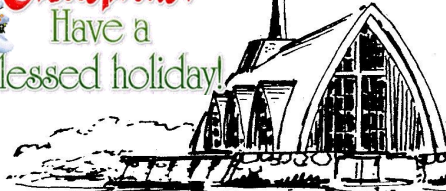


CORNERSTONE

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 I Peter 2:4,5



Irvington Presbyterian Church

Fremont, CA

December, 2017

Sundays

Bible study 8:45 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

*(Nursery and Children
Sunday School During
Service)*

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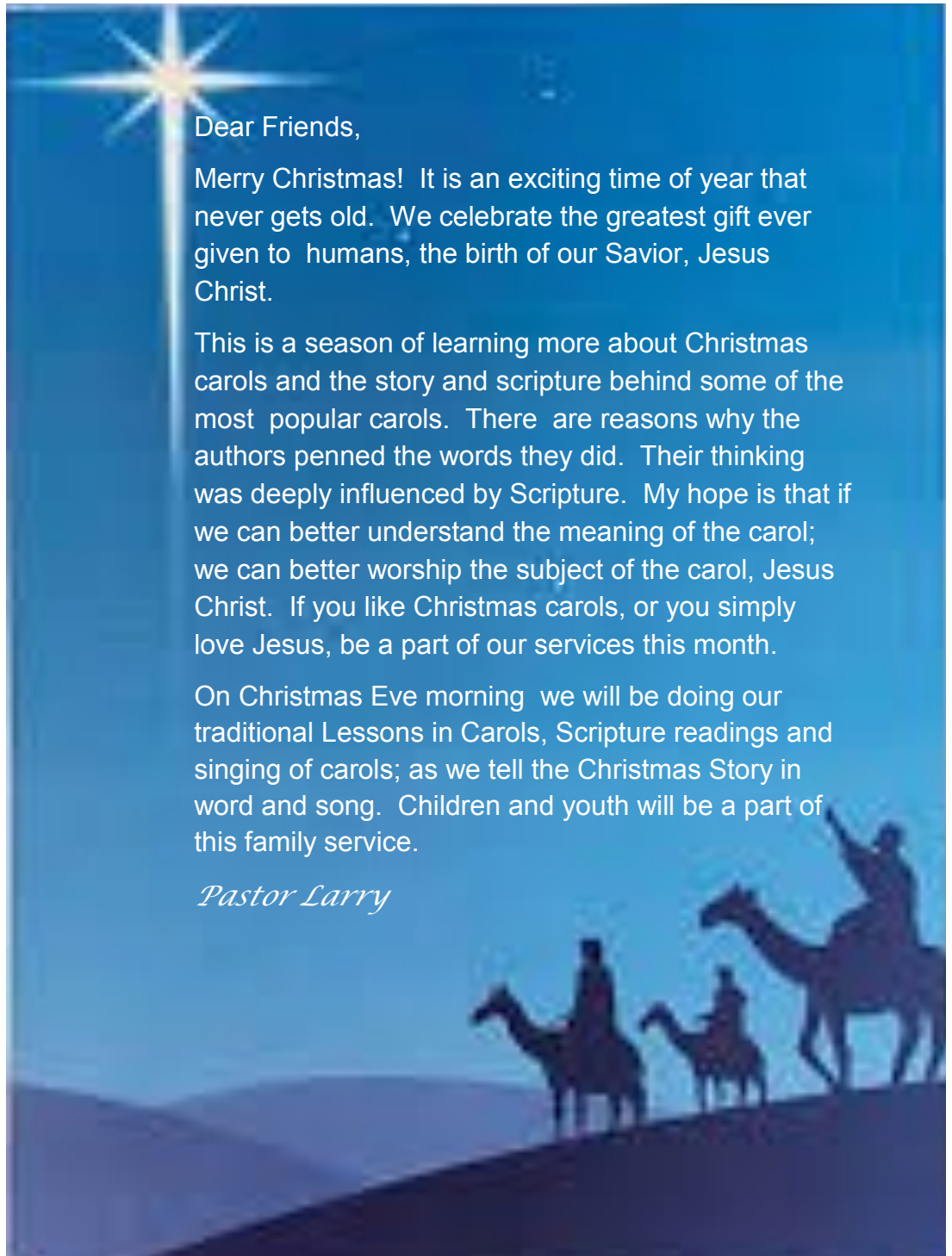
Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas! It is an exciting time of year that never gets old. We celebrate the greatest gift ever given to humans, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

This is a season of learning more about Christmas carols and the story and scripture behind some of the most popular carols. There are reasons why the authors penned the words they did. Their thinking was deeply influenced by Scripture. My hope is that if we can better understand the meaning of the carol; we can better worship the subject of the carol, Jesus Christ. If you like Christmas carols, or you simply love Jesus, be a part of our services this month.

On Christmas Eve morning we will be doing our traditional Lessons in Carols, Scripture readings and singing of carols; as we tell the Christmas Story in word and song. Children and youth will be a part of this family service.

Pastor Larry



DEACONS' CORNER

The Ministry of Compassion and Service - Mary Lou Craig Poinsettias for Christmas

In keeping with the Deacons' annual tradition of celebrating the birth of Christ, poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary will again be available for purchase. You may sign up with Mary Lee or Mary Lou on Sunday December 10 during fellowship in the Social Hall. You may also place your order by calling the office. The cost per poinsettia is \$7.50. The goal this year is to deck the sanctuary with 30 poinsettias.

Poinsettias can be dedicated to a loved one, in memory of someone dear to you, a sick friend or any other occasion. The plants will be placed in the sanctuary on December 18, and may be picked up after worship service on December 24.



Help Our Deacons

Deacons are an important part of the body of IPC. As their name suggests, 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. With several Deacons leaving us this year, your Deacon Board needs your help. If you feel that the Lord is leading you to be of service to the congregation as a Deacon, please contact Mary Lou or any member of the Nominating Committee.

Deacons can use your help immediately with brewing and serving hot coffee on Sundays. Contact Mary Lou Craig or any Deacon member to volunteer.

Archived Deacons News

Because the Deacons' meeting will occur after this issue is printed, regular Deacons news will return in January. In reviewing the Deacons' archives we found that 6 years ago the late Mary Wolfe announced that "Let the Bell Ring Again Fund" had met its goal of \$3,904 and the bell was installed. The same bell that once called the congregation to worship prior to 1959 when the Little White Church was razed, was re-installed in the new church in 1964. After church renovations were completed in 2000, the bell was put into storage. In December 2011, it was again reinstalled. Thank you Deacons for the sweet, nostalgic peals that call us to worship each Sunday morning.

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 - Mustapha Baksh

Session Meeting on Tuesday November 14 opened at 7:00 p.m. with a reading from Acts 5:17- 42, sharing of joys, concerns, communion and prayer time.

The minutes of the October 10, meeting were approved. A motion to give Deacons and visitors an opportunity to speak was also approved.

Missions is planning a Hymn in Mandarin for Mission Sunday and will include Mandarin snacks during fellowship. The Treeces presentation was well received with more than 30 members in attendance. Missions Run/Walk was successful and generated ~ \$2k.

Worship Ministry have identified scripture readers through February. Christmas Eve service will be held at 10 am at IPC and our members are invited to join First Presbyterian Church of Newark for either of the two Christmas Eve evening services.

Family Ministry has several events planned. These include bowling on November 19th, a gift-making night for children ages 5-16 on December 7th, and a Christmas Performance, "Finding Peace . . . This Christmas!" at 3 Crosses Neighborhood Church, Castro Valley on December 17th.

Pastor Larry's report included visitation and communion to 8 members and their families. Pastor Larry and Pastor Michael Boyland officiated at the memorial for Jackie Rockett on November 3. The Mandarin Ministry continues to be a ministry within IPC. Both Elaine Liang and Jonathan Jiang shared their plans that included launching a Mandarin service on April 1. The ESL class for the Mandarin speakers is now held on Sundays and has grown to 12 attendees including 3 families.

Personnel reported that Derek Post has resigned his position as Worship Arts Director effective November 26. For the month of December, Fred Torres who has been at IPC several times in the past 2 years, will serve as the Worship Arts Director.

Deacon Joe DiMaggio reported a well-attended, successful memorial luncheon for long-time member Jackie Rockett. With several Deacons being termed out this year, there is a need for more volunteers to serve on this Board. Discussions continue regarding the possibility of a one Management Board.

Finance will meet with all ministries and have a draft budget distributed by December 12. In addition the Clerk will contact Ron Fong to obtain clarification for the \$2,535:00 attorney bill that was recently received in conjunction with the Tax Exempt status that is being pursued with Alameda County.

Stewardship reported that the first of two meetings had 13 attendees and several questions. All questions will be summarized and addressed by Session before the Annual Congregational Meeting in January. There will be church clean-up day on December 2 when the Christmas trees in the sanctuary and in the Social Hall will be decorated.

The Clerk requested all Ministries to have their input for the 2017 Annual Report by December 15.

The meeting closed with Pastor Larry asking God's guidance and wisdom to discern how God is leading us in managing and growing the church.

MISSIONS: THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

Light of Hope Mission in Ethiopia

Light of Hope work with the unreached Arsi Oromo people in Ethiopia. IPC helps support this mission via Frontier Fellowship (Formerly Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship). For the last few summers, a Frontier Fellowship team has traveled to Ethiopia to work with Light of Hope teachers and evangelists to improve the oral and written English skills as part of the outreach to the Arsi Oromo people. Arsi Oromo is one of the branches of the Oromo people inhabiting the Oromia Region, mainly in the Arsi, West Arsi and Bale Zones of Ethiopia, as well as in the Adami Tullu and Jido Kombolcha woreda of Misraq Shewa Zone.

This God-inspired indigenous Frontier Fellowship movement seeks to bring Christ to the more than ten million Arsi Oromo people in a culturally sensitive and appropriate way. Light of Hope builds



schools and train teachers that teach the basics, reading, writing and arithmetic, from 1st to 5th grade. The schools are extremely popular and have been enthusiastically requested and welcomed because the people are desperate for good general education. There are now more than 120 trained teachers in 52 elementary schools in 6 districts, serving more than 25,000 students and their families.

Educational opportunities are so limited that students may be in their teens even though the schools are first to fifth grade. By becoming literate, these students have opportunities to “bring their families beyond the vagaries of subsistence farming and its inherent risk of hunger if the rains don’t fall.”

Since the schools are set up and staffed by Christians, the Arsi Oromo have become more open to the gospel. The teacher-evangelists in these village schools are becoming even more effective as witnesses for Jesus because they are being trained by fellow Africans to share the gospel using Bible stories. A story can go where a sermon cannot. It can be told to a child, a parent, or a community leader; even those who cannot yet read can understand a story. In addition to education and bringing Christ to this people group, Light of Hope has promoted peace between Christians and Muslims. This has resulted in many other opportunities including building a college on donated land. This is the next step in educating more teachers who will also be trained in church planting.

God is truly opening doors for this ministry. Because of your support, IPC continues to help finance and train teachers in these schools. Mission Team thanks you for your help in spreading the Good News to the other side of the world.



Urgent Need for Light of Hope: *Prayers and financial support to provide desks for children.*

Some of the new schools are not furnished. The cost of one desk, seating up to three students is \$80. Each school needs 200 desks or 50 desks per classroom.

FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE - Stephanie Yamada

FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS
LIGHT AND WARMTH HAVE PULSED OUT
OVER THE WORLD FROM THE LITTLE CRIB.
FROM HIS EYES STREAM THE LIGHT
-LUMEN DE LUMINE-
THE LIGHT WHICH THE DARKNESS
DID NOT COMPREHEND.
THE LITTLE HEART
WHICH BEAT IN THE CHILD'S BREAST
IS THE VERY SEAT OF LOVE.

Sigrid Undset (1882-1949) Christmas and Twelfth Night

Christmas, for young families, is a season filled with activities and excitement. Lessons about the birth of Jesus are essential to ensure that the real reason for the celebration is not lost in shopping and busyness. Here at Irvington Presbyterian Church, we are striving to keep Jesus at the center of our celebration.



Thursday, December 7th, Family Ministries is hosting a gift-making night for children ages 5-16. Dinner is provided, and students can make fun and festive gifts for their families. Our emphasis will be on giving from the heart.

Sunday, December 17th, IPC families and teachers will be attending the Christmas Performance, "Finding Peace . . . This Christmas!" at 3 Crosses Neighborhood Church in Castro Valley at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$5 and available at

www.3crosses.org. Get in the holiday spirit as we enjoy a celebration of Christ's

birth, and join us!

The children and youth will be presenting a Christmas program during the worship service on Sunday morning, December 24th. Come enjoy *God's Christmas Miracle* as we sing carols and tell the story of Jesus' birth.

May God bless us, every one!

Celebrating the Tradition of Advent at IPC

While the Advent wreath with its four candles did bring light to churches, it was not to illuminate the interior as much as to symbolize the coming of Christ. On each Sunday of the Advent season we invite families to light the advent wreath. We have watched and waited:

in **Hope** as we light the 1st candle;

for **Love** we light the 2nd candle;

in **Joy** we light the 3rd;

with **Peace** we light the 4th;

as our redemption draws near, on Christmas Day, The Christ candle is lit.

*Patelia
family
lighting
candle
of hope*



ACTIVITIES UPDATE



Christmas Eve: We worship in the Sanctuary at 10 am. The Children and Youth Christmas program will be integrated into the worship service. Come enjoy God's Christmas Miracle as we sing carols and tell the story of Jesus' birth.

Christmas Day: The Gujarati Families will celebrate in the Social Hall with scripture, songs, food and fellowship from 1 to 4 pm.

Mission 2017 Run/Walk

On a beautiful, sunny Saturday morning, November 11, families, friends and members gathered at Lake Elizabeth Ranger Station for the first annual Mission Run/Walk event. We were led in prayer by Mary Ellen; then more than 25 participants and Pastor Larry's dog, walked or jogged around the lake. Some circled the 2 mile track once, others twice and one person used her walker to meet her goal. The event raised ~ \$1,975.00 for the support of our Missionaries and projects. A good time was had by all.

Thank you to all who participated. Thank you to those who prayed for success and for those who simply sponsored or cheered on the walkers and joggers.



ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Work Day and Christmas Decorations

On Saturday December 2, children and adults gathered for work day and Christmas decorating. This event included washing the windows of the Social Hall and the classrooms. The sanctuary is now adorned with the Christmas tree, the advent table with the wreath and candles, the banners on the walls, and a nativity scene. In addition to cleaning the windows of the Social Hall, the inside walls were wiped and the Christmas tree set up. Camaraderie and Christmas cheer were enjoyed by all. *We cherished the opportunity, as a family, to help prepare God's house and our own hearts for His birthday celebration.*



A Report on Stewardship 2017-18

We are eternally grateful to the Irvington Presbyterian Church members and friends who have made pledges to sustain the church home that now nurtures us. We had 27 members attend our two stewardship meetings. The many questions that were asked during the meetings will be summarized and addressed by Session at the annual congregation meeting in January.

Thank you for financially supporting our church so that we can continue to do God's work. Your Mission Team is especially thankful that your pledges will help fund our projects and Missionaries next year. If you have not completed your pledge, and are thinking:

Should I submit a pledge? The answer is yes.

Does my Pledge Matter? Your pledge does matter.

You may mark your pledge confidential; place in the offering plate or deliver to the church office.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Pastor Ken Jacobsen's Life Group



*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen..*

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 we will explore these basic tenets of faith. It is okay to question. It is okay to wonder. This topic explores the spectrum of our faith. Maybe with more education, we can hide a little less and become better witnesses for Christ.

You may join this class at any time. The next classes will meet December 6, 13 and 20 in the McKowen Room at 7 pm.

Christmas Joy Offering: Supporting Past, Present and Future Leaders

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

*This year you may place your donations in the offering plate on December 17.
Mark your envelope "Christmas Joy Offering".*

Fremont Symphony Concerts at IPC, Saturday December 16:

Youth Concert at 2:45 pm



Chamber Series at 7:30 pm



Church Directory

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Larry Thorson	Address: 4181 Irvington Avenue
Family Ministries Director :	Stephanie Yamada	P.O. Box 1336,
Worship Arts Director	Fred Torres	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. Will resume in January. Studying the Gospel of Matthew. Contact Mary Ellen for details.

CONGREGATION NEWS



Bill Aquino	Minh Khuc
Pat Hughes	Pastor Michael
Don Hammack	Irene Quek
Leila Kalin	Vijey Solomon
Daniel Khuc	Brenda Smith

Jeanne Stachowiak



Kamroon and Mustapha Baksh
 Nichole and Justin Chaikin
 Kathy and Pat Jeffries
 Judith and Vijey Solomon
 Pastors Larry and Martha Thorson

Holiday Food Barrel

Thank you IPC for supporting this year's annual Holiday Food Barrel Drive. Your donations of canned goods were



used to prepare food baskets that were distributed to children, low income families and seniors in the Tri-City area before and during the Thanksgiving Holiday season.

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.

Session Calls the Annual Congregational Meeting

for Sunday January 28, 2018 at 11:30 am in the Social Hall following fellowship

For the purpose of receiving the Annual Report, Annual Budget and electing Elders and Deacons

The 2017 Annual Report and the 2018 Annual Budget will be available on Sunday January 21, 2018 in the narthex.

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.



If you are unable to come to Church you may ship or drop off your gifts at the office.

All gifts will be delivered Monday December 11th.



DEAR IPC FAMILY

During the whole month of December, we have planned family-friendly events that are a perfect opportunity for you to invite your friends, neighbors and co-workers to come experience the benefits of being a part of a church family.

Your friends and family are more likely to accept your invitation to church at Christmas than any other time of year. So, don't miss out on this opportunity, when the people you know are most likely to take one more step closer to Jesus. We are so thankful for you and grateful for what God is doing in your life.

Check out what's to come this Christmas Season:

December 2nd – Church Clean-up, Decorate the Christmas Tree 9 am

December 3rd – 1st Sunday of Advent; we light the candle of Hope. Join us for Carols at 10 am

December 3rd - [Commitment Sunday time to turn in your annual pledges](#)

December 6th, 13th and 20th – Apostles Creed Study. What do we believe at 7 pm

December 7th -- Children ages 5-16, Christmas gift making night 6 -8 pm.

December 10th – 2nd Sunday of Advent; we light the candle of Love, 1st and 2nd Carols at 10 am

December 10th – Annual Birthday Party for Jesus. Bring your unwrapped gift that will be distributed during the TriCity Volunteers annual Christmas party to those in the community who would not otherwise receive gifts.

December 16th – Fremont Youth Symphony Concert presents A Holiday Concert in the sanctuary at 2:45 pm. Admission is free.

December 16th – Fremont Symphony presents its Chamber Series Holiday Sparkler in the sanctuary at 7:30 pm. Admission is \$45 and \$25

December 17th – 3rd Sunday of Advent; we light the candle of Joy, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Carols at 10 am

December 17th - Young families and teachers attend the Christmas performance, at 3 Crosses Church, Castro Valley at 6pm

December 24th – 4th Sunday of Advent; we light the candle of Peace, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Carols and **Children's Program at 10 am** Christmas Eve Service

December 24th - Christmas Eve Evening Service at First Presbyterian Church, Newark 6 and 9 pm.

December 25th – Gujarati families Christmas Day Service in the Social Hall at 1 to 4 pm – lots of cheer, scripture reading and carols

December 31st – We close out the year with our 10 am service

We are excited to celebrate the season of our Savior with you!

IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Fremont, CA 94538-0133

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Please Note: December 26 is the deadline for our January 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 December issue.

This month's Cornerstone pictures were provided courtesy of:

***Ron Fong and Daxesh Patelia,
Johnny Handono, Peggy Handono***

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

Kamroon and Mustapha Baksh

Editors