

Torrance First Baptist Church the Proclaimer

November 2018

Volume 31 Issue 11



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Join us for a remarkable musical experience!!

*Sunday, November 4, 2018
6:00 p.m. at
Torrance First Baptist Church*



*Giving Thanks Potluck, Dessert,
and Business Meeting
Sunday, November 18, 5:30 p.m.*

Everyone is invited to meet in the gym for our annual time of Giving Thanks to the Lord for all of our blessings. This is also a time when your church staff gives thanks, not only to the Lord, but also to YOU because of your presence and service here at TFB. To show our appreciation, the staff will be providing and serving dessert.

Those with last names beginning with A-M, bring a salad; N-Z, a main dish. A short business meeting will follow in the Worship Center to elect our Officers, Deacons, and Deaconesses and adopt the 2019 budget.

Proclaimers are also available for viewing and printing on-line: www.tbclife.org



Message from our Transitional Pastor:

Dear church family,

I am a transitional pastor, not an interim pastor. That is what the Lord has called me to be. And you are wondering right now ... what in the world is the difference and why should I really care. I'm glad you brought that up. Allow me to explain.

An interim pastor usually has a much shorter tenure. His job is simply to keep the boat afloat. He fills the pulpit on Sunday mornings and maintains things pretty much as they are. Larger issues such as direction or vision or church health are not investigated. If there is an elephant in the room, that imposing animal is overlooked. The interim pastor simply keeps the boat afloat until the new captain is called. It is then the challenge of the new captain to attack all those important and often gnarly issues.

A transitional pastor is different. He doesn't just keep the boat afloat ... he gives it direction. He assembles a crew of teammates who together determine a new destination. A new course is charted. He makes necessary repairs to the ship in preparation for the long voyage. And yes, if there is an elephant on board, it is thrown overboard! If you think about it, all this would be a little daunting, if not downright scary, for a brand new permanent pastor to do. Having left his former job and relocated to a new city, a new permanent pastor is not likely to rock the boat (pardon all the metaphors!).

I'm just trying to do my part ... to prepare this church for a new and vibrant future. I have a part in this venture, the permanent pastor has a part, the leadership of this church has a part, and so does everyone else. Ultimately, as Paul puts it, it is God who causes growth:

"What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe — as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow"
(I Corinthians 3: 5-7).

I hope you care about the future of Torrance First Baptist and are willing to make the necessary adjustments so we can embark on a new and exciting voyage. The most important thing you can do right now is pray. Ultimately, it is God who will enable us to reach our new destination, so we must pray for His wisdom and direction and strength.

"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. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:11-14).

Pastor Alex

Reflections

by Pastor Rog

Dear Family,

We are rapidly coming to the end of another year. As this happens, so many thoughts cross my mind. God in His great mercy has so abundantly blessed Joyce and me this past year. We rejoice at His care for us. We also recall some very difficult situations which have taken place—situations which have hurt and saddened us; situations which we still don't understand but which we've committed to Him. Truly He knows best. We've realized once again that trying to handle these things on our own could bring defeat and bitterness, but we don't want that. These negative thoughts cripple our testimony and

interfere in our worship of Him.

Thanksgiving to the Lord is what we need to continually build our lives upon.

In thinking of this, I was drawn to Psalm 7. Here David is pleading to the Lord for vindication regarding someone who has accused him of wrong doing—something which David was not guilty of, something which had shaken him greatly. As he pours out his heart to the Lord, he ends the psalm on a note of praise. As of yet, nothing has changed with his accuser, but something has changed within him. He's leaving this difficult situation in God's hands. This psalm ends with vs. 17 which says:

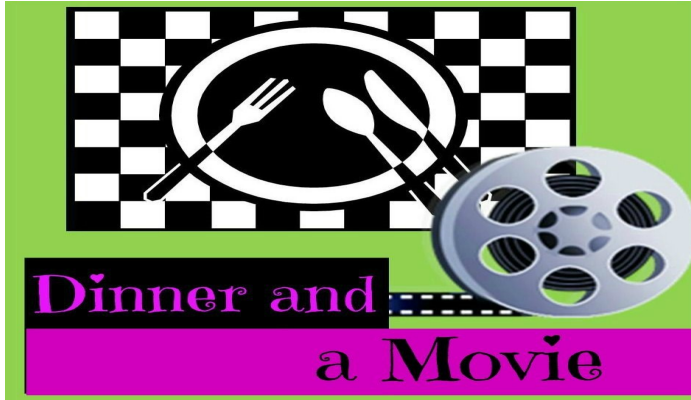


"I will give thanks to the Lord because of His righteousness and will sing praise to the Name of the Lord most high."

What a step of spiritual growth this was for David.

Now some of us might be tempted to say, "but you don't know what I've gone through. It's been tough!"

Women's Ministries Presents



**Dinner and
a Movie**

*Saturday, November 17
6:00 p.m.*

All ladies are invited to join us here at Torrance First Baptist in the annex and basement for a potluck and the old classic musical, "Kiss Me Kate." There is no charge except for you to bring a dish to share.



Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, Nov. 3!



Samaritan's Purse sends shoeboxes filled with gifts to needy children around the world. You can help by filling a shoebox with small new toys, school supplies, and hygiene items (toothbrush, comb/brush, soap, wash cloth, deodorant, etc.).* Use your own box or pick up an empty, wrapped shoebox in the patio and a brochure giving details about what to put in your box and what not to put in .

Samaritan's Purse is asking \$9 per box for shipping. Filled shoeboxes need to be here at the church by **November 4**.

*Remember **NO LIQUIDS** and **NO CANDY** or **TOOTHPASTE** is allowed.



*Seniors & Friends
Luncheon
Friday, November 16
12 noon*

This is our free Thanksgiving and Christmas Celebration. Just bring your appetite!

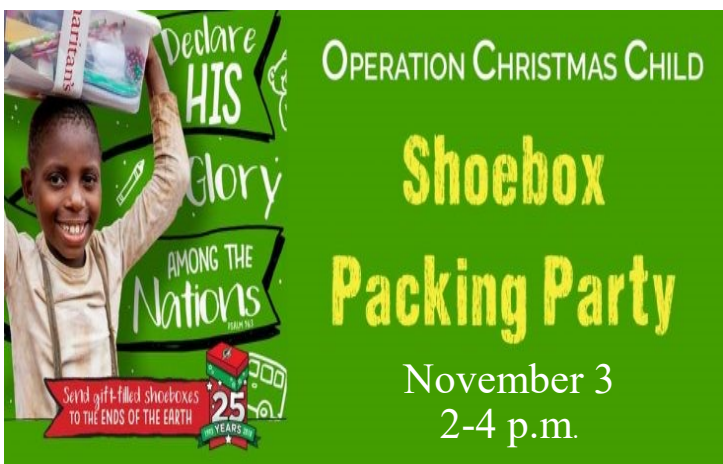
**Sign up in the patio
or your Sunday School Class.**

C4 MINISTRIES & Kids' News

HIGH SCHOOL MOVIE NIGHT

*Sunday, November 11
6:00 p.m.*

Pizza, drinks, and snacks provided.



Anyone who is interested in helping to pack shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox ministry is invited to join us the basement.



*3rd Friday of
each month*

*November 16
6-9 p.m.*

Parents, leave the kids (infants through 5th grade) to have dinner and a movie with us while you enjoy a night out together. It will be "Scarecrow" night.

We are asking for a donation of \$3/child.

C4 Happenings

by Sarah Simpson

The C4 Ministries have continued to see God's blessings! On behalf of Matt Strand, I will quickly discuss the ways God has been using and working in our high school and college groups this month. Our time in October has primarily been spent focusing on fun and fellowship events as well as on our contributions to the transitional process at TFB.

We have been very busy with many fun activities that God has provided for us. At the end of September, a number of our high school students joined other churches in our CLC group for a fun night of worship, learning, and broomball. This was a very successful event that we hope continues for years to come! In the past weeks, we have also had a few birthdays in our groups, and we have loved the opportunity to celebrate our students. And, additionally, our staple game and movie nights have allowed our students a release from the stress of school and continued to unify our family.

C4 has also been committed to growth and betterment in the last few weeks. At the end of September, Matt and I traveled to Nevada for an Evangelism Conference. Matt was asked to lead a seminar on the subject, and we gained valuable ideas to bring back to TFB. Along with the rest of the church, our high school and college students participated in focus groups on Saturday, October 13. We are grateful for their involvement and desire to contribute to the church as a whole. We pray that their insights will help our church become what God has willed for TFB.

In the upcoming months, we have many things planned. We are currently trying to form a supportive relationship with Torrance High School's Cross Country team, in hopes of reaching out to their student athletes. Additionally, we have many fun events planned for Halloween and the holidays thereafter.

We ask that you would be praying for our group during our church's transition, so that we could continue to grow and reach the youth in our community. And with the holiday season quickly approaching, we are praying that God would send more high school and college students our way. We pray that your family would be blessed with health and happiness. Thank you for your support and prayers!

Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship



Dinner Night ~ Saturday, November 10, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at Islands Restaurant, 2647 Pacific Coast Highway (in Rolling Hills Plaza)



Game Night for the month of November has been cancelled due to too many conflicting schedules.



For additional questions, suggestions, or more information, call Gloria, 562/505-4495.

TFB Academy

The Bible and Discipleship

By Laura Springer, M.Div., Th.M, Ph.D.

We believe that the Bible is true and trustworthy and that God has given it to us so we might understand and do his will. This means the Bible ought to shape our daily lives. God's purposes for his people and his design of us as learners give some insight into some ways to encourage this.

Purpose. Christians have a grand purpose that can be summed up in three phrases: know the story, be the people, expand the kingdom. Knowing the story begins with the content of Scripture and goes on to include our active participation in God's work. Being the people is living in relationship with Christ and fellow believers. Expanding the kingdom is becoming and making disciples.

Process. Generally speaking, we humans learn by increasing knowledge (investigating), putting that knowledge into practice (participating), and thinking through how we're doing so we can learn more (reflecting).

Insight at the intersection of purpose and process

| | KNOW THE STORY | BE THE PEOPLE | EXPAND THE KINGDOM |
|-------------|--|---|---|
| INVESTIGATE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take steps to understand Scripture. Take steps to see the reflections of God's glory in all his creation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link Scripture to life. Learn in community with other believers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take time to think together. Design ways to make disciples of Jesus in your context. |
| PARTICIPATE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translate the truth about God and his priorities into actions and values. Live out these actions and values as persons in community in Christ. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put the truth of God into practice as a community of believers. Help one another grow in Christ. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work together to make disciples. Share life together and grow as disciples. |
| REFLECT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflect on what you have learned and practiced as individuals in community. Put the fruits of reflection into practice as you continue investigating and participating. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate your understanding and practice as you gather with other believers. Grow together as you learn from one another's knowledge and experience. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly evaluate your disciple-making methods. Make adjustments as needed. |

In all these intersections we are called to live together as persons in community in Christ, and the Bible is a crucial part of this life together. The Bible's importance for private devotion and theological reflection must be accompanied by its shaping of us as the people of God who are conforming to the image of Christ.

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | Recurring Weekly Events: |
|---|------------------------------------|--|-----|---|---|---|--|
| 4 Samaritan's Purse Shoboxes due 2:30p Sing at Royalwood 6p Bonner Singers | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 7p Beacon Light Mission | 9 | 10 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out | Sunday Worship Services: 9:15 a.m. & 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 & 11 a.m. Worship & Witness, 6 p.m. [except 11/4 & 11/18] Children's Church, 9:15 a.m. Patio Fellowship, 10:30 a.m. Children & Youth S.S., 11 a. |
| 11 C.H.A.T. results both am. Services 12:15p SLT Mtng. 5:20p Prayer Group 6p H.S. Movie Nite | 12 | 13 12n Shut-in Meeting | 14 | 15 | 16 12n Strs. & Friends Luncheon 6p Kids' Night Out | 17 6p Ladies' Dinner & Movie 7p Share & Care | Monday Ladies' Prayer, 10:00 a.m. King's Karate, 6:30 p.m. Men's BSF, 6:55 p.m. |
| 18 5:30p Give Thanks Potluck & Meeting | 19 7p Finance & FacMan Teams | 20 6p Ministry Teams: Fellowship, GO, Outreach, Worship, & Disc. Dev. 7p Deacon/ess Mtngs | 21 | 22 Office Closed— Happy Thanksgiving | 23 Office Closed | 24 Singles' Game Night canceled | Tuesday C4 High School Leadership, 5:30 p.m. C4 High School, 7 p.m. |
| 25 5:20p Prayer Group | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | Wednesday Men's Lunch @ Sizzler, 12:30p Family Dinner, 6 p.m. [except 11/21] Colossians Kids, 6:30 p.m. [except 11/21] Knowing God Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. [except 11/21] Bible Study w/Pastor Alex, 6:30p [except 11/21] Jr. High QUEST, 6:30 p.m. [no 11/21] Choir Practice, 7 p.m. Open Volleyball, 8:15 p.m. |
| | | | | | | | Thursday Ladies' Bible Study, 2p C4 College Group, 7 p.m. 7th Day Baptist Bible Study, 7 p.m. [except 11/22] |
| | | | | | | | Friday Ladies meet @ Denny's for Bkfst., 9 a.m. Bible Study @ Greteman's, 6:15 p.m. |
| | | | | | | | Saturday Men's BSF Leaders, 6 a.m. 7th Day Baptists, 9 a.m. |

Upcoming December Events:

- 12/1 ~ Loaves & Fishes, 11a
- 12/2 ~ SLT Meeting, 12:15p
- 12/8 ~ Singles' Dinner Out, 6:30p
- 12/9 ~ Christmas Cantata, 6p
- 12/14 ~ Kids' Night Out, 6p
- 12/22 ~ Singles' Game Night, 6:30p
- 12/23 ~ Special Candlelight Service, 6p
- 12/24-1/2 ~ Office closed, Christmas thru New Year





We have a new feature of the “Proclaimer” written by Gloria Pedersen. If you would like to be featured in “Getting to Know You,” please contact her at 562/505-4495, or don’t be surprised if she contacts you. Gloria, herself, is in the spotlight this month.

Gloria Pedersen has been attending Torrance First Baptist Church since 2011 after moving to Torrance from Long Beach. She attends the first service and is just completing her first year as a TFB Deaconess. Gloria is involved in the Singles & Friends fellowship group and hosts their Game Nights in her home the 4th Saturday of every month.

Gloria is a Southern California native having been born and raised in Newport Beach. Gloria has been a life-long Christian and started attending the original Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa in 1970 where she met her husband of 46 years, Jim Pedersen. After a long illness, Jim passed away in 2016. They have two children: Jonathan, who lives in Newport Beach with his Great Dane, Nash, and Jennifer, who lives in Redondo Beach with her husband and their daughter and son.

Before retiring 6 years ago, Gloria had a long career as an executive administrative assistant to presidents, vice-presidents and directors in corporate America. She and her husband Jim also did residential property management, maintenance and renovation for 16 years. Gloria has a degree in Journalism and still does occasional freelance writing projects.

Gloria enjoys sewing, crafting, cooking and creative writing.

Something you might be surprised to know about Gloria: She has won 10 Blue Ribbons for her sewing and cooking at the Orange County Fair, and below is a sample of her creative writing ability.

THE CLOSET CHRISTIAN

By Gloria Myrick Pedersen

Jesus spoke to me at the dawn of a new day
About a man that lives far, far away.

Write him a letter, He said
And tell him why I bled.

But, alas, I was beat – really dead!
I just couldn’t get my head
Off that cozy bed.

God told me one Sunday morn to feel
What in others He wanted heal.
But fear made my head to reel
And turned my pounding heart to steel.

Reach out and meet a need
His Holy Spirit would plead.
A touch, a gentle Word is the Holy Seed
That bears a harvest of Love, not greed.

But You can’t use me
I’d cry out in grief!
‘Cuz I’m just little ‘ole ordinary me –
At least that’s my belief.

Take time out of your busy day
Said my Lord as I hurried along my way.
Learn of Me, talk to Me, let’s be Friends, okay?
Sorry lord, so much to do – a really hectic day
But I’ll try to make a little time before I hit the hay.

“Do you love Me, my daughter,”
The Father would inquire?
“Oh yes, of course! Why I’d never totter
From the Path that leads to You, Sire.”

“You grieve My Heart my little one.”
The Father did lament.
“Too often, it’s your will – not Mine that’s done
Before the day is spent.

O! The Blessings that would abound
From you to others all around
If you would only serve the Crown
That made you from the dust of the ground.

So many excuses fill My ears,
Won’t you let Me –
Calm your fears?
Dry your tears?
Exalt you before your peers?
Worry about the heathen’s jeers?

Oh, Lord forgive me for my unbelief
For fears and a prideful heart.
Oh what joy and relief
When at last I’m doing my part!

No longer will I let my pride
Build a wall behind which to hide.
Your Love for me will be my Guide
I’m so happy to be your Bride!

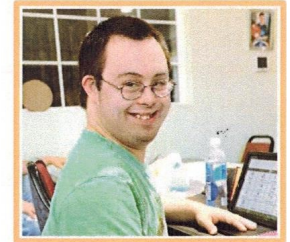


TFB Mission Outreach



Rainbow Acres
A residential Christian Community Serving
Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Meet Charlie! He arrived at Rainbow Acres about 17 months ago at the age of 26 and entered the Transition Program. When he arrived, he was a little anxious and very shy, spoke very little, and carried a Talking Picture Pad to help him communicate with others. Charlie comes from a very loving family where relationships are very close. Agape House became his daytime home between activities and events on the Ranch.



The guys in Agape House welcomed Charlie and were thrilled to have a new housemate. Dale and Austin quickly became his closest friends. They helped him get to Prayer Circle, Stepping Stones Crew with Austin, and then meet for lunch at the Palmer Center. In the afternoon, they would go together to the Recreation Room or some other activity on the Ranch. At the end of the day, Charlie would have dinner with the men at Agape, before his mother or father would pick him up to return to their family home.

All across the Ranch, Ranchers and employees began to see his anxiety and shyness being replaced with his contagious smile and a gleam of joy in his eyes. Soon, he began staying overnight at Agape House, gaining confidence and independence. Now he is comfortable staying at Agape any number of consecutive days.

Before coming to Rainbow Acres, Charlie's parents secured the services of a Speech Therapist to assist him in developing speaking skills. At Rainbow, he became involved in a Speech Therapy group with other Ranchers facilitated by Master's program students from Northern Arizona University's Speech Therapy department.

At Prayer Circle, Ranchers often sing, share joys and concerns, and make personal prayer requests for family, friends, their dog back home, and other concerns. **IMAGINE EVERYONE'S SURPRISE when Charlie stood up and boldly spoke of his prayer requests! Everyone was so excited to hear Charlie speak, they cheered him on!**

At first, Charlie's speech included just a few words. As he continued to make progress, his sentences became clearer and his words longer. He exudes new confidence every day and has begun calling everyone by their name. There is nothing more beautiful than hearing Charlie call you by name.

You share in Charlie's success with your love, compassion and generosity. You make a difference in the Ranchers' lives, as each one perseveres in reaching his/her highest potential and personal goals.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry. Long ago, there was a Rancher, Jules Andre, from FBC of Torrance. God bless!!

Gary Wagner, President & CEO



We have about 6 ½ weeks until our big Loaves and Fishes outreach luncheon and give-away on December 1. Each year we make up 100 hygiene bags of large items for the adults and give toys to the kids under 16. We average about 40 kids and teens each year.

We are in need of toys, jewelry, games and gift cards. Now is the time to look for those sales. We ask that each gift given is about 10-15 dollars each. Generally the gift cards are for the teens as they are hard to buy for.

Large size hygiene items are needed as listed below:

Liquid soap - 75 Shampoo - 55 Hand cream - 9 Tooth paste - 80
Lip balm - 100 Combs - 100 Socks for Men & Women -100 pairs
Bags to carry items - 100

Toys for ages 1-12 (about 40) and 15 gift cards for teens 10-15. All of these items are needed by November 26, as I need time to get what is not donated.

I thank you ahead of time for your support for the Loaves and Fishes outreach program. If you have any questions please call me.

Linda Stratton, 310/328-5371.



FOR THE NEEDY

We are asking everyone to bring canned and boxed food to help with the pantries at Love INC, Stillman Sawyer (Salvation Army), Doors of Hope, and Beacon Light Mission.

Please bring them through November 11 and put them in the box in the foyer. Please, no expired dates.

Reflections *continued from p. 2*

When I look into my own life, when I've been tempted to participate in a "pity party," the Lord has reminded me of a dear older gentleman I met in the 1970's. I'd been asked to preach at a youth camp in Prescott, AZ. We had a great time! While there, it was my privilege to interact with a man who could only speak two words. You could say anything you wanted to him, and his answer was always the same—WONDERFUL GOD. You see, he had fallen off one of the cabin roofs which he was repairing. It resulted in severe brain damage. Only one side of his body worked and his speech was reduced to these two words—WONDERFUL GOD. With a big smile, he would speak to us the message of his heart—WONDERFUL GOD!

What this said to me was that through his life, he had made it his spiritual habit to thank the Lord no matter what came his way. And now, as an older gentleman, he was not bitter about his life but indeed was a blessing to others.

I've wondered, "What words would I be left with if something like this happened to me? Would my words be filled with bitterness or the blessings of thanksgiving to the Lord?" That is something to seriously consider, don't you think?

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, may our hearts be turned towards the Lord and His goodness to us. And yes, even though we too are working through difficult situations, we are not facing them alone. HE IS THERE WITH US (Hebrews 13:5-6).

From our family to yours, we wish you a wonderful thanksgiving filled with His abundant blessings.

We're praising Him alone,
Pastor Rog & Joyce



We Get Mail

To all of the TFB Family,

Sincere thanks and blessings for the out-pouring of support in my time of need. To say I have been humbled and over-whelmed with cards, calls, visits, and uplifted by your prayers would be an understatement.

May the Good LORD continue to bless and keep us all in His mercy and grace.

Love you all,
Frank Spinney

With
Sympathy



At this difficult time,
please pray for the
following family
who has lost their
loved one:

The Laxa family as Edith has lost her mom,
Agapita Ramos.

PRAYER

is the fastest thing on earth...
it reaches God
before you even say it.
That's powerful!

Please pray for the following
who need continued prayer:

Barbara Ashcraft, Bob Baker, Michael Banfield, Nancy Christensen, Julie Cochran, Tom Cochran, Mary Crutchfield, Ruth Easley, Dutchess Gattis, Janet Graves, Mary Jacobsen, Barbara Johnson, Bill Johnson, Helen Kessenich, Joan Kindt, Joy Moore, Bill Morgan, Joy Pierson, Darlene Purdom, Penny Rahmeyer, Jean Rayner, Connie Reimer, Barbara Rudé, Edna Hazel Ruth, Claudine Schultz, Mary Schultz, Jo Standifer, Bill & Gerri Stoodley, Tammie Wakefield, Gertie Wissinger, and Art Zeller.

*TFB Tithes
& Offerings*



Thank you for giving approximately
\$47,521 in the month of September.

Sad News from Minnesota



Minnehaha

The Pillsbury doughboy died yesterday of a yeast infection and trauma complications from repeated pokes in the belly. He was 75.

Doughboy was buried in a lightly greased coffin.

Dozens of celebrities turned out to pay their respects, including Mrs. Butterworth, Hungry Jack, the California Raisins, Betty Crocker, the Hostess Twinkies, and Captain Crunch. The grave site was piled high with many flours.

Aunt Jemima delivered the eulogy and lovingly described Doughboy as a man who never knew how much he was kneaded.

Born and bread in Minnesota, Doughboy rose quickly in show business, but his later life was filled with turnovers. He was not considered a very smart cookie, wasting much of his dough on half-baked schemes.

Despite being a little flaky at times, he still was a crusty old man and was considered a positive roll model for millions.

Doughboy is survived by his wife Play Dough, three children, John Dough, Jane Dough, and Dosey Dough, plus they had one in the oven. He is also survived by his elderly father, Pop Tart.

The funeral was held at 3:50 for about 20 minutes.

“A merry heart does good, like medicine” (Proverbs 17:22, NKJV).

The Proclaimer is a monthly publication of the First Baptist Church of Torrance, California, located at 2118 West Carson Street (6 blocks east of Crenshaw). Sunday services: 9:15 a.m. Worship Gathering (Contemporary Service); 11:00 a.m. Blended Service (with Sunday School for all ages); and 6:00 p.m. Evening Service. Mid-week events for children and students: C4 College; C4 High School; C4 Jr. High Quest; and Colossians Kids for children.

For more information, contact the church office: 310.328.5030 or tfbc@pacbell.net. Or visit us on the web at www.tfbelife.org