



Irvington Presbyterian Church

Fremont, CA

September 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.

Membership Matters: 3 Reasons for Church Membership

Why does church membership matter? Why is church attendance not enough?

Ed Stetzer

Bring up church membership and watch people squirm.

It isn't that people in culture are against membership as an idea—Costco seems to be doing well.

Perhaps it is because church membership is not often defined well. It's one of those things that when misunderstood seems a bit like eating your spinach—"at least try it before you decide you don't like it."

Makes you want to sign right up, doesn't it?

But in the New Testament, people in churches are recognized as being in some sort of community. It's just that the reality is how community is expressed in Scripture has fallen on hard times over the last couple of thousand years.

Membership is often misunderstood, misapplied or not applied at all.

Membership Reality

The reality is we have often thought of membership like belonging to a select club, or like the old American Express commercial where "membership has its privileges."

That is not the way the Bible refers to membership. In fact, in 1 Corinthians Paul doesn't say the church is *like* a body. He says the church *is* a body. The phrase he uses to describe the individual connectedness is we are "members of the body."

Membership is often misunderstood, misapplied or not applied at all.

The word "member" in the Bible is more closely related to the medical word "member" than it is to the common cultural term. As an example, some of you who are reading may have lost a finger or toe in an accident. On that unfortunate day, you were dismembered. That's the actual technical terminology. A member of your body was separated from the body. That is a tragic thing.

Yet today in Western culture, being separated from the body of believers is not tragic. It's almost normal. It is almost understood that Christians and churches should be separated. Lone Ranger Christians are common.

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Missions - The Heart of the Church

Rancho Santa Marta

One of the ministries that IPC has supported for many years is Rancho Santa Marta, a non-denominational evangelical Christian ministry for at-risk and abandoned Mexican children some of whom are mentally and emotionally challenged. These children have special education needs from the consequences of living in unstable, unloved and often abusive environments. Many of these children would not have a home or come to know Jesus Christ as their savior without your continued prayers and support.

Rancho Santa Marta is located on a 450 acre working ranch, about 66 miles south of Ensenada in Baja California. The Ministry consists of a preschool elementary and Jr. high schools with an integrated program for mentally challenged children.



Lawrence and Struiksma Family

Bill and Kaye Lawrence who were called by God to found Rancho Santa Marta more than 33 years ago, recently retired from the administration of the home. They will remain active as liaisons and consultants with the churches and groups that support the home. Your Missions Team is planning for Bill and Kaye to visit us later this year and share how God is using Rancho/Colegio Santa Marta to reach out to the less fortunate in Mexico.

Two years ago Bill and Kaye passed the "Santa Marta 24/7 Hat" to their daughter Tina (Lawrence) and her husband Rod Struiksma. Rod and Tina have five children, Rocio, Jonathan, Isaac, Hosea and Reka. Rod & Tina have accepted the responsibility as directors of Santa Marta. Tina is the principal of Colegio Santa Marta as well as a reading specialist and kindergarten teacher. Rod is the administrator of the home.

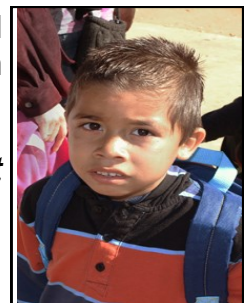
Jesus said: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" Matthew 19:13.

Dalia, age 11, recently came to Rancho Santa Marta. Her biological parents abandoned her at a very young age and was raised by an uncle and aunt. The aunt died several years back without telling her she was not theirs or that she has several siblings in another orphanage. The uncle continued to raise her but became abusive. Finally an aunt reported the abuse, Integral Family Development tried to reunite the siblings but they had no room for Dalia at the orphanage. She

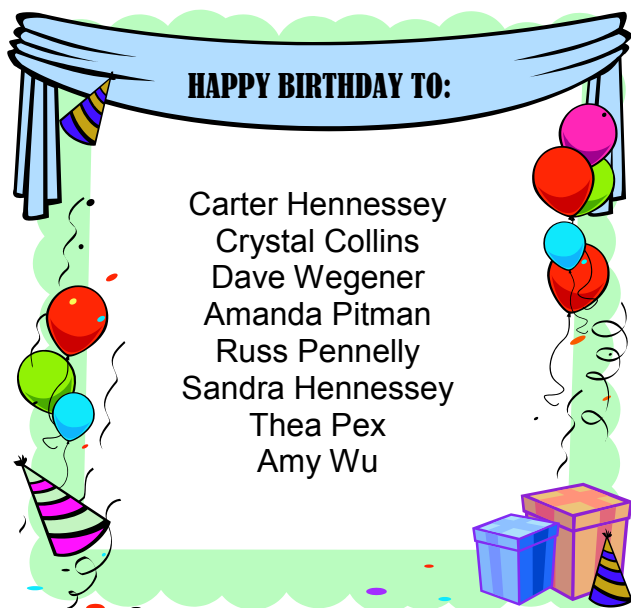


entered Santa Marta in the 4th grade but will eventually be placed in a special education program. At first she was afraid but has come out of her shell and is very friendly.

Six-year-old José Francisco. was abandoned at age two in Mexicali and placed in an orphanage in San Felipe. Due to his learning and behavioral issues the orphanage asked the government to remove him. He arrived at Santa Marta with 3 medications to help control his outbursts. Those have been eliminated and he is learning to manage himself. Please pray for him as he adapts to his new home with the other boys and to flourish in kindergarten.



The Mission Team thanks all of you who donate to our missions program that enables us to be a part of the work that God is doing at Rancho Santa Marta.



OMF CONFERENCE

26 September - 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church - San Mateo

Heart for Asia Conference - 150th Anniversary Celebration

See more at: <http://omf.org/us/heart-for-asia-conference-2015/>

The plenary speaker is James (Jamie) Hudson Taylor IV. and the theme is "Following God's Call – Celebrating the Legacy"

OMF has developed some useful tools for churches to engage their congregation in responding to the Great Commission. You will learn about these resources at Saturday workshops. Several churches have used our missional small group curriculum and saw positive results. The purpose is for the group members to journey together in finding God's will for their next steps. Your church leaders can use this curriculum to guide and affirm those seeking God's will in your congregation. We have developed a booklet called "Six Ways to Reach God's World" for everyone to be involved in missions. Also, a staff is available to work with your church leaders to develop your own VISION plan to engage your congregation.

Congregation Happenings

Highlights for September

1st - No Session Small Group
 6th - Worship Service Changes to 10:00 am
 8th - TCFBP Board Meeting
 8th - Presbytery Mtg - Calvary Pres, SF
 10th - SIS Meeting
 10th - Missions Team Meeting
 11th - Day of Remembrance
 11th - E-Team Meeting
 13th - Town Hall Meeting & Potluck Lunch
 15th - Deacon's Meeting
 17th - Ladies Out to Lunch - Boudin's Bakery

20th - CE Committee Meeting
 24th - Session Meeting
 26th - OMF Conference
 TBD - Finance Committee Meeting
 TBD - Personnel Committee Meeting
 TBD - Clerk Committee Meeting

October

3rd or 10th - Church Day of Prayer
 6th - Session Small Group Meeting
 8th - Worship Committee Meeting
 24th - PB Make a Difference Day - TCFBP

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

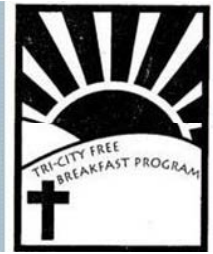
Wednesdays: Band Practice

Fridays: Band Practice

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.



TCFBP

FROM 1997 til Today

The Tri-City Free Breakfast program (TCFBP) since 1997 has offered a hot, nutritious breakfast, with dignity and respect every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m., no questions asked. The program is staffed 100% by volunteers. Set-up and food preparation begins shortly after 4:30a.m. with clean-up usually concluded by 9:30a.m. Food is served to tables by volunteer waiters where guests are served as if they were at a restaurant.

Our guests include a significant percentage of seniors, families, working poor and homeless people. 93% of our guests are in the HUD 'extreme low' income category. For many of our guests, this breakfast is the only hot, nutritious meal consumed each day. Meals continue to include a wide range of healthy foods, such as milk, eggs, meat, bread, and fruit and include diabetic sensitive options. Guests are referred to other social services as needed. Donated supplemental food is bagged and available for guests to take home.

The program also provides (when available through donations) toiletry items such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo etc. to guests. New socks are a requested item that we distribute whenever possible.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, TCFBP served a total of 24,892 guests in 2014. Combining first and second servings, TCFBP served 33,467 breakfast meals. The breakfast program was able to distribute 5,851 bags of food (provisions) for guests to take with them.

Give us your email

So we can send you the newsletter electronically and help

save printing, save postage and
save the planet

Send your name & email address
to

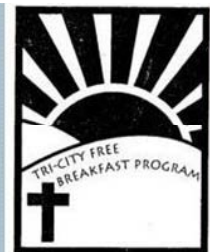
tricityFBP@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE NOVEMBER 1ST

IPC Mission Team will be hosting another special event.

This is a great opportunity to learn about Islam and how to witness to Muslims.

Watch for details as the date gets closer!



TCFBP

Thank You to our Volunteers!

The Tri-City Free Breakfast Program could not exist without our wonderful volunteers. We have volunteers of all ages and walks of life, from teens earning community service hours to retirees in their 80's. to those with a compassion zen

Volunteers are often referred to us by Volunteer Match, the Volunteer Center of the East Bay, the Compassion Network, the Family Resource Center of the City of Fremont.

But word of mouth about the rewards of volunteering, as well as the joy of doing community service to help others is where most people find out about us.

Students from Irvington High School, Mission San Jose High School, American High School and Mountain View High Schools have joined us.

Laney College has sent us volunteer cooks.

Folks from Calworks, the American red Cross, the Tri-City Women's Club and the California State University Hayward Tau Mu Chapter of the Zeta Phi Sorority have also joined us.

You too can volunteer.

Contact Rich Doberstein

rich.dare2dream@sbcglobal.net
[510-683-8823](tel:510-683-8823)

33,467

Meals

Served

In

2014



In 2014, 7.933 volunteer hours were given. We need more help though.

Thank you to the dozens of people who come in

each week with a smile and make the program possible!



MAY TOWN HALL MEETING

Membership Matters:

3 Reasons for Church Membership - cont'd

Biblical Membership

Why then do we have membership? Because regardless of how the culture sees it or Christians misunderstand it, membership is not simply an opportunity to say, I'm a part of a club, but rather a scriptural expression of covenant connectedness to a church.

There are three things that help us understand why church membership is biblical and important.

1. Membership Reflects What the Church Is.

First, membership is a reflection of the organic community already existing in the body. Paul says we are a body. Can one part say to the other, "I'm not part of you"? No, it is already a part. But too often we live as if we are separated.

As a matter of fact, too many churches or Christian gatherings look like piles of dismembered body parts, not a body knit together as God's agent, his body, his kingdom, at work in the world. To reject the value of membership is to deny what God has already established in fact.

2. The Bible Teaches Covenant Community.

We find in Paul's letters to the church at Corinth that they were putting people out of the body. So Scripture teaches that we can be a part of the body, and we can be apart from the body. It is difficult to get around Scripture when it talks about being brought into the body and also being put out of it.

And yet for most churches there's no way to put somebody out because they're not even in. While there seems to be flexibility according to various bodies, there is no such thing in the New Testament as a church without some recognition of belonging—of membership in community.

3. People Need Church Membership.

Finally, we recognize biblical membership matters because people need it. People need membership commitment because they need to be connected to a Christian community. This is not just for the sake of the faith community, but also for the sake of the individual.

Individualist Christianity is a myth and a damaging pursuit. At the end of the day we're redeemed. We're placed in the body. The Bible specifically says he has redeemed us. He has transferred us, Colossians 1 says, from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of the Son he loves. A kingdom has a king. The king has subjects and his kingdom has a community together where we function as God's people.

Membership Matters

God makes us a part of his larger family when we are born again. But then we should covenant in a local body and live in community with them, agreeing to live by certain established godly principles and standards.

Membership doesn't save us. But it enables us to grow and become spiritually mature in Christ. Not only should we be members of the body, each of us should also be able to express the value of membership. Hopefully, then people will stop squirming when we bring up the topic, but instead passionately embrace the biblical nature of church membership

"I always tell young business leaders that business is easy . . . until people get involved. Once you bring more than two people in, you're setting the stage for a lot of disagreements—and a lot of drama. The same is true for churches. In *I Am a Church Member*, Thom Rainer reminds us that it is possible to have an effective, **unified** church body—even if the people in the pews have **different opinions**."—**Dave Ramsey, New York Times best-selling author and nationally syndicated radio show host.**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 8:00 AM MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP 6:30 PM BAND PRACTICE	3 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 2:30 PM BAND PRACTICE	4	5
6 9:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHURCH	7 LABOR DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST	8 PRESBYTERY MTG (SF) 7:00 PM TCFBP BOARD MEETING	9 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 8:00 AM MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP 6:30 PM BAND PRACTICE	10 4:00 PM SIS (SHE IS SAFE) 5:00 PM MISSIONS TEAM MEETING	11 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 2:30 PM BAND PRACTICE 7:00 PM E-TEAM MEETING	12
13 9:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHURCH TOWN HALL MEETING & CHURCH POTLUCK	14 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 7:00 PM MCKOWEN HOME BIBLE STUDY	15 TBD - LADIES OUT TO LUNCH 7:00 PM DEACONS MTG	16 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 8:00 AM MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP 6:30 PM BAND PRACTICE	17 11:30 AM LADIES OUT TO LUNCH - BOUDIN'S BAKERY	18 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 2:30 PM BAND PRACTICE	19
20 9:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHURCH MISSION SUNDAY 12:00 PM CE MEETING	21 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST	22	23 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 8:00 AM MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP 6:30 PM BAND PRACTICE	24 7:00 PM SESSION MTG	25 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 2:30 PM BAND PRACTICE	26 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM OMF CONFERENCE - FIRST PRES SAN MATEO
27 9:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHURCH	28 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 7:00 PM MCKOWEN HOME BIBLE STUDY	29	30 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 8:00 AM MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP 6:30 PM BAND PRACTICE	31		

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please note: September 24th is the deadline for the October 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.