

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

November, 2017

Sundays

Bible study 8:45 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

*(Nursery and Children
Sunday School During
Service)*

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Dear Friends,

How much time do you have? Enough time to read this article? Maybe, but of course it is not promised. The young and the old, the rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated all have exactly the same amount of time in each day. The question is always, are we living generously with our time?

What are you good at? Can you imagine if word ever got out in the church that you were really good with financial matters; or that you were a licensed electrician; or that you played the organ; or had some other talent? Talents of all sorts are invaluable for a church. Are we living generously with our talents or hiding them?

How much money do you have? Is it enough? When is enough ever enough? There is always something more we would like. Deciding how much is enough is always a challenge. Are we living generously with our money?

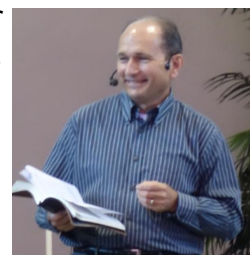
Living generously may be our goal but there are four statements we probably all make or think about on a fairly regular basis that challenge our ability to live generously:

- "How is this going to be good for me."
- "It is my money and I will decide what to do with it."
- "I will give but I am not going to get involved."
- "I need more so I can build as big a wall as I can to protect me and my family from fires, floods and ruin."

On Sunday mornings during the month of November, we are watching a 7- minute ongoing video that tells the story of a fictional family who wrestles with these four hindrances in trying to live generously with their time, talents and treasures. We all know living generously is challenging but possible, if we are convinced that God will always take care of us into eternity.

Today we live in a time of great need. In a short period of time, we have seen immense suffering from hurricanes, shootings, uncontrollable fires and a massive earthquake in Mexico. Right now the world needs Christians to follow Christ and live generously. Let us unite by being generous with our time, talents and treasures. See you in worship.

Pastor Larry



DEACONS' CORNER

The Ministry of Compassion and Service - Mary Lou Craig

During the Thanksgiving holiday the Deacons are focusing on the many blessings for which we are thankful. We look beyond the bounty on the table and the commercial aspects of this holiday to think about the many wonders in our daily lives. Thank you, Lord, for all that you have provided.

Deacons are an important part of the body of IPC. Often they are in the background serving where needed. Memorial Luncheons, coffee before and after church, helping those in need with illness or disabilities, making friendly calls to the homebound and visiting those in the hospital are some of our functions. We recently planned memorial luncheons for our dear friends Doug Blizel and for Jackie Rocket who was living in the Phoenix area for the past 12 months.



Following Thanksgiving, the Deacons will hold their annual Poinsettia Sale. This is the time when you can purchase a poinsettia to adorn the sanctuary through the season; and then take them home for Christmas. Deacon Mary Lou will spearhead the drive and the Deacons will be taking orders early in December. The cost per plant will be announced later. The goal is to adorn the sanctuary with forty plants.

The Deacons mail greeting cards to parishioners on their birthdays and anniversaries. They also mail get-well cards when appropriate. If you have extra cards you would like to donate to this cause, please contact one of the Deacons.

Your Nominating Committee is actively searching for two Deacons to fill positions that will become available when two current Deacons fulfill their terms at the end of the year. Please pray and if you believe that the Lord is leading you in this direction of servitude, contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee:

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

A five-Deacon team will be more effective in carrying out our myriad of tasks. If at this time you do not feel you can devote your time to being a Deacon, consider becoming a "Friend of the Deacons" where you can volunteer for a specific Deacon activity.

Mission Ministry 2017 Run/Walk Fund Raiser

Join us on Saturday November 11, at 10 am for a run or walk around Lake Elizabeth in Fremont. Our walk/run is a fun and fit activity for kindergartners through adults. Get some exercise and support your Missionaries. Bring your completed sponsor sheet and meet up at the Ranger Station.

Drinks will be provided.

SESSION NEWS & NOTES - Mustapha Baksh

On October 10, 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 5:1-16.

The Minutes of the September 19, meeting were approved. A motion to give the Deacons and all visitors an opportunity to speak was also approved.

Missions is planning a Hymn in Portuguese for Mission Sunday and will serve Brazilian/Portuguese snacks during fellowship. There is a representative from Hope Unlimited who will present at Minute for Missions on October 15. The Tri-City Food barrel will be in the Narthex from October 29 through November 12. The Treeces will visit and present on November 5. The annual Birthday Party for Jesus when gifts are collected for Tri-City Volunteers, will be on December 10.

Worship Ministry reviewed the last Outdoor Worship this year and had several recommendations that will be implemented next year. There are now seven volunteers for audio/visual presentation during Sunday Worship.

Pastor's report included visitation to 10 members and their families. Helen Jorgensen will provide short term finance support and details of the Mandarin Ministry are still being worked out. In the meantime, there were six students at the first weekly ESL for the Mandarin Ministry. Rev. Joey Alan Lee will be preaching on October 15, and Tom Arnett on October 23, during Pastor Larry's vacation.

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.

Deacon Russ Pennelly presented the Deacon proposal for a one Church Management Team going forward. Session voted on a motion to consider this proposal. After some discussion a decision was taken to have Deacons Joe DiMaggio, Russ Pennelly and Elders David Wegener and Mustapha Baksh review the presentation and recommend how the Team would function as one Management Board.

Clerk presented a plan for 2017/18 Stewardship. The kick-off would be October 23 with two luncheon meetings on November 12 and 19 followed by Commitment Sunday, December 3. Pledge Cards would be distributed November 1-26.

All Ministries were requested to submit their preliminary budgets to Finance so that we can have a first pass available for discussion on November 14.

The meeting closed with prayer thanking the Lord for our time together, for the services of Elders Kathy and Pat Jeffries. Pastor Larry prayed for guidance and wisdom to discern how God is leading us in managing His church.

MISSIONS: THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

Tim and Ginny Gradin

Tim and Ginny Gradin have served with Northern Canada Evangelical Mission in Saskatchewan, Canada since 1980. After directing Pine Ridge Bible Camp for two summers, they moved to Stony Rapids, an isolated community just south of the Northwest Territories, to begin working with the Denesuline (Chipewyan) people and learning the Denesuline language. The Denesuline have historically been very resistant to the gospel and their language (similar to Navajo) is very difficult to learn, but the Gradins spent 11 years living in 3 remote villages learning their language. At the end of that time, Tim headed the project to translate the JESUS movie and was the narrator in the Dene version. God has used this movie to bring greater spiritual openness.



The Gradins moved to Prince Albert in 1992 to be the mission's bookkeeper for 5 years. Since 1997, their ministry has been varied: Bible translation, prison ministry, preparing Denesuline radio messages for broadcast, training new missionary candidates in language learning techniques, and directing a teen camp. It was a shock after 18 years of chaplaincy ministry each week at the local correctional facility to suddenly have it terminated by the institution, but God opened other doors.



Since moving from Pine Ridge in 1981, Tim and Ginny, three times had began plans to return, but God did not allow this move for one reason or another. However, almost exactly 35 years after moving to Pine Ridge Bible Camp, God opened the door for Tim and Ginny to move back there with Tim taking the position of Camp Manager. They returned in time for the 2015 summer camps. Their desire was to build a team of at least 6 people living at the camp year-round to make the ministry of the camp more effective for the many needy communities in the area.

Though they were now a 3-5 hours' drive from their 3 married children, they still visited their 7 grandchildren fairly often. Those in the congregation who have been with us for many years know Ginny as the daughter of the late Dr. John Thomas Randall, a former member of our church.

Bible translation will still continue, and the involvement of the Demers (a Wycliffe Bible Translators couple living in Alaska) will help speed up the process of getting God's Word to the Denesuline in their own language. In 2016, over one-tenth of the campers at Pine Ridge came from a community that had not been previously included. Tim remarked: "reflecting on all the occurrences at the camp, it is amazing to see how God used many seemingly insignificant events in village ministry 30 years ago to have significant effects in our ministry at Pine Ridge now. We eagerly look forward to see what God will do in the surrounding communities through the ministry of Pine Ridge Bible Camp".

Your prayerful contributions are used to help support Tim and Ginny in this work of bringing the good news of Jesus to a place and people who, not long ago, were very resistant to hear of Him.

FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE - Stephanie Yamada

"Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes. . . ." Psalm 96:11-13

During October, the Family Life Group completed their study, "Not a Fan" by Kyle Idleman, and celebrated God's goodness with a potluck and games for parents and students. In November, we will study the series, "My Big Fat Mouth" by Craig Groeschel, a Biblical, constructive, and humorous look at how what comes out of our mouths gets us into trouble and how to change it.



Middle School Club continues to meet on Thursday nights and Sunday mornings for games and learning about life in Jesus. Our October lessons dealt with facing fear and trusting in God; November will focus on spiritual disciplines. God has blessed us with new students this summer, and our youth are growing in maturity and knowledge.

IPC families joined each other for a leisurely walk in the forest and picnic at Redwood Regional Park on Saturday October 21st. The weather was perfect for a stroll in the trees. The children had a marvelous time climbing, hiding, finding walking sticks, and enjoying God's creation.

IPC families are planning to play together on November 19th after worship as we walk to Cloverleaf Family Bowl for recreation. For more details, contact Stephanie Yamada or the church office.

We are sad to say goodbye to Melissa Tulley, our Nursery/Preschool teacher, who has faithfully served IPC for many years. She is leaving many grateful parents and children who have been blessed by her kindness and care. We will be looking for a new teacher for this paid position; if you know a loving Christian who enjoys working with younger children, please contact Stephanie Yamada for more information.



As we approach Thanksgiving, I am thankful for the wonderful teachers with whom God has graced this ministry: Jeanette Ollison, Carol Lynn, Lynnette Ariathurai, Pastor Larry Thorson, Melissa Tulley, and Sonal Patelia. These dedicated instructors are engaging, generous, wise, insightful, and fun. They make our journey together a joy. I am blessed beyond measure.

Birthday Party for Jesus - Mary Ellen McKowen

It is that wonderful time of the year when we can all give a little to help many. Bring your unwrapped gifts for persons of any age on **December 10**, and celebrate with us. You may include paper and ribbon if you wish. These gifts will be distributed by Tri-City Volunteers to families in our community who may not otherwise receive a gift this Christmas. The Lord has done so much for us; so let us respond with generous hearts as we do something special for someone this holiday.



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Ladies Out to Lunch

Enjoy the company of the IPC ladies for an informal afternoon of fellowship and lunch on Thursday November 16, at 11:30 AM. This event will take place at:

Location: Salang Pass Restaurant
37462 Fremont Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94536.
Contact: Betty Blizel (510 - 656 - 2241) to confirm your reservation.

Mandarin Ministry

The Mandarin Ministry is led by Elaine Liang and Jonathan Jiang, who minister to guests from the Tri-City Breakfast Program and to members of the surrounding Irvington community. Elaine is currently serving her internship as a PCUSA Pastor and Jonathan is completing his studies at the Chinese Evangelical Seminary in Sunnyvale, CA. English as a second language, taught by IPC member Mei Chang, held its first class on Saturday October 7, with six students in attendance. The class now includes three families and 12 students. Plans for this ministry include a Mandarin service on Sundays beginning next year. Praise be to God for bringing this group of believers and non-believers to our church.



Missionaries Visit IPC

On Sunday November 5, Mission Chair, Mary Ellen McKowen introduced David, Sara and their family during worship. This family is serving in Central Asia and is one of the Ministries that IPC help support. The family showed a short video on the life of the Uyghur People Group to whom they are ministering. Later in the Social Hall over a salad lunch, David and Sara shared how God is leading their work among this Muslim group in Central Asia.



"Thank you IPC congregation for your many years of financial and prayer support"

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Pastor Ken Jacobsen's Life Group



I Believe . . . *in God the father almighty.* Some people are atheists. Why do you believe in God? ...*Maker of heaven and earth...* Some people think that there is a conflict between science and religion. Why do you believe in God? *I believe in Jesus Christ as my savior.* Saved from what? What does that mean? *I believe in the Holy Ghost.* What's that about? Speaking in tongues and praying for miracles? Have you ever experienced a "miracle?" Do you believe in miracles?

In our secular world, conversations like this are around every corner. Generally, we hide from them. We associate with people who do not challenge our beliefs. We are comfortable in our cocoon where religious language is safely used. If the stranger ventures into our sanctuary, we are pleased, but they can talk to the pastor about all of this religious stuff!

What do we believe and why? This class will explore theology. Its text book is the Bible, but also history. The apostles creed provides the framework for our exploration. It's been around in some form or the other since the first century. For four weeks beginning Wednesday November 29, 7-8:30 pm, we will explore these basic tenets of faith. It is okay to question. It is okay wonder. This class explores the spectrum of our faith. Maybe with more education, we can hide a little less and become better witnesses for Christ.

If you would like to participate in this 4 week class, contact the church office or sign up in the narthex beginning November 12.



Stewardship is a year-round response that recognizes everything is a gift from God. We know that Stewardship is a response to God's love and faithfulness, not only financially, but in how we spend our time and utilize our talents. Stewardship is about lifestyle – making choices in all aspects of our lives that enable us to live with a spirit of gratitude for God's love and generosity. Through our gifts of treasure, time and talents, we embrace and share God's spirit, doing our very best with what we are giving, knowing God will make good use of the collective gifts from all. It is a way for us to participate in the work of Christ and experience the joy of sharing ourselves, our treasure, our time and our talents with others.

This year, thirty-six enthusiastic individuals have signed up to attend Stewardship luncheon meetings on **Sunday November 12 and November 19**. If you have not yet signed up and are planning to attend, please call the church office so that we can plan for your attendance.

The Stewardship Ministry requests you return your pledge by:

Commitment Sunday, December 3.

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 November:

November 7 Deacons Meeting at 7 PM

Wednesdays ROMEO breakfast at 8 AM

November 9 SIS Prayer Group at 4PM

November 11 Missions Run/Walk at 10 am

November 12, 19 Stewardship Mtg. at 11:30 am

November 13, 27 Home Bible Study at 7 PM

November 14 Session Meeting at 7 pm

November 16 Ladies Lunch at 11:30 am

November 19 Family Bowling at 11:30 am

November 26 Worship Ministry Mtg. 11:30 am

Church Directory

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Larry Thorson	Address: 4181 Irvington Avenue
Family Ministries Director :	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
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.

Contact Richard Craig for details.

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 November 13 and 27 at 7 PM. Contact Mary Ellen for additional details.

CONGREGATION NEWS



Alex Fong	Jim Madsen
Jonathan Jiang	Heather Ostdeik
Daniel Khuc	Leah Wiseman
Dick Hwang	Stephanie Yamada
Brook Mantia	Emmy Yourish



Patti and Pastor Michael Boyland
Thea and Theo Pex



"Thank you to the church family for the out-pouring of love, with cards, food and prayers on Doug's passing. My family and I truly appreciated it!"



Betty Blizel

Peanut Butter Drive - Ron Fong

The Tri-City Free Breakfast Program peanut butter drive, part of the city-wide "Make A Difference Day" campaign, received an astonishing 532 lbs. of peanut butter (and still counting) - a great success! Additional jars are always accepted for those who were unable to donate on Saturday October 28. Your donation enables TCFBP to offer protein along with the bread that is given to guests at the Breakfast Program. A special thank you to all who participated. Your contributions make a significant difference. https://www.facebook.com/pg/Tri-City-Free-Breakfast-Program-517330975010219/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1495508967192410



Food Barrel

Your Mission Team is again hosting a Tri-City volunteers Holiday Food Barrel from Sunday October 29, through Monday, November 13. Bring your donation of canned and packaged goods and place in the barrel located in the Narthex. Your donations will be used to prepare food baskets that will be distributed to children, low income families and seniors in the Tri-City area.



The mission of Tri-City Volunteers is to eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the Fremont, Newark and Union City area where thousands of adults cannot provide sufficient food for their families. Tri-City is the largest client-direct food bank in Alameda County providing emergency grocery assistance to almost 6000 families each month. Over 6 million pounds of food is distributed annually!

Your generosity has the power to transform the life of someone who is hungry.

My Story - Thea Pex

Thea and Theo Pex have been members of IPC since 1980. Thea was baptized by Pastor Paul McKowen. Both Thea and Theo have served our Lord and our Church for many years. Here, Thea shares some of her early childhood experiences during discussions in our Monday Night Life Group:



"I was born at home in Rotterdam, The Netherlands; also known as Holland, the land of tulips and cheese. My parents Dick and Dora Metaal also had a son named for my father. He was 5 years old, when I was born, just one year before the start of WW II. Some of my recollections come from the stories told to me by my family. I was 6 on May 4th when the German troops surrendered en masse in Northern Germany and the Netherlands, bringing a sense of freedom to our country. My early childhood memories include low-flying airplanes, the high-pitched whistling sound of bombs falling and fires. The wailing of the air-raid siren warned us to go into the bomb shelter just across from our house. In 1944, a V 1 cruise missile dropped blocks away from our house, blew out just about every window in the neighborhood! On a more personal side, while I was playing with other kids in the neighborhood, the Gestapo called our 15 year old neighbor out of his house and shot him in the street with his parents and us kids looking on. He had been serving in the underground. My Jewish girlfriend with whom I played and shared my dolls was hiding from the Gestapo. One day she too was gone!

I remember standing in line for a ration of soup dished out in a bowl for each person. Now I think back to how ironic our situation was. We had no food; but we did have a hidden radio my dad had camouflaged by building it into my doll bed. Sometimes neighbors would come and listen to the BBC! They were grateful to receive news of what was going on outside of our little world. The less we had, the more it brought out the good in our friends, family and neighbors. I remember sharing rations of oil, flour and other commodities. One day my brother took me to an allied airplane food drop. I first ate the white powder he brought back to my hiding place behind a truck. This turned out to be flour. I then ate something wrapped in blue paper. It was delicious! When we came home my mother told us it was chocolate. Never had I tasted something so good! I still love chocolate!

In 1948 my brother had flu symptoms that turned out to be a kidney infection. It was not until my pediatrician came to see me for the same flu symptoms that my mother asked him to check my brother. The next day he was admitted to the hospital. From there, he went to be with our Lord. I never had a chance to say goodbye to him. I was admitted to the hospital 2 weeks later. My kidney infection was treated with penicillin and 6 weeks later, I recovered.

The stressful situation of losing their child and living with many hardships took a toll on my parents' marriage and led to divorce. How did we handle all these changes? My mother and I visited the Vrijzinnig Hervormde Church. I joined a bible class and a Christian group of teenagers who were involved in crafts and camping. We used farms and haylofts instead of tents. At this church, I also joined a Christian basketball team. My mother and I slept on the couch and on the floor of our nice big apartment so we could realize an income from renting out rooms and running a bed and breakfast. Most of all, it gave me a great opportunity to spend a lot of time with my family in The Hague. A forty-five minute bike ride took me to spend time with my cousins whose company I enjoyed.

In 1955, Theo and I got a little more serious about our relationship. We dated for a year before he left with his parents to join his sister and her family who had come to California the year before. Two years later Theo came back to Rotterdam where we were married. Two weeks later we traveled together to the good old USA. After 9 years in Burlingame, we moved to Fremont to live with our daughters, Yvonne and Caroline; my son-in-law, Art and our five grandchildren Brian, Jacob, Krista, Nick and Austin. Krista married Toni and we have a darling great granddaughter named Realyne.

2017-18 Pledge Card

You may make a pledge to IPC and/or Missions during our 2017-18 Stewardship Drive. Complete and return this form to the IPC address on the back of this page. Please mark your envelope *confidential*.

Name: (optional) _____

Address: _____

MY (our) COMMITMENT TO IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In recognition that all my (our) Time, Treasures and Talents come from God, I (we) gladly join with others in support of Christ's Church.

My (our) IPC Stewardship Pledge for 2017-18 is

Per Week Per Month or _____

\$ _____ For church ministries including worship, education, pastoral service, child care, children's programs, church care and upkeep.

\$ _____ For Missions which is a faith promise giving program that provides financial and prayer support to mission workers; who spread the gospel as commanded in Matthew 28.

Signature

Date

"But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in the grace of giving". 2 Corinthians 8:7 NIV

If you would like an updated statement of your giving during the year, please check this box. ☐

Please return the top half by Commitment Sunday, December 3, and keep the bottom half as a daily affirmation of your faith and trust in God to provide.

.....***Tear here.....***

Name: _____

Address: _____

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IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Fremont, CA 94538-0133

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Please Note: November 20 is the deadline for our December issue.

All articles are to be delivered by email to: cornerstoneeditors@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 November issue.

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

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

A special thanks to Thea Pex for sharing her childhood experiences with us.

Kamroon and Mustapha Baksh

Editors