

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

January, 2018

2017: The Year in Pictures

Join us in thanking the Lord for an exciting year at IPC.
Some Ministry Moments:

Sundays

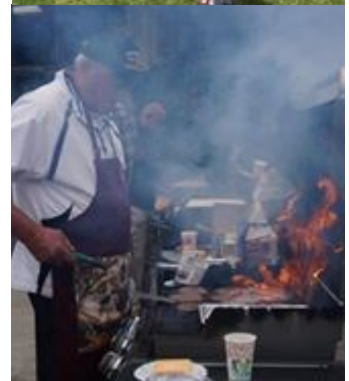
Bible study 8:45 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

*(Nursery and Children
Sunday School During
Service)*



Cryptogram Treasure Hunt



Memorial Day Outdoor
Worship and Picnic

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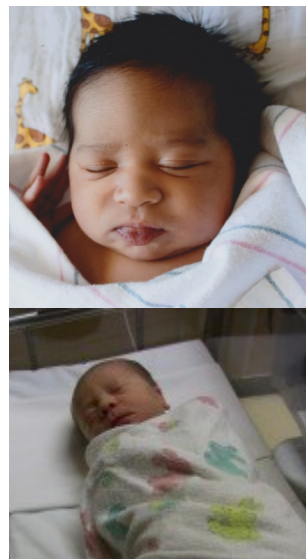
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Great Surprise



IPC Babies



Tri-City Breakfast Program 20 Years



Welcoming New Members

A Message from Pastor Larry

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a good season of celebrations and are ready to charge into 2018 with new vigor. Thank you for your very generous gift at Christmas. You mean a lot to Martha and me; thank you for staying faithful. It has been fun meeting many new people; and it has also been difficult saying goodbye to those we love. We welcomed twelve wonderful new members last year. Most have become an integral part of our church.

This month Pastor Martha and I will write and present a sermon series called "Betrayal." Our news has been filled with messages about entertainers, politicians or professional athletes who betrayed others. Radio star, Garrison Keillor, whom I have enjoyed and trusted over the years is accused of betraying a female companion. These acts of betrayal are disheartening because of its widespread effects. For every celebrity whose betrayal is exposed, there may be ten times as many victims who suffer from the effects of their betrayal.

Betrayal can be very hurtful, especially when it comes from someone you trust. In this new sermon series we will be studying the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis. Apart from Jesus, few people experienced as much betrayal during his time. That betrayal had an effect on Joseph's life when he began responding in the same way as those who had betrayed him. When someone is betrayed, that person then plant seeds for someone else's future betrayal.

This six-week series starts on January 7 and continues until the start of Lent. On January 21, Pastor Martha will bring us a fascinating perspective of betrayal from her world as a therapist and the role of God in healing someone who is the victim of betrayal. If you know of someone who has been betrayed and is suffering because of it, bring them to Sunday worship during this series. You may also take them a copy of the sermon manuscript available in the narthex. If any of us have betrayed someone, it is best to speak openly about it, confess and make amends. This is an important aspect of the Gospel. May we practice and experience God's grace in 2018.

January 7	The Betrayal of a Ruler (Epiphany Sun)	Matthew 2:1-12
January 14	Betrayed By His Brothers	Genesis 38:23-28
January 21	Betrayed By His Boss' Wife	Genesis 7b-20a
January 28	Betrayed By His Roommates	Genesis 40:1-23
February 4	When the Betrayed Becomes the Betrayer	Genesis 42:1-17
February 11	Reconciliation	Genesis 45:1-11

SESSION NEWS & NOTES - Mustapha Baksh

On December 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. Communion was served and Pastor Larry took us through a reading of Acts 5:17-42.

The Minutes of the November 14, 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 Spanish for Mission Sunday and will serve Spanish snacks. Mission is reviewing its budget and in prayer is deciding how to address those missionaries who have either retired or are in the process of retiring.

Worship has identified scripture readers through April. Fred Torres will be the acting Worship Arts Director through December.

Family Ministry is working with Fred Torres to integrate the Christmas Eve program into the Sunday Service and has completed a detailed program for 2018. The 2018 budget reflects its programs.

Pastor Larry visited 10 members and their families and officiated at the Denise Pennelly memorial. He indicated that he will be preaching on 12/31 and instead, take 1/21 off when Pastor Martha will be preaching in his absence. Pastor's vacation for 1/18, 1/21, 1/22 and 1/23 were approved.

Deacons reported that the Benevolent Fund has dispersed funds and gifts to 12 individuals in need. Deacons meet in February to delineate a plan to provide Deacon Care for the congregation.

Finance presented its November results that showed a \$4018 deficit. The application for a \$7.5K grant from the Presbytery was received and transferred to the Mandarin Ministry. Two Budget scenarios were presented and discussed. The first showed a deficit of \$79K with no major changes from 2017. The second showed a deficit of \$46K with major changes in the worship personnel. None of these were acceptable since the group wanted to have a balanced budget for 2018. Among the options discussed: making the church admin a voluntary position and due to decreasing membership, and a decreasing need for Pastoral services, making the Pastor a 1/2 time position. Session was asked to pray and look for alternatives that will contribute to a balanced budget. A special Session Meeting will be held on Tuesday January 9, for the purpose of deciding on a balanced 2018 budget.

Personnel is in the process of insuring that annual evaluations/reviews for Pastor and paid staff be completed by January 8. Since Marissa would no longer continue as the recorder, Personnel will check with at least one member who has indicated that she will volunteer as the recorder. A motion to pay a church member \$100/month to be the Finance Director was not approved.

The Clerk reminded everyone that input for the Annual Report was due by December 24. Stewardship reported that pledges to date for 2018 were \$4280/month. Session is planning an off-site retreat on 2/10 for spiritual development and to identify and define goals/objectives.

The meeting closed in prayer at 9:10 PM with Deacon Joe DiMaggio praying for guidance and wisdom in determining a budget and to discern how God is leading us in managing the church.

MISSIONS: THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

2017 in Review



Birthday Party for Jesus

Eyeglasses Recycle

Food Drive



Sikh and Hindu Outreach Seminar



Visits by Missionaries on Mission Sunday



1st Annual Walk/Run



Hymn in Another Language

FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE

- Stephanie Yamada

"Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace."
Luke 1: 78-79

The families and teachers of Irvington Presbyterian Church enjoyed a merry season of festivities in December. Fourteen children and youth enjoyed a fun evening on December 7th, eating dinner together and making presents for their families and school teachers.



The room was bustling with activity as the students busily worked on up to seven crafts (parents not allowed), and wrapped them up to go under their Christmas trees. Special thanks

go to Lynnette Ariathurai, Carol Lynn, and Marguerita Austin for their hands-on assistance that night!



Twenty-two Christian Equipping Ministry members and children traveled to 3Crosses Church in Castro Valley



for their Christmas extravaganza on December 17th, and were amazed and blessed by *"Finding Peace . . . This Christmas."* The two-hour long performance was a wonder of sights, acting, dancing, singing, and the love of Jesus. It is destined to become an IPC family-outing tradition, and put us all in the Christmas spirit.

The children and youth began practicing in earnest to present the Christmas message for the Christmas Eve service at 10:00 am. Learning music, lines, readings, and cues were a big part of Saturdays and Sundays in December. Special thanks to Fred Torres and the praise band for their extra hours working with the children to prepare.

January marks the beginning of a new year for the families at Irvington Presbyterian Church, as we prepare to learn more about our Savior and life together in God's family. The Parent's Life Group and Middle School Club will reconvene on Wednesdays, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm beginning January 10th. The adults will be studying the John Ortberg series, *Soul Keeping*. The Youth will continue with the DVD series *Switch*. Dinner will be served to both groups each Wednesday night to enable our families to participate after long days of work, school, and activities.

Stay in touch as we plan our next family events, a hike on the Canyon View Trail to Little Yosemite at Sunol Regional Park in January; and a parent's night out at Campo di Bocce with a kids program at church in February.

May God bless us as we grow in faith and love!

2017: The Year in Pictures



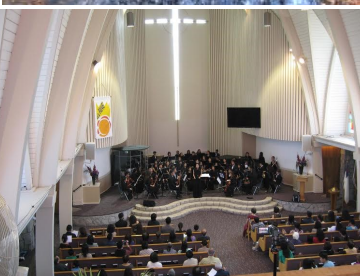
Outdoor Worship and Picnic



Family Trip to Oakland Zoo



At
Redwood
Regional
Park



Saying goodbye to our Worship Director



Peanut Butter Drive



VBS Camp Out



Mandarin Ministry English Class



Fremont Youth Symphony



2017: The Year in Pictures



Baptisms

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!" Psalm 115:1



Christmas Eve at IPC



Gujrati Christmas Worship and Celebration in Social Hall

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Birthday Party for Jesus - Mary Ellen McKowen

Mission Team extends heartfelt thanks to all who contributed gifts and to all who helped make a very successful Birthday Party for Jesus. About 150 gifts were delivered to Tri-City Volunteers; and indeed, there was a very happy, grateful response from the workers in charge. The gifts were distributed on Monday December 18, at the Children's Toy Christmas Party.

Your generosity brought smiles to many young faces.



Ladies out to Lunch - Gillian Carson

The "Ladies Out to Lunch" group will meet at BJ's restaurant:

Date: Tuesday January 16 at 11:30 AM

Location: 5699 Mowry Avenue, Newark CA

Contact: Gillian Carson - 510 657 4069

Preview of Future Activity

Want to hone your cooking skills, learn some new techniques or simply hang with your church friends and have a great meal? Be a part of the new IPC monthly cooking classes being planned



for later this month. The plan is to have a continuing program throughout the year on campus.

Pastor Ken Jacobsen will teach the class that will meet in the Social Hall beginning at 6:00PM. You will learn the basics of food handling, preparation and assist in the cooking.

You will then enjoy the delicious meal that you have helped to prepare. This is a great time for fellowship and creates an opportunity to get some of your friends together to form a small group.

Please call the church office (510) 657-3133 or contact Mustapha (510) 709 5406 to be involved in the planning or to participate. There is a suggested contribution of \$6 per class to help cover the cost of ingredients. Date of the first class will be announced by January 15.

Pastor Ken Jacobsen's Life Group

“The Holy History of God's People”



In the beginning, God walked in paradise with man as a friend. In the end, God will once again be with man in paradise. The path between is the story of God's people. God is the creator of all mankind. He loves all people. The plan of salvation is for all peoples.

The Jewish leaders made a mistake (in our opinion) closing the Old Testament Canon with the rebuilding of the Temple. In our opinion, the Old Testament closed with the birth and ministry of Jesus. Jesus is not explored as a separate topic in this class. That is saved for the next class. But note that the history of God's people does not end with the closing of the New Testament either. God's people are still making history. The Spirit of God works through His church that His Kingdom on Earth will be as it is in Heaven.

The Jewish people emerged from the Semitic tribes that populated Canaan. Their story told how Yahweh, their God, led them from slavery in Egypt to become a great nation destined to lead the world to a knowledge of God's saving grace. We often read the Bible piecemeal without an overview of the big picture. The big picture often helps us to understand more the significance of the events that swept the sons of Jacob onto the path of our salvation. The big picture includes archeology and world history.

The Old Testament ends with the rebuilding of the Temple in the 4th century before Christ. What happened during the three hundred years before Jesus was born? How does the ministry of Jesus relate to the stories of Abraham and his descendants? Paul's letter to the Galatians (4:4ff) tells us that Jesus came in the “fullness of time.” When the time was right, God's plan of salvation was revealed. Was this the message from the beginning? How is God's spirit leading His church today?

For 12 weeks, on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 7:00 PM, we will study God's Holy History. From January 17th through April 4th, we will explore the big picture. Mostly this a history course, except it will begin with an over-view of God's plan of history.... HIS STORY if you will.

Jan 17	Genesis 1-3The Prehistory: Creation
Jan 24	Genesis 4-5: Beginning of the world
Jan 31	Genesis 6-12: Salvation History
Feb 7	Exodus- 2 Samuel: From their exodus through their re-settlement in Canaan
Feb 14	1 Kings – Nehemiah: God's people in the Temple.
Feb 21	The Captivities: Assyria and Babylon both captured God's people
Feb 28	The Return: a pious and united people
Mar 7	The Maccabees: The Dynasty that Saved God's people
Mar 14	Herod: The third most important King of Israel's history
Mar 21	The Early Church
Mar 28	The Catholic Church
April 4	The Reformation and beyond

CONGREGATION NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Peter Bade	Kimberly Jeffries
Betty Blizel	Pat Jeffries
Patti Boyland	Vimla Macwan
Gill Carson	CM Macwan
Nibin Geevarghese	Alishan Merjanian
Jonathan Fadner	Diane McClure
Johnny Handono	Daxesh Patelia



Thank you to the church



family for
the out-
pouring
of love,
with
cards,
food and

prayers on Denise's pass-
ing. My family and I truly
appreciated everything.

Russ Pennelly

A Memorial Service for
Jackie Rockett was held at



IPC on
November 3,
with many
friends and
relatives in
attendance

celebrating her life.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Date: January 28, 2018

Time: 11:15 AM

Location: Social Hall

Agenda:

Election of Officers for 2018

Annual Report

Election of Corporate Officers

Election of three at large members for NomCom

Reaffirm the terms of the call for Pastor

Presentation of Budget

Questions and Answers

Mandarin Ministry ESL - Elaine Jiang

The IPC English as a Second Language Class started on October 7th, 2017 and ended December 17th, 2017. Out of a total of 12 students who attended, six completed the class and received certificates of honor. God led most of these students to us from Mainland China. They are in our community helping their extended families to care for their grandchildren.



All are guests of the on-campus Tri-City Breakfast Program.

These students enthusiastically learned English conversations in daily life and some Gospel words. We introduced and explained the American holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas to them; and shared the Gospel of Jesus through the holiday season. For Thanksgiving, our group enjoyed a delicious Chinese potluck and fellowship. Most of the group are seniors with ambitious drive eagerly studying English in a casual and fun environment. They expressed gratitude to Mei, Jonathan, myself and IPC for making this opportunity possible.

FRIENDS OF IPC

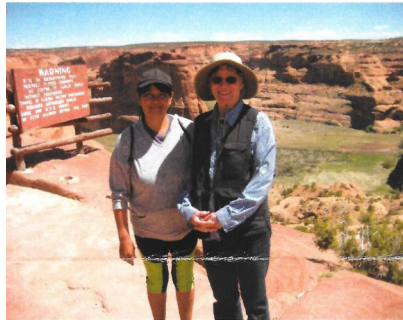
The Boylands. . . All seven of us who live on our farm, "Chetwyn" enjoy worship at



Creekside Community Church in San Leandro. Patti and Michael also attend Bayside Cambodian Church, where Patti teaches a Bible class to the Cambodian ladies, which is a great support group for all concerned. Michael preaches there occasionally in English.



In February, a big mudslide blocked our driveway for a day. Thanks to our neighbor, the East Bay Regional Parks, for clearing it so quickly.



In April, Patti and Michael toured the national parks of the Southwest. Canyon de Chelly was amazing. Here is Patti with our Navajo guide.



In 2017, our farm, Chetwyn, produced a good crop of avocados which Dave, Anna and Kimberly, Emma and Sarah sold weekly from April through October at the Hayward farmers' market, with our help from time to time. Here is the Chetwyn's avocado farm with the City of San Francisco in the background.

In June, we were on a short-term mission to Cambodia led by Chamron Phal, a Cambodian pastor and evangelist. We saw some evidence of the 1975-79 "Killing Fields." Cambodia is predominantly Buddhist with lots and lots of idols; but we met some wonderful Cambodian Christians. Here we are with team members and the field director of Overseas Missionary Fellowship in Cambodia.



IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



January 25 is the deadline for our February 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 January issue.

***This month's Cornerstone pictures were provided courtesy of:
Sonal Patelia, Ron Fong, Peggy Handono,
Johnny Handono, Patti Boyland, Tri-City
Volunteers***

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

A special thanks to Pastor Michael and Patti Boyland for sharing their family update and pictures.

Kamroon and Mustapha Baksh

Editors