



# CORNERSTONE

Jesus Christ, the living cornerstone  
and you are also living stones,  
built into a dwelling place of God  
in the Spirit.  
- Eph. 2:20-22 1 Peter 2:4,5

**Irvington Presbyterian Church**

**Fremont, CA**

**February 2015**

## Sundays

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:15 a.m.

(Nursery and Children Sunday School During Service)

Irvington Chinese Presbyterian Service: 10:15 a.m.

# Greetings

Dear Friends,

The season of Lent will start on Wednesday, **February 18th** and will continue for 46 days until "Holy Saturday", the **4th of April**. The six Sundays in Lent are not counted among the forty days of lent because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter", a celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death. The purpose of Lent is to spend 40 days evaluating our lives in light of God's Word and prepare ourselves to greater trust in our Savior Jesus Christ.

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Before Jesus started his ministry he fasted for 40 days and lived in the wilderness where he had few physical comforts and support. While I don't recommend 40 days of fasting, Jesus (and many of our contemporaries) have proven we won't die without food for 40 days.

To evaluate our lives we need to find what's important and what's not important. When we evaluate cars we take them on test drives and evaluate how they drive, how the seats feel, how good the visibility is. To evaluate our lives we need to take away and/or add something we value. We can anything if it's just for 40 days.

What do you want to do with your 40 days? Giving up chocolate for Lent is the old traditional safe choice. I don't eat that much chocolate so that would not make much of a dent in my evaluation. What about six fasting days – one for each week? Or how about volunteering in our breakfast program or a similar program aiding those less fortunate six times? Or what about reading the Bible every day for 40 days?

The big thing about Lent is to try something different for 40 days that would make you or the earth (God's creation) healthier but more dependent on God. We'll kick it off Wednesday night February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the McKowen Room with the imposition of the ashes. What will you do for Lent?

Pastor Larry



# Missions – The Heart of the Church

## With Love and Gratitude The IPC Mission Team Says Farewell to a Dear Friend



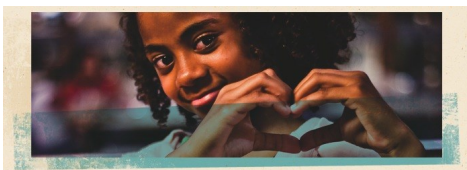
At the end of December our dear friend, Virginia Stull, went home to the Lord.

With a heart for Missions, Virginia served on the IPC Mission Team for many years. She was frequently seen at the door of our events, collecting money and selling drawing tickets. She prayed for our Missionaries and encouraged others to do the same. She had a persuasive yet genteel demeanor and was loved by everyone at IPC.

Virginia was active in many community organizations (at 85 she was still volunteering at the Senior Center, “helping the old folks”, she said) and she brought a special wealth of knowledge to IPC. The Mission team is especially grateful for Virginia’s knowledge, service and contribution to IPC’s Mission Outreach Program.

She had a particular place in her heart for Philip Smith of Hope Unlimited for Children. In this Valentine’s month we know she would encourage you to donate a Valentine’s card for the Hope Girls in Brazil.

Virginia loved and served the Lord for 95 years. She is with him now. She is greatly missed by all of us.



## HOPE UNLIMITED VALENTINE'S CARDS

In Brazil, Valentine’s Day, known as Dia dos Namorados (Day of the Enamored) is celebrated on June 12th.

Brazilians celebrate Valentine’s Day in a big way. The day is seen as a “get together” day for beloved people. Gifts, flowers and chocolates are exchanged. The day guides people in the ambience of love, happiness and celebration. Houses are decorated in an exotic way and friends or relatives are invited to homes for a grand dinner. Across the country musical concerts are prolific, music being the soul of Brazilians.

Hope Unlimited for Children joins in the celebration. Each February, churches and individuals across the U.S. add a little something to their Valentine’s preparations. As they make cards for friends and family, and maybe for that special loved one, they take the time to make a card for one of our girls. The cards are given to the girls during a party celebrating Brazil’s Day of Love in early summer. As the valentines are passed out, godly women talk to them about the meaning of love, the importance of purity, and their value as the highest creations of the God that truly loves them. The smiles and squeals as the girls open their valentines are great rewards, but having the chance to change their self-perception means so much more. We are heartbroken by the lives these girls were forced to lead before they came to Hope. But we rejoice to see their innocence restored, to know that our God is a God of new beginnings.

So...as Valentine’s Day approaches for us here at IPC, think about Hope and pick up an extra card or two. Make a wish of God’s Love and sign the card(s). Give that card(s) to a Mission Team member who will collect them and send them to Hope for their celebration on June 12th.





**IN MEMORY OF VIRGINIA STULL**  
IPC will be having a memorial service for Virginia Stull on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. with a reception following in the Social Hall.

## Congregation Happenings

### Highlights for February

1st - Super Bowl/Scout Sunday/Souper Bowl  
3rd - Session Small Group Meeting  
5th - Worship Committee Meeting  
6th - E-Team Meeting (?)  
8th - CE Committee Meeting  
10th - Presbytery Mtg @ Sojourner Truth  
12th - Missions Team Meeting  
15th - Annual Congregational Meeting  
16th - Church Office Closed - President's Day  
17th - Deacons Session  
18th - Ash Wednesday

18th - IPC Ladies Out to Lunch  
19th - Chinese New Years (Year 4713 Goat)  
26th - Session Meeting  
28th - 12 Hours of Prayer

#### MARCH

3rd - Session Small Group Meeting  
5th - Worship Committee Meeting  
6th - E-Team Meeting (?)  
5th - 7th - BASS Conference, (Castro Valley)  
6th - Holi (India Festival of Colors)  
8th - Daylight Savings Time starts

**Mondays: Women's Bible Study** - Women's Bible Study at IPC in McKowen Room  
**Home Bible Study** - 2nd & 4th Monday at Mary Ellen McKowen's Home

**Wednesdays:** Band Practice

**Fridays:** Band Practice

**Sundays:** Journey Into Faith

## Bible Studies

**Women's Bible Study** - Women meet weekly in the McKowen Room. If you would like to join, please check with Carol Lynn to see about a study book.

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

# Chinese Ministry 2014 Report

By the Grace of God, we are entering our tenth year worshipping with IPC. Most of our worshippers are elderly. Weekly Chinese language worship services at 10:00 a.m. average about 18 people. IPC Chinese Ministry, although small in number, is big in spirit and heart impacting many.

The ministry was started and led by Elder Amy Wu, who is currently age 72. Her husband Ed Wu, who is age 83 years old, plays the piano at worship services most of time.

Pastor Dick Hwang, and his wife Veronica, are also leaders in the ministry. Dick and Veronica has very tight schedules. Besides their full time jobs, they also have to care for their elderly mothers, as well as help support Sunday worship with setting up and preaching and leading worship.

Pastor Dick however makes time to host a boisterous Ping – Pong ministry group on Wednesday nights starting at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall. It got moved from Thursday nights this year to accommodate Comunidad Church who wanted to use the Social Hall on Thursday evenings. There are over a dozen people who regularly participate in this ministry with much fun, laughter and friendship evangelism happening.

We have received phone calls and conducted prayer with the many people who have attended the IPC Chinese ministry and travel the Pacific back and forth between Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and California. Their frequent travels back and forth across the ocean earn them the nickname of “turtles”.

Recently, Brother Sung went home to be with the Lord in his sleep. The memorial service started at 6 p.m. and ended at promptly at 6:45 p.m., fitting it in between band practice and a wedding rehearsal. Many people commented on this being a heart-warming service.

Amy Wu leads a Bible Study at the nearby Sequoia Manor senior housing complex on Fremont Boulevard on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. It is a blessing as some of them come from many different churches or do not even live in Sequoia Manor. About 10-15 people attend.

Amy shares that Mr. & Mrs. Guo from the Chinese service have been faithfully attending the Tri City Free Breakfast Program (TCFBP) to share the gospel and invite folks to come attend IPC Chinese worship. Many of the Tri City Free Breakfast Program Chinese seniors apparently attend church at Fremont Community Church, Bridges, Home of Christ #3, Forerunner Church or Tri City Chinese Baptist Church.

Recently we finally had success. A former professor, who we called Hwang MaMa, who used to teach psychology in Taiwan, has started coming to worship with us at IPC. Additionally, another sister who used to attend Forerunner Christian Church (formerly a school site at Sundale and Coco Palms) is now attending the IPC Chinese worship.

Other outreach is done every Thursday morning when Ed Wu goes to the Fremont Senior Center in Central Park along with Brother Michael Chang of Centerville Church. They pass out gospel tracts to the seniors who are there for the free coffee and invite them to attend IPC.

We enjoy the fellowship with the IPC English members and Pastor Larry.

We are greatly beloved, highly favored and tremendously blessed children of God.

Glory to God!

In Christ

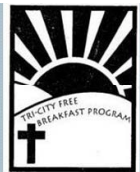
Elder Amy Wu



# Chinese Ministry 2014 Report (continued)

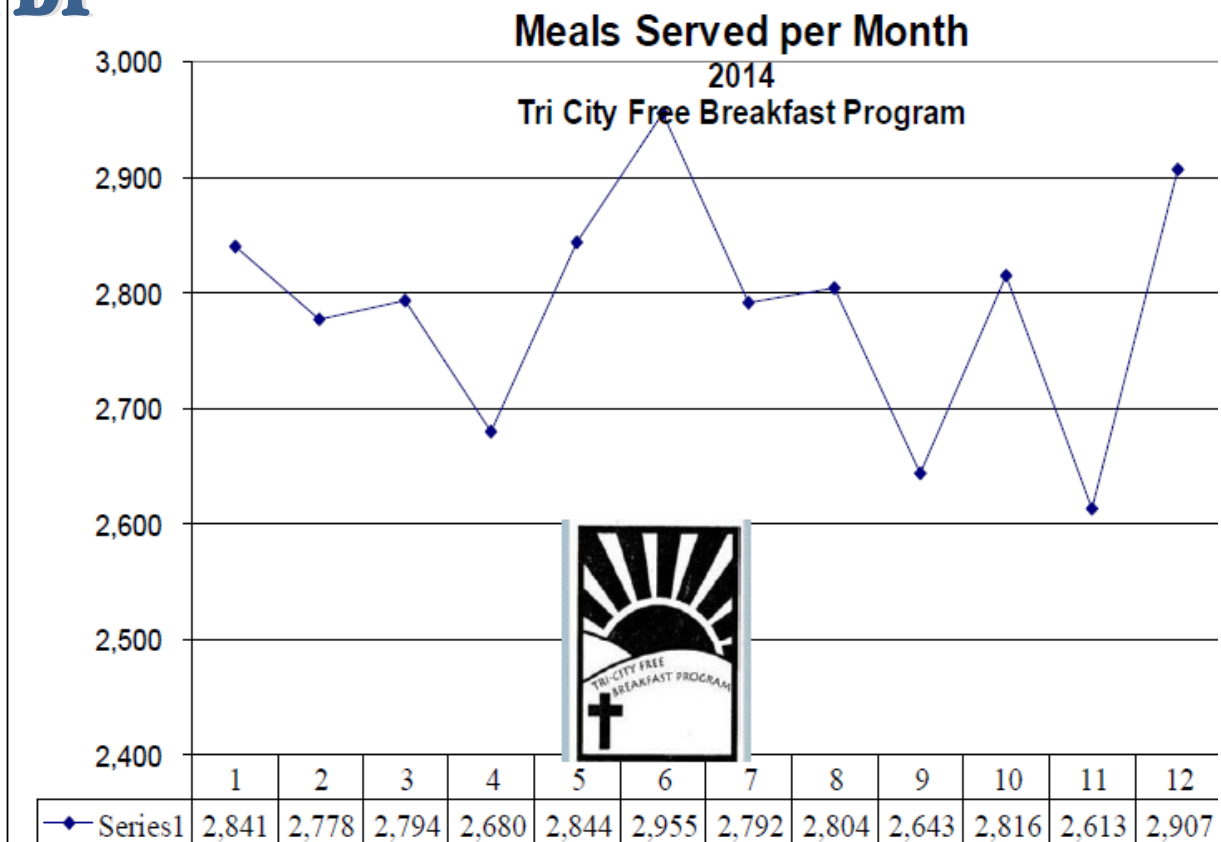
P.S. We support our local mission – Herald Family Rebuilding Center, headed by Ann Zhou of IPC Chinese Ministry. The ministry is housed in the Fremont Family Resource Center. The ministry advocates for the family values and engages in preventive effort to protect and foster family unity.

HFRC assists immigrant couples experiencing relational difficulties to restore their family relationships. We also empower single parents and their families during their post-divorce struggles through workshops, support group meetings and individual counseling. About 50% of American immigrant families experience divorce; and 75% of those who remarry also divorce. The immigrant divorcees and their children struggle which is why we support this critical ministry that is based on the healing power of Jesus. In 2013, Ann who worships with us, traveled to Europe and China on behalf of HFBC and it was fruitful.



In December 2014, an average of 145 guests were served versus 168 guests were served per day in November. Highest day in December was 210 guests and 290 meals, an increase from the 198 guests and 275 meals served in November. Average meals were 208. Total December meals 2,907 meals (first and seconds) with 593 bags of provisions distributed and 13 children served.

## TCFBP

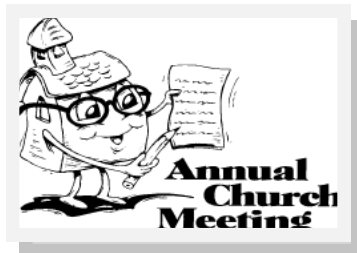


2014 Year to Date –

- (a) 24,708 guests & 33,467 meals served in the twelve months of 2014.
- (b) 5,851 bags of provisions distributed
- (c) Over 7,788 volunteer hours donated by 100 different people throughout the year.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



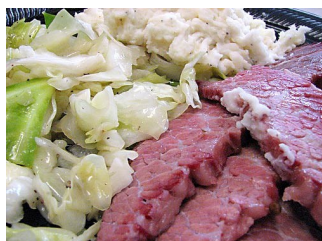
Please mark your calendars, the church's Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck will be **February 15** in the Social Hall after worship. We will be electing Corporation Officers for 2015, affirming the call for the Rev. Dr. Larry Dean Thorson, electing three "at-large" members of the Nominating Committee, and to receive the annual report. People interested in serving on Nom Comm should contact Bruce Schlobohm or Ron Fong.

## 12 HOURS OF PRAYER



The Evangelism Committee is planning on having the 12 Hours of Prayer again this year on Saturday February 28 from 7 AM to 7 PM. As you may know it requires a good many people to make this work. Each person prays for at least 30 minutes in the Sanctuary and there is another person in the Narthex for security and support and also meeting the next person praying. This requires 24 people to sign up to pray and others to remain in the Narthex. Darlene Neesham will be having sign-ups in February and if anyone has questions or suggestions she will be glad to speak with you. Those who have participated in the past found it to be very rewarding and I am sure it will be again this year.

## SAVE THE DATE



Mark your calendars for March 14th! That is the date for 2015 Corned Beef and Karaoke Fun Night. If you attended last year, you know everyone had a great time. If you did not, you missed a great dinner and fellowship time. Be sure to invite your neighbors and friends.



## 2015 BASS CHURCH WORKERS CONFERENCE 5 - 7 MARCH 2015 IN CASTRO VALLEY

Mark your calendars to attend this conference. Every aspect is designed to help you grow in the area of ministry to which God has called you. Visit <https://bassconvention.org> to view the list of workshops that are available plus the speakers at the General Sessions. In addition, there will be some wonderful information available at the many exhibitor booths. Car pools will be leaving IPC at 6:00 pm On Thursday, 5 March. Sign-up today!



# CE COMMITTEE - KIDS UPDATE



The IPC program is still going good. They currently have 25 to 30 kids participating. This is slightly down from December due to the Christmas break and the start of various sports programs. If you see or know any families, let them know that the program has started back up after Christmas break. Let's spread the word!

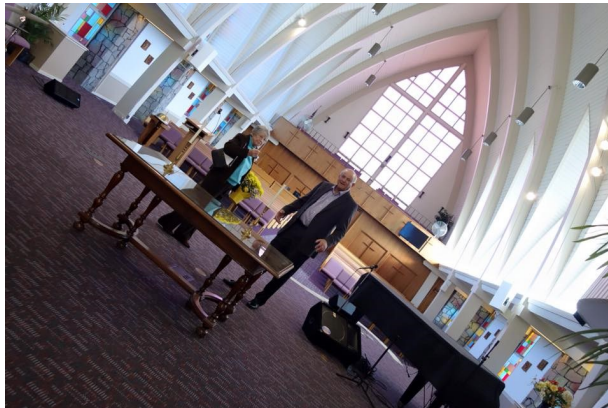
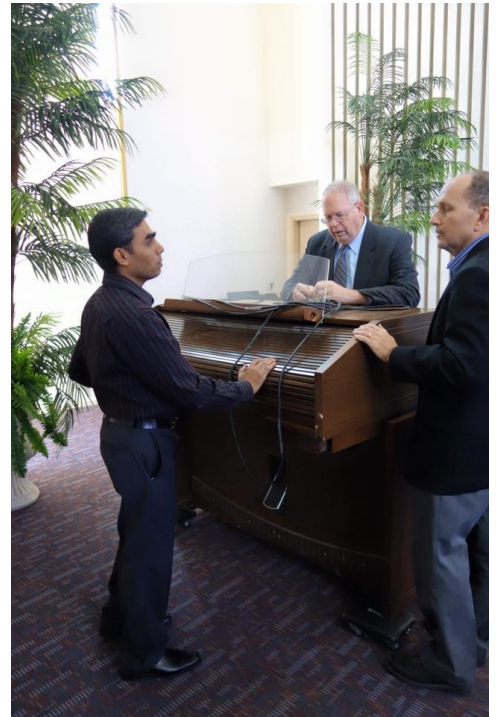


IPC is still participating in the Homework Club which is a rewarding experience to help these young children. They are fortunate to now have a teacher present at each session to help the children.

## WATCH THIS SPACE



Easter Sunday is April 5th. IPC will have its Annual Easter Egg Hunt. That means we will need your help in filling all those eggs with goodies for the children. As we get near Easter, watch for the date in the bulletin or check with any member of CE to find out the date and time when you can help!



The organ moving  
back into the church.

IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
4181 IRVINGTON AVENUE  
P O BOX 1366  
FREMONT CA 94538-0133

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Please note: February 24th 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.





When was the last time you visited the IPC Facebook page? If you do not visit it regularly, you should. Below are some great pictures from the Christmas service at IPC. In addition, there are some wonderful spiritual postings to help you through your day.



Like us on  
**Facebook**

**Reaching  
out to the  
World**

Would you like to learn more about IPC Missions or Faith Promise? Pick up a copy of one of our brochures in the narthex. We have a brochure that shows all of the Missionaries that IPC supports. In addition, we have put together a brochure to explain why IPC Missions is supported by Faith Promise. If you have any questions or would like more information or would like to serve on the Mission Team, please see Mary Ellen McKowen or any member of the Missions Team.

**Reaching  
out to our  
neighbors**

**FEBRUARY 2015**

| SUN  | MON  | TUE                                | WED   | THU  | FRI   | SAT  | ☺ |
|--|--|------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| 1<br>9:00 AM BIBLE STUDY<br>10:15 AM WORSHIP &<br>CHILDREN'S CHURCH<br>COMMUNION SUNDAY                              | 2<br>7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST<br>9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE<br>STUDY  | 3<br>SMALL GROUP MEETING           | 4   | 5<br>7:00 PM WORSHIP<br>COMMITTEE                      | 6<br>7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST<br>2:30 PM BAND PRACTICE<br>7:00 PM EVANGELISM<br>COMMITTEE | 7<br>11:00 AM MEMORIAL<br>SERVICE: VIRGINIA<br>STULL |   |
| 8<br>9:00 AM BIBLE STUDY<br>10:15 AM WORSHIP &<br>CHILDREN'S CHURCH<br>12:00 PM CE MEETING                           | 9<br>7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST<br>9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE<br>STUDY<br>7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY AT<br>MCKOWENS  | 10<br>PRESBYTERY MTG -<br>RICHMOND | 11<br>7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST<br>6:30 PM BAND PRACTICE   | 12<br>4:00 PM SIS (SHE IS SAFE<br>5:00 PM MISSION TEAM | 13<br>7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST<br>2:30 PM BAND PRACTICE                                   | 14   |   |
| 15<br>9:00 AM BIBLE STUDY<br>10:15 AM WORSHIP &<br>CHILDREN'S CHURCH<br>MISSION SUNDAY<br>ANNUAL CONGREGATION<br>MTG | 16<br>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED<br>PRESIDENT'S DAY  | 17<br>7:00 PM DEACON'S<br>MEETING  | 18<br>7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST<br>6:30 PM BAND PRACTICE<br>11:30 AM IPC LADIES OUT<br>TO LUNCH<br>ASH WEDNESDAY | 19<br>CHINESE NEW YEARS<br>(YEAR 4713 GOAT)            | 20<br>7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST<br>2:30 PM BAND PRACTICE                                   | 21<br>12 HOURS OF PRAYER                             |   |
| 22<br>9:00 AM BIBLE STUDY<br>10:15 AM WORSHIP &<br>CHILDREN'S CHURCH   | 23<br>7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST<br>9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE<br>STUDY<br>7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY AT<br>MCKOWENS | 24                                 | 25<br>7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST<br>6:30 PM BAND PRACTICE   | 26<br>7:00 PM SESSION<br>MEETING                       | 27<br>7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST<br>2:30 PM BAND PRACTICE                                   | 28   |   |