

HAPPY GRANDPARENTS DAY  
 Sunday September 10



**CORNERSTONE**  
 Jesus Christ, the living cornerstone  
 and you are also living stones,  
 built into a dwelling place of God  
 in the Spirit.  
 - Eph. 2:20-22    1 Peter 2:4,5

**Irvington Presbyterian Church**

**Fremont, CA**

**September, 2017**

Dear Friends,

## Sundays

**Bible study 8:45 a.m.**

**Worship 10:00 a.m.**

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

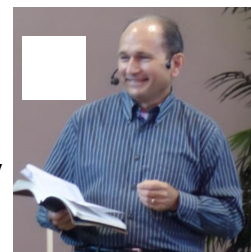
Every Sunday God gives us the opportunity to lay everything aside for a little while and worship the One who created, sustained and saved us. We have a defined format for our Sunday Service and every Tuesday, Derek Post, our worship leader and I review every aspect of that service. Our goal is to have a Sunday program that are free of errors or extraneous information that would distract us from worship. Our heart's desire is to insure that everyone who attends Sunday Worship has an opportunity to glorify God.

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Many of you in the congregation have indicated that you miss the piano and you miss singing hymns and the Doxology in worship. Starting this month, we are bringing in a pianist, we are integrating a hymn in worship each week and singing the Doxology after the offering.

We are still committed to learning and singing some of the latest contemporary songs. We are also committed to utilizing the drums and guitars to create a more contemporary sound that some in the congregation prefer. All of our songs and hymns will always be Christ centered because we are in worship on Sundays to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.



The purpose of Church music is to enable the congregation to corporately worship God in one voice in praise and adoration. Starting in September we will treat the whole congregation as one big choir, offering love songs to our Lord! We will move forward in the pews, sitting closer together and raising our voices in unison. If for any reason you need to sit in the back rows, we still want to hear you worshipping the Lord in song.

There is no greater way to have your zeal for worship skyrocket than to have a fresh filling of God's Holy Spirit. In our Sunday sermon series from September 10<sup>th</sup> through October 8<sup>th</sup>, we will study passages of Scripture about the Holy Spirit. If you want a head start on the passages please see Page 3.

I am excited to join you in worshipping our Lord this fall! It is my sincere wish that you would lay aside everything for a little while and worship with us.

*Pastor Larry*

# MISSIONS UPDATE

## **FAITH PROMISE WORKS: Support Missions - the Heart of the Church**

The IPC congregation supports Missions Outreach through Faith Promise giving. What does this mean? It means that the financial support we give to our local and worldwide missionaries is not part of the overall church budget. These funds come from each of us after prayerful consideration and with the faith that God will provide the resources. Faith Promise is not a pledge. A pledge is horizontal, made to a church or other worthy cause. Faith Promise is vertical, being made between you and the Lord. Faith promise gifts differ from regular offerings in that a faith promise requires the giver to commit to giving what he or she does not currently have. As a Bible-based program, Faith Promise not only provides funds for missions, but also advances every objective of IPC's missions program. Faith promise offers two great advantages. First, it elevates our church's Mission program to the place of prominence the Great Commission deserves. Second, it fosters a more direct and personal connection between members and Missions, resulting in a more mission-minded IPC.



Our task is clear – *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:19-20)

IPC Missions continue to provide prayer and financial support to 14 local and worldwide missionaries and mission projects. In 2017 we were visited by missionaries who educated us about their work. Presentations were held during worship and in some cases at luncheons hosted by Missions.

March 19, - Pastor Wilson Koppula preached on reaching out to Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims

April 23, - George & Esther Manoukian – Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)

August 20, - Missionaries Gideon and Sharmila Peter– Evangelism in Gujarat, India

Some people are called to start a local mission project or travel to other parts of the world to fulfill their role as defined in Acts 1:8. For those of us at home, how does each of us fulfill our individual support role?

- Pray and ask, “Lord what would You have me do?”
- Speak with any Missions Team member to learn more about Missions and how you can help.

**Your Mission Team:** Mary Ellen McKowen, Jenni Pellot, Peggy Handono, Kamroon Baksh and Mustapha Baksh.

As we embark on Stewardship 2017, we pray that you will commit yourself to your Mission giving, based on God's promises and know that He will enable you to do it.

*“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

# SESSION NEWS & NOTES

- Mustapha Baksh

On August 15, Session held its regular meeting with communion and prayer for God's guidance as we work for His glory. Pastor Larry then took us through a reading of Acts 4:1-21.

The minutes of the July 18 meeting were approved. Clerk reported that the picnic was well attended and there were volunteers to help with erecting the tent, tear down and cleanup. IPC members provided lots of side dishes to complement the hot dogs, beef and chicken burgers and brisket.

In September, Mission Ministry will have a hymn in Gujarati on Mission Sunday. In addition, Paul and Alice Ryon will report on their ministry to the Gujarati people. The Mission Run/Walk around Lake Elizabeth is planned for September 23.

Pastor Larry reported that the Middle School Life Group will end on August 23 and reconvene in the fall under Stephanie Yamada. In reviewing the 7<sup>th</sup> habit of highly successful people, recommended readings were "Dirty Faith" by David Nowell and "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren.

Pastor's next Sermon series that begins September 10 and continues through October 8, will include studying passages of scripture about the Holy Spirit. The scripture verses and message titles are:

September 10	John 16:5-16	"Agent in the Shadows"
September 17	Acts 1:6-8; 4:23-31	"Power Source"
September 24	I Corinthians 2:1-7; 10-16	"Holy Spirit-Best Bible Teacher"
October 1	Luke 3:7-18	"Water, Wind and Fire"
October 8	Acts 2:1-4	"Who's in Control"

Elaine Liang and Jonathan Jiang presented a one-page summary on the Mandarin Ministry that they are establishing on campus. Plans include breakfast prayer meetings, that will grow into a worship service. Beginning October, English as a second language will be offered for the Mandarin speaking of the Ministry and surrounding community. Members of the Mandarin Ministry will automatically become members of IPC. Session voted to have this ministry under the auspices of IPC. IPC received \$5k from the Presbytery for a local community project and Session voted to give this sum to the Mandarin Ministry.

Finance reported that the application to restore our tax-exempt status was completed and filed. We are awaiting review from the county exemption division.

The Deacons did not meet in August and will hold a joint Deacon/Session meeting in September.

With the planned relocation of Elders Pat and Kathy Jeffries and the resignation of Elder Bruce Schlobohm, Session voted on having volunteer Kamroon Baksh coordinate the activities of the Worship Ministry. David Wegener volunteered for Personnel. No Session member volunteered for finance; a decision was made to look in the congregation for others who can help with finance.

The meeting ended with prayer and God's guidance to help identify someone in the congregation who will take over the role of church finance.

# **FAMILY MINISTRY** - Stephanie Yamada

*"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."*

Hebrews 4:12

Family Ministry is hosting "Kick-off Sunday" on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 to celebrate a new school year and classes for all ages at IPC. There will be a bounce house for the kids, and a hot dog lunch and ice cream social. Bring some ice cream toppings to share at the celebration!

Family Ministry is focused on programs and activities that help our children and families continue spiritual development and grow in their relationships with our Lord. We kick off Sundays with:

Nursery/Preschool – 10:00 am – Preschool Room – Bible stories, music, crafts & play

Elementary (Kinder–4<sup>th</sup> grade) – 10:00 am – Children's Ministry Room – *What's in the Bible?*

Middle School (5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade) – 10:00 am - Youth Room – *Switch*.

On Thursdays the Family Life Group meets from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Children's Ministry Room. We will begin with the video series "Not a Fan". This series which explores discipleship begins on 9/14 and continues through 10/26.



At IPC, young adults, singles, seniors and retirees have several programs to help them continue in their journey of faith:

**Bible Classes:** These have some form of worship and prayer but the primary purpose is for participants to collectively grasp an understanding of God through His Word.

Sundays: Pre worship Bible Class at 8:45 am led by Elder Richard Craig

Mondays: Ladies Bible Study at 9:30 am led by Helen Jorgensen

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month: Small Group Home Bible Study at 7:00 pm at the home of Mary Ellen McKowen.

## **Personal enrichment—What do Presbyterians believe?**

Wednesdays: This is a four week series beginning 9/13 titled: "Challenges to Faith" at 7:00 pm taught by Pastor Ken Jacobsen. This series will not tell you what you must believe. Rather, we will explore a variety of traditions to help you decide what you do believe.

If you would like additional information on any of the programs above, sign-up for a program or join one of the small groups at IPC, send a request to [info@irvingtonpres.org](mailto:info@irvingtonpres.org) or call the church office at 510 657 3133.

# FRIENDS OF IPC

Dear Friends –

Hello from Indiana! I have enjoyed keeping up with all that is happening at IPC. I look forward to each newsletter. I recently shared an update with the editors who invited me to share what I have been up to since moving to the Hoosier State in 2013.



## FORT WAYNE – MY HOME

I am living in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It's the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in the State, after Indianapolis. We are located in North Eastern Indiana with parts of Ohio being less than 30 minutes away, Michigan an hour away, Chicago 2.5-3 hours away, and Kentucky about 3 hours away. Being a California native, I am still surprised to realize that I can cross four state borders in less time than it would take to reach either Los Angeles or the Oregon Border! I still enjoy the change in seasons, and don't terribly mind the snow...though I am not a fan of the humidity and -20 degree days Winter days. I came to Fort Wayne at

a perfect time. The city is investing a lot of capital into continuing to create a viable downtown that is green and visitor/commuter friendly. We have a Minor League Baseball Team (The Tin Caps) and our Stadium was recently rated #1 in the US. Projects are currently underway to revitalize three areas of the city providing more activities, meeting places, better access to River Activities and downtown living space. They will all be completed around 2020. For a "red" state we have more diversity than I could imagine. I am building relationships outside of my work and meeting and building my new social group. Recently I began to participate in some community groups which have been great places to meet people.

## MY WORK/MINISTRY

I came to Indiana to serve at a large Church in a town 15 miles outside of Fort Wayne. In the first six months of my arrival, I assisted in the completion of our new Church building and Children's Wing. It has been an honor to be a part of the growth and new beginnings for our ministry to children and families. I also became part of the chapel speaking team at the local Christian School and tutored in a 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom for 3 years. I had many opportunities to have crucial conversations with adults from a wide variety of experiences – many leading to spiritual conversions or the willingness to consider their spiritual journey.

Our Pastor announced in 2014 his plan to retire in 2017. In 2016, doors opened for me to discern an opportunity to become ordained; which I was unable to do in the church I was currently serving due to my gender. After conversations with Leadership, I tendered my resignation to begin my Discernment year in preparation to be accepted into study for the Diaconate and eventually (God willing) Priesthood with the Reformed Catholic Church. I have completed coursework and formation as a Spiritual Director. I currently have ten Directees and lead two Spiritual Direction groups. I also participate in a local church's small group program as a facilitator for a couple of classes.



In December, I transitioned back into Social Work. I am currently a Case Manager with a large



agency. My support is given to families who are in the process of having their children returned to their custody. This can be very challenging work and long hours. Every once in a while, I witness a miracle.



This job came at the perfect time and was definitely placed in my life by design! In the Reformed Catholic Church we are asked to work full time assisting in a community.

## HOME & FAMILY

My Sister, Andrea and her Husband Dan still live in Portland. My Mom celebrated her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday in July as her Alzheimer's continues to progress. We recently entered her into hospice care, with the possibility of her transition being in the next few months. Andrea and Dan welcomed their 6<sup>th</sup> grandchild, Noah, to the family 20 months ago. They now have five boys and one girl.

I am still not seeing anyone, but who knows? Someone might come my way as I have lost 98 pounds to date. Meanwhile, I love my fur family! Members include a beautiful Orange cat named Cali (in honor of California) and a 10 month old Chihuahua/Rat Terrier named Lucas. Both keep me busy and are great companions. I was fortunate to find a great apartment community to live in, since arriving. I have a 2/br, 2/ba unit that is 1100 sq feet that I would NEVER be able to afford back home. I am entering conversations to possibly purchase my first home (a Condo) this coming year. I have not decided if I will proceed; but it is wonderful to think that I might own my "own" place.

I would love to hear what is happening with all of you! You can find me on Facebook under the name Jeanette Marie or my page Shrinking Rev. My email is [Jeanettebeland318@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanettebeland318@gmail.com). Know I pray for all of you often. My time at IPC was an important part of my spiritual life, all because of knowing and living life with my church family!

Much love, *Jeanette*.

## 1 Hour Circle of Prayer

On Saturday, October 7, Our IPC congregation will begin "**A Circle of Prayer**" at **9:00am**. Many of us miss out on so much because we only pray by ourselves. Yet, when Jesus gave us an outline for prayer, he spoke about praying together. There is power in group prayer.



Jesus says: "whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them." (Matthew 18:19-20 TEV). That's the power of praying with other people.

***Please contact Darlene Neesham for additional information.***

# WEEKDAYS AT IPC

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

## Highlights for September:

5th Deacons Meeting at 7 PM

Wednesdays - ROMEO breakfast at 8 AM

Wednesdays - Challenges to Faith 7:00 AM

9th Memorial Service for Lorraine Madsen 10 AM

10th Fall Kick-off at 11:00 AM

10th Mission Ministry Meeting at 11:30 AM

11th Family Life Group at 7:00 PM

11th & 25th Home Bible Study at 7 PM

14th SIS Meeting at 4:00 PM

19th Ladies Lunch at 11:30 AM

19th Session Meeting at 7 PM

23rd Mission Run/Walk at 8:00 AM

24th Outdoor worship at 10:00 AM

24th Worship Ministry Meeting at 11:30 AM

## Church Directory

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Larry Thorson

**Family Ministries Director :** Stephanie Yamada

**Worship Leader:** Derek Post

**Bookkeeper:** Jeanette Ollison

**Office Manager:** Marissa Hughes

**Parish Associate:** Rev. Dr. Martha Thorson

**Address:** 4181 Irvington Avenue

P.O. Box 1336,

Fremont, CA 94538

**Phone:** (510) 657 3133

**Fax:** (510) 657 7040

**Email:** [info@irvingtonpres.org](mailto:info@irvingtonpres.org)



## Bible Studies

**Sunday Bible Study** - at 8:45 AM in the McKowen Room preceding worship. Contact Richard Craig for details.

**Women's Bible Study** - Beginning Monday September 18, women meet weekly in the McKowen Room at 9:30 AM. Contact Helen Jorgensen for details.

**Home Bible Study** - Bi-weekly Bible Classes at Mary Ellen's house on September 11 and 25 at 7 PM. Contact Mary Ellen for additional details.



# ACTIVITIES UPDATE

## Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic

IPC members, their friends and families gathered to worship and picnic on Sunday August 20. It was our annual outdoor worship held on the lawn between the Social Hall and the Sanctuary. In his book "Sacred Pathways" Gary Thomas writes: "Where we worship can have a profound impact on the quality of our worship... leave the formal architecture and the padded pews to enter an entirely new 'cathedral', a place that God himself has built: the outdoors... " As individuals, we often find peace, comfort, and a close connection to God outdoors. Its safe to say, on this morning, that connection was made, our love for God was true and He was with us in the place He built.

After worship it was easy to make the transition of staying outside to enjoy a picnic and each other's company. Food galore: burgers and hot dogs cooked to order by our own chefs on grills in front of the Social Hall; delicious salads, deserts and side dishes prepared by our members.

Set up, servers, prep staff and lots of helpers from the congregation. It felt like the entire church was helping. Children frolicked and enjoyed games. Babies stole our hearts. Adults engaged in conversations, some enjoyed games with the children. During the festivities, we were all serenaded with music and songs.

Thanks be to GOD. We know He was with us and we think He had a good time too. It was a truly festive and memorable day.

The impact was a great Family Outdoor Service where we combined both worship and the picnic into one huge, unique outdoor worship event. This was an amazing day, blessed by God, of worship, fellowship, food, and fun that we all are looking forward to in the summer of 2018.

***Heart-felt thanks to all participants and helpers.***





# ACTIVITIES UPDATE

## 2017 Stewardship Campaign - Stewardship Ministry

Fall is here. Now is the time to reflect upon the blessings in our church in 2017 and consider new opportunities and directions in the coming year. With the continuing generosity of our dear members and friends, we are able to fund the ministries and programs that are so important to us.



What does 2018 hold for IPC? During October and November, we will host small group meetings to review IPC finances for 2017 and discuss plans for 2018. This is a very valuable and important opportunity for all of us to continue building the shared vision of IPC's future.

The Stewardship Committee requests and encourages all members and friends of Irvington Presbyterian Church to actively participate. The outcome of these meetings represent an integral part of our Church life. Select a time that works best for you and sign up for this important activity using the meeting sheets that will be available in the Narthex beginning October 22.

## Challenges to Faith - Ken Jacobsen



*1 Peter 3:15 .... "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But respond with gentleness and respect, ..."*

Most of us feel uncomfortable talking about religion with others. Often, this is because we feel like we do not know enough. In fact Presbyterians score less than the national average when it comes to our knowledge of Christianity and the Bible—even lower than atheists and agnostics. What do Presbyterians believe, anyhow? What is the Westminster Confession? What do YOU believe?

Belief in Jesus as your savior is the only requirement for being a Christian. There are no additional "required" doctrines. Many of us have questions and doubt about what we believe or should believe when we hear discussions about gay marriages, abortion, or evolution. We believe in the Bible—but how? Was the world created in seven, 24-hour days? Do we have to believe that?

How has the Presbyterian Church changed over the years? What does the denomination say about the issues that confront our society today? Explore these and other questions that you may have about your church. We will not tell you what you must believe. Over a 4-week period, beginning September 13 and continuing through October 4, we will explore a variety of traditions to help you decide what you do believe. This is an opportunity to be honest about your doubts and questions.

*Join us in the McKowen Room beginning Wednesday, Sept 13, 2017 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.*

## Greeters and Ushers Wanted

If you would like to be an Usher or Greeter for our Sunday service, we need you. Training will be provided. Contact Mei Chang (408) 935 8382 or Kamroon Baksh (510) 579 3694 to sign up.

# CONGREGATION NEWS



Crystal Collins	Bonnie Nichols
Jeff Conley	Russ Pennelly
Robert Frey	Thea Pex
Christina Geevarghese	Martha Thorson
Tom Hayes	David Wegener
Sandra Hennessey	Amy Wu



Lynette and Ken Ariathurai - 31 years  
 Peggy and Johnny Handono - 44 years  
 Darlene and Wayne Neesham - 64 years

## Baptism of James Kynaston Guastella

*"Every good and perfect gift is from above." James 1:17*



Sunday September 3, during worship, a proud Pastor Larry baptized his grandson James Kynaston Guastella. Many of James' relatives were in attendance as the congregation prayed, smiled, oohed and aahed when Pastor walked down the aisle introducing his grandson to the congregation.

## Work! Don't Work! Work!

On Sunday September 3, IPC welcomed back the Rev. Dr. Mary Holder Naegeli as our guest preacher. Rev. Naegeli serves as the Chaplain at the John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek, CA. Her message titled Work! Don't Work! Work! stressed:



1. There is plenty to do even in retirement.
2. Our trust in Jesus enables us to have a different attitude toward work.
3. Our purpose is to glorify God.

## Ladies out to Lunch

This month's Ladies Fellowship will be held at La Casita restaurant in Fremont. This is a longtime neighborhood eatery serving Mexican fare in a welcoming setting.

Address: 41240 Fremont Boulevard  
 Fremont, 94538  
 (510) 657 8602

*Please contact Betty Blizel (510) 656 2241 to confirm your reservation.*



# KNOW YOUR CONGREGATION

 - Editors

**Linda Beatty** relocated to California in a 5x10 trailer with her father, a railroad engineer and her mother, a bookkeeper. She describes her parents as a hard-working couple who left poverty in Nashville, Tennessee for the promises of a better quality of life for their family in California. Linda was 17 and her brother 23 at the time they settled in the Newark area. She spent part of her senior year at Newark High School before graduating and started attending Chabot College. Linda flashed her honest and winning smile; then confided, "I didn't finish at Chabot. I became discouraged after flunking Biology. During one of my return trips to Tennessee, I met Russ, my future husband. I had traveled with my uncle to visit my girlfriend. Russ had completed two years in the Air Force when we met at a party. At this time, he was anticipating deployment to Vietnam. This never materialized but after we were married, I returned to Newark to stay with my parents while Russ was stationed overseas. I was pregnant with our daughter Tracy. Russ left the Air Force in the 1970's after receiving a medal for bravery. He kept survivors calm and safe during a crash landing. The Vietnam War had ended and I remember when he joined us in California, he had difficult time finding work.

Linda was baptized at, and attended the Church of Christ in Main Street, Fremont for many years. She put her heart and energies into helping build an annex to the church. "As it is with projects in the church, we did not always agree with the changes to be made, but in the end, the Lord made it all come together." When Linda and Russ found a house in the area, she searched for a church home as well. She had passed our church many times and loved the way it looked on the outside. With some apprehension, she did venture in. She describes finding "all aspects of peace" here after an emotionally traumatic time that followed the passing of her husband, Russ. Linda became a member of IPC after she started worshipping with us at the beginning of this year. Occasionally, her grand daughter Amanda, and husband LaMar along with Linda's great grandchildren join us in worship on Sunday mornings.

Praying and caring for others are Linda's spiritual gifts. "Christ means everything to me. He is my Lord and Savior. I come from a family of believers in Christ and my mother and my neighbors played a significant role in my spiritual development. One of my most prized possessions is my grandmother's bible from 1901."

Asked to describe herself in one word, she replied "quirky." She invited me to look at the "quirky" bumper stickers displayed on her car. When I replied that I found them to be creative, she just giggled and replied "I guess I must have a fun side and a good sense of humor." I agreed with her. We are blessed with the joy that Linda brings to our congregation. Whether she is bringing her delicious upside-down pineapple cake to be enjoyed by all, or lifting all the people around her with a positive take on life's problems, she carries an aura of joy and happiness that comes from her strong Christian beliefs.

*We are blessed to have Linda in our IPC family.*



## IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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***Please Note: September 27 is the deadline for our October issue.***

All articles are to be delivered by email to: [kandmbaksh@gmail.com](mailto: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 September issue.***

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

***This month's Cornerstone pictures were provided courtesy of:***

***Peggy Handono, Johnny Handono,***

***Thank you Peggy for donating the services of photographer Prashanth Jeevan Kumar.***

***Kamroon and Mustapha Baksh***

***Editors***