



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, 2018

The Genius of Generosity

Sundays

Bible study 11:30 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

(Nursery and Children
Sunday School During
Service)

"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.

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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 wants us to be supremely generous.

DEACONS' CORNER

The Ministry of Compassion and Service

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 planned memorial luncheons for our dear friends Brenda Smith, Jim Putler and Diane McClure. IPC Family celebrated the times spent with Leila Kalin and Mary Ellen McKowen who have relocated to Pleasanton and Santa Cruz respectively.



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 Gillian Carson will spearhead the drive and the Deacons will begin taking orders early in December. The cost per plant will be announced later. The goal is to adorn the sanctuary with 40 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 for this purpose, please contact one of the Deacons. This year in an attempt to cover the entire congregation, Session Members were asked to provide regular contact with church members. Each Session Member now has five church members with whom they make regular contact.

In January, your Nominating Committee will be actively searching for 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:

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 commodes, crutches, canes and adult briefs. These are available for members and their families.

Currently there is a need for functioning wheel chairs. If anyone knows of wheel chairs that are available for loan to those in need; or if you need to use any of the items listed above, please contact:

Deacon Gillian Carson (510) 6574068 or email: gillian1@concast.net



SESSION NEWS & NOTES

On Sunday September 9, when Pastor Larry announced his resignation, Session understood that there is a lot to be done before January 1. Your Session first turned to prayer: ***"In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*** Philippians 4:6 NIV

Focusing on the word petition in the above passage, your Session was specific as we prayed for God's presence and guidance in discerning the next steps for our congregation.

The Presbytery of San Francisco appointed a four member Engagement Team that will work with Session and the congregation over the next few months. The Engagement Team members are Rev. Gregory Chan, Rev. Dr. Keith Geckeler, Rev. Don Smith and Bruce Schlobohm. The Engagement Team participated in the Session Meeting of September 18. At this meeting the Team shared their main objective which is to walk alongside IPC as we transition to a new Pastor. Other points discussed at the initial meeting were to schedule a Town Hall Meeting to share plans going forward and a Congregational Meeting to dissolve the current Pastoral relationship. In order to have a Pastor available beginning January 1, 2019, their recommendation was to have a Transitional Pastor.

Some other decisions at the September meeting were to change the landscaping service and hire a local retired Pastor to cut the lawn every two weeks. All further discussion with Child Leap Pre-school were terminated because the organization was unable to provide the documents needed to enter into a lease agreement.

At the October 16, meeting it was decided to hold a Town Hall Meeting on October 28, to share plans going forward and answer any questions that members may have. A Congregational Meeting was scheduled for November 4 to dissolve the Pastoral relationship between IPC and Pastor Larry Thorson. A Special Meeting was scheduled for November 12, to discuss the Transitional Pastor.

Another important decision taken at this meeting was to recruit a pianist for worship services beginning January. This decision was agreed upon because it was becoming very difficult to have volunteer pianists regularly. This pianist would also be available for weddings and memorials.

At the Town Hall Meeting on October 28, Presbytery shared the plan going forward. Don Carson and Ron Fong volunteered to be the liaisons with the Presbytery Engagement Team. IPC members Brook Mantia, Jenny Pellot, Don Carson and Mustapha Baksh formed the Transitional Team with Bruce Schlobohm as the Chair. Minutes of the Town Hall meeting were distributed via email.

The Congregation Meeting on November 4, approved the dissolution of the Pastoral relationship between the Rev. Dr. Larry Thorson and Irvington Presbyterian Church effective December 30.

The November 12 meeting accepted the resignation of Elder David Wegener as the B&G Elder and approved the Clerk to carry out these duties until the new Session meets in February 2019. Due to the transition, Nomination and Election for Deacons and Elders were postponed to February 2019.

As we work through this time of transition and change we ask for your prayers and rely on God's promise: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."* Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV

MISSIONS: THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

News From The Field - Tim and Ginny Gradin

We left Pine Ridge in May and now live temporarily on our son's property near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. We have been seeking God's guidance regarding our next move and exactly what our new ministry will be. We recently secured a place 35 miles west of Prince Albert. We hoped to be



moved by the time you read this newsletter. Part of our ministry will be a renewed emphasis on Bible translation into the Denesuline language. I will be connecting with our NCEM co-worker, Bobby Moberly, via Skype as we continue working in the book of Exodus. We will also work on getting the book of Genesis into production; collaborating with Pierre and Meggie DeMers (Wycliffe Bible Translators who live in Alaska). They

have other Dene individuals working on several New Testament books. We plan trips into the Dene communities in NW Saskatchewan, encouraging people in difficult circumstances to follow the Lord.

There is a new aspect of ministry that we look forward to developing in the coming months. Ginny and I recently took a course to become certified "Equine Assisted Learning" (EAL) facilitators. We would like to use our animals to reach out to people who are not responding to the more common means of Gospel outreach. Many indigenous people of Canada have been affected by the abuses of the residential school system that operated here for over 100 years. As a result, many people today suffer from addictions and dysfunctions that greatly affect their quality of life. The system was not all bad, but there were some awful things done in the name of "Christianity". It seems that the Church today is not really taking responsibility for what happened, saying things like, "I wasn't there," or "It wasn't my denomination that did those things." We believe that us Christians have the true solution for their need – the Good News about Jesus (John 14:6). Unfortunately many Christians today are biased (or even racist) and have "closed their heart" to the people of the North and are not demonstrating God's love to them (1 John 3:17). Meanwhile, many Denes feel there is no hope and are ending their lives at an alarming rate that is about 4 or 5 times the Canadian suicide average. Since harm was done to these people in the name of "Christianity," true Christians need to step up and take action. Just as medical missions and rescue missions seek to meet people's physical needs in order to present the Gospel to them; we believe there are some people in the North whose emotional needs are so overwhelming, that they won't really be able to listen to what we have to say until we reach out to help them in a tangible way.

"Equine Assisted Learning" is a program that uses horses to help teach life skills and build self esteem. Ginny and I feel that EAL could be an effective door-opener for the Gospel. Our goal is to find others who would join us in developing what could be a very valuable tool in ministry to people of the North who are giving up on life.

We pray and request your prayers for:

Our ability to complete our move safely before cold weather sets in.

Significant progress this winter with the Bible translation process.

God will clearly guide the development of the EAL approach to ministry

Opportunities to provide encouragement to those in NW Saskatchewan



FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE

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

Family Ministries has been busy in 2018 growing in faith and fellowship. This summer we enjoyed church picnics and games, and "Summer Fun Nights" which encouraged families to play together on Wednesday nights in July and August. Our parents and youth enjoyed outdoor games of skill, laser tag, a detective mystery hunt around the church facility, and a wet and wild water games night. In September we enjoyed a fun excursion to the Oakland Zoo, where we visited the new California Trail animal exhibit. Our families have bonded and grown in faith and commitment to each other.



Connect Nights, our mid-week Bible study night at IPC, was changed from Wednesdays to Tuesday nights this fall. Classes for children, youth, the Family Life group for adults, and the Mandarin Ministry Bible study join together for a meal and break out into separate classes to learn and fellowship together. We enjoyed watching the C.S. Lewis movie "Voyage of the Dawn Treader" in October in between study topics. Currently, the Family Life parents are studying the life of Joseph in Max Lucado's "You'll Get Through This," and the Mandarin-speaking class is studying the book of Mark.

Connect Nights have grown in numbers of participants. Room 6 has been our dinner space, however, we no longer have enough room for the approximately 40 people attending classes, so I have pushed forward the project to clean, paint, re-organize and repair rooms 7/8 so that we may expand into that larger venue. We look forward to utilizing this room in December!

December will be upon us soon! Family Ministries is sponsoring "The Hanging of the Greens" on Saturday, December 1st from 3:00-5:00. We will decorate the sanctuary, enjoy music and sweets, and play some Christmas trivia games. Everyone is welcome – we hope you will all join us!



Families will be attending the inspirational Christmas performance "Forever Christmas" at 3 Crosses Church in Castro Valley on December 15th at 2:30 pm. Tickets are available at 3crosses.org. The more, the merrier!

Children and youth will participate in worship with a Christmas performance on December 23rd. They look forward to sharing their talents with us.

As we look to the future, God is already there. I pray that He continues to bless His people at Irvington Presbyterian Church as they grow in faith and love.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Birthday Party for Jesus

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 9, and celebrate with us. You may



include wrapping 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 to Tri-City Volunteers on Monday December 10th.

One Great Hour of Sharing: Because of your generosity we were able to help Special Offerings with \$415, which exceeded last years total of \$386. Thank you. Your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.



Christmas Joy Offering: This special offering is scheduled for Sunday December 9.

Envelopes will be available in the narthex beginning November 18. You may place your offering in the collection plate or mail to the Church office. Please mark your checks Christmas Joy Offering.

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 schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



Flower Ministry

Each week, IPC members and friends have the opportunity to contribute to the beauty of worship



by dedicating flowers in thanksgiving, in honor of, or in memory of loved ones or to commemorate special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries. A dedication will be placed in the bulletin to share the event with the IPC family. If you are interested in dedicating flowers, you may do so by filling out the flower calendar in the narthex.

You may also contact Thea Pex: (510) 657 3899 or email: theampex567@gmail.com

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Kids Club

This year will be the 11th year that IPC members have been involved in the after school Bible Club at Hirsch Elementary School. We work with members from Fremont Community Church and Harbor Light Church as we teach children from grades K thru 6 about Jesus. Every Monday from 2:30 until 4:00 starting January 28, 2019 we will be singing praise songs, reading bible stories, having crafts, snacks and games. Some of these children have never heard about Jesus and we spend each week letting them know how much they are loved by the God who created all things. The past few years we have had 30 – 35 children from many different backgrounds who joyfully sing and make crafts that relate to the bible story for that day. This year we will be teaching lessons about the Fruit of the Spirit.



Over the years a number of people from IPC have helped to keep this program running and IPC became the sponsoring church four years ago. Currently the leaders are Carol Lynn and Vickie Odonahue from Fremont Community Church.

For anyone who would like to experience the joy of helping children learn about Jesus, we can use some helpers for little hands as they do crafts. This is a 1 ½ hour once a week commitment that you will never regret making. *"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)*

For more information contact Carol Lynn 510-797-7993.

Saying Goodbye to Mary Ellen McKowen

Sunday October 28, members and friends gathered after worship to say goodbye to our dear friend



and fellow parishioner Mary Ellen McKowen. She will be greatly missed. Mary Ellen arrived at IPC in March 1977 when her husband Pastor Paul was called to be the Pastor at IPC. She has remained at IPC since and served as Deacon, Elder, Mission Chair and mentor. In 2017, Mary Ellen remarked: "Here at IPC, I was introduced to working and becoming more knowledgeable about the expansive field of Missions. This has been a very rewarding experience not only in learning about the work of Christ all over the world, but also in becoming acquainted with many missionaries and learning from them the marvelous ways the Lord provides".

*We feel sorrow in your leaving,
yet we rejoice with you in anticipation of this new phase of your life.*

*We will miss your love and support,
yet we know you will add much to the lives
of those who will be your new church family,
as you have added much to our lives.*

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 11	CE Meeting	November 17	Cooking Class
Tuesdays	Connect Night	November 17	Gujarati Fellowship 6 pm
November 12	Session Meeting 7 pm	November 18	Mission Sunday & Meeting 11:30 am
November 12	Special Session Meeting 8 pm	November 20	TCFBP Steering Committee 7 pm
November 15	SIS 4 pm	November 22	Thanksgiving Holiday

Church Directory

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



Bible Studies

Sunday Bible Study - at 11:30 AM in the McKowen Room following worship.
Contact Ken Jacobsen for details.

Women's Bible Study - Women meet Mondays in the McKowen Room at 9:30 AM.
Contact Helen Jorgensen for details.

CONGREGATION NEWS



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



Patti and Pastor Michael Boyland
Janti Lie and Kelvin Chow
Jillian and Don Carson



Brenda Smith
Jim Putler
Diane McClure

Peanut Butter Drive

The Tri-City Free Breakfast Program peanut butter drive, part of the city-wide "Make A Difference Day" campaign, received



an astonishing 542 lbs. of peanut butter (and still counting) - a great success! Volunteers spent over 44 hours advertising, collecting and sorting. 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 have helped to make a significant difference!***

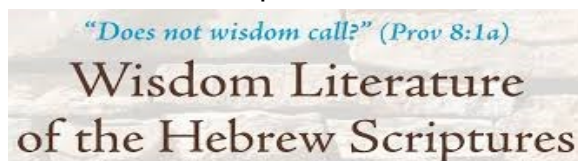
https://www.facebook.com/pg/Tri-City-Free-Breakfast-Program-517330975010219/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1495508967192410



Bible Class

Many of you have attended Ken Jacobsen's Bible classes on Wednesday nights. Beginning Sunday November 18, this class will move to Sundays at 11:30 am in the McKowen Room. A light lunch will be served.

We will be studying Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, Song of Solomon and the other books that are called "Wisdom Literature". Each of these books explores the same basic theme and tackles the



same basic question—what does it look like to live a good life? With two

ex-pastors teaching, this promises to be an exciting class. Come and join us!

Contact Ken Jacobsen for details: ken@jacobsen46.com

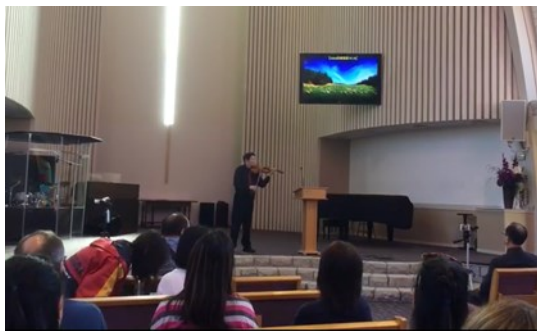
IPC MANDARIN MINISTRY FULE CHURCH

October 26 was an auspicious occasion for the FULE Church. The first official Mandarin Worship Service was held in the McKowen Room with 65 attendees. The average weekly attendance is about 14. Elder Elaine expects this will grow as the community becomes familiar with the service.

"In whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit." Ephesians 2:21-22 ESV

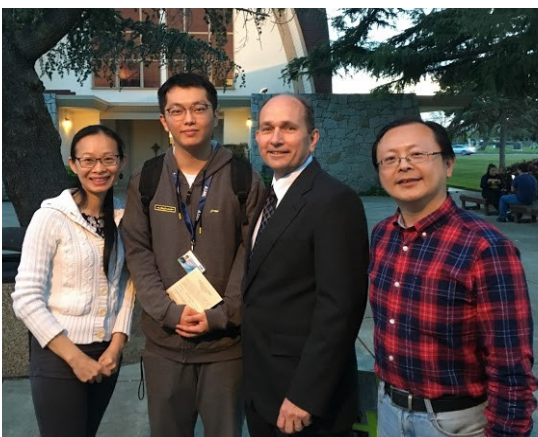


On September 29, FULE Church held an evangelical violin concert in the sanctuary to share the gospel through Shang Quan's testimony with the community. There were 81 in attendance.



Shang Quan is a world renown violinist and Christian music producer. He was born in Beijing and grew up in a Christian home. Shang Quan's violin, combined with his playing of other instruments, expresses the love of God to the world. He has held hundreds of Evangelistic music and charity concerts in North America, Australia, China and Southeast Asia. IPC was blessed with his music.

Elder Elaine has decided to pursue the ordination track to become a Pastor with the PCUSA.



There is much work ahead of her. Your IPC Session will be meeting with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry to understand what is needed to have her under care of Session.

Jonathan who is completing his studies within the next month has decided to pursue the Commissioned Lay Pastor track. Session will also be meeting with the Committee on Ministry to understand what is needed to take him under care.

Pray for your Session as we discern how to proceed with Elaine and Jonathan.

STEWARDSHIP



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.

Twenty-seven enthusiastic individuals signed up and attended Stewardship luncheon meetings on Sunday November 4 and November 11. You may place your pledge card in the collection plate or mark "confidential pledge" and mail to the Church Office.

Commitment Sunday is Sunday November 18.

2018-19 Pledge Card

\$ _____ per (check one, please) Week _____ Month _____ Year _____ Total 2019 IPC Pledge \$ _____ Total 2019 Mission Pledge \$ _____ (Keep this stub for your records)	Name _____ Envelope # _____ Address _____ Phone _____ City _____ Zip _____
	<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px;"> \$ _____ per (check one please) Week _____ Month _____ Year _____ Total 2019 IPC Pledge \$ _____ Total 2019 Missions Pledge \$ _____ </div>
	I (We) understand that this is a faith commitment for 2019 and that the amount may be adjusted due to changing circumstances.
	Signed: _____ Date: _____ Irvington Presbyterian Church 4181 Irvington Avenue, Fremont, CA 94538



If you were unable to attend Stewardship Meetings or you need a Pledge Card, you may use the one above. Pledge cards will also be available in the narthex through December.. Anyone may make a pledge to IPC and Mission Ministry. Contact Stewardship Chair for more information. (510) 709-5406

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Please Note: November 26 is the deadline for our December 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 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 and Vickie Odonahue

Kamroon and Mustapha Baksh

Editors