



Irvington Presbyterian Church

Fremont, CA

December 2015

Sundays

Bible Study 8:45 a.m.

Dear Friends,

Worship 10:00 a.m.

(Nursery and Children Sunday School During Service)

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

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Was Jesus born on December 25? Probably not. We can determine the approximate time of year Jesus was born if we know when his cousin John the Baptist was born. The Bible says Elizabeth (mother of John the Baptist) was in her sixth month of pregnancy when Jesus was conceived (Luke 1:24-36). John's father, Zachariah, was a priest serving in the Jerusalem temple during the course of Abijah (Luke 1:5). Historical calculations indicate this course of service corresponded to June 13-19 in that year. It was during this time of temple service that Zachariah learned that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a child named John (Luke 1:8-13). After he completed his service and traveled home, Elizabeth conceived (Luke 1:23-24). Assuming John's conception took place near the end of June, adding nine months brings us to the end of March as the most likely time for John's birth. Adding another six months (the difference in ages between John and Jesus) brings us to the end of September as the likely time of Jesus' birth.

Luke also records that Jesus' parents came to Bethlehem to register in a Roman Census (Luke 2:1-4). Such censuses were not taken in winter, when temperatures often dropped below freezing and roads were in poor condition. Taking a census under such conditions would have been self-defeating.

It wasn't until a thousand years after the time of Christ that December 25 started being celebrated as the birthday of Jesus. It was the Roman Catholic Church which established that date as his birthday sometime around 1038 AD. Why is that important to know? Because to God us knowing the specific date Jesus was born is less important than for us to know we've been born again as a new person in Jesus the Christ. Have you opened your spiritual heart and invited Jesus to come in and be your savior and master of your life. That's his favorite birthday present. Hope to see you in worship this month.

Larry



Missions - The Heart of the Church

TIM & GINNY GRADIN

Tim and Ginny Gradin have served with Northern Canada Evangelical Mission in Saskatchewan, Canada since 1980. After directing Pine Ridge Bible Camp for two summers, they moved to Stony Rapids, an isolated community just south of the Northwest Territories, to begin working with the Denesuline (Chipewyan) people. The Denesuline have historically been very resistant to the gospel and their language (similar to Navajo) is very difficult to learn, but the Gradins spent 11 years living in 3 remote villages learning their language. At the end of that time, Tim headed the project to translate the JESUS movie and was the narrator in the Dene version. God has used this movie to bring greater spiritual openness.

The Gradins moved to Prince Albert in 1992 to be the mission's bookkeeper for 5 years. Since 1997, their ministry has been varied: Bible translation, prison ministry, preparing Denesuline radio messages for broadcast, training new missionary candidates in language learning techniques, and directing a teen camp. It was a shock after 18 years of chaplaincy ministry each week at the local correctional facility to suddenly have it terminated by the institution, but God opened other doors.



Almost exactly 35 years after moving to Pine Ridge Bible Camp, God has opened the door for Tim and Ginny to move back there to assume the position of camp manager. Their desire is to build a team of at least 6 people living at the camp year-round to make the ministry of the camp more effective for the many needy communities in the area.

Though they will now be 3-5 hours' drive from their 3 married children, they still hope to see their 6 grandchildren fairly often. Those in the congregation who have been with us for many years know Ginny as the daughter of the late Dr. John Thomas Randall, a former member of our church.

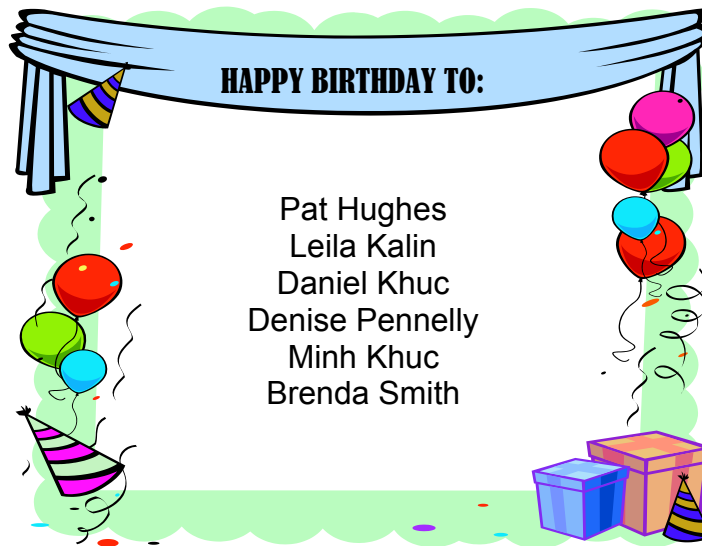
Bible translation will still continue, and the involvement of the Demers (a Wycliffe Bible Translators couple living in Alaska) will help speed up the process of getting God's Word to the Denesuline in their own language.

Your prayerful contributions are used to help support Tim and Ginny in this work of bringing the good news of Jesus to a place and people who, not long ago, were very resistant to hear of Him.



*Join
the
Choir*





Congregation Happenings

Highlights for December

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3rd - Worship Committee | 13th - CE Committee Meeting |
| 4th - E-Team Meeting | 15th - Deacon Meeting |
| 5th - Prayer Circle Walk | 17th - Session Meeting |
| 5th - Canvas Neighborhood: Invite to Christmas Program | 18th - TCFBP Santa Claus |
| 6th - Advent Week 2 | 20th - Advent Week 4 |
| 6th - Canvas Neighborhood: Invite to Christmas Program | 24th - Christmas Eve Service at 6pm |
| 10th - SIS Meeting | 25th - Christmas Day |
| 10th - Missions Team Meeting | January 2016 |
| 12th - Christmas Program | 1st - New Year's Day |
| 13th - Advent Week 3 | 7th - Worship Meeting |
| 13th - Birthday Party for Jesus | 8th - E-Team Meeting |
| | 12th - TCFBP Steering Committee Meeting |
| | 18th - Martin Luther King Day |
| | 19th - Ladies Out to Lunch |

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

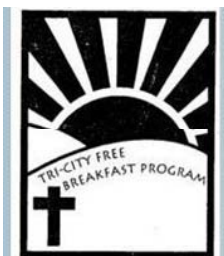
Tuesdays: Men's Breakfast Fellowship
Wednesdays: Band Practice
 Choir Practice

Bible Studies

Sunday's Bible Study - 8:45 am in the McKowen Room. Please come in and join us!

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

Tri-City Free Breakfast Program

Peanut Butter Drive

- 414 lbs. donated
- Last year 267 lbs.

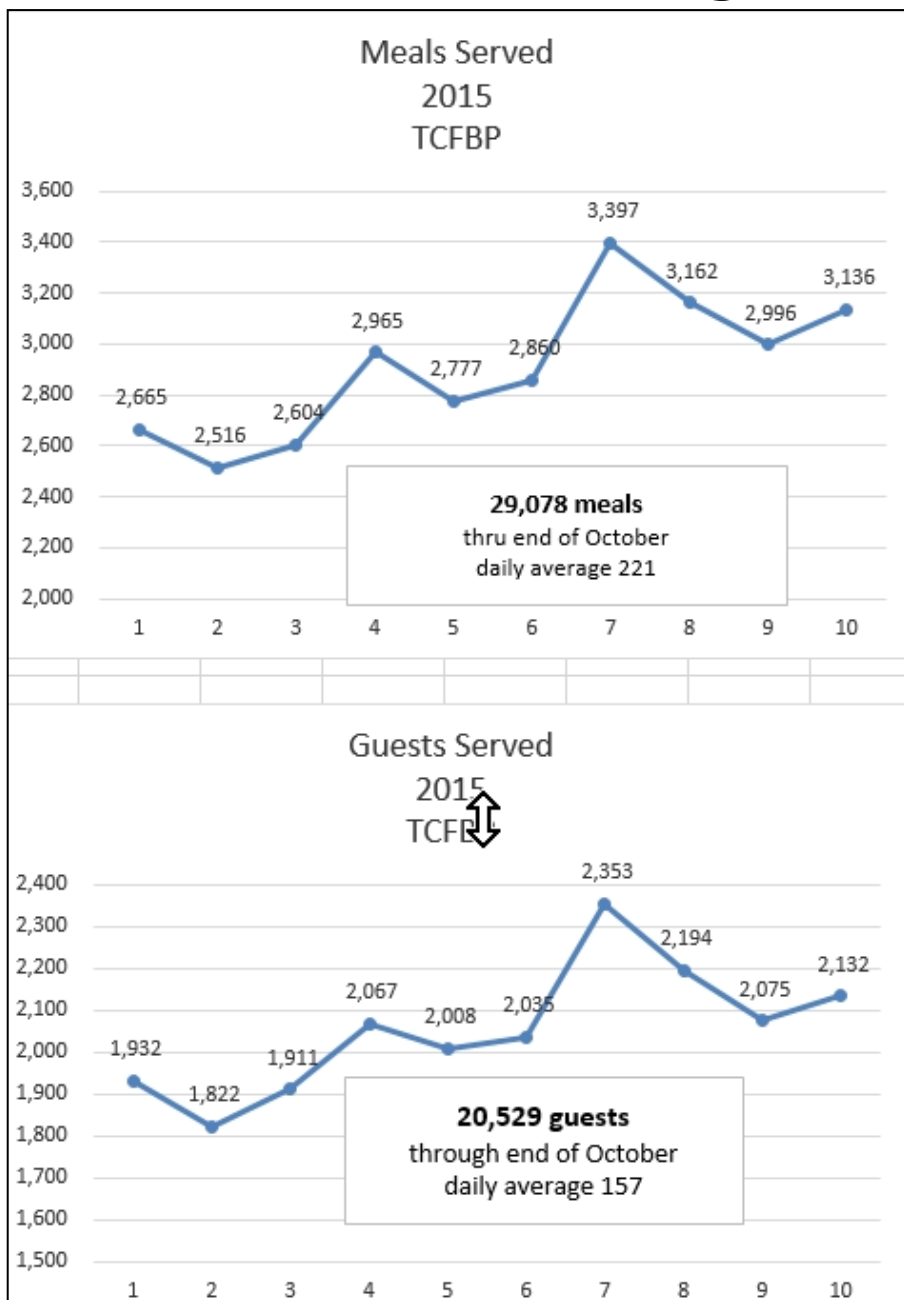
October 2015:

- Served 2,132 guests
- Served 3,136 meals
- Provided 390 bags of provisions
- Volunteer hours: 606

Year to Date 2015:

- 20,529 guests served
- 29,108 meals served
- Meals & guests YTD are about the same as last year

Volunteers - continue to be lean in number. They need more to help cook and serve on Monday-Wednesday-Friday mornings. If you can help one day a week or one day a month, one hour or two hours or more, then please contact Rich Doberstein at (510)-683-8823 or email rich.dare2dream@sbcglobal.net



*Have you ordered your
Poinsettias yet?*

Did you remember to order your Poinsettias? The IPC Deacons are holding their annual Christmas Poinsettia Sale to decorate the church during the Christmas Holidays. See one of your IPC Deacons now! Last day to order is Sunday, 6 December.

LADIES OUT TO LUNCH

Come and join us for some wonderful fellowship and a fun luncheon:



Tuesday, January 19th

Black Bear Diner

5035 Mowry Avenue, Fremont

510-796-8000

PRAYER CIRCLE WALK DECEMBER 5th



The IPC E-team is sponsoring a Prayer Circle Walk on December 5th in the McKowen room at Irvington Presbyterian Church. It is open to all in the community who wish to bring their joys and concerns to the Lord. We will begin at 10 am.

We will be walking the neighborhood to invite everyone to attend the IPC Christmas Program. We will continue walking following services on Sunday, December 6th.

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

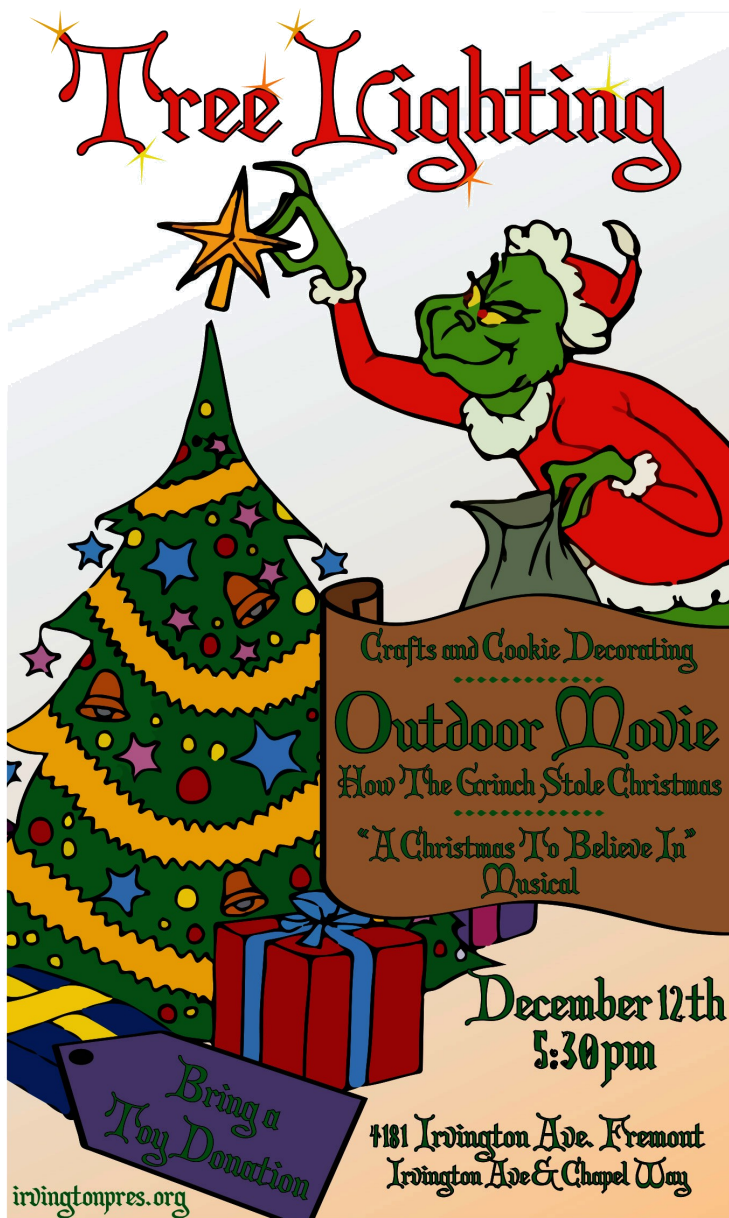
It is that wonderful time of the
year when we can all give a little
to help many.

Bring your unwrapped gifts on
13 December and celebrate
with us!

(You may bring wrapping paper
separately if you like)



Gifts for children or adults are always welcome. Gifts will be distributed by Tri-City Volunteers to families in our community who may not otherwise receive a gift this Christmas.



**YOU will NOT WANT
TO MISS EITHER OF
THESE GREAT EVENTS!**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Irvington Presbyterian Church Presents
The Holiday Musical
a
Christmas
to Believe In
The Story of the Birth of Christ

Saturday, December 12, 2015
6:30 PM

Come Enjoy A Night of Worship Through
Drama, Music and Dance

This event is FREE and open to EVERYONE

irvingtonpres.org (510) 657-3133

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 8:00 AM MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP 6:00 PM PRAISE GROUP PRACTICE 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	3 7:00 PM WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING	4 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 7:00 PM E-TEAM MEETING	5 10:00 AM PRAYER CIRCLE WALK NEIGHBORHOOD TO INVITE TO CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
ADVENT WEEK 2 6 8:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP, COMMUNION & CHILDREN'S CHURCH NOON WALK: INVITE TO CHRISTMAS PROGRAM	7 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	8 TBD PRESBYTERY MTG - OAKLAND FIRST 7:00 PM TRI-CITY FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE	9 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 8:00 AM MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP 6:00 PM PRAISE GROUP PRACTICE 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	10 4:00 PM SIS (SHE IS SAFE) 5:00 PM MISSIONS TEAM MEETING	11 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST	12 5:30 PM TREE LIGHTING & OUTDOOR MOVIE 6:30 PM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
ADVENT WEEK 3 13 8:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHURCH MISSION SUNDAY & BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS 12:00 PM CE MEETING	14 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM MCKOWEN HOME BIBLE STUDY	15 7:00 PM DEACONS MTG	16 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 8:00 AM MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP 6:00 PM PRAISE GROUP PRACTICE 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	17 7:00 PM SESSION MTG	18 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST & SNATA CLAUS VISITS 	19
ADVENT WEEK 4 20 8:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHURCH	21 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	22	23 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 8:00 AM MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP 6:00 PM PRAISE GROUP PRACTICE 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE TBD CHRISTMAS TREE SET UP	24 6:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	25 	26
27 8:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHURCH ADVENT BEGINS	28 7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM MCKOWEN HOME BIBLE STUDY	29	30	31 	UPCOMING DECEMBER DATES TO JANUARY: 1st - New Year's Day 7th - Worship Meeting 8th - E-Team Meeting 12th - TCFBP Steering Committee Meeting	UPCOMING DECEMBER DATES TO JANUARY: 18th - Martin Luther King Day 19th - Ladies Out to Lunch

IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4181 IRVINGTON AVENUE
P O BOX 1366
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please note: December 23rd is the deadline for the December 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.