Torrance First Baptist Church

the Proclaimer

November 2015

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Volume 28 Issue





Sunday, November 8 ~ 6 p.m.

Back by popular demand, the Gary Bonner Singers have distinguished themselves as a choral ensemble of musical excellence and versatility; contagious, sparkling performance; and warm, vibrant choral tone. They have completed 21 recordings. Invite your family and friends to this exciting performance here at Torrance First Baptist Church.

PASSAGES: MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE Saturday, November 14 ~ 8:30 am.-4:30 p.m.

The men are inviting the whole church family to explore *Passages*, a 30,000- square-foot, interactive exhibit presented by Museum of the Bible that chronicles the remarkable history of the Bible, from its transmission and

translation to its impact. Tickets are \$10 (adults); \$8 (Students, Kids & Seniors, 55+), and Kids under 5 are free. The bus will be leaving from TFB at **8:30 a.m.** and will return around 4:30 p.m. Please let J.J. Plock know if you will be riding the bus or driving. You can leave for lunch at one of the restaurants nearby and return to the museum afterwards. Sign up in the patio or call J.J. at 310/324-6583.



Giving
Thanks
Potluck
Nov. 22
5:30 p.m.

Join us for our annual potluck where we focus on giving thanks to the Lord for all He has done for us. Those whose last names begin with A-M, please bring a main dish and dessert and those whose last names begin with N-Z, please bring a salad and dessert.

Following the meal, there will be a short business meeting in the Worship Center to adopt the 2016 budget and elect our Officers, Deacons and Deaconesses for the coming year.

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



Allowing the grace of God to flow through you

Although it is a little early (since our Thanksgiving holiday is not for another three weeks), I thought I would still express some thoughts about our upcoming holiday.

Thanksgiving is a time to express gratitude—a time to appreciate what we do have. In truth, Thanksgiving Day should

be our type of day every day of the year. I don't mean the turkey and stuffing and football games, etc. I mean the attitude and perspective.

In Philippians 2 we read: "In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing" (v. 14). Wow, wouldn't that seriously change some of the dynamics in our relationships. The previous verse (v. 13) tells us that God is at work in us to give us both the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. God is highly pleased with us when we decide to not complain and argue and instead replace that with a heart and attitude of thanksgiving. But that is not easy to do, because there seems to be a lot to complain about.

The very next verse (v. 15) tells us that we need to stay away from such talk because this dark world needs to see the light of God. Truth

is, if we want to please God and help others come to God, then we can't be bitter, negative, grumpy, whiney, or argumentative people. That is why I said Thanksgiving Day should be our type of day every day of the year.

So how well are you staying away from complaining and arguing? How would your family and friends describe you regarding this? We each have our baggage, so if this is your particular piece of luggage, then start asking God to give you the desire and the power to change—to become what He wants you to be, a person that shows the light of God's love, forgiveness and grace toward everyone around you.

Happy Thanksgiving, Charlie

Allowing the grace of God to flow through you

Reflections

Dear Church Family,

As I study God's Word, I am continually reminded that the Lord works through ordinary people like you and me—people who were weak, unsure of themselves, fearful, and at times, just plain scared. We ask, "How could these ordinary people be used so powerfully by God?"
Thankfully, God's Word gives us the answer.

In James 5:16(b)-18, we read:

"The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with...Elijah, for instance, human

by Pastor Rog

just like us, prayed hard that it would not rain, and it didn't—not a drop—for three and a half years...Then he prayed that it would rain, and it did. The showers came and everything started growing again" (The Message).

Many spiritual truths are found here, but I would like to point out just 3 of them:

- (1) Elijah had determined in his heart that he was going to live close to God;
- (2) He was a man of prayer—a man who not only talked with God but <u>listened</u> to Him as well; and



(3) Through his close walk with God, he learned to discern God's will and then set his course to follow it. This required FAITH in God. You see, Elijah learned that the Lord was absolutely trustworthy and was worthy of his faith.

My friends, how about us? Are those same spiritual characteristics working in our lives?



Time to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night,
October 31,
before you go to bed.





Friday, November 20 6~9 p.m.

Kids (infants through 5th grade) will have dinner and a movie, while the parents get an evening to themselves (after viewing a brief couples' devotional video, if they'd like). This is a once-a-month event on the 3rd Friday of each month.



Colossians Kids Shoebox shopping November 7 2~4 p.m.

Colossians Kids will be going shopping and putting together shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse on Saturday, November 7. We will be meeting from 2-4 p.m. Bring \$10 for purchasing items at the Dollar Tree for your shoebox.

Your family is invited to join us.



Saturday November 7 6-8:30 p.m.

New Challenge Ministries invites you to attend their annual spaghetti dinner

fundraiser to celebrate 35 years of ministry to be held here at Torrance First Baptist Church. There will be special music by Benny Oke. The cost is \$25/person. Contact them by email: newchallengetorrance@gmail.com to make reservations.





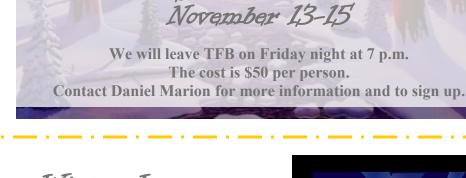


College & High School Prayer



every 3rd Saturday

November 21, 10~11 a.m.



Winter Jam at Long Beach Arena Saturday, November 7



Meet at TFB at 3 p.m. We will enjoy Skillet, Jaime Grace, Lincoln Brewster, and many others.

College Winter Retreat

The cost is \$10 per person.





Jr. High

Q U E S

Fort, Night, Friday, November 6 6:30~8 p.m.

Meet here at TFB in the Jr. High Room, and join us as we build a fort and play fort-themed games. It's FREE!





Ice Skating at Ice Chalet Friday, November 20 I-8:45 p.m.

Meet at Ice Chalet, 550 Deep Valley Drive, Rolling Hills Estates, at 7 p.m. Open skate begins at 7:15 p.m. and we will finish at 8:45 p.m. Admission cost is \$7 plus \$3 for skate rental.



We Get Mail

TFB hosted Women's
Bible Study Fellowship for 25
years. They have outgrown
our facilities and have moved
to another church. Below you
will find a sampling of the
many thank you notes that we
have received:

First Baptist Church of Torrance,

Thank you for all of the prayers and condolences that were sent our way. Thank you Pastor Rog and Pastor Charlie for the beautiful service that was held on September 19, 2015 for Margaret. We greatly appreciate the donations and all of the effort that you all have given to our family. You have made this time easier to get through with all of your support. Margaret would be incredibly thankful for the generosity her First Baptist Church has shown throughout this time that she has gone to be with the Lord. Thank you all for being a part of our family and God bless each and every one of you.

Ron and the Rentfrow

It's been a wonderful journey here. God bless all!

It's been a delight to come every Wednesday to your beautiful campus. Thank you for sharing!

God bless you abundantly as you have blessed us. All glory and honor to Jesus our Savior.

Thank you TFBC. What a gift and a blessing this church has been to BSF for so many years.

Thank you so much for a legacy of faithfulness to the Lord and BSF!

You have been so generous, patient, and just wonderful to us. You will be in our hearts.

Dear TFBC,

Thank you for your love and for graciously hosting us all these years. We are so sad to be leaving our home here with you. We pray God will richly bless you and your ministries.

Love, Marcia, Class Administrator

Dear Torrance First Baptist Church,

Thank you for the flowers in memory of my mother, Shirley Johnson. Your sympathy during our time of loss is greatly appreciated. They brought a lovely feeling of warmth to the chapel at Green Hills. If any members of your congregation wish to make a donation in her memory, a gift to Alzheimer's research or to Torrance First Baptist would be our preference.

Sincerely, Mary Cohn

"Letters" continued on p. 9

Gift, Suggestions for Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes Due between now and November 1



Toys: Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls, toy cars, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yoyos, jump ropes, balls, flashlights & toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), etc.

School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpeners,

crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

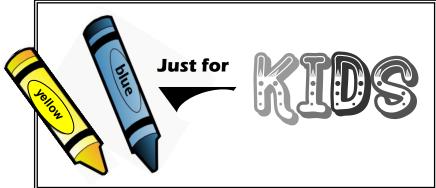
Non-Liquid Hygiene Items: toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, etc.

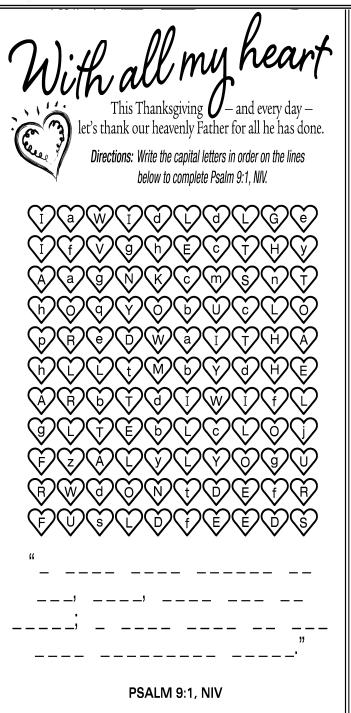
Accessories: t-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, lip gloss, etc.

A Personal Note: You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. If you include your name and address, the child may be able to write back.

Do Not Include: Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

Empty wrapped shoeboxes are available for you to fill. Pick them up in the patio on Sunday.





Answer: "I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." Psalm 9:1, NIV

Thankful Hearts

Make table decorations that serve as Thanksgiving conversation-starters.

What you need:

- Paper and pencil
- Scissors
- Cloth or felt
- Needle and thread
- Sewing machine (optional)
- Fiber fill, cotton balls or rice
- Adult help

What you do:

- 1. Cut out a heart pattern (any size) on paper. Allow 1/4" for a seam if you'll be using a sewing machine.
- 2. Cut out material hearts, placing pieces right sides out if sewing by hand and right sides together if using a machine.
- 3. For hand-sewing, use a running stitch or an overcast stitch. Leave an opening for stuffing.
- 4. With a machine, sew along a 1/4" seam, allowing a 1" opening so you can turn the heart inside out and insert stuffing. Trim close to seam but don't cut stitching.
- 5. Fill with stuffing. Sew the opening shut by hand.
- 6. Put a heart at each place setting. Before dinner, have guests pick theirs up and say why they have a thankful heart.

Recurring Weekly Events:	Worship Services: 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 & 11 a.m. Children's Church, 9:15 a.m. Patio Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.	Covenant Children's S.S., 11 a.m. Covenant (Korean) Worship, 12:45 p.m. Covenant (Korean) Fellowship, 2 p.m. Monday Ladies' Praver, 10:00 a.m.	King's Family Karate, 6:30 p.m. Men's BSF, 6:55 p.m. Tuesday Classical Conversations, 8:30 a.m. High School Revive, 7 p.m. Wednesday	Family Dinners, 6 p.m. Colossians Kids, 6:30 p.m. Jr. High QUEST, 6:30 p.m. Small Group Bible Study, 6:45 p.m. Choir Practice, 7 p.m. Covenant (Korean) Bible Study, 8 p.m.	Open Volleyball, 8:15 p.m. [all of the above not on 11/25) Thursday H.S. Band Practice, 7 p.m. Friday
SAT	7 11a Loaves & Fshes 6p NCM Fundraiser 2p Kids Shoebox Shopping/assembly 3p HS Winter Jam 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out	14 8:30a Passages Museum	21 10a HS/College Prayer 6:30p Singles' Game Night 7pm Share & Care	28	
FRI	6 Anx. reserved all day: Loaves/Fishes 6:30p Jr.H. Fort Night 7p NeXus	13 7p NeXus Retreat (through Sunday) 7p Young Marrieds	20 12n Seniors' Holiday Luncheon 6p Kids' Night Out 7p Jr.H. Ice Skating	27 7p Young Marrieds	
THU	5 7p Contemporary Vocal Practice	12 7p Beacon Light Mission	19 7p Contemporary Vocal Practice	26 Thanksgiving	
WED	4	11 Veteran's Day	18	25	
TUE	ઈ	10	17 6p Ministry Teams: GO, Fellowship, Outreach, Worship, Disc. Dev. & FMT 7p Deacon/ess	24	
MON	7	6	16 7p Finance Team	23	30
SUN	1 Daylight Savings Ends 2p Sing @ Royalwood 2p Christmas Rehearsal	8 2p Christmas Rehearsal 6p Gary Bonner Singers	15 2p Christmas Rehearsal 5p Town Hall Meeting	22 2p Christmas Rehearsal 5:30p Thanksgiving Potluck/Annual Meeting	29 7p HS Movie Night





Upcoming December Events:

- 12/18 ~ Kids' Night Out, 6 p.m. 12/19 ~ Christmas Musical Performance, 7:30p

- $12/13 \sim \text{Christmas}$ Cantata, 6p $12/18 \sim \text{Christmas}$ Musical Performance, 7:30p

Covenant (Korean) Prayer, 6 a.m. H.S. Guys/Gals Bible Study, 10 a.m. [except 11/21]

Men's BSF Leaders, 6 a.m.

Saturday 9 a.m.

Ladies meet @ Denny's for Bkfst.,



Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship

Please remember that dinner night and game night are great opportunities to invite friends, whether they attend TFB, go to another church, or don't go to church at all.



Dinner Out ~ **Saturday, November 7, at 6:30 p.m.** Meet at King's Hawaiian Bakery, 2808 Sepulveda, Torrance, CA. Any?'s, call Brenda-Jean Shephard, 310/901-0816.



Game Night ~ Saturday, October 16, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at Gloria Pederson's house, 817 Amapola Avenue, Torrance. Bring games and snacks to share. Contact Gloria, 562/505-4495, if you have any questions.



Singles, please note: Dinner Out will now be on the first Saturday of the month and Game Night will be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

TFB Academy
"Diversity: We Are One"
by Laura Springer, M.Div., Th.M

If we were to see a creature that was just a giant eye or foot, we would immediately begin searching for the camera crew. Such a creature would be imaginary, for bodies just don't work that way. Bodies have a diversity of parts for diverse purposes. Even in a single skin cell, there is a diversity of organelles with diverse functions. God has designed his creatures to thrive as diversity in unity. His church carries this same design.

By design the church is many, yet one (1 Corinthians 12:12, 20). Just as the human body needs its diverse members to thrive, so also does the Body of Christ. Each member adds to the life of the Body. Each member influences the lives of other members.

"Those who trust,

Christ, and live by

the Spirit, must,

repent, of division..."

By design the members have the same care for one another (12:25). We work together for the glory of Christ and the good of one another. We care for one another as we care for ourselves. We share one another's pain and joy.

But living as persons in community is not easy, for sin has damaged diversity, often corrupting it into antagonistic division. In the human body, this antagonistic division takes the form of things like cancer and autoimmunity disease. In the Body of Christ antagonistic division is just as deadly. Those who trust Christ and live by the Spirit must repent of division and strive to maintain diversity in unity. The striving is a lifelong process for

persons and communities, but one day our striving will cease. In eternity, divisions will be healed and diversity will flourish alongside unity. For now we follow Jesus as a community of persons who are centered on Christ and connected in love to one another.

In Christ, diversity does not divide and unity does not make uniformity. We must work together in him to live out this truth.

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Revelation 7:9-10 ESV)



Smile Awhile

Returning Thanks

After a family sat down for dinner, the father offered his standard prayer of thanks. Afterward, though, he began his usual grumbling about financial hardships, the food's poor quality, how it was cooked and so on.

His young son interrupted: "Dad, did God hear what you said a while ago when you were giving thanks?"

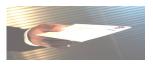
- "Certainly," the father replied confidently.
- "And did he hear what you said just now about the turkey and the mashed potatoes?"
- "Of course," the father said, more hesitantly.
- "Which did God believe?"



A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."



More Letters

Dear Church Family,

Let me start by giving glory, honor & praise to our Lord Jesus Christ. It has now been nearly 6 weeks [by the time you read this] since I had surgery, and I'm on the road to recovery. There are no words to express the gratitude my heart feels for all the acts of love & kindness that have been bestowed upon Craig, my kids and I. Thank you for all the balloons, basket with a teddy bear, calls, cards, Facebook "likes," flowers, food, gift cards, get well wishes, magazines, pastoral and staff hospital visits, and especially all your prayers. Thank you.

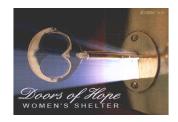
Love, Mari



Join us as we discuss the 2016 budget and nominees for next years' Officers, Deacons and Deaconesses in preparation for our meeting after the potluck on November 22.



Thanksgiving Food Items Needed for Beacon Light Mission & Doors of Hope 525 North Broad, Wilmington, CA 310/830-7063



Turkeys (20 lbs. or larger), large canned hams, Mrs. Cubbison's Dressing, instant mashed potatoes (largest box), whole milk (gallon jugs), Ranch Dressing (gallon jugs), Swanson's chicken broth, poultry seasoning (large jar), olives (black & green), cranberry sauce, corn starch, celery, onion, carrots, and salad mix.

Donations of money are also gladly accepted.

Please have donations at Beacon Light at least 4 days before Thanksgiving.

TFB Mission News



Rainbow Acres

News from Rainbow Acres

A Christian residential community for adults with disabilities.

Dear Torrance First Baptist Church,

When Julie arrived at Rainbow Acres a little more than 10 years ago, she told her Uncle, "You have broken my heart; all I have ever wanted is to have an apartment of my own! And you are moving me to a home that I have to share with nine other women." Over the next eight years she often asked members of the Rainbow staff, Why do others think I am so dumb?" In fact, Julie is not dumb; she is actually intellectually gifted, but has difficulty with social skills.

As the Rainbow Apartments were being completed, Rainbow Acres offered a Life Skills Class. Even though Julie had fear and anxiety about the course, she still signed up. After weeks of intensive classes to build Life Skills preparing her to live in a Rainbow Apartment, Julie was the first to pass the course!

When the educational team helped Julie move her room from Patrick House into one of the more independent Rainbow Apartments, she turned to them and said, "Thank you, you have made my dream come true!" In reality, it was Julie's hard work in the Life Skills Class that made her dream come true! Since that day, Julie has continued to blossom and grow.

One of her most significant achievements has been securing a position as a Custodial Worker with the National Park Service



where she serves at Tuzigoot
National Monument in Clarkdale,
AZ. I wish you could see the pride
on her face when she shows her
apartment, puts on her National Park
Service uniform, and when she
makes her monthly contribution
towards her rent. Julie even saves a
little extra for Rancher vacation trips
with her friends.

Your contribution to Rainbow Acres has helped 93 Ranchers have the opportunity to blossom talents they may have never known, achieve

goals they never believed possible, and discover purpose in their lives.

Thank you for your recent gift of \$100 for Annual Fund thru Transformation Ministries. Your gift is a blessing to each Rancher, their families and Rainbow Acres. Thank you for caring and sharing in the lives of Ranchers.

For the Ranchers, Gary W. Wagner President and CEO

Continued from p. 2

Many years ago, a man made a powerful statement—a statement which still grabs my heart. Howard Taylor (Hudson's eldest son) said this: "In these days of easy-going Christianity, is it not well to remind ourselves that it really does cost to be a man or woman whom God can use? One cannot obtain a Christ-like character for nothing; one cannot do a Christ-like work except at great price."

Oh, dear people, what would happen here in the South Bay if we all (including me) really allowed the Lord to get a hold of our lives? (It would not be the same place, that's for sure.)

May we all get alone with the Lord and allow Him to speak to our hearts; allow Him to place His finger on those areas of our lives which need to be changed; allow Him to make of us a people who prevail in prayer so that lives might be brought to and changed for Christ.

I'm desiring His touch, Pastor Rog



Just a reminder that on Saturday, November 7, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving with a ham and chicken dinner. If Loaves & Fishes you can help out by

donating a ham or a chicken, please let Linda Stratton know ASAP.

Also for our Christmas outreach, on December 5, we will be giving hygiene bags to the adults and toys to the kids as we have done in previous years. If you would like to help with this outreach, following is a list of items needed for approximately 100 hygiene bags (everything in large sizes): shampoo, conditioner, hand cream, toothpaste, razors for men and women, sox, gloves, Kleenex, lip balm and deodorants. For the kids: toys priced at \$10-15 dollars. You can bring them to the church and mark them Loaves and Fishes Christmas items.

Thank you all who support Loaves and Fishes. I love you all.

> Blessings, Linda



Please pray for the following families who have recently lost loved ones who are now with the Lord:

Former attendee, Shirley Johnson; Paula Eyerly's brother, Mark Brown; and Pastor Charlie's father, Dick.



TFB Tithes and Offerings

Thank you for giving approximately \$53,657 in the month of September.



Please pray for the following from our church family who have

Please pray for the following from our church family who have on-going needs:

Michael Banfield, Loretta Barnett, Reba Belcher, Julie Cochran, Tom Cochran, Gloria Deering, Leah Douglas, Robin Fisher, Virgie Fletcher, Earl & Jean Forman, Eugene & Mary Jacobsen, Joanne Jenkins, Helen Kessenich, Joan & Debbe Kindt, Mary Larsen, Doug Luden, Mari McMillian, Joy Moore, Dave & Joy Pierson, Darlene Purdom, Penny Rahmeyer, Austin Rayner, Jean Rayner, Nellie Rizzi, Barbara & Randy Rudé, Ralph Schatz, Mary Schultz, Bill & Norma Vinsonhaler, Stoodley, Wakefield, Betty Wallace, Aggie Williams and Gertie Wissinger.

2016 Offering Envelopes

New envelopes will be available in the patio at the end of November for those who already have assigned



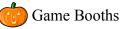
envelopes. Be sure and pick yours up for the upcoming new year. Anyone who does not have numbered envelopes and would like some can stop by the table in the patio and put in your request or call the church office.

Don't Forget!!!



Saturday, October 31, 2015 5:30~8:30 p.m.

Invite your friends for a great time of family fun here at the church with:







Pumpkin Patch













Pumpkin Carving Contest*

*Carve a pumpkin and bring it with you to be entered in our pumpkin contest. Come in costume (no witches, ghosts, or goblins, please) and have your picture taken.

Enter the Chili Cook-off and be the next TFB Chili King/Queen. Sign up with Karla in the patio or call or text: 310/922-5652.



This is a family event and a wholesome, fun and safe alternative to "Trick or Treating."

Attention Church Family: If you'd like to help with this outreach, we are in need of donations of candy, baked goods, snacks and \$\$. Please let Karla know at least a week ahead of time what you can bring.

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: High School Revive; Jr. High Quest; and TFBKidz for children.

For more information, contact the church office: 310.328.5030 or info@tfbclife.org or visit us on the web at www.tfbclife.org