Dear Friends,

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
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.
**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.

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**Highlights for December**

- 3rd - Worship Committee
- 4th - E-Team Meeting
- 5th - Prayer Circle Walk
- 5th - Canvas Neighborhood: Invite to Christmas Program
- 6th - Advent Week 2
- 6th - Canvas Neighborhood: Invite to Christmas Program
- 10th - SIS Meeting
- 10th - Missions Team Meeting
- 12th - Christmas Program
- 13th - Advent Week 3
- 13th - Birthday Party for Jesus
- 13th - CE Committee Meeting
- 15th - Deacon Meeting
- 17th - Session Meeting
- 18th - TCFBP Santa Claus
- 20th - Advent Week 4
- 24th - Christmas Eve Service at 6pm
- 25th - Christmas Day

**January 2016**

- 1st - New Year’s Day
- 7th - Worship Meeting
- 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**

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**Bible Studies**

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

Pat Hughes  
Leila Kalin  
Daniel Khuc  
Denise Pennelly  
Minh Khuc  
Brenda Smith

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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.
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!
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
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<td>7th</td>
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<td>MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP</td>
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<td>12th</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>PRAISE GROUP PRACTICE</td>
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<td>19th</td>
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<td>WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING</td>
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<td>20th</td>
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<td>FREE BREAKFAST</td>
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<td>21st</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>TREE LIGHTING &amp; OUTDOOR MOVIE</td>
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<td>22nd</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>CHRISTMAS PROGRAM</td>
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<td>27th</td>
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<td>BIBLE STUDY</td>
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<td>28th</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>WORSHIP, COMMUNION &amp; CHILDREN'S CHURCH</td>
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<td>29th</td>
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<td>30th</td>
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<td>WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY</td>
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<td>31st</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>MCKOWEN HOME BIBLE STUDY</td>
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**UPCOMING DECEMBER DATES TO JANUARY:**
- 1st - New Year’s Day
- 7th - Worship Meeting
- 12th - TCFBP Steering Committee Meeting
- Christmas Eve Service
- 19th - Martin Luther King Day
- 18th - Worship Meeting
- 1st - New Year’s Day

**UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS:**
- 1st - New Year’s Day
- 7th - Worship Meeting
- 12th - TCFBP Steering Committee Meeting
- Christmas Eve Service
- 19th - Martin Luther King Day
- 18th - Worship Meeting
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.