



## CORNERSTONE

Jesus Christ, the living cornerstone  
built and you are also living stones,  
in the Spirit.  
- Eph. 2:20-22 I Peter 2:4,5

Irvington Presbyterian Church

October 8, 2011

# 125th Anniversary Special

## 125 Years in Irvington for Jesus

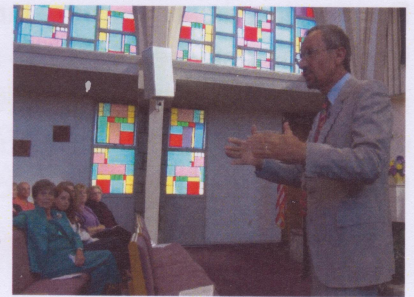
Among those who rallied to David when he first became King of Israel were "men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do." (1 Chronicles 12:32).

In 1886 some people at Washington College knew what they should do: they founded a church in their little village. They came to church on foot or in horse-drawn buggies. Hymns were accompanied by a foot-pumped organ. The bell, cast in 1889, rang out over the fertile vineyards and apricot orchards. God's glory shone over Washington Corners.

Times have changed. Washington Corners was renamed Irvington. We come to church by car; we have a PA system and a web site.

Though the good news of Jesus Christ has not

changed, we present Jesus in new ways to our fast-changing community. Like Issachar, we need to understand the times and know what we should do. On the unshakable foundation of the love of God in Jesus Christ, we are reaching the hearts of young and old in the Tri-Cities. Through our excellent team of staff and dynamic volunteers God is being glorified in Irvington, as He was through our church 125 years ago.

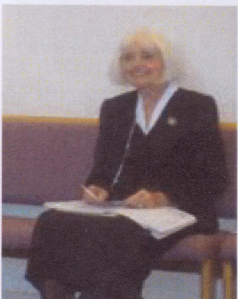


Warmly in Christ,

Pastor Michael

## A Successful 125th Celebration- Mary Wolfe

Our well-attended IPC Anniversary Celebration held on October 8 was a stunning success. The program consisted of a most informative historical review of the church. Eight members and former members of IPC shared their recollections during the "Things I Remember" segments. Pastor Michael's message "Honor the Past, Embrace the Future;" outstanding musical presentation, and joyful congregational singing added to the feeling of camaraderie and unity as we gathered in the name of Christ to honor His church.



A special "Let the Bell Ring Again" offering was collected in an effort to reach the goal of \$4,000, the sum needed to get the bell up and ringing. This offering totaled \$2,361.00. To date with special and weekly contributions, our goal was achieved. Plans are now underway to have our bell operational by the end of this year.

IPC is indebted to Mary Wolfe for chairing this event and to all who helped and participated. Their combined efforts made the celebration an event that will be fondly remembered.



**My Thoughts on the 125th — Leila Kalin**

First of all, I think it was a great success, thanks to the hard work of Mary Nell Wolfe who pulled this whole program together in just three weeks. Thank you so very much, Mary.

My heart was filled with joy and pride as I looked out over the congregation on the day of our 125th celebration and saw so many of our members, both present and former. There was one gentleman there that I had not seen for at least 25 years or more and I still can remember where he would sit every Sunday.

Many things flashed through my mind. All of the accomplishments we made in building this sanctuary, then the remodeling and the redecorating. These activities were so much fun and very rewarding. We were all so happy and proud. It seems like yesterday; shows how time flies when you're having fun.

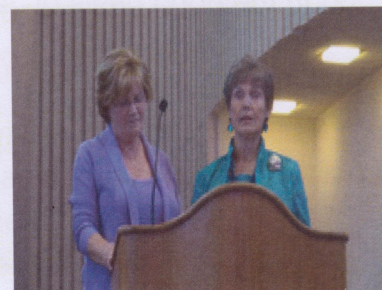
Regressing down memory lane, I remember our Couples Club that organized many activities for us to spend time together. We would all go camping with our families, and enjoyed many hours in the Pinochle Club. These were happy times for our church family and a wonderful time in our lives. We love our church. May God Bless IPC and all of our loving and caring congregation.

**My 125th Impressions — Ellen Black**

It was a personal joy and honor to be asked to participate in the 125th Anniversary of Irvington Presbyterian Church, a church that will always be our family church.

**Dear New Friends:** It was a pleasure to meet and become acquainted with you two very busy young people as you minister for the Lord at Irvington Presbyterian Church. There is nothing quite like being in "The Family of God" and working together. Lifelong friendships are made and kept with such love. I do appreciate you both. God Bless!!

**Old Friends and Older Friends:** My computer has all kinds of files and I've discovered that my brain is full of old files as well. One whole section of my brain is filled with "files" which, to my delight, were reopened that day. Friends of recent years (20/30 years) and files of well over 40/50 years came popping up as I listened to the many stories and history that were shared. Several dear friends whom I had worked with in the church and not seen for at least 35 years, came up and reintroduced themselves to me. What a wonderful gift the Lord has bestowed upon me.



**The Cornerstone:** The monthly Cornerstone which I have received through all these years has helped to keep me aware of the ministry in which the church is involved. It has helped keep me updated with new members and all the programs going on there.....a great tool for you as well as many of us who still feel a part of the church. I wish I had said something about the Cornerstone when I was speaking because dear Eleanor Conwell has been such a faithful servant of the Lord in keeping the newsletter going for so many years. God Bless her and others that are keeping up this ministry. It's truly appreciated by many of us, in particular, Ellen Black.



### **Our 125th Experience — Carole and Carroll Kinslow**

When we were asked to describe what it felt like to attend the 125th anniversary of IPC, it just felt like we had never left IPC. There is a wonderful "family" feeling of worshiping in a church for 30 years. God has brought former members, new members and visitors into our lives to enrich our walk with Him. We will always treasure the friendships and spiritual mentors during our time at IPC.

The 125th celebration ceremony was wonderful. It was not only a celebration but a reminder of how God continues to work in our lives and in the life of the church. It is both exciting and rewarding to meet His challenge for us in His church.

Moving forward to the next 125 years in the life of IPC, we look forward with excitement, each time we visit or read The Cornerstone to learn more about the activities that are occurring. With God in control, IPC will continue to be a blessing to its community and worshipers.

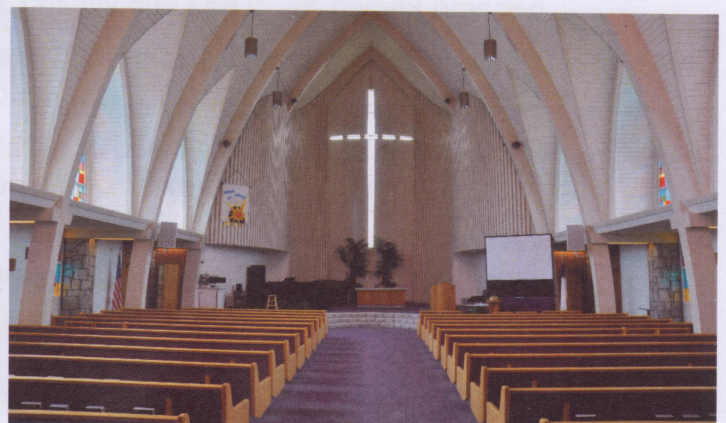
### **What the 125th Meant to Us - Editors**

The celebration of this significant milestone has strengthened our appreciation for the roots of love, commitment and pride that are firmly planted in our church. We were two among the new members who witnessed a very special family reunion. This event, however, was wrapped in the arms of Christ and bathed in His glory.

His presence could be felt all around as we met and talked with the individuals who witnessed the changing times during the phases of church demolition, construction and reconstruction, changing of leaders and fluctuation of church membership as the demography and economic climate changed in Irvington and the surrounding districts. We listened in awesome wonder as some members recalled their relay trek up to Mission Peak "bearing a cross" that had been fashioned from segments of stained glass windows taken from "The Little White Church."

It was definitely God's grace that enabled so much preparation to be done in such a short space of time. Mary Wolfe and a small committee planned and executed a beautiful program that included a three-hour service in the sanctuary followed by a time of fellowship and dinner in the Social Hall. All of this was done concurrently with launching a task-force to resurrect the church bell which had been in storage and had not rung for 25 years.

For us, your Cornerstone Editors and among the newest members in the church, we felt blessed to learn the history that was recounted and chronicled below. It was indeed a pleasure to meet some of the members who not only helped with the construction process; but also built the solid foundation that is IPC today. We are inspired to remember this rich history and to use it as a catalyst to fulfill our spiritual mission as we gather in His name in the house that He has provided.





*The events chronicled below have a two-fold purpose. The first is to refresh the memory of those who witnessed first hand or remembered the establishment of our church and its growth through the years. Second, our newer members can use the rich history to continue building on the solid foundation that was laid down for the past 125 years. We trust that as you read this issue, you are inspired as we were. Once again we have been blessed with the Lord's direction and encouragement to produce this issue. We dedicate this 125th Anniversary keepsake to the IPC congregation, especially Mary Wolfe, whose drive and determination helped to make the project a success.*

### **IPC 125th Year Timeline History - Mary Wolfe and Editors**

- 1860's Present-day Irvington was named Washington Corners. Later named Irving and then Irvington.
- 1871 Washington College opened.
- 4/1877 Dr. Judge Haley Durham was born. Graduated from Washington College in 1891 and University of California Dental School in 1897. He opened a dental practice at "Five Corners", and stayed at that location for more than 50 years. This "gentleman farmer" became the guiding influence for the church that would ultimately become IPC. His influence continued until his death on January 21, 1958.
- 1883 Rev./ Professor Judge Durham came to Washington College as Vice-President, Minister and Teacher. He became President of Washington College in 1891.
- 1884 Funds solicited to build a church. Started with \$100 from Rev. Judge Durham. Rev. Robert McHatton and Rev. Judge Durham spear-headed a drive for start-up funds.
- 1884 Worship services moved from the college chapel to The Odd Fellows Hall. Soon there were 19 converts, who were baptized in a small stream across from Odd Fellows Hall.
- 4/26/1886 Articles of Incorporation notarized for Christian Church of Irving, Alameda County, CA.
- 1886 Alfred O. Rix hired to build church for bid of \$2,245.
- 5/15/1886 Grant deed for 93' X 140' lot fronting on Old Oakland – San Jose Highway (now called Fremont Boulevard where O'Reilly Auto Store now stands.)
- 9/22/1886 First worship service and dedication of the Christian Church of Irving. The Christian Church of Irving and Washington College were both affiliated with Disciples of Christ Denomination, known as the Christian Church. The church measured 40' X 60' and was set back 25' from the highway. Capacity was about 200. This structure soon became known as "The Little White Church."
- 1891 Rev. Judge Durham, mainstay of Christian Church of Irving retired from Washington College.
- 1914 Rev. Judge Durham was killed in a train derailment near Sacramento while on his way home from a missionary excursion. He was the only casualty.
- 1914 Washington College closed. Affiliated Ministers and Student Pastors from Berkeley Presbyterian Theological Seminary and San Anselmo filled the pulpit.
- 5/27/1923 Name changed to Irvington Community Church.





- 1924 Church first listed with San Francisco Presbytery. Membership at the time was 31.
- 4/10/1949 Name changed to Community Presbyterian Church of Irvington.
- 5/1950 Dr. Durham spear-headed an intensive building campaign to raise \$7,500 for an addition to the church. During the week of May 7-14, a total of \$6,000 was pledged.
- 6/6/1950 Construction of addition began by Contractor Randolph A. Griffin, grandson of the original contractor. The addition was 60' X 20' and cost \$8,574.28.
- 11/12/1950 Dedication of addition.
- 12/1950 Mortgage paid off.
- 8/1954 Quote from Rev. Rhoades: "The Durham Family was the greatest I have ever known." One statement from Dr. Durham was "Dogs have more friends than people because they wag their tails and not their tongues."
- 7/10/1955 Name changed to Irvington Presbyterian Church.
- 5/1958 Name changed to Irvington United Presbyterian Church.
- 5/1982 Name once again became Irvington Presbyterian Church (IPC).
- 1/13/1957 Rev. J. Theodore Alam installed as Pastor. The church had 61 registered members.
- Late 1950s Growth of the area exploded and IPC also felt it was time to expand. San Francisco Presbytery purchased a nearby 20-acre parcel of land; reserved six and a half acres for a new IPC site and sold the rest of the property.
- 5/18/1958 Ground breaking for Social Hall. James Griffin, great grandson of 1886 builder, Alfred O. Rix, constructed a temporary sanctuary for bid of \$57,385. Additions increased the cost to \$65,000.
- 1960 Two Sunday School wings were built by James Griffin at a cost of \$55,000.
- 1960 Because of the type of construction used for "The Little White Church," it could not be moved. It was sold for \$30,000 and torn down. IPC retained ownership of the Bronze Church Bell which was manufactured in 1889 in San Francisco. The bell measures 24" across, 20" high and weighs over 500 pounds. It was installed in the belfry of "The Little White Church" in 1896.
- 1962 Membership grew to 700.
- 1963 Hale and Jacobsohn, Architects, were hired to design a new Sanctuary. Proposed cost of the building was \$194,242. Additional improvements and furnishings raised the cost to approximately \$417,000.





- 1/12/1964 Sanctuary ground breaking.
- 5/2/1964 During a Cornerstone Ceremony, a 10" X 4" X 4" sealed copper capsule was placed in the cornerstone to remain intact until the building is destroyed.
- 1964 Historic Bell was installed in the IPC 112' church spire or steeple that was installed in honor of Dr. Judge Haley Durham, thanks to a donation from his widow, Mabel Durham. Dr. Durham had been actively involved with IPC for most of his 86 years where he served continuously as an elder for more than 50 years. This Steeple continues to be the landmark of IPC
- 12/6/1964 IPC Sanctuary dedicated.
- 1967 Membership grew to 1,135.
- 1970 Rev. Ted Alam retired.
- 1986 **Centennial Celebrations.** Several special events organized to commemorate 100th Anniversary:



1. "Irvington Presbyterian Church – A Century in Retrospect", was written by member, Vicki Pope. This well-written book preserves the history of IPC for future generations.
2. A committee to produce a Centennial Cookbook featuring treasured recipes of IPC members and friends was chaired by Mary Wolfe. Over 300 copies were sold.
3. A Mission Peak Climb and Cross Relay was a special two-day event. Joanne Logan using colorful stained glass from the windows of the Little White Church, created a cross which on Saturday, April 26, at 11:00 am was carried to the top of Mission Peak by a large number of IPC faithful (many made the climb to the



Peak for the "first and only" time.) Everyone in the climb took turns carrying the cross. An Afternoon Garden Party was held in the lovely large backyard of Annie-Clair and Gordon Greigg. The cross was housed overnight in the Greigg home. On Sunday morning, IPC faithful relayed the cross the rest of the way to the church. Before worship service, the cross was carried into



the sanctuary by Dr. Don Warren, our oldest member, accompanied by Becky Kinslow, our youngest member.

4. Centennial Committee members, Ellen Black, Leila Kalin and Joanne Logan commissioned the building of a large wooden display case that is mounted in the narthex and houses many centennial memorabilia. The stained-glass cross is permanently mounted in the display case.

**5. On Saturday, Sept. 20, IPC held a Centennial Service and Reception.**

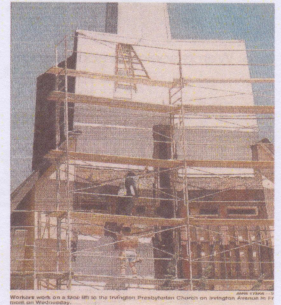
- 5/12/1997 After almost two years of planning, The Tri-City Free Breakfast Program served the first breakfasts to twelve hungry guests. For the past 14 years, The Social Hall has kept its doors open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. An all-volunteer team of IPC members prepare and serve delicious and nutritious meals to approximately 150 guests each day. The City of Fremont and the community have been very supportive of this successful program.





## 1999-2000 Sanctuary Repairs and Modernization

Long term water damage to the front of the church made extensive repairs necessary. Contractor and IPC member Pat Jeffries, was selected to do this work. The cost of this project which included all permits and architectural recommendations was \$135,680. The extensive work to modernize the Sanctuary was also awarded to Pat. A lovely, dark and old-fashioned sanctuary suddenly became a light, airy, modern church, fully equipped to welcome the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The modernization was completed for \$161,193. We are all proud of the cathedral-like look and feel of our lovely sanctuary.



**10/8/2011** *IPC celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a wonderful program and dinner. May God continue His guidance and blessings on Irvington Presbyterian Church and on all who worship here.*



### A Youthful Perspective – Justin Chaikin

My family and I have been members of IPC since 1999/2000; and everyone I know in the church, for the most part, are still members. For this reason, I recognized very few of the past members who returned for the 125th Anniversary Celebration. I found the historical presentations and the time line to be very informative. They helped me to put the evolution of IPC into perspective.

The history of our beautiful building with its custom stained-glass windows gave me a greater sense of appreciation for God's house where my family and I worship. Here is where I continue to play my bass guitar and drums in the Praise Band, as I have for the past 10 years. I have a strong desire to keep my family worshipping at this church; and hope they can enjoy some of the happy memories I have. The Youth Group, in particular, is a "stand out" for me. I envision my family even singing or playing in the band or choir someday.

I appreciate the work done in the past, but I think progression is important for our congregation. We need to move forward and keep the fire burning bright for the younger generation. By incorporating technology and modern music we can encourage young families to choose IPC as their church home. Lastly, I did not see or hear the bell ring during the years it was mounted and functioning. It would mean a great deal to me to see such a vital part of the church's history work again.



## IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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### **125th Anniversary Celebration Video**

**For a CD of the entire proceedings contact: Peggy and Johnny Handono or Cornerstone Editors. For a small donation to the Deacon's Fund, we will prepare one for you.**

### **Acknowledgements**

*Thank you members, past and present, friends and committee members for helping us to celebrate this auspicious event.*

*We appreciate the time and devotion of all who submitted articles and provided information for this special issue. You play a significant role as we work together in the name of Christ.*

*The 125 Anniversary Special pictures were provided courtesy of Johnny and Peggy Handono.*

*Color printing provided by Elder Ken Ariathurai*

*Kamroon and Mustapha,*

*Your Editors*