

Irvington Presbyterian Church Fremont, CA

Dear Friends,

Sundays

Bible study 8:45 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. (Nursery and Children Sunday School During Service)

Easter Sunday we had the privilege of baptizing Shannon Sandy and Dave Yeager who also became new members. Both men professed their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and asked to be baptized. What did baptism mean to them? It is a sign and seal of the covenant of grace made by God through Jesus and extended to them. By becoming baptized, God claimed them as beloved children and members of Christ's body, the church. The water used in their baptism symbolized the washing away of their sins as they renounced the power of evil and sought the will and way of God.

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Traditionally, some Christian denominations use immersion as their only mode of baptism for youth and adult believers. Presbyterians sprinkle, pour or immerse depending on the setting and the desire. The mode used today at IPC is sprinkling. We, however, believe the symbolism of water cleansing is more important than the mode used in baptism. Behind the symbol of baptism is the substance of baptism, which is the blood of Jesus Christ removing our sinfulness. As water cleanses the outer man from soil and sweat, so the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses the inner man from the stain of sin.

The Sacrament of Baptism is administered to believers in Jesus Christ as

8 well as their infant children. The children of believing parents can be baptized on the faith of their parents. In 8 the Presbyterian Church we do not baptize all children, 8 but only the children who have at least one Christian 8 parent or those children who are under the guardianship 9 of a believer in Christ. Baptism of a child is a sign that 0 Jesus is working through the parents or guardians and



1 the baptizing church to bring that child up in the faith. For parents who do not believe in the validity of infant baptism, we offer a dedication ceremony with 2 prayer and an anointing of oil on the infant's forehead as a sign of God at work in that child's life. We believe one is baptized once in our lifetime.

To be a member of IPC, one needs to trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and obediently follow him by being baptized. If you would like to be part of our church family, be baptized or have a child baptized, contact me.

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Tri-City Free Breakfast Marks 20 Years of Community Service

The Tri-City Free Breakfast Program, (TCFBP) one of the local missions supported by IPC, will celebrate its 20th anniversary on May 20, 2017.

In the mid-1990's, IPC Session formed a committee to determine what the Church could do to help the community through our Local Missions. At one of the committee meetings, Joe Goldblatt mentioned that he had seen children walking to school eating candy, chips, and other junk food. He suggested that it would be a good idea if the church could find a way to provide these children with a nutritious breakfast... *this idea took root.*

A steering committee consisting of Jim Putler, Crystal Collins, Jean Gardner, Wanda Hughes, Darlene James, Becky Madany, Dennis Wagner and Fred Conwell, who agreed to be chairman, was formed to look into this idea. During the next two years, there were many meetings with other churches, local businesses, and the City of Fremont. The committee then determined that in addition to feeding children, there was a need to feed the homeless, the working poor and low income seniors in the community.

With prayer, planning and active participation by Jean Gardner, the Social Hall doors were opened to the Tri-City Free Breakfast Program, on May 12, 1997. On the first day, hot nutritious breakfasts were served to 12 hungry guests. Within two years, TCFBP was regularly serving over 100 guests Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7–9 AM. God provided cooks, assistant cooks, food buyers,

kitchen managers, dining room servers, dish-washers, dish dryers and drivers to pick up donated food and other volunteers.

Volunteers initially cooked on a large, electric cooktop with burners that functioned sporadically.

More than 350,000 hot nutritious meals have been served to thousands of guests in a table service setting of dignity with zero paid staff. Cost per meal served is less \$2.00. About 93% of the clients report they are in the extremely low income category and another 5% of the clients are in the low income category.

For 14 days in March 2017, TCFB

- Served an average of 155 guests per day
- Served an average of 223 meals per day
- Distributed 930 bags of provisions
- Had 605 volunteer hours donated by an average of 17 volunteers.

"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love

you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them". Hebrews 6:10 NIV



SESSION NEWS & NOTES - Mustapha Baksh

On April 18, Session held its regular meeting. We began with prayer for God's guidance as we continue to work together for His glory. Pastor Larry then took us through a reading and discussion of Acts 2:14-41. It was to this Jewish crowd in the city of Jerusalem, where Jesus had been killed just over seven weeks ago, that Peter delivered the sermon that launched the church. In terms of results—about 3,000 got saved that day.

The minutes of the March 21, Session Meeting and two special meetings to accept four and three new members respectively, were approved.

Pastor Larry reported that under Stephanie Yamada's leadership there were 21 children registered for the Great Surprise on Palm Sunday and 28 children for the Children Easter Worship. It was our largest class enrollment for a Sunday in many years. Parents also attended Sunday Worship rather than just bringing children for the egg hunt. A new members seminar is scheduled for Sunday June 11, immediately following worship. A new Life Group and Sermon series based on Craig Groeschel's Divine Direction begins Wednesday April 26. This month Pastor visited and gave communion to 13 members who were unable to attend church.

Session also approved Pastor's study leave for June 3-9 and September 10-15. During his absence, Pastor Martha will preach.

The Deacon's reported that there were over 25 Easter Lilies to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. And the planned baby shower for the two expectant mothers in the congregation will now be held on Sunday May 21.

Finance indicated that while giving was down, rentals made up for the difference in income. Finance will add a section to the monthly financial report to track expenditures approved by Session and which are not part of the General Fund budget.

Elders are signed up through July to serve refreshments after worship on Communion Sundays. More Elders are needed to complete the schedule for the remainder of this year.

Stewardship planed that the offering for One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected on Sunday April 30. Church members are encouraged to place their giving in the specially marked envelope and place in the collection plate on Sunday.

Communications reported that the website is now regularly updated with church activities and events. These are automatically removed after the event. The visitor welcome package that includes the Pastor's welcome letter, church tri fold, Missions tri fold and Church Ministries tri fold is complete. Revision 1 is expected to be released by June 15.

Buildings and Grounds is investigating the set up of a prayer station in the courtyard before and after worship on Sundays. This prayer station will also be used in the breakfast program by Jonathan Jiang and Elaine Liang who are in the process of establishing a Mandarin Service on campus.

Session has scheduled a "Session Performance Review" for May 2.

DEACONS' CORNER

The Ministry of Compassion and Service - Mary Lou Craig

Compassion in this ministry was evident as Deacons visited members in the congregation who were hospitalized. They provided companionship, care and spiritual support to these

individuals and their families.

More than 25 dedicated lilies decorated the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. The Deacons would like to thank all church attendees who participated in this pro-

ject. In addition to serving refreshments, Deacons participated and supported activities for "The Great Surprise" and "Easter Egg Hunt". As is the custom at IPC, Deacons are planning corsages for the ladies at worship on Mothers' Day.

A joint baby shower and luncheon is planned for May 21st at 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., to congratulate

Kari Guastella, whose 6 lb 11 oz baby boy, James was born on Tuesday April 25; and for Tessy Geevarghese, who is expecting her second child in June. All are invited. Kari is registered on <u>www.Babylist.com</u> and Tessy would be excited to open gifts of "blue". RSVP to Mary Lou Craig, 396-3053, Gill Carson, 657-4069 or Mary Lee Starkel, 656-6414.

What is the Board of Deacons?

Bap

IPC is blessed to have incredibly energetic and enthusiastic Deacons to be in company with and provide caring support for you and your family. Deacons are men and women who have been elected by the congregation and ordained for the purpose of ministering to church members and friends who have difficulties and stresses.

The term "Deacon" is taken from scripture and literally means "to serve" or "to minister".

This is the time when your Nominating Committee begins the process of identifying church members to join the Board of Deacons. If you like to, or if you know someone who would be willing to serve in this ministry, please let your nominating committee know.

Medical Equipment and Supplies

IPC maintains a limited supply of medical equipment and some supplies including walkers, wheel chairs, shower seats, hand exercisers, stool height extenders, portable toilet commodes, crutches, canes and adult briefs. These are available for members and their families.

Currently there is a need for newer wheel chairs. If anyone knows of wheel chairs that are available for loan to those in need; or if you need to use any of the items listed above, please contact; Deacon Joe Di Maggio @ 651 - 1323 or Deacon Moderator Mary Lou Craig @ 656 - 4388





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MISSIONS: THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

God's Kingdom Work Among the Arsi Oromo People, Ethiopia

Abel was a Muslim when Light of Hope Ministry (LOHM) employed him as a teacher in 2007. Soon after joining LOHM, while we were singing and praying at one of the staff's worship services, Abel came forward with tears rolling down his cheeks. He said he was touched by the lyrics that helped him realize the love of God in Christ and the love he received from his believing fellow workers. Right there, he said he was ready to make a commitment to follow Jesus for the rest of his life. Abel's decision was firm. His growth in faith was quick and remarkable. When Light of Hope built an elementary school in Abel's village, he became an avenue to share the Good News of Jesus with

his parents and siblings. Two years after Abel's conversion, his father, a mosque leader, also gave his life to Jesus. Later on, Abel's mother, siblings, and some of their relatives one-by-one came to know Jesus. Now there is a small church planted on the property of Abel's father. Glory to our God!

Abel's story explains one of the ways LOHM in Ethiopia is sharing God's love through building



elementary schools and equipping teachers in the Arsi Oromo region. Dr. Urgessa Biru, the founder of LOHM, leads the effort by promoting the holistic development of the Arsi Oromo people through education. Currently, LOH has built or is in the process of building 50 schools in six Arsi regions and serving more than 25,000 children and their families. The number is growing rapidly each year. Young and dedicated teacher-evangelists like Abel are teaching and becoming ambassadors of Jesus Christ to their students and families in their respective villages.

By God's grace, IPC has been part of our ministry through prayer and financial support. We truly



appreciate your support to Light of Hope school projects. Please continue to pray for God's provision for the 14 schools that need desks for the students. The cost of a desk is \$80. Each desk seats three students and 200 desks are needed per school.



The stories of LOHM are being told throughout Arsiland. We have received invitations from many villages to build schools. The Arsi Oromo communities donate the land, sometimes even subdividing land they had given to their mosques. Community members also provide local construction materials and participate in the building of the schools. In 2017, with God's Grace, Light of Hope would like to help build 5 schools. The cost of each school is \$32,000. For most Arsi Oromo children, these are the only schools in the village serving first through fifth grades. Sadly, the opportunity to go to middle and high school is not yet available.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers for guidance for the emerging partnership opportunities and resources to address the needs that God has set before us.

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FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE - Stephanie Yamada

"Being confident of this very thing, that God who has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ". Philippians 1:6

Irvington Presbyterian Church continues to do the good work of Christ by reaching out to children in



Fremont and beyond. April 9th, IPC hosted "The Great Surprise" on Palm Sunday, staffing interactive, surprising object-lesson stations to illustrate a greater surprise, that Jesus is alive! Twenty-five children as well as their parents and grandparents attended the event. The families and volunteers alike had fun and enjoyed a unique beginning for our Holy Week.

This was followed by our big Easter celebration. About thirty children heard the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, followed by our annual Easter egg hunt. The rain held off until the hunt was over; and the participants enjoyed their treats and

prizes. The thirty children represented the largest attendance in our classrooms in many years.

A special thanks to the thirty loving volunteers who staffed, taught, set-up and cleaned-up at these special events in April. We couldn't have done it without you! We are grateful to our congregation for providing over 500 filled eggs for the hunt, and to the many members who invited their families and friends to join us in celebrating God's great love for us. He is risen!



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May, 2017

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Fremont Youth Symphony Orchestra Free Concert

Under the guidance of Fremont Symphony Orchestra, the Fremont Youth Symphony Orchestra



(FYSO) provides an encouraging and motivating environment for young musicians to receive quality training and pursue performance excellence through high-quality

instruction and mentorship by professional musicians. Through a variety of performance opportunities, FYSO seeks to empower young musicians to actively engage in preserving and promoting the performing arts in our community.

The Fremont Youth Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert will be held on Saturday, May 13th at 3:30 p.m. in the IPC Sanctuary. Admission is free: donations are welcomed.

Family Ministry Events

Get ready for weekend Vacation Bible School, June 23rd and 24th! It begins Friday evening from



6:00 - 8:30, and continues Saturday morning 9:00 - 11:30. A special worship time will follow on Sunday morning, June 25th.

For more information visit www.irvingtonpres.org

New Member Orientation Class - Sunday June 11

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." 1Corinthians 12:27

We invite you to our New Member Orientation Class led by Pastor Larry. This class will teach you

some of our core values, mission, vision and ministries. Discover ways to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ along your faith journey; and the joys of being part of a church family. This dynamic two-hour class features special teaching time with



our Pastor and a chance to have your questions about IPC's ministry and mission answered.

Ladies Out to Lunch - Wednesday May 17 @ 11:30 am

Location: Skillet'Z Café, 37378 Niles Boulevard, Fremont (510 - 793 - 8161)

Contact: Mary Lou Craig (510 - 396 - 3053)

Join us in the "Ole Niles" atmosphere for lots of fun in Christian fellowship.

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May, 2017

WEEKDAYS AT IPC

The Church office is open Tuesday through Thursday each week from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. If you would like to meet with Pastor Larry, you may schedule an appointment by calling the office.

Highlights for May:

2 nd Deacons Meeting 7 pm	11 th Missions Ministry Meeting 5 pm
2 nd Special Session Meeting 7 pm	14 th Communications Meeting 11:00 am
5 th Church Alive Meeting 7 pm	16 th Session Meeting 7 pm
9 th Presbytery Meeting	17 th Ladies out to Lunch 11:30 am
Wednesdays ROMEO breakfast 8 am	20 th Tri-City Breakfast 20-Years of Service
Wednesdays "Divine Direction" Life Group	21 st Mission Sunday, Meal-a-Month
1:30 pm and 7 pm	21 st Baby Shower and Luncheon
11 th SIS Meeting 4 pm	-

Church Directory

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Larry Thorson	Address:	4181 Irvington Avenue
Family Ministries Dire	ctor : Stephanie Yamada		P.O. Box 1336
Worship Leader:	Derek Post		Fremont, CA 94538
Bookkeeper:	Jeanette Ollison		Phone: (510) 657 3133
Office Manager:	Marissa Hughes		Fax: (510) 657 7040

Email: info@irvingtonpres.org



Bible Studies

Sunday Bible Study - at 8:45 AM in the McKowen Room preceding worship. Join Elder Richard Craig as he leads the class in studying the Book of Revelation.

Women's Bible Study - Women meet Mondays in the McKowen Room at 9:30 AM. Contact Helen Jorgensen for details.

Home Bible Study - Regularly scheduled bi-weekly Bible Classes at Mary Ellen's house on May 8 and 22 at 7 PM. Studying the Gospel of Matthew. Contact Mary Ellen for details.

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May, 2017

CONGREGATION NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Natalie Artiathurai Mustapha Baksh Michael Baksh Betty Burke Don Carson Jean Landrum

Jeanette Ollison Bruce Schlobohm Tom Mardirosian Tim Stachowiak Christina Trias Dave Yeager

Praise God for Baby James Guastella

Kari and Ben Guastella are blessed with a healthy 6 lb. 11 oz. son, born on April 25. Pastors Larry and Martha are delighted grand parents. Congratulations to all!



Know Your Missionaries

Esther and George Manoukian, missionaries from Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) and

long-time friends of IPC worshiped with us on Sunday April 23. Esther gave an update of the work they are doing



Mary Ellen, Mission Chair, with George and Esther

with the children in Armenia. This ministry has brought new life, revival and healing. During 2016, CEF of Armenia reached over 24,200 children and teenagers with the gospel. Thank you IPC. Your prayers and generous Faith Promise Giving to Missions, have been part of this ministry for 20 years.



Baptism

On Easter Sunday, Pastor Larry baptized two new members, Dave Yeager and Shannon Sandy, in our Church family. God claimed them as beloved children and members of Christ's body, the Church.



Welcome New Members

IPC welcomed seven new members on Easter Sunday.

Five of these members pictured from right to left with Pastor Larry are: Irene Quek, Enling Liang, Shannon Sandy, Dave Yeager and Premkumar Neerukonda.

Not pictured are Jonathan Jiang and Rinkesh Parmar. Congratulations from all at IPC.

"He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me." Matthew 10:40



Irvington Presbyterian ChurchPage 10May, 2017KNOW YOUR CONGREGATION- Mary Ellen McKowen

Born in Livingston, CA, second of 2 daughters; my sister and I went to live with different relatives



after my mother was hospitalized with the disabling consequences of ALS. I chose to live with my favorite aunt on an apple ranch in Watsonville. After graduating from Santa Cruz High School, I spent one year at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington before returning to the Bay Area to complete a degree in Social Welfare at UC Berkeley.

During my years in Santa Cruz, I began attending a Presbyterian Church a block from my home. I had never attended church regularly, nor did I have any knowledge about God or Jesus. At that church I found a small group of

friends who attended the same school I did. We learned together, encouraged each other and was influenced by a wonderful, Godly, Sunday School teacher who was also our Youth Group leader. One member of our group organized a Saturday night prayer group that aided us in developing our Christian understanding of God and the importance of having Jesus in our hearts and lives. It was during this time that I became convinced that Jesus is truly the "Way, the Truth and the Life". Later, at the First Presbyterian Church in Berkeley, I joined a larger group of 200 college students who studied, learned and prayed together under the ministry of Robert Boyd Munger. The group had opportunities to hear famous Christian leaders from all over the world, each challenging us to be witnesses for Christ. The students in this group were also offered Bible Study opportunities. We studied individual passages, applying the principles learned to our lives. It was in this group of students that I met my husband, Paul, who later became the leader of the Bible Study groups.

After college I worked for 13 months as a Social Worker in Stockton, CA, commuting most weekends to Berkeley. I quit my job to get married to a then Seminary student. Paul and I spent our first year in Berkeley before moving with our 6-week old baby to Princeton, New Jersey so Paul could finish his Seminary training. Two years later, we returned to the Bay Area, settling in Hayward where Paul became the Youth Worker at the Presbyterian church. Our second daughter was born there. Two and a half years later found us in Cannon Beach, Oregon, ministering in a small church and greatly enjoying the beautiful Oregon Coast. Missionary training took our young family to Stoney Point, NY; and Language School training to San Jose, Costa Rica. We then spent three and a half years as missionaries in Venezuela. After returning to the US in 1967, Paul joined the staff at First Presbyterian Church in Richmond, CA. Nine years later, he became the Pastor at IPC and served for 14 years. Having arrived here in March, 1977, this is my 40th year as a member.

Here at IPC, I was introduced to working and becoming more knowledgeable about the expansive field of Missions. This has been a very rewarding experience not only in learning about the work of Christ all over the world, but also in becoming acquainted with many missionaries and learning from them the marvelous ways the Lord provides. My tenure here has provided me with the opportunity to use what I feel is a spiritual gift of mine, hospitality. I am so very grateful to the Lord for directing me to places where I can experience opportunities to learn about Him, grow in my Christian Life, and serve Him in some small way. He has given me a wonderful, loving, caring family, and I am so very grateful for my three daughters, three sons-in-law and three grandchildren!

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MY TESTIMONY

One of the most effective tools we have for sharing our faith is the story of how Jesus Christ gave us eternal life and how He has enriched our lives. The Apostle John wrote, *"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard" (1 John. 1:3)*, testifying about his journey and relationship to Jesus Christ. In this, the fifth of a 6-part series, an IPC member shares this journey from his journal. The content is minimally edited.

Two thousand years have passed and He lives in me! He shows me the way. All is beauty! Later during the ride home, I make mention of this beautiful Spirit. I cannot contain myself. I want everyone to realize the beauty; and Stan has it! He was at a Marriage Encounter last weekend and he also found Jesus! And this weekend I found Him. Tuesday, the third day with Jesus. I awake full of the Spirit, such happiness! How wonderful it is ... What a magnificent morning!

While at work, the thought of death comes to me. I always thought I could accept death, but had never been close to death. But there is no death! Death was before, the way I use to be. Always worrying about what had happened, what is happening, and what would happen. I'm ready, death can come anytime. I've got eternal life! Jesus said, "Let the dead bury the dead." He meant let those who think death is final, let them bury the dead. There is no death, only an end to the human physical being. We go on! Such insights! I can hardly contain myself. I tell everyone at work. I want everyone to see how easy it is to know Jesus. Just ask for His help and read Matthew! Why can't they understand?

Arriving home, I meet my wife in the garage. Babe, "I want you to know Jesus." I don't want eternity without you. She observes me; she doesn't understand. She tells me, "Your Mom called today. She's worried about you." Worried about me! I get the implication and reply with a laugh, "If this is going crazy, everyone should do it. It's wonderful!" My daughter enters the kitchen and hears my talk of Jesus, with a sideways glance she dismisses me for TV. My other daughters don't seem too bothered with me. At least I'm not my old self. Wednesday, the fourth day. Again I wake up with the Spirit gushing through my body. Another high day! Later at work I think of time. What is time? There is no time! Time is a measurement but there is none. Time is now! Time is me writing this down. Time is you reading this. Time is the present. Look around you, see. This is time-----now!

Thursday the fifth day of knowing Jesus. The Spirit pushes through my body; everything is clear and beautiful. My heart is clear. I see the good things. I'm no longer looking for the bad. What glorious enlightenment will I realize today? How can these enlightenments continue? Oh God, Don't leave me. I never want to go back to the way I was. When you have reached your limit and cannot go on, you fall before Him. You ask for His help. I had asked for His help realizing that I really did not believe He was there. But He came.

The parable of the mustard seed. Why Jesus spoke in parables is now clear. He spoke in parables so that we would need his help to know what He says. He could have spoken it plain, but nobody would have believed Him. But in parables He spoke, and with His help the things you need are so plainly there. Such a book----the Bible! Such a Man/God Jesus!

Two-thousand years ago God put Jesus on this earth to save the Jews, the chosen race, well knowing that the Jews would reject Him. He did this to save all humans on earth. Jesus gathered twelve people around Him. He told them to watch what He did, to practice what He preached and to spread His word. He promised everlasting life. These twelve watched Him cure the sick, raise the dead, make the blind see, and cast devils out of the tormented. They watched, yet they could not always believe. Their faith wavered but they did spread His word. The Bible was written, and from this mustard seed, Jesus, a goodness was spread. Everlasting life is spread. (Matthew 21:42-43)

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<u>May 20</u> is the deadline for our June issue.

All articles are to be delivered by email to: kandmbaksh@gmail.com. Cornerstone is the medium to keep your current and past congregation members informed of all activities at IPC. Your timely submissions are important to everyone.

Acknowledgements

We appreciate the time and dedication of all who submitted articles and provided information for the May issue. This month's Cornerstone pictures were provided courtesy of: Ron Fong, Peggy Handono, Telile Fikru Badecha

You play a significant role as we work together in the name of Christ.

Kamroon and Mustapha Baksh

Editors