



Irvington Presbyterian Church

Fremont, CA

June, 2017

Dear Friends,

Sundays

Bible study 8:45 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

**(Nursery and Children
Sunday School During
Service)**

Our first grandbaby is here and healthy! James Kynaston Guastella was born 6 pounds, 11 ounces on April 25, to our daughter Kari and her husband Ben. The name Kynaston was adopted from one of triplets whom Kari babysat when she was in High School 15 years ago in Dallas. Martha and I are so grateful for James Kynaston. We pray for him everyday and eagerly look forward to knowing him better in the years to come.

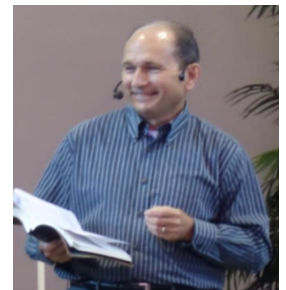
Lately, I have been thinking about new life. New life brings renewed purpose. A new grandson brings new life into our 68 year old house. The end of the drought means new life for our tiny lawn at home. New zucchini and tomato plants in our garden bring fresh new life to our plates.

Inside this issue:

Pastor Larry's Notes	2
Session News /Notes	3
Deacons Corner	4
Missions Update	5
Family Ministry	6
Activities Update	7
Weekdays at IPC	8
June Highlights	8
Church Directory	8
Bible Studies	8
Congregation News	9
Your Congregation	10
My Testimony	11
Acknowledgements	12

There is also new life developing in our church. In the first half of this year we added 10% to our membership. The new members are from China, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and India. We also have long-time Fremont residents returning to church for the first time in many years. These new members bring diversity and new perspectives to our church family. They attend worship regularly and are involved in Life Groups, women's luncheons, outreach events, ushering and a host of other activities. I am extremely grateful for all of this new life and for all at IPC who have welcomed the new members with divine love.

The Apostle Paul wrote in II Corinthians 5:17: *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."* New life is what follows being in Christ. This is the exciting new birth we are now experiencing at IPC. The challenge of embracing new life is dependent upon committing to memory some of the old things we are used to doing and accepting the new. Martha and I are in the final stages of restoring and rebuilding my childhood home. We have taken pictures of the old. We are keeping these in a memory file and in a picture file while choosing to embrace the new things God has placed in our lives. In the same way, let us thankfully store the old in our memories; creating room to embrace the new life in our church.



Pastor Larry

PASTOR LARRY'S NOTES

"One nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all." Do you remember reciting those words of the Pledge of Allegiance in school when you were growing up? With our present political polarization it seems we have forgotten those words. So for four Sundays during the month of June starting June 11 and leading up to the birthday of our nation in July, I will be talking about how those words relate to us as followers of Jesus Christ.

The first week, June 11, we will look at what "one nation" means in terms of loyalty as Americans versus being God's chosen representatives as Christ followers. In week two, June 18, Father's Day, we will talk about what it means for a nation to be "under God". Those words "under God" were added by Presbyterian President Dwight Eisenhower and I will talk about why they were added to our national pledge. How do we live under God in a culture that is becoming increasingly hostile toward the things of God? Week three, June 25, we will look at the idea of "indivisible". How do we as Jesus followers stand united spiritually even though we may have differences politically? Finally in week four, July 2, we will look at what "liberty and justice for all" means in a time when immigration is a hot topic. How do we, in this culture, love with grace without compromising truth?

My intention will be to address the issues we are dealing with while trying not to be partisan so that nothing is taken away from the power of the cross of Jesus Christ. We live in a great country and it is the responsibility of all of us who live here and especially Christ followers to keep it great and pass it on to the next generation. I look forward to sharing these current and interesting topics with you on Sundays, this summer. You may also watch videos of this series or read it by visiting our website: www.irvingtonpres.org.

On Wednesdays, beginning June 7 and continuing through June 28, Pastor Ken Jacobsen, a retired Presbyterian Pastor, will be teaching a course on comparative religion. Pastor Ken has been attending IPC for a while and has great insight into our struggles to effectively minister to our community. Many of our neighbors are immigrants; many come from other faiths and backgrounds. How do we talk to them? What do we say beyond "go talk to our Pastor." It starts with knowing what they believe and clearly understanding what we believe. This class will explore evangelism in the context of world religions. To understand others, we must understand our own message and background. Then we explore Hinduism and Buddhism. We will look at how they have interfaced with our Christian faith. Finally we will delve into Islam and its relationship with Christianity. Did you know that Islam teaches that Jesus is the Son of God who was born of the Virgin Mary and will come again leading God's armies at the day of Judgement? So, what is the difference between Islam and Christianity and why is it important? Come to the McKowen Room at 7 pm and participate in this exciting class.

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for worship on Sundays at 10:00 am. Encourage them to stay and mingle at the fellowship hour that will be held on the patio during the summer.

I am on study leave June 4-10, and will take a summer course titled "Preaching the Resurrection" at Yale Divinity in Connecticut. Pastor Martha will preach in my absence and serve communion.

SESSION NEWS & NOTES - Mustapha Baksh

Session held its regular meeting on May 16. We began with prayer for God's guidance as we continue to work together for His glory. The first half hour was dedicated to worship as we sang, praised the Lord and had communion. Session prayed for healing and blessings of the many members in the congregation who are ill. Pastor Larry then took us through a reading and discussion of ACTS 3:1-14.

The minutes of the April 18 regular session meeting and a special online meeting on May 3, to approve a Session sponsored picnic on May 28 were approved. In addition, Session approved a motion for Pastor's vacation schedule in 2017 and to hold Communion Sunday on September 10, rather than the first weekend when Pastor is on vacation.

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk shared a brief report on the Presbytery meeting that they attended on May 7. The next Presbytery meeting is scheduled for September 9, at First Newark Presbyterian.

Pastor's report indicated that for 2017 and excluding Palm Sunday and Easter, we are averaging 70 adults in worship and seven children in class. Even though several of our long-term members were unable to attend worship because of illness, it is important to note that on the first Sunday of May, attendance was the same as in 2014, with many new faces in the congregation. The next new member seminar is scheduled for Sunday June 11. Pastor Martha will preach on Sunday June 4 when Pastor is on study leave. There were visits and communion to seven members who could not attend church and Pastor Larry's next sermon series titled "Under God" commences on June 11.

The financial report for May was not available but finance was able to prepare an expense summary of 2017vs2016 that highlighted the areas that account for the 2017 deficit.

Elder Pat Jeffries shared the plan for Sunday May 28. Worship will be outdoors followed by a picnic. During worship, there will be a short celebration of Harry Berkheimer who served in WW 11. Church Alive Ministry is actively involved in all facets of the planning. Session members who will be in town, were requested to help with erecting the tent and cooking. About 700 mailings were done in a particular geographic area of the church and there are expectations for a good turnout.

The Nominating Committee is beginning to work on getting new members for Deacons. Because of the size of our congregation it is usually difficult to fill all the open Deacon positions. The Clerk shared a plan on enhancing the role of the Deacons going forward. There was a trifold and a power point presentation delineating how Session can enhance the role of the Deacons. Members were requested to review the recommendation and come prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

In an attempt to define a marketing name for the church that would make us more attractive to anyone searching for a church on the internet and one that is more easily identified with our community, there was a presentation and discussions on how we should proceed. Members were requested to review the presentation, make recommendations and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

The meeting closed in group prayer at 9:05 pm, thanking the Lord for our time together, prayers for teamwork in Session and for the many activities that are planned in the next few months.

DEACONS' CORNER

The Ministry of Compassion and Service - Mary Lou Craig

Compassion in this ministry was again evident as Deacons led by Mary Lou Craig helped a church member settle in after recent surgery. Deacons prepped the apartment by relocating furniture and repositioning items so that the member can recuperate comfortably and move around safely and efficiently.



The Deacons hosted a joint baby shower and luncheon on May 21st at 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., to congratulate Kari Guastella, whose baby boy, James was born on Tuesday April 25; and for Tessy Geevarghese, who is expecting her second child this month.

The Deacons prepared a delicious lunch and the new and expecting mothers gasped and oohed as they opened their many gifts.

Thank you Deacons for your elaborate preparations and to the IPC community for all the generous gifts you “showered” on the babies.



Happy Mothers Day

For the Deacons, Mother's Day has always been celebrated with flowers signifying gratitude, love and admiration for all mothers. Many of the Deacons met on Saturday to make corsages and on Mother's Day, pinned a corsage on every mother who attended worship service. Traditionally, pink carnations represent gratitude and love, red carnations signify admiration and white carnations are worn in remembrance of a mother.



Up Coming Events

June 11, we celebrate Graduation Sunday when we honor all high school and college graduates from our church.

June 18, we will honor the Fathers in our church by serving strawberry short cake during the Social Hour following service.

MISSIONS: THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

Praying for South Sudan - Patti Boyland

The Republic of South Sudan is a new country—it was formed in 2011. At that time, there was great jubilation and hope. Its people had previously been under the oppressive Islamic government of Sudan, to the north. South Sudan's population is largely black African and there are many Christians there. However, very soon after independence, tribal warfare broke out in South Sudan and has continued off and on for many years.



The country has oil and rich agricultural land, but feuding, fighting, killing, looting, and burning of villages has destroyed the economy; and much of the population is displaced and faces famine. Tens of thousands have been killed. Over one million people have fled their homes, most of them women and children. Almost 300,000 people are at risk of dying of hunger.

Because South Sudan is not a major player in world politics, or a threat to us in the United States, we rarely hear about it in the news. Yet our brothers and sisters are suffering terribly.



What can a person do? We can give money, through organizations such as World Vision. But God has given us a powerful tool - prayer. In James 5:16b we read, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." And we are righteous in God's eyes through what Christ has done for us!

For about seven years a group of women at our church have met on the second Thursday of every month in the McKowen Room to pray for South Sudan.



We are associated with "She Is Safe", a Christian organization devoted to encouraging and helping our sisters and their children in perilous situations. Through She Is Safe, we are in contact with a number of women in South Sudan who love Jesus, are desirous to spread the Gospel and, of course, are struggling to keep their families safe and feed them in the very dangerous situation

in South Sudan.



Won't you join us? Our sisters in South Sudan need our prayers, and God promises he can use our prayers. If you would like to be an active member of this prayer group or for more information, please contact Mary Ellen McKowen at 510-657-6360.

FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE - Stephanie Yamada

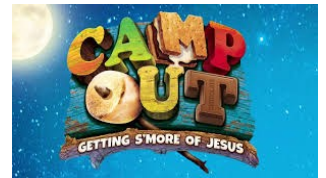
Family Summer Events

"Praise the Lord! How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying his commands. Their children will be successful everywhere, an entire generation of godly people will be blessed." Psalm 112:1-2



Middle School - Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth graders are invited to join us on Wednesday afternoons for Middle School Club, June 28 – August 23 from 3:30 – 5:00. We will enjoy fun games and friends while we learn more about our amazing God! Plan to join us and invite your friends! We will meet in the Youth room – see you there!

Vacation Bible School - "Camp Out" - Friday evening and Saturday morning, June 23-24. Children will learn that Jesus is the light of the world through a fun camping-themed adventure. Children ages three through the fifth grade will get "s'more" of Jesus on this special VBS weekend. For more information, pick up a form at the registration table on Sunday, register online at irvingtonpres.org or call the church office at (510)657-3133.



Family Movie and Pizza Night - Wednesday, June 28, at 7:00 pm, gather with IPC families and friends for dinner and watch a super football movie, "Facing the Giants." RSVP so we can plan for enough food. Donations accepted.

Oakland Zoo Trip - Sunday, July 23, caravan with friends and family to the Oakland Zoo! The zoo is nationally known for its excellent elephant exhibit and has been praised for allowing their elephants to roam freely. Action for Wildlife is a primary concern at Oakland Zoo. The Zoo is actively involved with many researchers and organizations dedicated to various conservation projects around the world. Pack a picnic lunch to enjoy, or purchase lunch there. We will leave after worship service, 11:15, to arrive together at the zoo. Parking is \$10/vehicle. Oakland Zoo is open from 10-4. Group tickets are available for 12+ people; deadline for reservations is July 1. For discounted tickets, all parties must enter together; no refunds. Group prices: \$14.75/adult, \$10.75/child (2-14) and seniors. Standard zoo admission is \$18.75/adult, \$14.75 children and seniors.



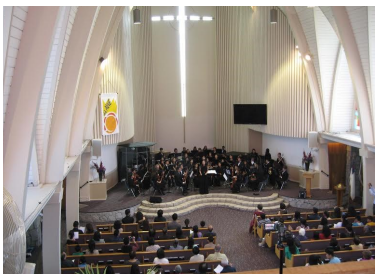
Fall Kick off Event - Sunday, September 10, IPC will be "kicking off" a new Sunday school year! Join your friends and family for new education programs followed by a BBQ, ice cream social and bounce house!

For Questions or more information, Call the church office (510) 657-3133 or contact Stephanie Yamada, Director of Family Ministries. Call or text: 650-773-6511

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The Fremont Youth Symphony Orchestra

The Fremont Youth Symphony Orchestra performed in front of a packed sanctuary at Irvington Presbyterian Church on Saturday May 13. Under the direction of Judy Lam, the orchestra gave a rousing start to the evening with Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 3, then took us through a journey of Boccherini, Brahms and Schubert before the intermission. Following intermission a group of flautists of the Virtuoso International Ensemble performed A.F Wouters, "Andagio and Scherzo". The Youth Choir then returned with Beethoven's Allegretto and ended the with "La Cucaracha", the traditional Spanish folk song. Thank you Fremont Youth Symphony Orchestra for a delightful evening.



Tri City Free Breakfast Celebrates 20 Years of Service

On Saturday May 20, volunteers, friends and contributors to the Tri City Free Breakfast Program got together to mark the 20th year of service to the community. Since the first meal was served to 14 guests in May 1997, this program has now expanded to serve an average of 150 guests each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Guests enjoy a hot, nutritious meal of pancakes, French toast, home fries, scrambled eggs and oatmeal. All meals are delivered by the wait staff to the guests seated at tables. In addition to breakfast, guests also receive toiletries, clothing, packages of food and a broad assortment of bread, pastries, fruits and vegetables.



Thank you Irvington Presbyterian Church, volunteers and contributors, we have served 350,000 hot, delicious and nutritious breakfasts to more than 150 guests each Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the past 20 years. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless this ministry.

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 June:

2nd Church Alive Meeting 7 pm

6th Deacons Meeting 7 pm

Wednesdays ROMEO breakfast 8 am

Wednesdays "Comparative Religion" 7pm

8th SIS Meeting 4 pm

8th Missions Ministry Meeting 5 pm

11th New Member Seminar

18st Mission Sunday, Meal-a-Month

20th Session Meeting 7 pm

22nd Ladies out to Lunch 11:30 am

23rd, 24th Vacation Bible School

25th Communications Meeting 11:00 am

28th Family Movie Night and Pizza 7 pm

28th Middle School Club 3:30 pm

Church Directory

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Larry Thorson

Family Ministries Director : Stephanie Yamada

Worship Leader: Derek Post

Bookkeeper: Jeanette Ollison

Office Manager: Marissa Hughes

Address: 4181 Irvington Avenue

P.O. Box 1336

Fremont, CA 94538

Phone: (510) 657 3133

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 June 12 and 26 at 7 PM. Studying the Gospel of Matthew. Contact Mary Ellen for details.

CONGREGATION NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kamroon Baksh	Carole Ann Kinslow
Betty Berger	Prem Neerukonda
Harry Berkheimer	Theo Pex
Alexis DiMaggio	Jackie Rockett
Theodore Fong	Shannon Sandy
Nicholas Fong	Judith Solomon
Peggy Handono	Dianne Evans



Jim and Flora Putler

Bruce and Toni Schlobohm

Memorial Day Picnic

Truly, it was a day to be with the family and remember. Accompanied by Freddie Torres and his band we worshipped on the lawn and enjoyed a picnic with our church family and friends.

Elder Pat Jeffries provided a tribute to our own Harry Berkheimer who served in WW11 and was part of the June 6, 1944, Normandy Invasion. Elder Richard Craig shared the story of Pat Jeffries who served in Vietnam. We gave thanks for the valor of others as we remembered the splendor of America and her children who rest in the cemetery across the street from our church and in other cemeteries throughout the nation. We prayed for all in our congregation who have served and continue to serve in the military.

Thank you IPC for the many dishes you brought to share. To our cooks who enjoyed the warmth of the grills on a cold day, thanks. To all those who helped erect the tent, set up tables, organized games, tear down and cleaned up; we could not have done it without your volunteering.



KNOW YOUR CONGREGATION

Kelvin and Janti along with their daughter Audrey have attended IPC since last September. Janti



immigrated to the United States from Indonesia, settled in California and completed her MBA at California State University, East Bay. She currently works as a program manager for Google. Kelvin immigrated to the United States from Malaysia and completed his BA at University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He works as a product manager for a start-up company in the Bay Area. Janti and Kelvin met on a blind date arranged by friends. Daughter, Audrey was

born in the United States. She is presently a fifth grader at Hirsch Elementary School.

Kelvin was brought up in a traditional Confucian family. He credits one of his best friends, a faithful Christian Worship Leader and mentor, with introducing him to Christian beliefs. He states: "We came to Christ because one of our best friends, Eric, brought us to know Him. We witnessed how the Lord led and protected Eric and his family. We feel blessed that Eric also showed us the way to receive the grace, joy, love and forgiveness of Christ."

In choosing a home for their young family, the Chows searched for a good public school and settled on a location that is close to Hirsch Elementary School, across the street from our church. In doing so, they subsequently found a church family at IPC. "We feel welcomed at IPC. We now have a deeper understanding of what loving others mean. Listening to the sermons, we have learned that Jesus set the example of loving others unconditionally regardless of the way they look or their status in life. This message has resonated with us; making us care for and love our IPC family. God has given us the spiritual gift of caring for others. We pray for all, and volunteer our services to help with activities at the church. We cherish the friendships we have developed here and appreciate each and every message heard on Sundays. These messages have helped us to focus on our faith and our Lord."

Kelvin shares his thoughts on finding a church home at IPC: "When we came to IPC, we felt the love and care that church members have for each other and they extended that love to us. It makes us very pleased that Stephanie Yamada, our Family Ministry Director, is here to consistently present a divine message each week and provide spiritual guidance for our daughter. Since coming to IPC, Audrey has become more enthusiastic about church and about Jesus than we have ever seen."

It is not unusual to see Kelvin and Audrey biking to church on Sundays. Audrey's enthusiasm and energy permeates the campus on Sunday mornings and at other church activities. This enthusiasm and energy transfer to her friends who follow her lead as they participate in church activities.

Kelvin is grateful for God's grace and guidance in allowing them to acquire their family home in Fremont. Theirs was the lowest bid offered. Their prayer on that day asked God to provide a home to raise their family. God answered their prayer and blessed us by guiding this wonderful young family to our church. **Welcome to IPC Audrey, Janti and Kelvin.**

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 next to last of a series, an IPC member shares this journey from his journal. The content is minimally edited.

"Two thousand years later I came along! I could see nothing but the blackness. I needed something. I had a dynamo within me. fighting to get out. I had to have help. I asked Him; He came to me and gave me Enlightenment. He gave me everlasting life. Now, I am that mustard seed. He goes on. That's the miracle of the mustard seed parable. Such a beautiful gift on the fifth day!

Friday the sixth day. Things are pleasant. But the Spirit is not with me. Oh no! Where are you Jesus? I fall to my knees beside the bed and ask His forgiveness. What have I done? Where is the Spirit? At work, I ask my Christian friends about the Spirit. I've lost Him. What have I done? My friend Orville explains that everything that happens is for a reason; there is a reason for this. But what? Andy, working at the Santa Cruz test base, calls me. I had called him the day before to explain all the beautiful things that was happening to me, But he was too busy to talk. In explaining the Enlightenment, the Spirit is revived. But there still was a problem. He goes on to say that the reason he and Rita went to Tahoe with us the previous year was sort of tit-for-tat. If we went to the Couples Conference, they would go to Tahoe. We'll do your thing if you will do ours. But he hadn't really wanted to go to Tahoe. He explained he had always been caught up in games and he was a little afraid of gambling. I thought about this and realized I just couldn't see Jesus pulling the Slot Machine handles; and with more thinking realized that I have never enjoyed gambling and I never won. It was just something to do. Also, the night before, our friends Maynard and Treasure had been over. I had been trying to explain how I had found Jesus and also trying to talk them into the Bus Trip to Tahoe. I couldn't see the difference between Jesus and gambling.

I opened the Bible and saw "gambling". Looking again I saw it was "grumbling" not gambling. In place of "grumbling" I got: "and there was much "gambling" among the multitudes; concerning Him some were saying, 'He is a good man', others were saying, 'No, on the contrary, He leads the multitudes astray.'" I put myself in place of "He" and realized the vast difference between Jesus and gambling. All was forgiven. How stupid not to see.

But I still had a problem; how was I going to Tahoe and perform His works? Finally I realized how. Maynard and Treasure were having trouble communicating with each other. He was so caught up with providing that he wasn't seeing the beauty of his family. His family is perfect. He and Treasure had lived a perfect life and had inspired this goodness into their children. Somehow, with Jesus' help, I would spread His Word to them; to help them see the beauty in each other; to help them regain the communication that they once had; and maybe "I" won't do anything, maybe just being with them to share their joy in regaining this communication. Jesus is with all of us; He works through us; He will help them.

Where am I today, seventeen days knowing Jesus? The bubbling Spirit is not with me always, but much of the time. I see the beauty in this world. I continue to serve Him. I pray to Him daily. I try to instill His thoughts into my children. I love Him." ... to be continued.

IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4181 Irvington Avenue

P.O. Box 1366

Fremont, CA 94538-0133

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

Permit No. 52

Fremont, CA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



June 20 is the deadline for our July 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 June issue.

This month's Cornerstone pictures were provided courtesy of: Ron Fong, Mustapha Baksh ,

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

Kamroon and Mustapha Baksh
Editors