



Irvington Presbyterian Church

Fremont, CA

February, 2018

## Missions: The Heart of the Church

### Sundays

Bible study 8:45 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

(Nursery and Children  
Sunday School During  
Service)

"I wonder what sort of a tale we've fallen into." In *The Lord of the Rings*, Frodo and Sam have been through dangers and have seen marvels they could not have imagined before they set out from their homes in the Shire on their perilous journey to save the world. We each wonder about this same question. What is the story so far? How do I fit in? Is my life part of a tragedy, or a comedy, or a soap opera?

Jesus said, "As the Father sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21). Even though so much of this beautiful world that he made and loves has turned against him, God is winning it back. He is victorious. His strategy is not to use armies or laws; but to use the strongest force in the world, love, to win the hearts of men, women and children. The church is the instrument God chose for this great task. In spite of its all too human weaknesses, the movement of followers of Jesus Christ is the central player in this great epic. In dying on the cross and rising from the dead, Jesus won the victory for love over death, guilt and shame.

Each one of us has a unique role in bringing the effects of that victory to bear in our sphere of influence. Missions is the great project of spreading the love of God in Jesus Christ so that hearts can be brought to new life through the power of His love. As the Father sent Jesus into the world, so Jesus sends us to show by our actions and our words that there is hope, that love will be victorious in the end. God made a promise; Jesus kept it; we share it.

Irvington Presbyterian Church is part of this heroic enterprise. Each one of us shines the light of Christ into our local scene. Through our mission fund, supported by your Faith Promise, and through our prayers, IPC supports work to bring the good news to natives in the jungles of Venezuela; to the untouchables of North India; to Muslims in West Africa, Central Asia and Ethiopia, to street children in Brazil; to seamen who come ashore in the Port of Richmond, CA, and others in our community. Meanwhile we shine his love and invite people to celebrate with us here in Irvington. Our prayers and our mission give fuel to the fire of His love around the world; and resonate in the victory of everyone who has accepted Him.

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# SESSION NEWS & NOTES - Mustapha Baksh

January was a very hectic month for Session. We had our last meeting with the current board on January 31; at which time, the team thanked Alexis DiMaggio who completed her term. At the January 28 Congregational Meeting, Elaine Liang, Nibin Geevarghese and Helen Jorgensen were elected to the class of 2020. Peter Bade extended his service through 2018. Praise God for His love, mercy and grace here at IPC.

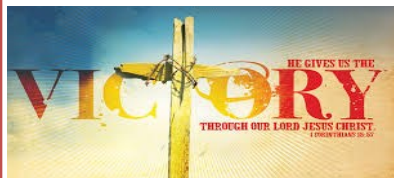
Your Session members have teamed together to serve the Lord and His Church with all that He has entrusted to us, in a manner that is worthy of His grace. He has truly blessed our congregation. At the ordination and Installation of new officers on February 4, Pastor Larry thanked Elder Alexis DiMaggio for her many contributions to Session and the congregation throughout the year. Incoming Elders, in whom the congregation have placed their trust to serve God and the church, will be attending their first meeting in February.

Among the immediate tasks that the new Session will address include a balanced budget that will be presented to the congregation on February 25; and an off-site planning meeting where Session will team with the Deacons to delineate our vision and goals for the year.

IPC has an extensive campus with buildings and grounds that require maintenance and upkeep. With this in mind, an IPC family has come forward with a \$6,000 matching grant if we can establish housing on campus for a caretaker. This offer expires on April 1, 2018. Your Session team is actively pursuing all options to determine the feasibility of this project. There are opportunities for cost savings as well as having a go-to individual who is always available on campus.

Your Session will continue to keep you well-informed of all activities, our progress and struggles as we go forward. We are excited for the new year and what our Lord has in store for us.

**Easter** is one of those days on the church calendar that brings a lot of emotion for those involved in ministry. No doubt, it is the biggest celebration in Christianity. He is risen! That is pretty much why we do everything we do. On the other hand, Easter is one of the most popular times in the



year for guests to attend His church. Your Mission team and the Mandarin Ministry continue to plan outreach activities that would invite members of the community to IPC. Missions will host special activities on Mission Sundays, geared to attracting visitors.

**Worship Ministry is sponsoring a victory cross** in the narthex from February 18, to April 1. This is an opportunity to celebrate any major victory you have had in your life; or to share the victory that you need to ask God for this year. Your church family will celebrate your success or pray for the victory you need. Write your success or need on color index cards and place on the cross. Whether it is a habit you would like to kick, a relationship you want to heal, or a characteristic you would like to transform, know that God is always available to help and you do not have to rely on your strength alone.

On Easter Sunday, bring a special flower (your garden, purchased or made) to decorate the cross.

## Holocaust Survivor Magda Brown Shares Her Story of Loss, Hope and Faith

Magda (Peristein) Brown was born June 11, 1927, in Miskolc, Hungary. She grew up in a safe, loving home and enjoyed a normal childhood. At the time, Jewish people in Hungary lived as a whole in comparative personal and physical safety.



In March 1944, German troops marched into Budapest with Adolf Eichmann, who soon implemented the

“Final Solution” of the Hungarian Jews.

A few months after the Nazi occupation, on March 19, 1944, all Jewish people were concentrated in a designated area called the “ghetto”. After a few weeks the ghetto was evacuated. On June 11, 1944 – Magda’s 17<sup>th</sup> birthday – she and her family were crowded onto a railroad box car with 80 other people. Their final destination was the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland. After arriving, Magda was separated from her mother, father, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. It was the last time she saw them — they were sent directly into the gas chambers.

Months later, she was one of a thousand Jewish Hungarian women transported to Allendorf, Germany, where she worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week, under dangerous conditions using poison to make bombs and rockets. She reminded the audience that the normal adult ingests 1,500 to 2,000 calories a day. The prisoners in concentration camps received less than 300 calories a day in the form of thin soup and bread, usually made with sawdust. In 1945, she described how she and some friends were miraculously able to escape during a death march to Buchenwald. After three days of sleeping in ditches, they were found, and liberated by two American Armed Forces soldiers.

“My friends and I were only 17 years old. We were smart, brave and a little stupid for trying to escape; but our self esteem was gone, and we felt it was our only hope for survival. If we died, we died,” she explained.

After liberation, Ms. Brown was an “orphan”, she was starving, she had no clothes and no money. God is good to her and now she feels “blessed to be a grandmother and great grandmother”.

“There are some messages I want to impart to this audience especially the young. The first is that freedom must always be protected. Slavery should never be perpetrated. The second is to think before you hate. Ask yourself why you are having these negative feelings,” stated Ms. Brown.

*“My hope is that through sharing my story, I can personally talk about the horrors of the Holocaust to remind this generation of the dangers of hatred, prejudice and discrimination.”—Magda Brown*



# FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE - Stephanie Yamada

*"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

January is a time of renewal. The new year is a reminder to begin taking on new resolutions, goals, habits, tasks, and projects. We are endeavoring to make a habit of drawing close to God in word and deed. Family Ministries is striving to make Jesus the center of our lives, and having fun in the process!

On Wednesday nights, dinner begins at 7:00 for Life Group participants and youth before we break out into classes. The Family Life Group is studying the series "Soul Keeping" by John Ortberg in Room 6, and the youth are studying IPC's January "Betrayal" series in Room 2. Pastor Ken Jacobsen is leading a Life Group in "The Holy History of God's People" in the McKowen Room. Wednesday nights are hopping with activity as over 30 people are in regular attendance in our classrooms!



The Family Life Group enjoys studying together, but getting to know each other begins with fellowship. At the end of the "Soul Keeping" series on February 28<sup>th</sup>, Life Group parents will have a fun evening out at Campo di Bocce in Fremont while children enjoy games and study at church. Sunday afternoon on March 4<sup>th</sup>, we will enjoy a hike among wildflowers at Sunol Regional Wilderness. BASS Convention is on March 1-3, and all church members are invited to participate, learn, and grow in their faith. Planning has begun for our "Egg-citing Palm Sunday" event on March 25<sup>th</sup> for church families to remember Jesus' life and everlasting gift to us.

We anticipate God's plan for our lives as we move ahead in faith!

In Christ,



Seeking:  
Nursery Caregiver

Sunday Mornings 10a - 12p



We are currently looking for a Nursery Caregiver

**Hours:** Sunday mornings 10:00 am to 11:00 am every Sunday. This is a year-round paid position. Please contact Stephanie Yamada or call the Church Office.



# ACTIVITIES UPDATE

## LOVE IS IN THE AIR AGAIN - Mary Ellen McKowen

Heads up ... Valentine's Day is here and that means the opportunity to again prepare Valentines for the girls at Hope Unlimited in Brazil, a mission we support through your generous contributions.

Each February, we at IPC add a little something to our Valentine's preparations. As we make cards for friends and family, and maybe for that special loved one, we also take time to make cards for our girls in Brazil. These cards are handed out during a party celebrating Brazil's Day of Love in early summer. The children who receive your cards are poor, neglected, and for the most part, have never before experienced familial love and concern. For some girls, yours will be the only Valentine card they receive and are always overwhelmed by your outpouring of love for them.

We encourage you to plan ahead as the season draws near to either gather some materials for hand-making Valentines or to purchase some as they go on sale. **Join us in the Social Hall on Sunday February 18, to write cards.** We will have card-making supplies as well as Portuguese phrases available for you to personalize your cards.

*Refreshments will be served at this event.*

## Ladies out to Lunch - Gillian Carson



*Fellowship at BJ's in January*

The next "Ladies Out to Lunch" group will meet at **Sala Thai Restaurant:**

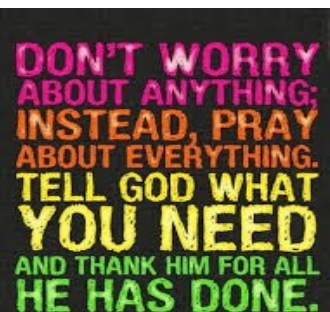
**Date:** Tuesday February 21, 2018

**Time:** 11:30 AM

**Location:** 3241 Walnut Avenue, Fremont

**Contact:** Mary Ellen McKowen  
maryellenmckowen@gmail.com

## Day of Prayer Saturday February 24 - Darlene Neesham



Thank you to those who have already signed up. Anyone who wants to participate may spend 30 minutes or more praying for any person or anything that they wish. There will also be suggestions of prayers for anyone who needs them. In addition, all members and friends of the church will be prayed for on that day.

Sign up in the Social Hall or contact Darlene at 510 656 3832

# CONGREGATION NEWS

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Shivani Ariathurai	Cecile Litherland
Frankie Cabral	Alishan Merjanian
Justin Chaikin	Shirley Murray
Karen Craig	Bob Reavis
Jeane Garrett	Shirley Vick



Mary Lou and Richard Craig

## Annual Congregation Meeting

The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday February 25, to conduct the annual business of the church. The agenda is:

- (1) Receive the annual report.
- (2) Elect Corporation Officers.
- (3) Elect Three Nominating Committee Members.
- (4) Reaffirm the call of the Rev. Larry Thorson as Pastor.

Church members interested in serving on the Nominating Committee are asked to contact Nibin Geevarghese, Helen Jorgensen or Mary Ellen McKowen.

*We are planning a pot luck luncheon before the meeting.*

## Worship Ministry Needs

Worship ministry needs volunteer accompanists on keyboard or piano and vocalists who can commit to joining the team using a rotating schedule. You may either send your email address to [kandmbaksh@gmail.com](mailto:kandmbaksh@gmail.com) and receive a link to log on to the schedule; or you may call Elder Kamroon Baksh at 510-579-3694 for more information or to sign up.



## Ordination/Installation of Church Officers

New members of the Board of Elders were ordained/installed during February 4, worship services.

*"Jesus we praise and thank You that you have chosen this group to lead our church. We acknowledge only by Your grace and mercy they can fulfill their promises made. We pray for the congregation to be encouraging and supportive of these leaders. May the Elders be generous with their time, talents and treasures as they fulfill the work of their ministries."*

### Board of Elders

#### Class of 2018

Peter Bade  
Richard Craig  
David Wegener

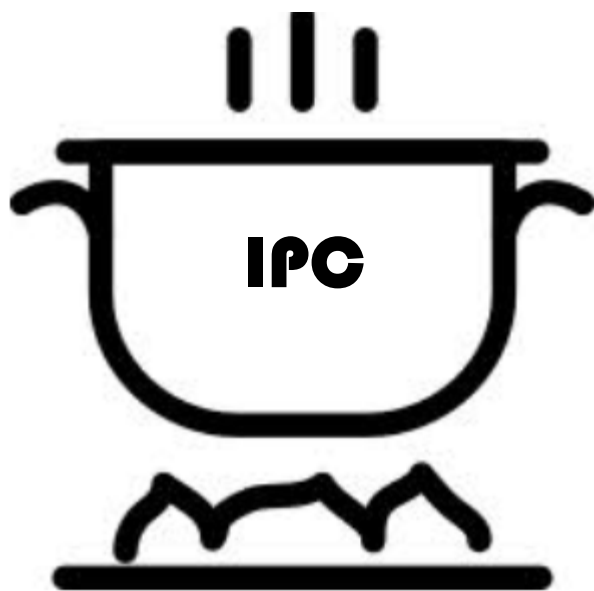
#### Class of 2019

Daxesh Patelia  
Kamroon Baksh  
Mustapha Baksh

#### Class of 2020

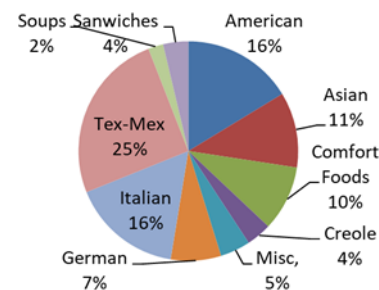
Elaine Liang  
Helen Jorgensen  
Nibin Geevarghese

# COOKING TOGETHER –KEN JACOBSEN



**IPC Cooks** is not a beginners cooking class. It is fellowship and sharing focused on one of the more important activities in our lives. It is about diversity and economics more than technique or recipes.

Ken Jacobsen is currently writing a cookbook titled “A Foodie Cooks for One at 70.” He is exploring ways to effectively re-use leftovers and how to not be bored with your diet. Practicing what he preaches, he throws away less than 5% of his food. But his diet is not boring. He tracked his diet for about a year. He eats a diverse diet



that keeps his diabetes under control and is economical in both time and money. He is “too old to slave over a stove anymore.” He no longer eats large meals and he watches his budget. He would like IPC to help him with this cookbook. We can produce it together.

The first class will be fun! We ask that you sign-up since we will be purchasing ingredients. But in addition, we would ask that you bring a dish... not just your normal pot-luck “this is what I always bring to these events” dish, but something “special.” Many of you have an ethnic background. Your parents or grandparents made something that is a part of your past: Or maybe you’ve just developed something that is especially yours. I will bring Swedish meat balls... or maybe these artichokes I create: I stuff an artichoke with guacamole and serve it cold. I call it a guacachoke salad. When you signup, give us your email address or the best way to contact you and we will advise how large of a portion you should bring.

The evening will start with a pot luck dinner. Then we will explore what Ken calls in his book, the flavor principle of cooking. Join us, won't you?

The first session is on Saturday March 10, at 6:00 pm in the Social Hall.

To register, contact:

[ken@jacobsen46.com](mailto:ken@jacobsen46.com)

[kandmbaksh@gmail.com](mailto:kandmbaksh@gmail.com)



# UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

## *This Month*



### *Ash Wednesday Service*

*February 14, 2018*

*7:00 pm in the McKowen Room*

## *March & April*



### *Palm Sunday Service*

*March 25*

*10 am in the Sanctuary*



### *Good Friday Service*

*March 30*

*7:00 pm in the McKowen Room*



### *Easter Sunday Service*

*April 1*

*10:00 am in the Sanctuary*

## **Church Directory**

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Larry Thorson

Family Ministries Director : Stephanie Yamada

Bookkeeper:

Jeanette Ollison

Office Manager:

Marissa Hughes

Parish Associate:

Rev. Dr. Martha Thorson

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