeds from ticket sales to go to FPCN Stephen’s Ministries in support of the healing and hope they bring to our community.

If you are interested in auditioning or volunteering, please contact:
Susan Fletcher (661-904-3541) or Vicki Edwards (818-429-0343)

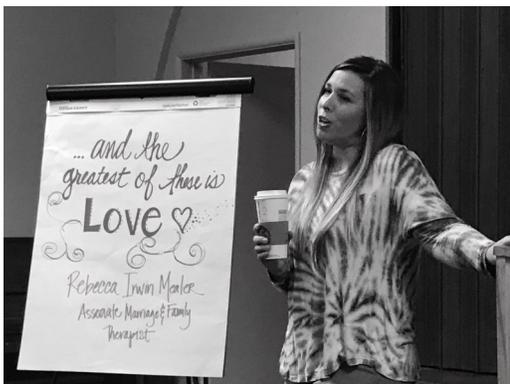
Can you believe it been almost four years since our last photo directory!

...get your checkbooks ready ...not!

The Outreach Committee has decided to do it differently this time. No more professional photographers and sales pitches. We have created our photo directory! We will be taking pictures between services in April and May or you can send us your own picture. There will be printed directories as always, but also secure online viewing via browsers and useful apps for your smart phones. More detailed information coming in the April newsletter.



A **LOVE GATHERING** was held in the month of love in Fellowship Hall sponsored by Adult Education. Rebecca Mealer presented a extremely informative, lively and entertaining class on relationships as a spiritual discipline. It was a wonderfully engaging evening for all.



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.

Our winter season has been busy and exciting. We had a fun and Worship-filled evening on December 3 when many families and church members came out to celebrate with us by decorating Christmas trees in the sanctuary. Our Children's Choir sang and delighted us all with their sweet voices.

We followed that with a fantastic Christmas Eve chorus and program directed by Marie Gilbert. We sang Christmas carols and songs, told the story of the birth of Jesus, and we were there as "Carriers of the Light." Thanks to our friends on Worship Committee, we were able to have a "safe" candle-lit service with new battery powered candles. It was a beautiful and special evening for all of us!

Coming in March:

**Palm Sunday Children's Choir special music

**Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday during Sunday School (We would greatly appreciate donations of individually wrapped candy, stickers, and small prizes for this event. We already have plenty of plastic eggs that can be reused. It would be great to have donated items by March 18 in order to have them ready on Palm Sunday).



Girl Scouts complete mural project for Little Shepherd's!

Claire and Lily Walsh beside the mural they recently painted and installed on the fence inside the playground area at Little Shepherd's. Both Claire and Lily are alumni and their mother, Chris Ward is a teacher at Little Shepherd's. The mural is part of their service project for the Silver Award in Girl Scouts. Beautiful job girls and thank you so much!





The purpose of **The Mission Committee**, in order to further share the gospel of Jesus Christ, is to responsibly use the resources of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, wherever we find a neighbor in need. We are committed to meeting mission needs in our local community, across the nation, and globally, by sending money, food, clothing, volunteers, or whatever else is needed.

AMOR HOMEBUILDING APRIL 13 - 16, **signup between services**



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. For more information or to signup contact us at amor@presby-newhall.org

We'd love to have you come with us in this our important church tradition



Little Shepherd's Nursery School

at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall

Valentine's Day is but a memory for this year as you read this! We made and sent valentines to our parents, exchanged valentines with our friends in class on Tuesday, then our Wednesday friends made heart shaped cookies to enjoy at snack time.

As I write this our Winter Picnic trip is coming up February 22 and will include making and enjoying a picnic lunch at Hart Park based on the story *The Winter Picnic* by Robert Welber, seeing the animals at the park. 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! 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.

In March we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss Day, learning more about colors on our Color Days. Then there is St Patrick's Day and, of course, preparing for Easter too!

Little Shepherds Nursery School is now taking registration for our 2018-2019 school year for our priority and returning families; this includes our church families!

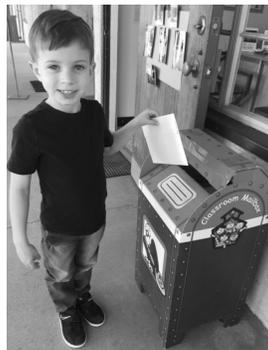
Our early registration began on February 20 and ends on March 15. The early registration fee is \$75.00, after March 15 the registration fee will increase to \$100.00. Tuition for our 2018-2019 school year will be: T/Th \$275.00 and T/W/Th \$390.00

If you are interested in enrolling your child, please contact Sharie or Dawn in the preschool office.

Little Shepherds will be offering a Parent Tot class in the Spring of 2018. This eight-week program will begin on April 11 and end on May 30; the cost of this program will be \$85.00 per week with a minimum of three families enrolled. Please contact Sharie or Dawn in the church office for more information, 254-2312.

May your troubles be less and your blessings be more. And nothing but happiness come through your door!

Happy St Patrick's Day and Happy Easter too! -Sharie



Avery "mails" his parents Valentine he made



Levi holds a tray of cookies the children decorated before we take them up to Fellowship Hall to bake



In 1922 Howard Carter discovered the burial chamber of Tutankhamen, the Egyptian boy king who died at the age of 17. In that burial chamber were solid gold chariots and thousands of golden artifacts. King Tut's gold coffin was found within gold tombs within gold tombs with gold tombs. In fact, the burial site was filled with tons of gold. The ancient Egyptians believed in an afterlife where they could take earthly treasures to enjoy for eternity. But in reality that earthly treasure just remained untouched for 3,000 years.

How many times have we gotten too attached to our earthly treasure? I know I have done it. Last fall, I did a major cleansing of my bedroom, upstairs loft, and some of the rooms downstairs. The charity who came to pick up everything loved me, and I even inspired Katie to get rid of some of her stuff. I still have a lot of purging to do but it was a start. And it made me feel good.

Why do we hold on to stuff? In Matthew 6, Jesus tells us NOT to store up treasures on earth. We should store treasures in heaven where they will not rust or break. And that makes me wonder – do I have more treasure on earth or in heaven?

In *The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving*, author Randy Alcorn explains how the joy of giving is more precious than gold. He writes about six secrets to giving that he calls Treasure Principle Keys which, when practiced, can lead to unimaginable joy.

Earthly treasures won't last. They will be lost somehow – the stock market tanks, your house burns down, the car will no longer start. And earthly treasures are in limited supply. Heavenly treasures are unlimited and last forever. Your heavenly treasures don't reduce the treasures available to others. Now how do you get these heavenly treasures? By serving God and others. Everyone gains (God, you, the person or organization you are helping); no one loses.

So what is the Treasure Principle? It's simple – you can't take it with you but you can send it ahead. How do you send it ahead? By giving – your time, talent, and treasure. And since this book is called *The Treasure Principle*, guess what we'll be concentrating on? That's right--your treasure.

The money God entrusts to us here on earth is an eternal investment capital. Every day is an opportunity to buy up more shares in His kingdom. It doesn't matter if the world sees it as a lot or a little. To God, it will always be enough for you to give.

This leads to Treasure Principle Key #1 – God owns everything. We are His money managers. We must adopt a steward's mentality toward the assets He has entrusted – not given – to us. A steward manages assets for the owner's benefit. The steward carries no sense of entitlement to the assets he manages. It is his job to find out what the owner wants done with his assets, then carry out his will.

God is the owner of all things and we are simply His stewards. Whenever we think like owners, it's our downfall. We should be thinking like stewards, investment managers, always looking for the best place to invest the owner's money.

Our name is on God's account. We have unrestricted access to it; a privilege that is subject to abuse. As His money managers, God trusts us to set our own salaries. We draw needed funds from His wealth to pay our living expenses. Are our living expenses too high?

2 Corinthians 9:7 states that "God loves a cheerful giver." The cheerfulness comes during and after the act of obedience – giving God's money away – not before. So just don't give when you feel like it. Give always and feel the joy. God delights in our cheerfulness in giving. He wants us to find joy. And if we don't give, we rob ourselves of the source of joy God instructs us to seek.

Our giving is a reflexive response to the grace of God in our lives. It comes out of the transforming work of Christ in us. This grace is the action; our giving is the reaction. Giving is an act of worship. It jump starts our relationship with God. It opens our fists so we can receive what God has for us.

What does God have for you? Give a little more and see. Let go of stuff and see how your life can be transformed.

There is more to learn about the Treasure Principle but it will have to wait for next time.



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.

EASTER SHOULD BE A WILD AND RAUCOUS CELEBRATION - by Roland Wrinkle

“The reward of dancers ... will be to drink in Hell, unless they speedily repent, so shall God turn their mirth into sudden sorrow”.
John Knox, Founder of the Presbyterian Church

“Songs composed merely to tickle and delight the ear are unbecoming the majesty of the Church, and cannot but be most displeasing to God.” John Calvin, Co-Founder of the Protestant Reformation

“John Calvin knows someone out there is having fun, and by God, he has to put a stop to it.” Apocryphal Saying



What did these giants of Presbyterianism think Jesus was talking about in telling the triad of parables we call The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin, and The Prodigal Son? They are all found together, one after the other in Luke 15 which necessarily means that they have something to do with each other. In the first, the man leaves 99 of his sheep unattended to search for one lost stray. Upon finding the animal and returning home, “he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, **rejoice with me**, for I have found my sheep that was lost. Just so, I tell you, there will be more **joy in**

heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.” So, when the man brings the lost sheep home, he emails his friends and says he’s having a party. What is happening in Heaven at that time? They are all having a party too. What were the religious leaders of the day doing? “And the Pharisees and the scribes were **grumbling** and saying, ‘This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.’” They were grumbling while Jesus and His followers were whooping it up! Do you get the feeling that they were missing something and what they were missing was pretty big?

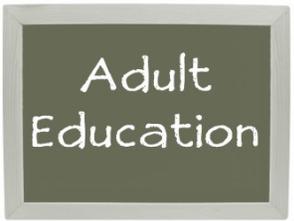
Parties were biblically commanded in the Hebrew Testament. Seven festivals are set out in Leviticus and others mandated elsewhere. What did the Jews do during festivals? They ate together, drank wine together and celebrated everything God had done for them. They worked hard and they partied hard. (Matt 11.19). When one lost sheep is found, there’s a party in heaven and on earth.

On to the Lost Coin. The woman scours her house and then says “ ‘**Rejoice with me**, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you [this is Jesus talking], there is **joy in the presence of the angels of God** over one sinner who repents.” “The drinks are on me! Let’s dance and sing!” Does heaven look down disapprovingly like Calvin and modern-day Calvinists would? No! They join in the party. This is our Scriptures, folks.

Jesus then concludes with a real stemwinder. When the lost son is driven to repent and comes back to the father he scorned and abandoned, what does the father do? Tell him “to drink in Hell?” Nope. He does the opposite. “He ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.” Nothing would be more unbecoming and undignified of an older man in Judea of the first century than to run, robes flapping in the wind, let alone to run and kiss someone. Shameful behavior for an elder of the landed gentry. Calvin would surely direct scorn towards the father as his actions were “unbecoming the majesty of the Church and cannot but be most displeasing to God.” Wrong. If there was a party in heaven for the return of one farm animal and another one over a single shekel, what kind of party can you imagine heaven throwing for the unexpected homecoming of a precious son given up for death and destruction with “music and dancing” and feasting on a calf they had been fattening for just such an occasion. But the parable is really about the older son who stayed home and “worked like a slave” for the old man. He “became angry and refused to go in” because the father had thrown a party for the other son who had left. He was grumbling just like the Pharisees grumbled in the introduction to these parables, angry that Jesus was so promiscuous with his unquestioning love and so indiscriminate with his undeserved forgiveness. (It’s called “grace” by the way) These parables were being told against the Pharisees - and the rest of us who are so faithful, religious and church-attending and then get mad when Jesus “welcomes sinners and eats with them.” How dare God!

Cont. on P. 9

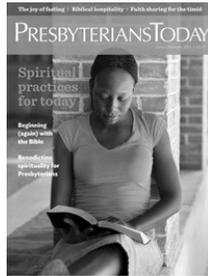
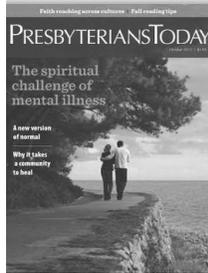
WATCH FOR THIS SPRING'S UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS!



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.

Pastor Bill's Bible Study on the book of Romans will continue thru April Wednesdays at 10am in the Evans Room.

Adult Ed would like to offer you a one-year subscription to **PRESBYTERIAN TODAY** magazine at a very special price of \$6.95. Such a bargain!



Cont. from P. 8

The father responds to this self-righteousness: “But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life.” How much more so should we be celebrating the fact that the Son of God was dead and came to life”? For the forty days of Lent we experience depravation in anticipation of the execution of God. On Good Friday we enter into the deepest of despair knowing that we “killed the author of life,” (Acts 3.15). Our joy at the resurrection should be, at the very least, the joy of the father in the parable. And the celebration should last at least as long as forty days (until the Ascension). When soon-to-be King David, who was so important that the Messiah and Savior was to come from his lineage, found the ark of the Lord and brought it back to Jerusalem (the Jews had lost God,) he danced down the streets with not much clothing on. His wife got angry and wagged her finger at him for shaming her. I guess she forgot that he had found the Creator of the Universe which they somehow lost and brought Him back to Israel. Michal was the original Calvinist party-pooper.

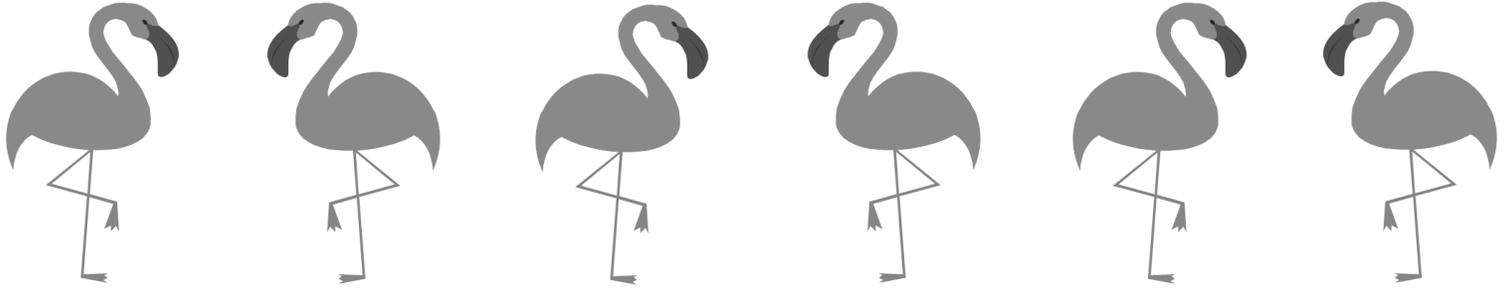
At creation, God’s space (heaven) and human space (earth) were one and the same. Then we decided we knew better than God and the two spaces separated. But they overlap from time to time (until the end when the two spaces rejoin and become one again) at times such as communion, baptism, prayer, memorials, communal worship (“whenever two or more are gathered in my name”) and most prominently on Easter. Here’s the endgame: “May the God of hope **fill you with all joy.**” (Rom 15.13). We’re told not to put our joy under a bowl but to let it explode into the world for all to see. (cf. Matt 5.16). Paul tells the Corinthians, “If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain” but follows it with, “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.” If that’s not a reason to party, I don’t know what is. (But don’t over do it. Ask Noah.)



Please pray for Art Moore and Johan Vandersande as they travel to Ecuador in March to lay the groundwork for upcoming clean water installation projects. Contact Jack Irwin or Art Moore for more information and opportunities to support this action ministry.



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

It feels like springtime here in the Santa Clarita Valley. And it looks to be hinting at it to from the various flocks of pink flamingos sprinkled about on our parishioner's lawns. Even the youth director and his family couldn't escape from getting flocked this year. We absolutely LOVED it!!! Keep an eye out, they're still out and about for the next several weeks. All proceeds go towards our mission trip fund. So keep our youth busy!



Speaking of our youth mission trip, our annual Mission Dinner / Fundraiser will be held Sunday, March 11th at 5pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring your appetite. You're sure to fill up on the tasty, southern BBQ and all the fixin's lead by the Chuckwagon boss himself, Mr. Tom Bailey. Sign-ups are currently being taken at the youth table set-up after first service. Ticket are \$10/person or \$25/family. Children 10 and under eat FREE.

This year's Mission Trip destination is to Houston, Texas. We are still in need of kitchen volunteers and set-up crews for the dinner. For more info, please speak to Barbara Irwin (elder), Tom Bailey, or myself (Bryce Morrow).

Sam Spigelman hosted a Galentine's Day event for all the youth girls this past Saturday, February 17th. They made their own Valentine's Day cookies and watched a "chick flick" in Fellowship Hall. It was a meaningful day had by all.



And lastly, I want to send out a personal sentiment to the youth who participated in our Ash Wednesday service. I was so proud of all of you. You exemplified what it means to be a contributing body of the church. I'm proud to serve as your youth director. -Bryce



Front row: (l-r) Clare Lauer mann, Amanda Lombardo, Alan Nsereko-Sebuliba, Dylan Nsereko-Sebuliba, Assistant Youth Director - Samantha Spigelman. Back row: (l-r) Director of Youth Ministries - Bryce Morrow, Joaquin Bogarin, Jonathan Johnson, Youth Sponsor - Johnny Howell

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 MARCH, 2018 **“Help the Children”** thanks you for your generous donations of beans and other goods. In March we will focus on Cup o Noodles, ramen, and noodle soups. 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: Jana Baker (259-7009) and Hilde DeBord (287-9321) - 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.

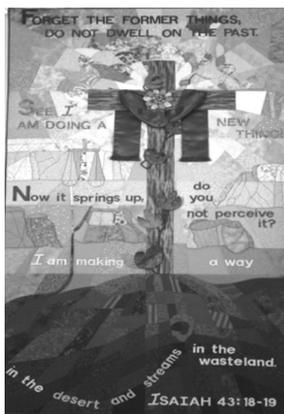
Mary Martha: Nancy Spigelman (254-0319) & Sam Spigelman (312-7111) Meets second Monday of the month at 7:00PM at various homes.

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



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.

We are in our Lenten part of the liturgical calendar. I made the Lenten banner that is hanging now. Lent is a time for inner circumspection with Christ. I made this one in purple to symbolize this season of Lent. The orange is the background for the lavender plateaus of the desert that have other symbols for further contemplation. The cross for Christ and then the passion flower that has more symbols in it. In the path to Christ we all have many choices to be with him or not.



We have many banners that I have made, and there are some that belonged to Santa Clarita Presbyterian Church. After it dissolved, their banners were passed on to us for safe keeping. I hang some at different times of the year. This year I will hang this beautiful satin Easter banner. The rays of light shoot through the clouds with the dove of Christ. I hope you contemplate Jesus and the Lenten season with one of our small groups so you can go in depth on our studies.

With love and blessings, Pam Jenner

The Newhall Press

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MARCH 2018



Sunday Worship Services
9:30 & 11:15 AM



Deadline
for the
April Newsletter:
March 18, 2018

Send articles and photos to our email
address:

newsletter@presby-newhall.org

Thanks to Bob Balkcom, office administrator, for oversight and printing; Ellie and Steve Fuller, for faithfully preparing the newsletter for mailing; and Lorraine King for proof reading; and all those who submitted articles for their efforts to keep this family of faith connected. -John Favalessa, editor this month

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Assoc. Youth Director: Sam Spigelman

Assoc. Children's Director: Lelia Meadows

Office Administrator: Bob Balkcom (ext. 0)

Music Conductor: Connie Woodson

2nd Service Worship Leader: Sam Besse

Treasurer: Dorothy Ng (ext. 3)

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Nursery Care Provider: Linda Weingarten

Little Shepherd's Nursery School

Director: Sharie Telles

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