



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

March 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,

Recently I sold my car right on the street in front of the church (thanks to Craigslist). I then had to find a way home to San Jose that evening. I got online and discovered a VTA express bus from the Fremont Bart station to First St. in San Jose. Next I found a connector bus from Grimmer to Bart. I got home in good time.

Next I got to thinking, "what if I didn't buy another car?" Homeless guests at our breakfast program have told me stories of how they get around on buses and I wondered if I could do it. So I tried it another day. To my surprise I liked it. But could I truly be a good tax paying, home owning American and a Californian not living in San Francisco and not own a car? I don't know. I'll try it for a while. Meanwhile I'm enjoying meeting new people at the bus stops and maybe I'll have an opportunity to share about Jesus with them.

All of this makes me think that cars are kind of like cocoons only we don't come out with wings – we just never come out. When I'm in my cocoon on I880 any interaction I have with people outside of my cocoon is never positive. The cocoon may be red or white or green and around here mostly shaped like a Prius but there's very little personalization or interaction. What I'm also realizing is that church, not just ours but most churches are like an extension of that cocoon. Once inside there's some interaction with those who attend but little with the outside world. At best we come to church at the same time when we come, sit in the same seat, sit at the same table in the Social Hall and talk to the same people. Not much difference from a cocoon. Cocoons have a place and a time but they're ugly compared to the beauty of the butterfly. God never designed us to live permanently in cocoons. Think about how much of your life is lived in isolation with a few people. Think about volunteering in our breakfast program and meeting a new set of people or the homework club at Hirsch or a new small group. We're designed to fly and fly we will.

Pastor Larry

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Missions – The Heart of the Church

HOPE UNLIMITED – VALENTINE UPDATE

Thank you IPC friends and family! We collected and mailed 198 Valentine cards for the girls at Hope Unlimited in Brazil.

Our monthly update from Hope says: “Thank you for speaking love into their lives.” You sent hundreds of Valentine’s Day cards to the girls at Hope Unlimited and raised additional funds to ensure their care each day of the year. Your investment in each one of these precious girls allows her to experience the true, transforming power of God’s love. One day, she will share that same love with others and make a lasting difference for generations to come. Read below to understand how they are already echoing back your love!

Here at the City of Youth I have learned that God is my true Father who will never leave me. —*Dija*



I have peace because the love of our God is so real in my life.—*Marta*

I want to encourage you to continue believing in me and in my future. Thank you very much for your love. —*Faye*

SAVE THE DATE

Your IPC Mission Team is excited to be able to host another one of our missionaries that are spreading the gospel to the unreached people in West Africa. This is a wonderful experience to learn about their work. As always we will be serving lunch following the Church service. Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, 3rd of May**. You will not want to miss out on this opportunity!

REQUEST FROM TRI-CITY FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The Breakfast Program has been happening since May 1997 which means this May, 2015, we will celebrate 18 years of service.

We are sharing this with all of you readers to ask for your help.

In April, 2015, four of our “regular” workers are going to be gone for the first three weeks of the month. Two are going to Germany and two are going to Italy. And one more “regular” is on medical leave.

If any of you have the desire to see how the breakfast program operates this a wonderful time to try it out.

I can tell you it is very rewarding and can be frustrating too. But the good feeling clearly wins out in the end.

So many times we have experienced our Lord supply our needs just when they were needed and I’m confident He will supply the workers we need.

We arrive at 4:30 am but coming in at any time after will be great. We begin serving at 7:00 am and serve until 9:00 am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Of course, you are welcome to enjoy breakfast while you are here.

Thank you for considering this opportunity. Questions?

Richard Doberstein rich.dare2dream@sbcglobal.net

Jean Garrett (510) 796-8873



IN MEMORY OF MURRY HUGHES

Passed away on the afternoon of Sunday, 15 Feb. Murry will always be remembered fondly as the first person to greet every visitor to IPC. Memorial Service will be Sat, Mar 7th at 2pm followed by a light reception in the Social Hall. Prayers for Pat and her family for strength at this time.

Congregation Happenings

Highlights for March

3rd - Session Small Group Meeting
5th - Worship Committee Meeting
5th - 7th - BASS Conference
6th - E-Team Meeting (?)
6th - Holi (India Festival of Colors)
7th - Murry Hughes - Celebration of Life
8th - Daylight Savings Time starts
8th - CE Committee Meeting
10th - TCFBP Board Meeting
12th - Missions Team Meeting
14th - Corned Beef Cabbage & Karaoke

17th - Deacons Meeting
19th - IPC Ladies Out to Lunch - Bean Scene Cafe
26th - Session Meeting
29th - Palm Sunday
29th - Choir Rehearsal for Easter Sunday

April

3rd - Good Friday Play - 7pm
5th - Easter Sunday and Easter Egg Hunt
7th - Session Small Group Meeting
9th - Worship Committee Meeting

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.

Missions - The Heart of the Church

A LOOK AT HOPE UNLIMITED

Hope Unlimited, whose focus is to rescue street children in Brazil, has been supported in their mission by this church for some years now. They offer them a home, an education, a chance for a brighter future, and most importantly, show them the transforming power of God's love. It is an easy mission to embrace. Who can remain untouched by the specter of these children, unwanted, abandoned, abused and exploited and so in need of help! The image of them struggling to survive and the effects of that kind of life on them are painful to contemplate. We are grateful to have the chance to contribute a few dollars and feel that we are making a difference for a handful of the many who desperately need so much more. An organization like Hope provides the opportunity for us to do something valuable.

Reading a post-Christmas email from Phillip Smith, who is in the thick of the fight for these children's lives, the enormity of what our workers in the field face every day and the heartfelt dedication that fuels them pulled the reader right into where they are every day. He shared a story about a 15 year old boy brought in by police. His presence put everyone on alert status because he was angry, rebellious threatening and without any documentation or history, an unknown quantity. His actions and their effect on the children and staff did not bode well for the peaceful Christmas celebration that was in progress when he arrived.

He had come in acting tough and scary and experienced the reaction of former street kids facing a threat - to show no fear and to answer toughness with more of the same. He was leaving because he refused to follow anyone's rules, but accepted a ride to the main road and a Christmas stocking. By the time they reached it, he no longer seemed so tough, but had revealed himself to be just another vulnerable, unwanted kid with nowhere to go and still rejecting a chance for something better.

The staff at Hope know that here was a boy with potential who is just dealing with things in the only way he knew how to and pray that God will provide another opportunity for them to reach this boy. They are eager to have us join with them in prayer for all of the children and for the strength of spirit to help the staff continue this difficult work. Denied love and encouragement, these children feel worthless until they learn of God's love and experience the kindness of those who follow Jesus. Your thoughtfulness in remembering the Hope girls with Valentines will help those girls and young women to see that the family of God is large and loving and fully accepts them as something to cherish. Your gifts of remembrance, prayer and monetary support are gratefully received and use to glorify God, in the moment and in the lives of these children as they move forward in faith.

PER CAPITA: The **per capita** for the year 2015 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.



HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Did you know that IPC has a brand new website? Have you checked it out yet? If not, you need to visit it right now! It is full of information about IPC, upcoming events, plus Sunday sermon videos. It also has a direct link to our Facebook page which has more interesting information and pictures. Visit both often. Our new website is: <http://irvingtonpres.org>

Corned Beef Dinner with Karaoke. Get your Irish ON!

Oh yeah, it's almost St Patty's day - that's party time and the food's pretty good too!.

Save March 14th at 6PM for a great time with your IPC family.

You should invite the neighbors - especially those with young children..

Tickets are required. Price is \$15/couple, \$8/Single, kids under 12/free.

Ticket sales will be in the Social Hall after worship March 1st and 8th

Please consider your best Leprechaun costume (at the minimum, a pointy green hat).

We are planning a great raffle, a couple of door prizes and a best costume award.

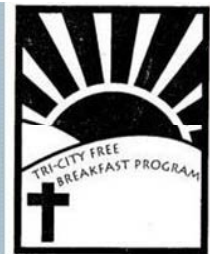
AND a Pro DJ to keep the Karaoke jumpin'. Start warming up your voice in the shower - pick your best tune - and turn it in to Peggy H asap

Oh, and if you are not quite "on key" but want to hear a certain song - maybe even sung by a certain person - turn that request in also.

Shamus says 'see you there - come hungry and plan on singing'



The Easter Egg Hunt is 5 April but we need your help to get ready for the Easter Bunny to hide all those eggs. We will have eggs available for distribution to church members to fill with candy on March 1st, 8th and 15th. We ask that you return these filled eggs by 29 March. Watch for more details on the IPC website and in the April newsletter.



TCFBP

In January 2015, an average of 149 guests were served per day. Highest day in January was 175 guests and 220 meals. Average meals were 205.

Total January 2015 : 1932 guests and 2,665 meals (first and seconds) served, 768 bags of provisions distributed and 6 children served. In January 2014, 2,841 meals

682 bags of provisions were served.

Kudos to the 618 volunteer hours performed.

4 WAYS TO INVOLVE EVERYONE IN EVANGELISM

Evangelism isn't easy for many, but everyone should be involved. |

Ed Stetzer



Many people have slipped into the mindset that evangelism is a gift that some believers have and others do not. The reality is that when someone becomes reconciled to God, He sends them out to reconcile others. That's not a gift—we all have the responsibility to take Christ to others.

Pastoral leadership can go a long way in shifting those mindsets. Pastors can and should equip the church body to understand their role in evangelization. Among other things, a church can do four things to encourage the spirit and practice of evangelism.

1. Build Relationships

Only a very few hear the gospel or show up at church without first being in a relationship. Most people who come to Christ are invited by a person they know.

God calls us to evangelize, including our family, friends, and neighbors. He invites us to invite others. Personal relationships are the best way to reach out.

Sometimes the world gets the wrong idea that being a Christian means our lives are perfect.

Your friends trust you when you talk about restaurants, plumbers, and baby sitters. That same trust gives each believer an open door to introduce their friends to Jesus.

2. Encourage Engagement

Sometimes the world gets the wrong idea that being a Christian means our lives are perfect. They feel disconnected and unworthy. So whenever we can remind our people and those looking in that we are all in need of a Savior, it breaks down walls that keep people from Christ and the Church.

The church and its people must understand that no one gets through a broken world unbroken. So as they go back out throughout the week, they should connect with broken people as broken people who have met the One who restores. They should offer restoration through Christ. That is evangelism.

4 WAYS TO INVOLVE EVERYONE IN EVANGELISM (CONTD)

3. Inclusive Events

Some parts of church are more exclusive. The Lord's Supper, baptism, even some small groups are just for believers. But a church has the freedom, and really a responsibility, to have gatherings where seekers feel welcome—places where they are ready for company.

For us, one of those low-threshold events is an annual Easter egg hunt. We ramp up by involving the whole church. They bring their friends, neighbors, and families.

We do these events where everyone can be involved. Why? Events can show love for our community and increase visibility to invite people to our church. Multiple relationships can form in these open and inclusive events. These relationships can ultimately lead back to Christ.

The church and its people must understand that no one gets through a broken world unbroken.

4. Teach Well

The Easter egg event mentioned above is an inroad. But the greater thing happens when we actually preach on the resurrection—we want to bridge relationships from something as simple as a children's event, to something as important as the gospel.

And, we don't just preach about the resurrection on one Sunday.

Our people understand that after they bring their friends to the church community event, there will be an intense Gospel thrust in the following weeks. We call each other, and the Life Group leaders make calls. Everyone knows that everyone should invite their friends to hear about Jesus.

We teach the gospel well and over and over.

Holistic Approach

It's a full-court press. We do all of these things in waves at the same time, but we don't do them all the time. Spring and fall, summer and winter, on mission to share Jesus.

Everyone is on board. Everyone understands that our church leadership will provide opportunities for their friends to hear the Gospel, but their friends are their responsibility.

I don't know their friends. They do. I can't invite their friends. They can. And they must. Evangelism is everyone's responsibility.

We can complain about the lack of evangelistic activity in our churches, but this goes back to leadership. We as leaders create the culture of evangelism. When the church sees we are intentional and serious about creating a pathway, they will be more likely to engage their friends and invite them on the pathway.

What has your church done to make sure everyone participates in evangelism? Why do you think people often drop the ball in the area of evangelism?

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2015/february/4-ways-to-involve-everyone-in-evangelism.html>



IPC Ladies Out to Lunch

IPC Ladies Out to Lunch picture taken in February 2015 at Peach Garden. Why not join them in March at the Bean Scene Cafe Fremont at 4000 Bay Street at the Five Corners (Formerly Bay Street Café).

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
9:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:15 AM WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHURCH COMMUNION SUNDAY	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	SESSION SMALL GROUP MEETING		7:00 PM WORSHIP COMMITTEE BASS CONFERENCE	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 2:30 PM BAND PRACTICE 7:00 PM EVANGELISM COMMITTEE BASS CONFERENCE	2:00 PM CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE: MURRY HUGHES BASS CONFERENCE
9:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:15 AM WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHURCH DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY AT MCKOWENS	7:00 PM TCFBP BOARD MEETING	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 6:30 PM BAND PRACTICE	4:00 PM SIS (SHE IS SAFE) 5:00 PM MISSION TEAM	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 2:30 PM BAND PRACTICE	6:00 PM CORNED BEEF CABBAGE & KARAOKE
9:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:15 AM WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHURCH MISSION SUNDAY		7:00 PM DEACONS MEETING	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 6:30 PM BAND PRACTICE	TIME TBD: IPC LADIES OUT TO LUNCH	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 2:30 PM BAND PRACTICE	
9:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:15 AM WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHURCH	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY AT MCKOWENS		7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 6:30 PM BAND PRACTICE	7:00 PM SESSION MEETING	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 2:30 PM BAND PRACTICE	
PALM SUNDAY 9:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:15 AM WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHURCH CHOIR REHEARSAL FOR EASTER SUNDAY	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY					

Do you know your Church Officers:

Deacons:

Class of 2015	Colleen Ridley	(Incumbent)
	Mary Lou Craig	(Incumbent)
	Dawn Lunn (Incumbent)	
	Denise Pennelly	(Extended for 1 year)
	Alexis Dimaggio	(Extended for 1 year)

Class of 2016 Linda Fair (Incumbent)

Class of 2017	Gillian Carson	(Incumbent)
	Mary Lee Starkel (Newly	Elected)
	Marion Bade (Newly	Elected)

Elders:

Class of 2015	Russell Pennelly	(Incumbent)
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Remember to visit our new website:

When was the last time you visited the you should. Below are some great pictures there are some wonderful spiritual post-

MARCH 2015

<http://irvingtonpres.org>

IPC Facebook page? If you do not visit it regularly, pictures from the Christmas service at IPC. In addition, ings 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 supported. 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

A

Reaching
out to our
neighbors

B

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please note: March 24th is the deadline for the April 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.org. 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.