



**Irvington Presbyterian Church**

**Fremont, CA**

**February 2014**

**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PNC**

**Sundays**

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:15 a.m.

(Nursery and Children  
Sunday School During  
Service)

Irvington Chinese Pres-  
byterian Service: 10:15  
a.m.

"On behalf of the PNC, it is my pleasure and privilege to announce that after many, many hours of prayer, meetings, reading and prayer, the Lord has provided us with a Pastor for the congregation's call.

The Rev. Dr. Larry Thorson is currently the senior pastor at Hemet Presbyterian Church in Hemet, California (southern California). He was born and raised in San Jose, California. Larry has a MA in Theology from Fuller Seminary, a M. Div. from Union Seminary and a D.Min from Columbia. Pastor Larry has served in churches in Virginia, Texas and California.

He has a heart for missions, for childrens work (puppet ministries) and for new church development. He was a co-organizer of the Chino Hills Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, and Legacy Presbyterian in Frisco, Texas, and understands the challenges of doing something anew in a community.

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Larry is married to the Rev. Dr. Martha Thorson, who is a licensed family and marriage counselor. Daughter Kari will be married this March. Son Eric is working on a M. Education. They intend to live in San Jose, where they currently have a house.

The PNC unanimously approved issuing this call. We think he will bring much energy and enthusiasm to the harvest fields around IPC.

His Statement of Faith and fuller bio is attached (see page 2).

He will be preaching at IPC on February 23, 2013, followed by a congregational meeting to vote on the Call, and a reception for both Rev. Larry and Martha Thorson. We look forward to our congregation's welcoming of the Thorson's."

*The members of the PNC are available to answer any questions you have about the pastor and the process of his call. They are Brook Mantia, Lynnette Ariathurai, Mary Lee Starkel, Peter Bade and Ron Fong.*

**Autobiographical Sketch**  
**By**  
*The Reverend Dr. Larry D. Thorson*

I was born in San Jose, California in 1956 and lived there with my parents and one older sister until I left for college in 1975. My father was a plumber and my mother a former teacher who worked as a "stay-at-home mom" during my school years. As a family we attended a Lutheran church (ELCA) where I was baptized as an infant and later completed the confirmation course.

In 1972, while a junior in high school, I experienced the presence of God in a personal way while recovering from a sports injury. I came to know Jesus Christ as my friend and savior and decided then to give my life to him in response. I became involved in a Campus Life Christian club and joined a large, fast growing non-denominational church. Not long after coming to know Christ, I sensed a call to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. My sister sensed the same call and followed the Lord as missionary to China and the former Soviet state of Kazakhstan.

I graduated from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1978 and while there began attending a Presbyterian Church U.S. for the first time. It was in the Rivermont Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg that I met my wife, Martha, who was a student at nearby Lynchburg College. We married in December of 1978 and moved to California where we both attended Fuller Theological Seminary.

While at Fuller Seminary we joined the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood and began the long road to ordination. I graduated from Fuller with a MA in Theology and transferred to Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. I was ordained a PCUS minister in 1983 and served as pastor of the yoked Kentuck and Williamson Memorial Presbyterian Churches outside Danville, Virginia, associate pastor of the Little Falls Presbyterian Church in Arlington, Virginia, church development consultant for City Team Ministries in San Jose, California and co-organizing pastor along with my wife of the Chino Hills Presbyterian Church in suburban Los Angeles.

In January of 1999 my wife accepted a call as Associate Pastor of Congregational Life at the Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas. I followed her to Dallas and was called as the associate pastor of pastoral care, missions and outreach at Grace Presbyterian Church in neighboring Plano. While in Plano, I earned my Doctor of Ministry degree at Columbia Theological Seminary in the area of new church development. Legacy Presbyterian Church of Frisco, Texas was the outgrowth of my final doctoral paper.

In August of 2005 I accepted a call as Senior Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Hemet in southern California. Hemet was a city going through major demographic changes as it transitioned from being primarily a retirement community to an urban city. My wife is a licensed marriage and family therapist working for Christian Counseling Services of Redlands. We have two children, Kari age 28, a graduate of Cal State University at Long Beach presently a recreation director for the city of Burlingame, California and Eric, age 23 who is working on his Masters in education at UC Riverside. God has blessed us with a beautiful joy filled home and wonderful opportunities to be of service for the Kingdom.

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**Theological Statement**  
*The Reverend Dr. Larry D. Thorson*

I believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is our creator, redeemer and sustainer. I worship God our sovereign Lord.

Being created by God, in the image of God, people were set apart with God. However, through a willful act of disobedience, the first man and woman fell out of fellowship with God. They became alienated from God and from each other. Through the sinful nature of our humanity, and through our own willful acts of disobedience, we find ourselves separated from our relationship with God. Sin is individual and corporate, permeating attitudes and actions of persons and societies. Human efforts to restore that broken relationship are ineffective.

Our reconciliation was accomplished by Jesus Christ, God incarnate. Being fully divine and fully human, Jesus Christ restored us to a right relationship with God through his life, death and resurrection. Through faith in Christ we receive the promise of life in fellowship with God now and for eternity. Christ's voluntary death on the cross paid the price for our sin and released us from sin's power. Through his resurrection we receive power over death. It is through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit that one

**Theological Statement**  
*The Reverend Dr. Larry D. Thorson*  
*(continued)*

receives and exercises the faith to trust Christ for this saving reconciliation to God. As a father has compassion on his children, so God had compassion on us while we were yet sinners, providing our salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. I trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior. As a mother nurtures and comforts her children, so God nurtures and comforts us through the Holy Spirit. We rely on the Holy Spirit daily for our spiritual life.

I believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be God's inspired authoritative Word of self-disclosure and redemptive love for humanity. As we read the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit confronts us with the reality of our sin and the gracious acts of God. Through Scripture we are guided and instructed in the ways we are to live out our faith in obedience to God.

The church is the body of all those throughout the world who profess faith in Jesus Christ, together with their children. The church is present whenever the body of believers is gathered for worship, fellowship, and nurture. The church is also present when it is scattered throughout the world for service and witness.

The Sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper are given to the church to celebrate the act by which we are reconciled to God. In baptism we are received into the community of God's people. Scripture promises salvation by faith and it says the promise is to you and to your children. In presenting their child for baptism, Christian parents profess their faith in the Holy Spirit's promise to lead their children to salvation, and they promise obedience to Christ to bring up the child to love and serve God. Persons who have not been baptized as children may testify to the reality of God's grace in professing their own faith in Jesus, being baptized and received into the membership of the church.

The Lord's Supper demonstrates the spiritual nourishment which believers receive from Christ to enable us to live more faithful lives. The breaking of bread and pouring of wine is done in obedience to Christ's command, in worship of him, and in thanksgiving for our salvation achieved through his body being broken and his life being poured out for us. Through the Lord's Supper, we have communion with Christ. Through faith these two sacraments exhibit and offer Christ's saving grace, though salvation is not limited to those who have received them. Through the sacraments, the visible Word contributes to full expression of the preached and written Word, pointing to the incarnate Word, Jesus Christ.

I believe the mission of the church is to bear witness to the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ. The church seeks to present the message of God in such a way that others are encouraged to believe in Christ as Savior, to repent and to obey Christ as Lord of all. Following the example of Jesus Christ, presenting the message of God involves the church in proclaiming the gospel, reconciling people and nations and meeting the physical needs of others.

I believe all Christians are called upon to be witnesses to God's love. Therefore, the true ministry of the church is conducted by all of its members. All members of the body of Christ are to exercise their abilities and gifts in ministry. Certain members are called by God to serve the church as elders, deacons and pastors who are to live in fidelity in marriage or chastity in singleness.



**IPC**  
**SESSION**

# Missions - The Heart of the Church

**REMEMBER**  
**SATURDAY, 8 FEBRUARY AT 5:00 PM**

IPC Mission Team, in its ongoing efforts to give members of the congregation the opportunity to participate in short-term mission trips, is looking into the possibility of going to India to see the projects of Witnessing Ministries of Christ.

As these trips are expensive, the Mission Team tries to offset some of the costs for those interested in participating in the trips. Therefore, we are pleased to announce our first fundraiser dinner for 2014.

We are having a **Valentine's Italian Dinner**. Tickets are available at the door for \$10.00 each. We are planning a wonderful dinner and a time to enjoy each other's fellowship.

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors - join in on the fun. We will have raffle baskets and other special prizes - mark your calendar now!



## Mission Team FundRaiser

The Mission Team is excited about our new fundraiser. We are sure you enjoy the IPC Choir each Sunday. Now you can purchase a CD and listen to them at home, in your car, anytime you want! The Mission Team has made these affordable to all. You can purchase a CD for \$5. Just see any member of the Mission Team and they will be happy to see that you get your copy. We will have them available at the Valentine Dinner on Saturday, 8 February. All funds go into the Mission Fund.

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## F.U.N. SINGLES

IPC F.U.N. Singles meet the first Sunday of the month at 5.P.M. in the McKowen room. We invite all singles to join us. A good time is had by all! Our next meeting will be on February 3rd at 5:00 pm in the McKowen Room.

### MOVIE NIGHT OUT

The singles will be having a movie night out on Friday Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 pm. It will be held at the home of June Dawson, 40754 Marino Ct. Movie to be announced. RSVP June Dawson 510-656-2277.

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## PER CAPITA



The **per capita** for the year 2014 is \$35.15. This is the contribution that our church makes on behalf of each member to help with the costs of the Presbytery of San Francisco, Synod of the Pacific and the General Assembly, the national church body. If you want to add this to your offering, please write "per capita" on the envelope.

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## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Church's Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck will be Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> after worship. Please mark your calendars.

# Congregation Happenings

## Highlights for February

**Mondays:** Women's Bible Study at  
IPC in McKowen Room

2nd & 4th Monday at Mary  
Ellen McKowen's Home

**Wednesdays:** Band Practice  
Children's Choir, Adult  
Choir

**Fridays:** Men's Bible Study - Bay St  
Coffee  
Band Practice

**Sundays:** Christianity 101 Bible  
Class

2nd - Singles Lunch

6th - Worship Team Meeting

7th - Church Alive Meeting

9th - Congregation Annual Meeting

13th - SIS

13th - Mission Team Meeting

16th - Christianity 101 Basic  
Start of Class

16th - C.E. Meeting

17th - Church Office Closed

18th - Deacon's Meeting

22nd - *Church 12 Hours of Prayer*

23rd - **Congregational Meeting to call  
Pastor**

27th - Session Meeting

## Bible Studies

**Men's Bible Study** - This class meets at Bay Street Coffee Roasting  
Friday mornings from 8 am to 9 am.

**Women's Bible Study** - Women meet weekly in the McKowen  
Room. The theme is 102 fascinating Bible studies. Contact Betty Blizel for  
details.

**Home Bible Study** - 2nd & 4th Monday Bible Classes at Mary Ellen's  
house. Contact Mary Ellen McKowen for additional details.



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

INTERNET STUDY: IPCINTEcclesia@AOL.COM

ECCLESIASTES STUDY

MEN and WOMEN.

We will study The Book of Ecclesiastes, One Chapter a week; twelve chapters in all. This week will be chapter 2.

Ecclesiastes written by King Solomon who has seen and done it all and realizes all is meaningless. Twelve Chapters: 1. Everything is meaningless. 2. Pleasures are meaningless. 3. A time for everything. 4. Oppression, toil, friendlessness. 5. Fulfill your vow to God. 6. Gifts from God. 7. Wisdom. 8. Obey the King. 9. A common destiny for all. 10. Death and folly. 11. Invest in many ventures. 12. Remember your Creator while you are young.

( Below from "Living on the Ragged Edge" by Charles Swindoll about Ecclesiastes.)

**"The good life--the one that truly satisfies--exists only when we stop wanting a better one. It is the condition of savoring what is, rather than longing for what might be.** The itch for things, the lust for more--so brilliantly injected by those who peddle them--is a virus draining our souls of happy contentment. Have you noticed? A man never earns enough. A woman is never beautiful enough. Clothes are never fashionable enough. Cars are never nice enough. Houses are never big enough. Relationships are never romantic enough. Life is never full enough.

Satisfaction comes when we step off the escalator of desire and say, "THIS IS ENOUGH" What I have will do. What I make of it is up to me and my vital union with the Living Lord."

Each week you would receive an E-Mail. No questions, just reading. If you would like to comment, respond by clicking "REPLY ALL" at the right side of the E-Mail.

The verses will be printed out using the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible. This will be followed by commentary from Matthew Henry. Matthew Henry (1662-1740 was an English commentator on the Bible and a Presbyterian Minister.

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## Christianity 101 Bible Class

"Do you want to know what the Bible says are the fundamentals for every Christian? Then come to the Christianity 101 bible class, starting on Sunday, February 16, following Sunday service. It will be a 12 week bible class to include the following essential subjects:

The reliability of Scripture

The person and character of Jesus Christ

The Holy Spirit

Sin & Redemption

and More.....

We will delve into the scriptures, discuss them and answer questions on what it means to be a Christian. Lay Pastor Nick McClure will be leading the class.

Luncheon will begin at 11:45 a.m., and the bible study starting around 12:15 p.m. Childcare is provided.

If you want more information, e-mail Lynnette Ariathurai at [lawaria@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lawaria@sbcglobal.net)

See you there!"

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## Day of Prayer

IPC day of prayer is coming Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please look for more information to come.

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**CORNED BEEF CABBAGE  
& KARAOKE  
SAVE THIS DATE**

On Saturday, March 15, IPC will be having a corned beef and cabbage dinner. There will also be Karaoke, which will be a lot of fun. This will be a great night of fellowship, bring your neighbors and friends. Look for more details later.





IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
4181 IRVINGTON AVENUE  
P O BOX 1366  
FREMONT CA 94538-0133  
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Please note: February 25 is the deadline for the March issue.*

All articles are to be emailed to nicholsb@earthlink.net

**or** mailed to:

Bonnie and Teresa at P. O. Box 48, Shingletown, CA 96088

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us via email or phone at (530) 355-8685 or (510) 821-1072 (leave message and we will call you back).

The Cornerstone keeps current and past congregation members informed of all activities at IPC.

Pictures are always welcome.

**Your timely submissions are appreciated!**

## **Do you HAVE A COMPUTER?**

If you answered yes, IPC has three exciting news items for you!

1. LIKE us on our FACEBOOK page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Irvington-Presbyterian-Church/116256295065982>  
Share events, make comments, keep in touch with friends.
2. Visit our website at [www.irvingtonpres.com](http://www.irvingtonpres.com). It is updated with all events and news. We will also be posting the Cornerstone to the website so you can read it there also.
3. If you have provided us with your email address, check your in-box for your electronic copy of the Cornerstone.



# TRI CITY FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM



In December 2013, an average of 160 guests were served per day. Highest day in December was 192 guests and 275 meals. Average meals were 212. Total December meals were 2,753 meals (first and seconds) with 655 provisions. The Program is feeding 9.9% more guests and serving 6.8% more meals in 2013 than in 2012.

For more information about the Tri City Free Breakfast Program, please visit their Facebook page at: <http://bit.ly/tcfbpFB>



**IPC DEACONS**



**SOCIAL GATHERING**



**LADIES OUT TO LUNCH**



**PRAISE GROUP  
JANUARY  
2014**



**CHOIR  
DEC 2013**



# SESSION NOTES

Excerpt from January 2014 Sessions Notes:

**Buildings and Grounds** – Dave Wegener Highlights from Report submitted.

- 1) Clearwire has repaired the sanctuary roof leak and the sinking electrical box on 1/20/14
- 2) The new Copier needs a 30amp plug to work per the Xerox tech support on 1/21/14.

**C.E.** – Lynnette Ariarthurai – Highlights

- 1) Adult Ed Christianity 101 class starting February 2 to be led by Nick McClure conflicts with Super Bowl, so is moved to February 9. But since that conflicts with the Annual Meeting, it will not start until February 16.
- 2) February 8 – kids families activity planned from 4-5 pm before the Missions Dinner. Teens will also have an evening activity out supplementing the Missions Dinner.
- 3) Continuing to pray for a full time Children & Youth Director to come in 2014; and for assistance in getting the Tuesday night program off the ground

**Deacons** – Dawn Lunn – Highlights

- 1) Finances healthy.
- 2) No new moderator despite the best efforts of Shirley Murray. All are tasked to pray and consider stepping up.
- 3) Sunday Snacks – Still Need Snack Coordinator. Slots are filled through February 14, but need a coordinator.
- 4) Other Committee assignments and new parish lists are pending
- 5) Deacon Reps to Session for February will be Denise Pennelly
- 6) Need to ordain and install Colleen Ridley still
- 7) Session Reps to Deacons Board in 2014 will be
  - (i) January 21 – Russ Pennelly
  - (ii) February 18 – Dean Ostdiek (Ron Fong alternate)
  - (iii) March 18 – Heather Ostdiek
  - (iv) April 22 – Ron Fong

**Missions** - Mary Ellen McKowen – Highlights

- 1) February 8 Missions Fundraiser. Hope to raise additional funds in anticipation of a 2015 Mission Trip.
- 2) Next Meeting is February 13th

**Evangelism** (nee Church Alive) – Russ Pennelly – Highlights from Report submitted.

- 1) Focus 2014
  - (i) IPC will tackle relationships
    - (a) with God through worship and education
    - (b) with each other in a variety of social ways
    - (c) with visitors in numerous ways to be discussed
- 2) Calendar updates
  - (i) Singles Group – next meeting is lunch February 5
  - (ii) Couples Group – Dessert gathering March 31
  - (iii) Prayer Date – 12 hours of prayer Saturday February 22
  - (iv) Ministry Faire – Sunday March 2
  - (v) Corned Beef Cabbage & Karaoke – Saturday March 15
  - (vi) Ecclesiastics Bible Study – has started
- 3) Next Committee Meeting – moved from February 14 to February 7 due to conflicts

**Communications** - Elder Daxesh Patelia will focus on communications - newsletter, website, Facebook page, etc.

- 1) IPC Facebook page is pretty active –<https://www.facebook.com/irvingtonpres> Biggest hits were pictures of people, like the Irvingtones. That reached 633 people. Please tell folks to LIKE our page.
- 2) IPC Website page is static [www.irvingtonpres.com](http://www.irvingtonpres.com) – needs attention and data. Domain name has been renewed for two more years through 2015.
- 3) Church Newsletter – January was published and posted in <http://bit.ly/IPC-Cornerstone>. Deadlines are the 22nd. If anyone is not getting their newsletter electronically, they may ask for hard copies. If anyone is expecting an electronic copy, and is not receiving one. Then check your spam box or send an email to [ipccornerstone@frontier.com](mailto:ipccornerstone@frontier.com)
- 4) No correspondence to report. No requests for baptisms, weddings or funerals
- 5) TCFBP newsletter Breakfast Bytes published Mid Year. Need to work on Year End edition
- 6) Minutes of IPC for 2013 in PDF format are now available online at <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B3tSu4SIMVDTN2g4TTBaWGxnYm8&usp=sharing>