

Torrance First Baptist Church

the Proclaimer

November 2011

Volume 24 Issue 11

Inside this issue:

<i>The Pastor's Heart</i>	2
<i>Reflections</i>	2
<i>Loaves & Fishes</i>	3
<i>Daylight Saving Time</i>	3
<i>Thanksgiving Baskets</i>	3
<i>Smile Awhile</i>	3
<i>Revive/Quest Events</i>	4
<i>Shoebox Ministry</i>	5
<i>Hiking Ministry</i>	5
<i>Beacon Light</i>	5
<i>Sonseekers' Party</i>	5
<i>Just for Kids</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	7
<i>Singles' Ministry</i>	8
<i>TFB Academy</i>	8
<i>Seniors & Friends</i>	9
<i>Global Outreach</i>	10
<i>Reflections (cont.)</i>	11
<i>Attendance & Giving</i>	11
<i>Operation Bake/Take</i>	11
<i>Bereavement</i>	11
<i>Membership Class</i>	12
<i>Quest Scavenger Hunt</i>	12

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

Men's Breakfast November 12 9 a.m.



All men, Jr. High age and up, are invited to join together for our quarterly breakfast get-together. Tom

Wetherill will be our speaker. His topic will be "Training in Jesus Christ: Walking as He Walked." We'll be looking at what it means to be a disciple and how we can begin to maximize our spiritual life. Suggested donation: \$5.

Ladies, join us for a day at the Camarillo Outlet Mall November 19

We will meet at the church at 9 a.m. to get to the Mall by 10 a.m. when it opens so that we can get underway with our shopping. Later, we will rest our tired feet, enjoy some fellowship time at a restaurant, and return to the church between 3-4 p.m.

Sign up at the
Women's
Ministries
Table
in the patio.



Giving Thanks Potluck & Dessert & Business Meeting November 20 5:30 p.m.

Come one! Come all! to our annual time of *Giving Thanks* to the Lord for all the blessings He has given to us. It is also a time for your Pastoral/Office Staff here at Torrance First Baptist to show our appreciation to **you** for all you have done to bless us and this church. We will enjoy a potluck dinner together (each family, please bring a main dish or salad to share), after which the Staff will be providing and serving dessert as well as providing other surprises. **We would also like each family to bring one bag of Hershey's Kisses.**

After dinner and a short program, we will adjourn to the Worship Center for a business meeting to adopt the 2012 budget and elect our Officers, Deacons and Deaconesses for the coming year.

From the Pastor's Heart



“Each Person Actively
Expressing a Heart of Worship
for Jesus Christ”

All you have to do is hear the news from around the world and talk to family and friends, and you could easily declare that life certainly is a rollercoaster. I think of Peter, when he was walking on the water toward Jesus and began to fear the wind and waves — the unpredictable, potentially harmful stuff of life. As he became overwhelmed and began to sink, Jesus rescued him. Like Peter, we at times can feel

overwhelmed and shaky.

Recently God reminded me of a hymn I grew up singing that has brought me great comfort. It is entitled, “*I Know Who Holds Tomorrow*.” I would like to share some of the lyrics with you in hopes that it will be of help to you, during life’s uncertainties.

*I don't know about tomorrow,
I just live from day to day;
I don't borrow from its sunshine,
For its skies may turn to gray.
I don't worry o'er the future,
For I know what Jesus said;
And today I'll walk beside Him,
For He knows what is ahead.*

*(chorus)
Many things about tomorrow
I don't seem to understand;
But I know Who holds tomorrow,
And I know Who holds my hand.*

*I don't know about tomorrow,
It may bring me poverty;
But the One Who feeds the sparrow
Is the One Who stands by me.
And the path that be my portion
May be through the flame or flood;
But His presence goes before me
And I'm covered with His blood.*

Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble. But be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” I am so glad Jesus understands. Because He also said, “The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.” Don’t you find that to be true of yourself from time to time? During those times, it is so important to remind ourselves that we are His children and know that HE truly has overcome this world and holds our hands through it all.

Walking with God together,
Pastor Charlie

P.S. Don’t forget to put on your calendar our annual Thanksgiving event on Sunday, November 20, at 5:30 p.m.

Reflections by Pastor Rog

In many places in our world spiritual revival of God’s church is taking place, and the impetus of this moving of God’s Spirit upon His own is **prayer**. It is clear to those who have researched this moving of the Holy Spirit that earnest and specific prayer is the common denominator in all of these countries. Some have asked, “What does prayer have to do with any of this?” The answer is clear: without earnest and specific praying, God’s work will not go forth with POWER. Make no mistake...**our God**

responds to the prayers of His people (Psalm 4:3). May we understand that if there is little prayer, there will be little power. If there is no prayer, we will have no power to move forward in His work. Our enemy, the devil, knows this and will do everything in his power to keep you and me from praying. He seems to derail us through problems, feelings of guilt, distractions — even tiredness. Please know this, if we don’t pray in earnest (allowing the Holy Spirit to have His will and way in our lives), and if we don’t pray specifically

(beseeching the Lord to draw people to Himself), we will see little forward movement in our service for Him.

It could be that you find praying very difficult to do. You are not alone. What can we do to assist us in this ministry of prayer

(Continued on page 11)





Loaves & Fishes Update

Be looking for sales on turkeys and hams in the upcoming weeks. On **November 5**, we will be serving our traditional **Thanksgiving dinner** with turkey and all the trimmings. If you can help provide for this meal, be sure and call Linda Stratton and let her know.

We will be serving our traditional **Christmas Dinner** on **December 3**, so we will be needing hams and all the trimmings. Again, if you can help provide, let Linda know. Also at the Christmas Loaves & Fishes, we will be giving out large bottles of shampoo, conditioners, toiletries, toothpaste, etc. as well as socks for both men and women. If you'd like to contribute to these needs, that would be wonderful! We will also be giving out \$10 toys to about 20-25 children of all ages, so you can donate a toy or money.

Thank you so much to everyone who helps support our Outreach Ministry to the needy!



Fall Back

Set clocks back one hour
Saturday night, November 5,
before you go to bed.

Do you know anyone in need?

Please call the church office with the names of anyone in our church family that are in need and who you know would appreciate a Thanksgiving Basket.



The Bible According to Kids



Children say the funniest things about Scripture. Here are a few examples:

*Smile
Awhile*



👉 "In the first book of the Bible, God got tired of creating the world, so He took the Sabbath off."

👉 "Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients."

👉 "The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterward, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments."

👉 "The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him."

👉 "When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta."

Saturday, November 26
9 am to 3 pm



Once again we will be joining dozens of other volunteers to prepare shoeboxes for children around the world. Bring some money for a lunch stop after our service time. Space is limited to 25 people and you must be 13 years old to participate. Release forms are available in the HS room.



Winter Camp 2012 **High School: January 13-16 (\$190)**
Jr. High: February 10-12 (\$150)

Registration begins November 6. Sign-up with Pastor Jay or Trev. A \$50 deposit will hold your spot. Don't wait too long—space is limited.



November 11
10 a.m. ~ 1 p.m.

For our Service Project this month, we will be handing out flyers in the neighborhood letting people know of our Canned Food Drive to help the needy. We will give them a heads-up so that when we go back the following weekend (on November 19th), they will have it ready for pick-up if they want to help. After canvassing the neighborhood, we will be grabbing some lunch, so bring \$\$ for that.



November 19
10 a.m. ~ 1 p.m.

The **High School Group** (Revive) will join the **Jr. Highers** to revisit the neighborhoods where flyers were passed out and pick up the donated foods.

We will then come back to the church for a pizza lunch.



Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Here are some ways you can make a difference in the lives of those children:

PRAY. Please pray that God will touch the heart of every child who receives a shoe box gift and that He will bring many children and families to faith in Christ.

PACK A GIFT. A shoe box filled with small toys and other gifts can open hurting hearts to God's love. Instructional brochures (and wrapped empty shoeboxes) are available in the patio.

GIVE. Please remember to give \$7 or more per box to cover shipping and other project costs.

Filled shoeboxes are due in the church office
BY NOVEMBER 6, 2011
 to allow time to transport them to
 the collection center.



**Thanksgiving
 Food Items Needed
 For Beacon Light Mission
 525 North Broad Avenue
 Wilmington, CA 90744, 310/830-7063**

Turkeys (20 lbs. or larger)	10 each
Large canned hams	3 each
Mrs. Cubbison's Dressing	12 boxes
Instant Mashed Potatoes (largest box)	5 each
Whole Milk (gallon jugs)	4 each
Ranch Dressing (gallon jugs)	3 each
Swanson's Chicken broth (3-lb. Can)	8 each
Poultry seasoning (large jar)	1 each
Olives (black & green)	5 cans
Cranberry Sauce	5 cans
Corn Starch	2 boxes
Celery	8 bunches
Onions (brown or white)	15 lbs.
Carrots	15 lbs.
Salad Mix (large bags)	10 bags

**Donations for Thanksgiving should be there
 4 days prior to Thanksgiving.
 Monetary donations are also appreciated.**

***November 11 (Friday)
 7 P.M.***



***Hiking &
 Backpack
 Ministry***

Our next hike
 will be on **Friday,
 November 11.** Actual
 destination is unknown
 at this time.

Contact Dan
 Rollino, 310/328-3320,
 or email:
 dtrollino@yahoo.com
 for specifics.

***Sonseekers' Class
 Christmas Party
 December 3
 6 p.m.***



Put the above date on your calendar. We will meet at the Bundoc home. Class members should bring a salad, side-dish or dessert. The cost is \$7.50 per person plus a gift to exchange (\$10 limit).

RSVP by Saturday, November 26, to Teresa, 310/373-1313, or Rebecca, 310/532-2607.



Give Praise

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

Directions: In each group, underline the word that doesn't belong. Then write the underlined words on the lines below.

1. Give Take Grab	2. peanut praise pear	3. temple house LORD	4. proclaim past present	5. name boy lad	6. ruin destroy make
7. pine acorn known	8. train nations bus	9. done donut muffin	10. Sing Sleep Yawn	11. she him girl	12. sun praise moon
13. tell fast slow	14. red all blue	15. horrible dreadful wonderful	16. acts sisters aunts		

" _____ to the _____, _____ his _____ ;

1 2 3 4 5

_____ among the _____ what he has _____ .

6 7 8 9

_____ to _____, sing _____ to him; _____ of _____ his

10 11 12 13 14

_____ . " PSALM 105:1-2, NIV

15 16

Answers: 1. Give, 2. praise, 3. LORD, 4. proclaim, 5. name, 6. make, 7. known, 8. nations, 9. done, 10. Sing, 11. him, 12. praise, 13. tell, 14. all, 15. wonderful, 16. acts

Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. (Psalm 105:1-2, NIV)

SIGN OF THANKFULNESS

Create this festive sign, which will serve as a yearlong reminder to be grateful.

What you need:

- Hole punch
- Large piece of cardboard or cardstock
- Twine
- Twigs
- Glue
- Acorns, leaves (real or silk) and raffia

What you do:

1. Punch two holes in the top of the cardboard.
2. Thread twine through the holes and tie it in a knot (for hanging).
3. Using twigs, spell out "Be Thankful," "Thank God" or a similar phrase about gratitude. Glue the twigs onto the cardboard.
4. Decorate the sign by gluing on acorns, leaves and raffia.
5. Hang up your sign. Whenever you see it, think of something for which you're grateful to God.



Recurring Weekly Events:

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
		1 7p Laurant Bethell Circle	2	3 10:30a Circle of Friends	4 Anx reserved all day for Loaves & Fishes	5 11a Loaves & Fishes	Sunday Worship Services: 9:15 & 11 a.m. Worship & Witness: 6 p.m. Adult Sunday School: 8:15 9:15 & 11 a.m. Children's Church: 9:15 a.m. Patio Fellowship: 10:30 a.m. Children & Youth S.S.: 11 a.m. New Covenant Children's S.S.: 11 a.m. New Covenant (Korean) Wrshp: 12:45 p.m. New Covenant (Korean) Fellowship: 2 p.m. NeXus College Gathering: 6 p.m.
6	7	8 7p Committees: Outreach, Finance, Worship, GO	9	10 7p Beacon Light	11 7p Full-Moon Hike	12 9a Men's Bkfst. 10a Quest hand out Food Drive Flyers 12noon Srs. to Glendale Theatre 6:30p Singles' Game Night	Monday Ladies' Prayer: 11 a.m. Open Basketball: 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study: 7 p.m. (off-site) Tuesday BSF Leaders: 9 a.m. High School Revive: 7 p.m. Bible Study: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday BSF: 9:15 a.m. Children's Program: 6:45 p.m. Jr. High QUEST: 6:45 p.m. Small Group Bible Study: 6:45 p.m. Parenting Class: 6:45 p.m. Choir Practice: 7 p.m. Bible Study: 7 p.m. New Covenant (Korean) Bible Study: 8 p.m. Open Volleyball: 8:15 p.m. Thursday Ladies' Bible Study: 2 p.m. Worship Band Practice: 6:30 p.m. Friday Ladies meet @ Denny's for Bkfst.: 9 a.m. Saturday New Covenant (Korean) Prayer: 6 a.m.
13 5p Prayer Gathering 4p C. E. Committee	14	15 6p Fellowship Committee 7p Deacon/Deaconess Boards	16	17	18	19 10a CRUX pick up canned goods in neighborhood	
20 5:30p Giving Thanks Potluck/ Dessert followed by Business Meeting	21 7p Ad Ops Committee	22	23	24 Office Closed—Happy Thanksgiving!	25 Office Closed	26 9a CRUX to Operation Christmas Child 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out 7p Share & Care	
27 5p Prayer Gathering	28	29	30				

November 2011





Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship

Please invite anyone of any age to join us.



Game Night ~ Saturday, November 12, 6:30 p.m. ~

Meeting place: Brenda-Jean Shephard's, 5757 Ravenspur Drive, #3, RPV, CA. Don't forget to bring snacks to share.



Dinner Night ~ Saturday, November 26, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at Daphne's Greek Café, 25362 Crenshaw Blvd., in Torrance (below 24-hour fitness at corner of PCH).



For questions, suggestions, or more information, call Brenda-Jean Shephard, 310/901-0816.

Not Just Another Brick

by Laura Springer, M.Div., Th.M.
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/TFB-Sanctify-Academy/166588986702549>

The final element, our identity, is the most crucial, for who we are and how we see ourselves shapes all our decisions. There are three key pieces to the identity of a Christ follower: person, in community, and in Christ. As Americans, individual identity is better understood than communal identity, but it is a fact that everyone who trusts Christ is part of his Body, the Church. Church is not something we attend, but is something we are. Deeper still, every Christ follower exists in Christ every moment of life.

So, if we are all Church, what are our responsibilities to the Head of the Church, Jesus, and to our fellow members of the Body? Ephesians 4:11-16 is a key passage in understanding these responsibilities.

Every member of the Body has a responsibility to the local church and to the global church. The Body grows when the members determine to do what God has formed them to do and when the leaders determine to equip them to fulfill that commitment. Leaders are responsible to equip the members for the work of ministry and to equip them for the building of the Body (4:12). Members are responsible to prioritize unity in Christ and to work properly according to God's design (4:16). All are responsible to aim for unity of faith and knowledge (4:13), know and understand true teaching (4:14), follow the truth in love (4:15), submit to the One Head (4:15), and work to grow the Body (4:16).

According to Ephesians 4, leaders — the offices and persons — are a gift to the church and their ultimate calling is to fully equip the members of the Body under their care. But the gifting to the church does not stop there, for verses 15 and 16 focus on the Body as a whole, saying,

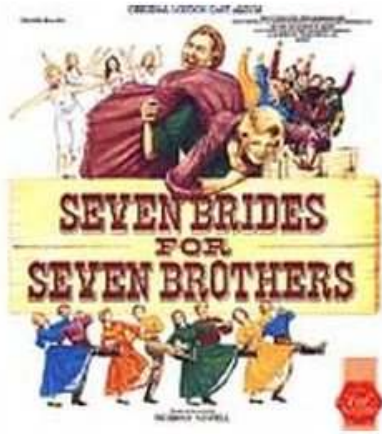
*Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, **joined and held together by every joint** with which it is equipped, **when each part is working properly**, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love (emphasis mine) [Eph 4:15-16].*

In other words, every person-to-community connection is critical and every member has a responsibility. Let us each take up our responsibility.



Next Events for Seniors & Friends

Glendale Centre Theatre November 12 (Saturday)



We will leave TFB at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 12, and head for Glendale to have lunch and then go see the musical play “*Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*,” which is about a backwoodsman named Adam Pontipee and his new bride Milly. They had agreed to marry despite only knowing each other for a few hours. On returning to his cabin in the mountains, Milly is surprised to learn that Adam is one of seven brothers living under the same roof. The brothers have been named alphabetically from the Old Testament and in chronological order are: Adam, Benjamin, Caleb, Daniel, Ephraim, Frank (short for Frankincense, the Old Testament having no names beginning with F), and Gideon. All of the brothers have red hair and are well over six feet tall, except Gideon, who is younger and shorter than his brothers.

Milly teaches Adam's rowdy, ill-behaved younger brothers manners and social graces. At first, the brothers have a hard time changing from their "mountain man" ways, but eventually each comes to see that the only way he will get a girl of his own is to do things Milly's way.

The cost is \$20 plus money for lunch. We will return at about 7 p.m.

Mission Inn, Riverside December 6 (Tuesday)



The Mission Inn Hotel has been around since the late 1800s, and for good reason! Its rich history and beautiful architecture make it one of the coolest hotels in the world.

From November 28 - January 4, the Mission Inn Hotel is absolutely *covered* in lights and decorations for Christmas. Inn owner Duane Roberts illuminates his landmark hotel with more than 3.5 million lights and stages a free Festival of Lights show, replete with an elaborately decorated Christmas tree, Dickens carolers, horse-drawn carriages and more than 400 animated characters dressed in 17th Century costumes. There's even free hot cocoa, eggnog and holiday sweets. It takes an entire crew months to decorate the hotel, but the result is something out of this world. As you can see from the photos, they spare no expense when it comes to donning its canvas with the prettiest of holiday treats. The hotel spans an entire block, and it seems that just about every inch of it is covered in festive garb. People travel from all over to see it, and nobody leaves disappointed.

The time we leave will be announced later. Bring money for dinner.



If you want to sign up and/or want more details for any of our Senior & Friends' outings, call Terri Mullin at 310/629-0396.



Fuqua Update

“So how’s the house?” “How’s the Romanian language coming?” “How’s the support coming along?” These are questions that people are asking us—so we will try to give you an update now.

We are currently working through some offers on the house. If all works out well, we will be out of the old Fuqua homestead before Thanksgiving. Pray that all goes well with the process and that God leads us to the next place we should be.

The Romanian language-learning is pretty much on hold until our support gets up to 100%. The good news is that our support is going up. We praise the Lord for 6 new regular supporters since July. We’re still lacking around 20%, which amounts to around \$1,750 a month.

“We appreciate your prayers as we keep on listening for God’s voice in the decisions we have to make and as we look for His guidance and provision.”

New Opportunity — This past August, our teammates in Europe had a strategy session for working with the Roma. They know the situation in some of the countries, but there are still some countries where we need to know more about the current language situation. One of those countries is Spain. Since Debbie and I speak Spanish, from all of our work in Peru, the team would like us to eventually lead some of the research on how many Roma speakers and how many dialects there are in Spain. We will also want to find out what ministries are

already there, so that we can plan on partnering with those who are already playing key roles in reaching the Roma. Debbie and I are really excited about the possibilities. We would still go to Romania as planned, then after being there for a while, we would follow up on the leads we get through our research. We would be doing research now through the Internet and through contacting various ministries who have ties to Roma work in Spain. But, like our Romanian language work, the research they want us to do will also have to be put on hold until we are getting our full support.

A lot is happening these days with us. We’ve been having Open Houses, then inspections; we’re talking to realtors and going to Open Houses; and we’re also thinking a lot about this call to work with the Roma people in Romania. We appreciate your prayers as we keep on listening for God’s voice in the decisions we have to make and as we look for His guidance and provision. Let us know if you have any questions or if you would like us to speak to your small group about our future work with the Roma.

Blessings!

Ron & Debbie Fuqua

Reflections

Continued from p. 2

We can:

1. Look to the Lord to strengthen us (Psalm 28:7);
2. As best as possible, set aside a specific time for prayer (Psalm 5:1-3);
3. When hindrances come, **give them to the Lord and keep on praying** (Psalm 18:6);
4. Don't depend on "feelings" when you pray but rather, pray with faith, trusting Him for all things in accordance with His will (Ephesians 6:16-18).

We know that only the Lord can change people's hearts and lives, but **He invites us** to participate in this **with Him** through the ministry of prayer.

Oh may we all be found earnestly and specifically praying, trusting the Lord for changed hearts and lives...including our own.

Looking only to Him,
Pastor Rag

Attendance & Giving



AVERAGE WEEKLY
ATTENDANCE
FOR SEPTEMBER = 297



Thank you for giving
approximately \$48,646
in the month of September.

Operation
Bake & Take

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY TO OUR SHUT-INS

The holiday season, which is so joyful to many, is actually a time of sadness for those who are shut-in and alone. This season we are launching "Operation Bake and Take." You may **bake** cookies (frozen cookie dough will be available at the church for your convenience) and **take** them to a shut-in. Can't bake . . . no problem. The visit is the most important part of this gift. Please consider spreading holiday cheer by visiting one of our shut-ins during November and December. If this is something that the Lord would have you do, please stop by the **Outreach Table in the patio beginning November 6** to sign up, pick up cookie dough (if needed) and get helpful instructions.



Please pray for the following families
who have recently lost loved ones:

Des Birmingham lost his aunt, Donna Hicks.

Don't Forget . . .



Membership Class

*October 29
9 a.m. ~
12 noon*

Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of Torrance First Baptist Church is invited to attend a class with Pastor Charlie on **Saturday, October 29, from 9 a.m. until 12 noon**, to find out the various ways of becoming a TFB member. You are not obligated to join the church after attending the class. This class is also for those who just want to find out what our church believes. Please call the office, 310/328-5030, or sign up in the patio to let us know if you will attend.



**Bigger & Better
Scavenger
Hunt
October 29
1~5 p.m.**

This will be a traveling activity of epic proportion.
Meet at TFB.
'Nuff said.



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 *Big* for children.

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