



**Irvington Presbyterian Church**

**Fremont, CA**

**April 2016**

## Sundays

Bible Study 8:45 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

(Nursery and Children Sunday School During Service)

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

Dear Friends,

Recently there was a rumor circulating that we were selling our church property and it was going to be demolished for condos. More condos. Isn't that just what Fremont needs? NO! Enough is enough. Fremont needs the Lord Jesus Christ and it needs places where Jesus can be uplifted. We have such a place at the corner of Irvington and Chapel Way! There are three churches who call our campus home along with a group of Mandarin speaking Christians. In addition we feed the hungry three times a week, provide Bible studies, space for AA groups and offer a gentle, welcoming, park like setting in the midst of an increasingly crowded and urbanized population.

In the mid 1980's I heard a talk in Georgia about ten Presbyterian churches in Oakland, California that at the time were facing closure. The speaker asked a rhetorical question; would anyone in the neighborhood of those churches even notice let alone care if they disappeared? I can emphatically say that if IPC was no longer on this corner the people of this neighborhood would miss it terribly. People who don't even attend our church select gravesites specifically to be in the shadow of our cross. There's a Muslim day care nearby that brings their children to picnic on our lawn. I have met numerous visitors from China who set up chairs on our lawn to enjoy the peacefulness of our campus. Those driving by may not be stopping in yet, but our cross is a reminder to them that God is still here even though they may be ignoring him.

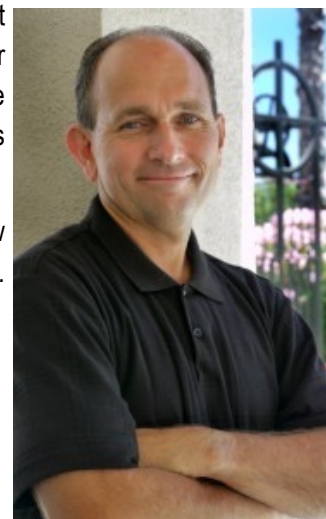
Sixty years ago next year, this church with a membership not much bigger than we have now made a hard, gutsy decision to let go of its small, antiquated facility on Fremont Boulevard and move to the spacious lot we now have. God honored that boldness and they grew to top 1300 members by the late 60's. God gave us this campus and these buildings for one purpose: to glorify him and keep the cross lifted high over the neighborhood for the next generation that will be here. That's our responsibility and our opportunity. But it's our turn to make some gutsy, bold decisions like those who went before us in order to better position this church for its next sixty years.

Next month I'll write about what I see as our biggest needs right now for being able to keep those condos at bay and the cross lifted high. Let's be in prayer.

Pastor Larry

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# Missions – The Heart of the Church

On Sunday March 14, Mission Team members visited and worshipped in the *Telugu Church of Silicon Valley*. This is a Christ Centered Church that is committed to bringing people from the Indian Community into a personal relationship with the Lord and helping them become his devoted followers. Pastor Wilson Koppula, the senior Pastor, was born in the Hyderabad area in India. He “accepted Christ as his personal savior” during his first year of college in India. He lived in West Africa and Canada before settling in the Bay Area. Pastor Koppula graduated from Western Conservative Baptist Seminary with a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) in 1990. His wife, Mary Koppula earned B.Sc., B.Ed. from Osmania University, Hyderabad, India and completed a Bachelor of Theology, specializing in Spiritual Formation at Mennonite Brethren Seminary, Fresno, CA. Together they have spent five years ministering full time to people from India in the Santa Clara and San Jose areas.



Pastor Koppula conducts seminars on how to reach out to people of Indian descent living in the US and has helped several churches in northern California start outreach ministries to Asians. Pastor Koppula has years of Pastoral, inductive bible teaching and cross cultural evangelism experiences. The Lord’s love came through in a passionate worship service enveloped in the Telugu culture that included songs of praise sung in the Telugu language. Telugu is a Dravidian language native to India. It stands alongside Hindi, English and Bengali as one of the few languages that predominate in more than one Indian state. It was good to worship side-by-side with several members of our own IPC whose native language is Telugu.

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## Cell Phones for Soldiers

Do you have used or old cell phones, MP3 players, ipads, kindle or any other tablets that you are no longer using? Well, you can donate these items to a worthy cause - Cell Phones For Soldiers. This is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to providing cost-free communication services and emergency funding to active-duty military members and veterans. Founded in 2004 by Robbie and Brittany Bergquist, then 12 and 13 years old, Cell Phones for Soldiers relies on cash contributions and donations of gently-used cell phones to provide a lifeline for America’s bravest. Gently used phones and other communication devices are sold to an electronic refurbisher who first erase any personal information from the devices, repair and then resell them in the aftermarket. Devices that are too old or broken beyond repair are sold to recyclers who strip the devices of any salvageable components and/or rare metals and then responsibly recycle the remaining parts. The proceeds gained from this process are then used to purchase prepaid international calling cards for troops and to provide emergency funding to veterans.

Your Missions Team will begin a project to collect any and all types of cell phones, MP3 players, smartphones and tablets from any carrier. Chargers and accessories are welcomed but are not necessary to donate. If you have a charger you would like to donate, please keep the original phone and charger together. Manuals are not needed.

Beginning May there will be a box identified as “Cell Phones for Soldiers” in the Narthex where you can drop off your old cell phone, smartphone, MP3 player, or tablet. At the end of June we will ship the items collected to Cell Phones for Soldiers. If you have any questions, please contact a member of your Missions Team.



Barbara Walton  
Lynnette Ariathurai  
Mary Lee Starkel  
Alex Ariathurai  
Teresa Oliver



## Congregation Happenings Highlights for APRIL

5th - Church Wide GOTS  
14th - SIS Prayer Group  
14th - Mission Meeting  
17th - Church Hymn Sing - Details to be announced  
19th - Ladies Out to Lunch - Market Boiler  
19th - Regular Session Meeting  
30th - End of Passover

### May 2016

3rd - GOTS Meeting  
5th - National Day of Prayer  
5th - Ascension Day  
5th - Holocaust Remembrance Day  
8th - Mother's Day  
10th - Tri City Free Breakfast Steering Committee  
10th - Presbytery Meeting—Clayton Valley

**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  
Choir Practice

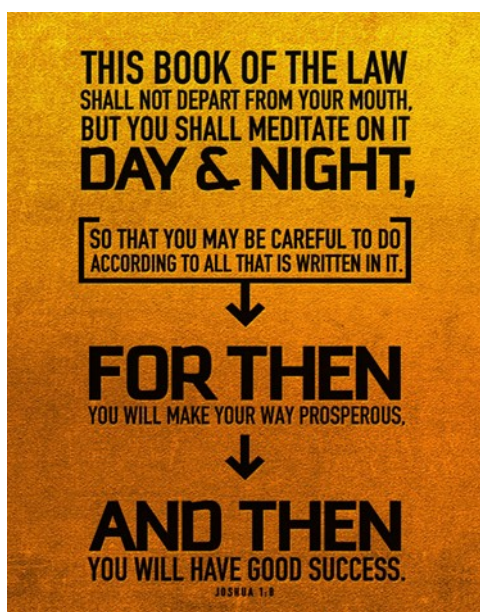
## Bible Studies

**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.





# IPC - Be Part of LIFE

Studying and investing in the Word will cause you to prosper in life says Joshua 1:8. IPC wants you in a small group or a LIFE group in Word and Deed. You are not alone in this world. Make a friend. Do it!

The **Monday Evening Bible Study** is led by Elder Mary Ellen McKowen twice a month at 7:00 p.m.

The **Ladies Bible Study** is on Monday mornings starting at 9:30 AM. Coordinated by Elder Carol Lynn

The **ROMEO** (Real Odd Men Eating Out) is on Tuesday mornings at 8 AM coordinated by Russ Pennelly

**Ping Pong** Wednesday evenings 7 pm led by Pastor Dick

The **Monthly SIS Prayer Group** is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday afternoon at 4:00 PM., is led by Patti Boyland.

The **Ladies Out to Lunch** is monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month coordinated by Gill Carson

**Chinese Bible Study** is held twice a month on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. at Sequoia Manor, led by Elder Amy Wu

**Joy Bible Study** on Sunday morning before Worship Service, and online throughout the week on the internet, is led by Elder Richard Craig.

**Choir** practices every Wednesday at 7 pm and is a wonderful small group led by Pastor Monica

**Children's Choir** meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 10 am and performs on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. Great for family and children, led by Pastor Monica.

**Tri City Free Breakfast Program** needs volunteers to help feed those less fortunate. Breakfast is Monday Wednesday Friday mornings. Collecting food is an everyday task. Volunteer Coordinator is led by Rich Doberstein

**Mark your calendars** to grow more in Christ for 2016! To learn how to join a group, contact Pastor Larry 510.657.3133 [pastor@irvingtonpres.org](mailto:pastor@irvingtonpres.org)  
Web: [www.irvingtonpres.org](http://www.irvingtonpres.org)



# PER CAPITA

Each member of the church is requested to donate \$35.15 for our annual per capita apportionment. This money goes to help pay for the operations of the Presbyterian Church (USA), at our national level (General Assembly), the regional level (Synod of the Pacific) and the area level (Presbytery of San Francisco). Mark your check or giving envelope PER CAPITA if you can help out pay for your membership.

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## TRI-CITY FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM

In February 2016, we served 2,815 meals, an unknown number of provisions all in 26 hours done entirely by volunteers.

We are a 100% volunteer run group with no paid staff. 100% of your charity will go help feed those less fortunate

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### IPC Ladies Out to Lunch

Our March fellowship lunch gathering was held at Sala Thai Restaurant with 12 ladies in attendance. All enjoyed a delicious meal and a great hour of camaraderie, renewing old friendships and promoting new relationships. There were some informal discussions on the recent announcement regarding the future of our church. Options include selling part of the land and merging with Menlo Park Church that is expanding in the East Bay.



Our next lunch gathering will be at 11:30 on Tuesday April 19 at the:

**Market Broiler Restaurant**

**43406 Christy Street, Fremont.**

**Contact Gill Carson at 510 657 4069 to reserve your place.**

This is a seafood restaurant located in the Pacific Commons Plaza.



## 12 HOURS OF PRAYER

### What do YOU want to do in the future?



12 HOURS OF PRAYER--We prayed from 7am to 4pm because we did not have enough signups to do the full twelve hours. Twenty two people participated and I feel it was a success even though we did not go the full twelve hours and I do thank all who participated. I would appreciate some feedback from those who participated as to what they thought about the day.

What do YOU want to do in the future? Perhaps a shorter time, or maybe just have a prayer time for one hour every Saturday prior to communion. We do need feedback to plan for the future. Please call Darlene Neesham at 510-656-3832 with your ideas and suggestions.





Baptism of Stevan Patelia on 20 March 2016



IPC New Members on 27 March 2016



Baptism of Ben Guastella on 27 March 2016



Baptism of Ben Guastella on 27 March 2016



Easter Festivities on 27 March 2016



Easter Festivities on 27 March 2016



Easter Service on 27 March 2016



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 1	2
8:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP, COMMUNION & CHILDREN'S CHURCH 3	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 4	8:00 AM THE ROMEO (REAL ODD MEN EATING OUT) 7:00 PM CHURCH WIDE GOTS MEETING 10:00 AM CHINESE BIBLE STUDY 5	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 6:00 PM PRAISE GROUP PRACTICE 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE 7:00 PM PING PONG 6		7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 8	9
8:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHURCH 10	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM MCKOWEN HOME BIBLE STUDY 11	8:00 AM THE ROMEO (REAL ODD MEN EATING OUT) 12	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 6:00 PM PRAISE GROUP PRACTICE 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE 7:00 PM PING PONG 13	4:00 PM SIS MEETING 5:00 PM MISSION TEAM MEETING 14	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 15	16
8:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHURCH 17	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 18	8:00 AM THE ROMEO (REAL ODD MEN EATING OUT) 11:30 AM LADIES OUT TO LUNCH AT MARKET BOILER 7:00 PM REGULAR SESSION MEETING 10:00 AM CHINESE BIBLE STUDY 19	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 6:00 PM PRAISE GROUP PRACTICE 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE 7:00 PM PING PONG 20		7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 22	23
8:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S CHURCH 24	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 9:30 AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM MCKOWEN HOME BIBLE STUDY 25	8:00 AM THE ROMEO (REAL ODD MEN EATING OUT) 26	7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 6:00 PM PRAISE GROUP PRACTICE 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE 7:00 PM PING PONG 27		7:00 AM FREE BREAKFAST 29	30
					END OF PASSOVER	7



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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Please note: April 25th is the deadline for the May issue.*

All articles are to be emailed to [nicholsb@earthlink.net](mailto: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](http://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.