

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

October, 2017

Sundays

Bible study 8:45 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

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

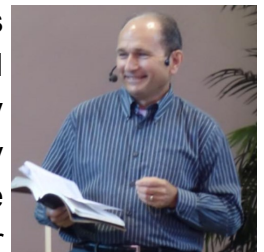
Dear Friends,

On Saturday October 7, we are calling every one in our church to gather in the McKowen Room to pray for one hour. We will pray for our world, nation, state and our beloved church. Why? The obvious answer is because our world needs God. This has been dramatically apparent with the most recent spate of events that has caused heartbreaking pain and suffering to thousands of God's people. Within the past three months, we have witnessed violence and death in Charlottesville; devastating effects of hurricanes in Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, Texas and Florida, earthquakes in Mexico, and most recently, an evil tragedy in Las Vegas.

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Does prayer really change things? If it does, why not meet every week and pray for hours? We pray for healing and it does not happen. We pray for protection from hurricanes and people drown in the aftermath flooding. We pray for people to join our church and no one new shows up. When that happens our boldness in praying declines. I was part of a prayer group that met for 90 minutes every Sunday evening over a period of six years. I moved away but the group continued for many years after I left. We always kept one empty chair to represent Jesus in our midst. It would be as if we were in an AA group circle being real with Jesus and each other. Frequently we would have visitors drop in who were in serious need of help. We would gather around them laying hands on them and praying our hearts out for them. Testimonies of answered prayer came to us; but it took time. Psalm 5:3 gives us a guideline: *"In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."*



I have often thought about why it took time to get testimonies of answered prayer. Was God auditioning us and testing our sincerity before answering our prayers? I do not think He was. I believe prayer changes us as we experience God in prayer. Our eyes begin to open to ways God has heard our prayers. We become sensitized to recognizing answered prayer. We begin to see how God really is intervening in our world and it gives us great motivation to pray even more.

Pastor Larry

DEACONS' CORNER

The Ministry of Compassion and Service - Mary Lou Craig

The Deacons met on Tuesday October 3. Mary Lou Craig opened the meeting with prayer asking God for guidance to lead them in the right direction and to brighten a few lives with their compassion and love.

Deacons are an important part of the body of IPC. As their name suggest, the Deacons are leaders who serve. They are like the hands and feet and take care of the nitty-gritty work that keeps IPC alive and well. The Deacons prepare the bread and juice for communion; they arrange for coffee and snacks after worship and flowers in worship; they meet the needs of many in the church and community who are hurting and prepare receptions for memorial services.



On September 9, they hosted a Memorial Luncheon for Laraine Madsen with over 150 in attendance. They continue to serve hot coffee in the courtyard

before worship - a very nice early morning welcome for our visitors as well as our guests and members. The Deacons rotate turns in setting up the snacks; with Russ making the coffee and wheeling it back and forth. Hopefully our weather will hold out so we can continue to enjoy the outdoors and each others companionship.

The IPC Nominating Committee is actively searching for three Deacons to fill positions that will become available when the current Deacons fulfill their terms at the end of the year. After prayerful consideration, if you would like to serve or know of anyone who has the desire to serve in this rewarding capacity, please contact one of the following Nominating Committee Members:

Mary Ellen McKowen, Helen Jorgensen, Nibin Varghese, Mustapha Baksh

In addition to serving at IPC, some Deacons are active in the community as well. We have a few "friends of the Deacons" that regularly help us out - Darlene Neesham always brings the colorful tablecloths, and Thea Pex provides the lovely flowers for the table. Darlene also makes her delicious punch to serve our guests.

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 seats and stand, rolling walker/seat combo, crutches, and canes. These are available for members and their families.

If you need to use any of these items, please contact:

Deacon Joe Di Maggio @ 651 - 1323 or

Deacon Moderator Mary Lou Craig @ 656 - 4388



SESSION NEWS & NOTES

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

(Romans 12:4,5) Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Irvington Presbyterian Church is an organic, living being. Just as Paul the apostle said, we have various organs that function together just as the organs in a human body work together. Each part needs all the others. The spiritual leadership and administrative responsibility of our Church are vested in the Board of Elders, that is Session. Pastor Larry is the moderator and there are nine Elders working together to serve. Session meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month and are open to all.

September Report: - Mustapha Baksh

On September 19, Session held its regular meeting with communion and prayer for God's guidance as we work for His glory. Deacons were present at this meeting. Pastor Larry took us through a reading of Acts 4: 22-37.

The Minutes of the August 15, meeting were approved. A motion to give all visitors an opportunity to speak was also approved. Clerk reported on the presbytery meeting held at Newark Presbyterian.

Missions is planning a Hymn in Gujarati for Mission Sunday and will include Gujarati snacks during fellowship. Family Ministry will have a Pizza and Movie Night on September 23. Worship Ministry will sponsor its last outdoor worship service for 2017 on September 24. Pastor's report indicated that communion was served to nine members and family who were not able to attend service. Rev. Joey Alan Lee will be preaching on October 15, and Tom Arnett on October 23, during Pastor Larry's vacation.

Elaine Liang and Jonathan Jiang presented their financial plan for the Mandarin Ministry at IPC. They have applied for a \$7.5K NWC seed grant from PCUSA. They plan a weekly service beginning November and ESL for mandarin speaking members beginning October 7.

Both Deacons and Elders participated in a discussion on the future management of IPC. The main question is do we want to continue a Board of Deacons and a Board of Elders, or do we want to have one management team going forward? While there are some advantages to having one Board, there are also some disadvantages. Over the next few months we will discuss if both functions can be combined and how the responsibilities will be divided.

With the relocation of Finance Elder Kathy Jeffries, Helen Jorgensen has volunteered to assist with finance for the remainder of this year. Kathy will work with her to transfer finance responsibilities. They will try and have a 2018 budget for the next Session meeting.

Elders Kathy Jeffries and Pat Jeffries have submitted their resignation from Session because of their planned relocation to the San Diego area in late October.

The meeting ended with prayer for Kathy and Pat as they complete their relocation and for God's guidance as we discern the future leadership of the church.

The Genius of Generosity

A generous person will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed. (Proverbs 11:25)

Most people want to be financially savvy. You can browse the bookstore or surf the Internet or turn on the TV to get lots of wise tips from financial experts. Some say to be smart, you must spend carefully. Others say to be wise, you must save regularly. But Jesus, probably the smartest man who ever lived, shows that to be a genius, you must live generously.

Most of us grew up thinking that generosity is something reserved for people who were either very rich or very holy. But we knew we were neither. Maybe when we win the lottery or own our own company we can be generous.

The word genius comes from the Latin word meaning 'to produce.' It represents quality and natural ability. In Hebrew the word for generosity literally means 'to saturate with water, as symbol of life.' In Greek it means 'ready to distribute' available to give time, talent and treasure to bless others. These three dimensions of the genius of generosity picture a life overflowing with care and concern for others. This is not just a noble, sacrificial calling for a few super-spiritual people. Spending and saving carefully are wise, but living generously is genius. It is one of the smartest, most intellectually sound and emotionally satisfying decisions you will make for your life now and forever.

You are always pouring your time, talent and treasure into something. Whatever you are pouring into, that is where your heart is. (Matthew 1:19, 20) You can do that intentionally or randomly. Either way, you are making an investment. Every investment has its returns, for good or bad. If you want to be protected from bad investments and avoid their devastating consequences down the road; generosity will do that for you. Generosity is genius because it is a guaranteed, high-yield investment.

God's design for the way we give is to make it an adventure and then to celebrate. Giving is meant to be joyful and fulfilling. It is not rooted in guilt, self-righteousness, or a martyr complex. It is rooted in joy. And it is genius. It is the smartest way to live. God is supremely generous.

Yours for the glory of God,



Memorial –Doug Blizel

Doug and Betty Blizel have been pillars at IPC since the early 1960's. They have worshipped regularly and were in church together on Sunday September 24. Doug passed quietly into Heaven's glory on Monday, October 2, at Washington Hospital.

With all of their family in town at this time, a decision was made to have a memorial service on Saturday October 7, at 11:00 am. This will be followed by a reception in the Social Hall. If you would like to help with the service/reception please contact Deacon Moderator Mary Lou Craig.

A Message from Stewardship Chair***“Giving makes us grow and helps develop a Healthy Church”******It is all about gratitude******It is all about giving back******It is all about God***

Autumn means the end of the year is upon us. The weather is cooler, kids and grandkids are back in school; and we anticipate sharing the holidays with family and friends. As Christians, we reflect on the many blessings we have received this past year while rejoicing in our personal relationship with God. Whether it has been a year filled with trials or blessings, or some of each, He is there for us, no matter what. *“For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.” Philippians 2:13 (NLT)*

As a member of IPC, now is a great time to give thanks for the church community that sustains us and others through love; and the sharing of our treasures, talents and gifts. Each of us is part of the “body” of the church, and our giving in His name makes this church the unique, friendly, and loving place it is.

In a practical way, your tithes and offerings, service and volunteerism allow the church to function and achieve its mission. Please think and pray as you consider your giving to IPC in 2017/18. Giving liberally of our treasure, time, and talent can be an ongoing challenge for each of us. We understand that giving serves others and that being generous powerfully transforms us. We know that giving makes us grow; but with growth, comes growing pains. Giving can stretch us out of our comfort zones; but in that stretching, we inch ourselves closer to becoming spiritual leaders after God’s own heart. First, you give a little, and then a little more, until you feel some discomfort. Where there is pain, there is generally some eternal gain. May you be blessed with God’s guidance as you make a pledge that reflects the importance of the Christian mission in our lives.

“Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.” Deuteronomy 15:10 NIV

In the past year, there is so much that we have been able to accomplish. We have been able to hire a Family Ministries Director and a Worship Director. These additions coupled with the current staff help make IPC function smoothly. Your gifts have also kept the physical church strong and healthy. The classrooms were upgraded, the parking lot was resealed and restriped, the walkway between the parking lot and the courtyard was expanded and flowers were added.

Missions Faith Promise Giving has helped to make a significant difference in the lives of people in the community and around the world. Your giving could rescue a child from the streets of Brazil; or in India, help to bring members of the Dalit caste to Christ. This year your prayerful contributions to Missions helped support two local projects and thirteen International Missionaries. *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” Mark 16:15 NIV*

Please join a small group meeting during the first two weeks of November to learn more about how your financial gifts to IPC have made a difference, and how they will continue to help in the future. Your input is greatly valued. We look forward to your presence and to sharing a time of fellowship.

MISSIONS UPDATE

Hope Unlimited For Children in Brazil

In a land that's beautiful and wealthy, millions of children are begging!

These children are rescued by Hope Unlimited, which has made a difference for hundreds of children since its founding 26 years ago by the son of an American missionary, Philip Smith. Says Smith: "We want to tell these kids; we believe in you; we believe in you so that you can believe in yourself."

The children who come to Hope have been abandoned, exploited, and abused. They know what it means to have no place to turn. Before coming to Hope, they have life expectancies of three to five years. These children are nurtured in a family-style setting and receive award-winning educational and vocational training. The children gain confidence and skills to disrupt generational cycles of poverty. Hope Unlimited residents and day students from nearby slums master courses in human resources, culinary arts, auto body repair, computer technology, and cosmetology. They learn marketable skills, earn meaningful jobs upon graduation, and eventually change the course of their lives -and those of their future generations. We see them transform from the inside out as they begin to build bright futures. Hope raises the next generation of self-sufficient, Christian leaders who will reach their own potential, renew their communities, and prevent the same injustices they once faced.



Unlike most care models, Hope Unlimited is not an institution. It is a family. In the context of their loving homes and experienced staff, children receive the support they need to reclaim lost childhoods and begin to build successful futures. They recognize that the transition after graduation is the most critical time in the children's lives. The organization is devoted to guiding their kids through this transition - and it works. Two years after graduation, 90% of the kids who come to Hope are employed and securely established.



Hope Unlimited is funded by donations. Through your continued Faith Promise Giving to Missions, at IPC we have helped to support this organization for over 15 years. We are grateful for this opportunity to help make a difference for a handful of the many who need so much more. Hope Unlimited request prayer for all children and for the staff as they continue their difficult task. Your gifts of remembrance, prayers and monetary support are gratefully received and used to glorify God, by rescuing and transforming so many children's lives from mortal, risk situations. Hope Unlimited gives them safety and a life full of Hope in Brazil.



FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATE - Stephanie Yamada

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

Family Ministries is growing in faith and fun. The Family Life Group is meeting Thursday nights at 7:00 for the book and video study Not a Fan by Kyle Idleman. Lynnette Ariathurai is helping the



group consider what it really means to call ourselves a Christian and take an honest look at our relationship with Jesus. At the same time on Thursday nights, Middle School Club is learning about Jesus and having fun with Pastor Larry. We enjoy learning and growing together!

The movie "Beyond the Mask" was a hit with our young people on Saturday night, September 23rd, as the families gathered to enjoy pizza and the movie. The students invited their friends, and everyone gasped and exclaimed at the action/adventure in this Pre-Revolutionary War movie. It was wonderful to see many youth who have attended other IPC events this year!

Saturday, October 21st will be our next adventure together, with a leisurely hike at Redwood Regional Park in Oakland. Pack a picnic lunch and join us at the Redwood main entrance at 10:00 am for a walk on the Stream Trail and lunch to follow.

For more information, contact the church office.

God is moving at Irvington Presbyterian Church, and we are rejoicing!

In Christ,



ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Paul and Alice Ryon

Paul and Alice who are now ministering to the growing Hindu population in the South Bay as well as connecting with Indian Graduate Students at San Jose State and Santa Clara Universities, visited IPC on Mission Sunday, September 17.



Following a short presentation of their work at worship, they joined the congregation on the patio for fellowship and Gujarati snacks.

Outdoor Worship Service

Sunday September 24, we had our last outdoor worship service for this year. As individuals we often find peace, comfort and a close connection to God outdoors. On this day the sun shone brilliantly as we worshipped and that connection was made. After worship, we enjoyed fellowship and a variety of snacks prepared by our members. It was a blessing to have four first time visitors at worship.



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).

Join us as we pray for our Church, our community, our nation and for all who are hurting as a result of the many tragic events around us - hurricanes in Texas, Florida and the Caribbean, typhoon in India and the massacre in Las Vegas.

Please contact Darlene Neesham for additional information.

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 October:

October 3 Deacons Meeting at 7 PM	October 9 & 23 Home Bible Study at 7 PM
October 7 1 Hour Circle of Prayer 9 AM	October 10 Session Meeting at 7 PM
Wednesdays ROMEO breakfast at 8 AM	October 12 SIS prayer Group at 4 PM
Thursdays Family Life Group at 7PM	October 18 Ladies Lunch at 11:30 AM
Thursdays Middle School Club at 7 PM	October 21 Hike at Redwood Regional Park 10 AM
Saturdays ESL at 4 PM	October 28 Peanut Butter Drive
October 8 Missions Meeting at 11:30 am	October 29 Worship Ministry Meeting at 11:30 AM

Church Directory

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Larry Thorson	Address: 4181 Irvington Avenue
Family Ministries Director :	Stephanie Yamada	P.O. Box 1336,
Worship Director:	Derek Post	Fremont, CA 94538
Bookkeeper:	Jeanette Ollison	Phone: (510) 657 3133
Office Manager:	Marissa Hughes	Fax: (510) 657 7040
Parish Associate:	Rev. Dr. Martha Thorson	Email: info@irvingtonpres.org



Bible Studies

Sunday Bible Study - at 8:45 AM in the McKowen Room preceding worship.

Women's Bible Study - Women meet weekly 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 October 9 and 23 at 7 PM. Contact Mary Ellen for additional details.

CONGREGATION NEWS



Margarita Austin	Geraldine Hoyt
Mary Lou Craig	Tom Mardirosian
Holly Chaikin	Mary Ellen McKowen
Mei Chang	Gerlinda Mardirosian
Beverly Green	Maisha Ollison
Gustina Ho	Pastor Larry Thorson
Waymond Ho	Martha Thorson



Shelley and Bob Reavis - 6th

Passed on to Heaven . . .

Those in our congregation who have recently passed on . . .

Laraine Madsen

Art Bouldin

Doug Blizel

Please pray for their families during this time.

Peanut Butter Drive - Jeane Garrett

The Tri-City Free Breakfast Program (TCFBP) has scheduled its 8th Annual Peanut Butter Drive for the city wide **Make A Difference Day** on Saturday October 28. Donations of 1 lb jars of peanut butter will enable TCFBP to offer protein along with the bread that is given to those in need. A drop-off table staffed by volunteers will be open from 9:00 AM – 12 noon in the IPC parking lot. The goal this year is to exceed the 301 pounds donated last year. Please help TCFBP achieve this goal by adding peanut butter to your shopping list. If you are not able to stop by on the 28th, you may drop off your donation at the church office or give it to one of the volunteers.



Larger jars will be accepted but 1lb jars are preferred. They are easier to store and transport.

Ladies Monthly Lunch

Date: October 18

Time: 11:30 AM

Location: The Peach Garden, Newark, CA

Contact: Jeane Garrett to sign up.

NATIONAL MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

National Make A Difference Day is an annual community service event which is held on the fourth Saturday in October. Millions of people have united in the common mission to improve the lives of others.

The Peanut Butter Drive is one of the ways to make a difference in the lives of others in our community.

To find other local hands-on service MADD projects in Fremont, go to:

<http://makeadifferencedayfremontca.com/index.php/projects-2/>

FRIENDS OF IPC - Patti and Michael Boyland

From June 12th to July 1st of this year, we were part of a mission team Cambodia. The rest of the team was made up of Cambodians and others from the USA, and Cambodians who live in Cambodia. Our Leader, Chamron Phal is pastor of a Cambodian church in Oakland and a gifted evangelist. We stayed in three cities, Phnom Penh, the capital, Battambang and Siam Reap. The first event was to visit the Killing Fields Museum in Phnom Penh, which documents the horrors of the genocidal regime of the Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979. Elsewhere we saw other evidence of this awful time, such as piles of skulls.



Pastor Chamron at the Killing Fields Museum with photos of Khmer Rouge leaders

The mission was both for evangelism and for leadership training. From our bases in the cities, our team went out to churches in out-lying villages. In some churches the local pastors invited villagers and village leaders to hear about



Patti and the team with children

Jesus. In other churches, the pastors gathered local Christian leaders for encouragement and training. Generally, Chamron spoke; but several times he invited Michael to speak through a translator. Patti helped with training Sunday School teachers but generally worked with the children. Before the mission, Patti prepared a basic presentation of the Good News of Jesus in Khmer for children. It was well received. In remote villages, children's ministry faces the challenge of working without

any printed materials except a few Bibles. In some villages we handed out basic food supplies, o.t.c. medicines, flip-flops and other essentials. We also had the opportunity to visit tourist sites such as the immense and ancient ruins around Angkor Wat.



Patti and Michael in a ruined Buddhist temple with a new temple visible behind

Patti and Michael were able to visit Svay Pak outside Phnom Penh, which until 2003 was a center for pedophile brothels. Now, thanks to the work of International Justice Mission and Agape International Mission (AIM) the area has been transformed. On our visit, we were able to see that there are now, no more brothels. AIM has planted a church, a Christian school, a medical center and provides honest employment. We were privileged to have AIM personnel show us around.

Christians now comprise about 4% of Cambodia's population, which is predominantly Buddhist (there are idols everywhere), with a large Muslim component. The government allows Christianity to be practiced and propagated. The churches are growing.

Thanks to all for your support and prayers.

Love in Jesus, Patti and Michael Boyland



Two gifted Cambodian pastors

IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



October 24 is the deadline for our November 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 October issue.

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

This month's Cornerstone pictures were provided courtesy of:

***Johnny Handono, Mustapha Baksh,
Stephanie Yamada and Pastor
Michael Boyland***

Kamroon and Mustapha Baksh

Editors