

Torrance First Baptist Church

the Proclaimer

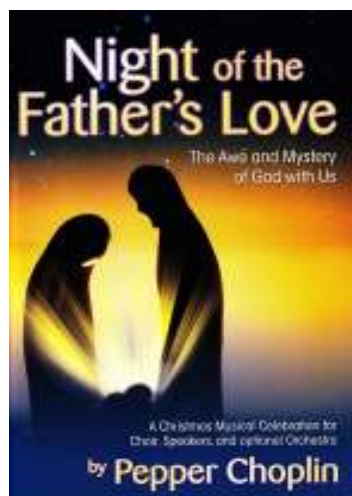
December 2011

Volume 24 Issue 12

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



Christmas Cantata *December 11, 6:00 p.m.*

Bring your friends and family to hear our choir under the direction of Randy Stager present *Night of the Father's Love*. This musical skillfully guides the listener through the Christmas story, as though hearing it again for the first time. Three narrators interject with familiar Scripture passages and personal reflections, while an intriguing array of musical styles beautifully express the essence of Christmas: the Gift of the Father's love.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to celebrate our Savior's birth.

Christmas Eve *Candlelight Service* *December 24* *7:00 p.m.*



We will celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with our annual Candlelight Service on Saturday night, December 24.

Bring the whole family to give praise to the Lord and thank Him for His most precious Gift to us.

*"Thanks be to God for His
indescribable Gift!"*
(2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV)

Combined Service *December 25* *10:00 a.m.*



We will have one Sunday morning service on Christmas Day. There will be no Children's Church and no Sunday School. Bring your family as your gift to Him Who has given so freely to you. Pastor Rog will preside.

There will be **no** Worship and Witness that evening.

Church Office



Will be Closed

**December 26
through
January 2**

From the Pastor's Heart



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

Thanksgiving — a time to express gratitude; a time to appreciate what you do have. In truth, Thanksgiving Day is to 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 two 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 family life?!

The previous verse (13) tells us that God is at work in us to give us both the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. It must be that God is highly pleased with us when we decide to stop complaining and arguing. But that is not easy to do because there is a lot to complain and argue about.

The very next verse (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 a bitter, negative,

grumpy, whining, arguing type of person. 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,
Pastor Charlie

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

Reflections

by Pastor Rog

How wonderful it is to receive GOOD NEWS because life has a way of bearing down on us and bringing discouragement. As we celebrate THANKSGIVING and CHRISTMAS, we have so much to be thankful for as we reflect on the Good News God has given us in Jesus Christ.

In the first century A.D., the world was in turmoil, especially for the people of Israel. They truly needed some GOOD NEWS and when our Lord began His public ministry, their lives were stirred by His love and

words. The apostle Matthew tells us this in Matthew 4:15-16:

“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles...the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

These verses take us back to the prophecy Isaiah made in Isaiah 9:1-2. In God's perfect timing, this prophecy was now fulfilled by the birth of His Son and our Savior (Luke 2:1-7). Praise God! We do



“sit” in darkness without Christ in our lives, but through faith in His Name, we are brought into that glorious light which frees us of our sins; which restores us to a right relationship with the Father; which imparts to us an ABUNDANT LIFE now and ETERNITY with Him in

(Continued on page 11)



We Get Mail

I would like to thank T.F.B.C. for all the cards, phone calls, visits and especially for all the prayers while I was in the hospital. The visits from Pastors Roger and Charlie were so very comforting. What a privilege to be part of such a caring church family.

Gerri Stoodley

Hello T.F.B. Church Family,

Thank you for donating backpacks for Love INC to pass out to families in need. My children all loved their backpacks and school supplies. Your love made it easier for my kids to begin their first day and first year in public school! Thank you for blessing us!

Love, Denise Hadley, Bethany, Kathleen, Joshua and Victoria

Flower Calendar 2012



Our new flower calendar for next year is available in the foyer. If you would like to celebrate a special event in your life or honor a loved one by providing the altar flowers, please sign up to reserve your preferred date. Cost is \$50 per arrangement — one sign-up per date, please. Payment may be made any time before your chosen date. Please choose one date per family until all have had an opportunity to sign up.

2012 Calendars

These lovely calendars are available in the patio for a donation of only \$5 each. They would make great Christmas gifts! Proceeds will help Senior Adult Ministries.



Hiking & Backpack Ministry

December 9

Our next hike will be on **Friday, December 9**. Actual destination and time is unknown at this time.

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

Christmas Craft Night and Cookie Exchange December 5 7 p.m.



Ladies, are you looking for an elegant way to decorate your home for Christmas? How about creating that perfect handmade gift for a friend? Come out on **Monday** night, December 5, at 7 pm. and enjoy a social evening designing a pine branch swag for the door or table. Everything needed to make your own design will be provided.

To add to the merriment, we will also have a cookie exchange. Bring 2 dozen of your favorite cookies (and copies of the recipe). At the end of the evening, you will take home 2 dozen different cookies.

Refreshments will be provided for this delightful evening of crafting, munching and fellowship. The cost is \$10 per person.



Christmas Card Exchange

The box will be in the foyer beginning November 27 as a courtesy to all who attend TFB. You may put your Christmas cards to other TFB attendees in the box which will save you the expense of mailing them. Put cards in the slots which correspond to the recipients' last name.



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS
from me to you



Friday, December 16
(6:30-9:00 pm)

Break out your Red & White gear for a sweet night of Christmas fun. Bring your friends and your most creative *White Elephant/Dollar Tree* exchange gift. **Cost is \$5** for dinner. Sign-up in Sunday School or at **Revive** or **Quest**.



BIGGER & BETTER
Scavenger Hunt
December 3
3-5:30 p.m.

Meet at the church as we embark on a traveling adventure of epic proportion!



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

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



Children's Ministries
Christmas Open House
December 10
(Saturday)
6-9 p.m.

Join us for an Open House at the Condon home. Parents must accompany their children, and volunteers are welcome to stop by and chat by the fire pit. Each child can take an ornament home from the TFB tree.

Any questions, call Levana, 310/534-4771



Sign up now for "BIG" Jr. Winter Camp which will take place **February 24-26** at Forest Home. The cost is \$145. Reserve your spot (which is limited) with a \$50 deposit.



Christmas Giving Opportunities



Loaves & Fishes

Be looking for sales on hams this week. On **December 3**, we will be serving our traditional **Christmas dinner** with ham and all the trimmings.

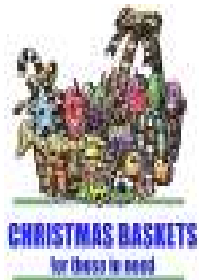
If you can help provide for this meal, be sure and call Linda Stratton and let her know.

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.



P.J.'s and Gloves Needed

Lauran Bethell Circle is sponsoring a "Pajama Party" for the Doors of Hope Women's Shelter for Christmas. Please send new or "gently" used pajamas of any size to the church office by December 16. These P.J.'s will stay at the shelter for incoming guests. As gifts for the women to take with them when they leave the shelter, we are asking for donations of gloves or mittens to give them for Christmas. Any questions, please call Debbie Nawa.



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 Christmas Basket. Donations for this ministry will be greatly appreciated.

Appreciation Offering for our Pastors

The Deacons have set up a special fund for the congregation to show their appreciation to the Pastoral Staff, which includes Charlie, Rog, Jay, and Levana, through December 18. Please mark your envelope "Pastor Appreciation."



Christmas Food & Gift Items Needed for Beacon Light Mission 525 North Broad Avenue Wilmington, CA 90744, 310/830-7063

Food: 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, onions, carrots, and salad mix.

Gift Items for Men~100 of each needed: socks, razors, shaving cream (travel size), toothbrushes, tooth paste (travel size), bar soap (small size), combs, handkerchiefs, nail clippers, deodorants (small size), shampoo, T-shirts (M to XXXL), sweatshirts (L to XXXL), briefs and boxers (size 30-50), and assorted gift items.

Women~20 each: shampoo, combs/brushes, nail sets, T-shirts (M to XXL), sweatshirts, bar soaps, deodorants, and assorted gift items.

Kids~10 each: Clothing for babies to teens, games, toys (no stuffed animals, please).

Miscellaneous items: blankets, backpacks, jackets, sweaters, caps, tennis shoes, belts, candy bars, and apples.

**Donations should be there
at least 7 days prior to Christmas.**



Angel Tree
His House/Salvation Army has given us 30 "angels" each marked with the name, age and request from one needy child, who would like a Christmas gift this year. If you are interested, you may choose an "angel" in the patio, fulfill the request, and return it to the office.

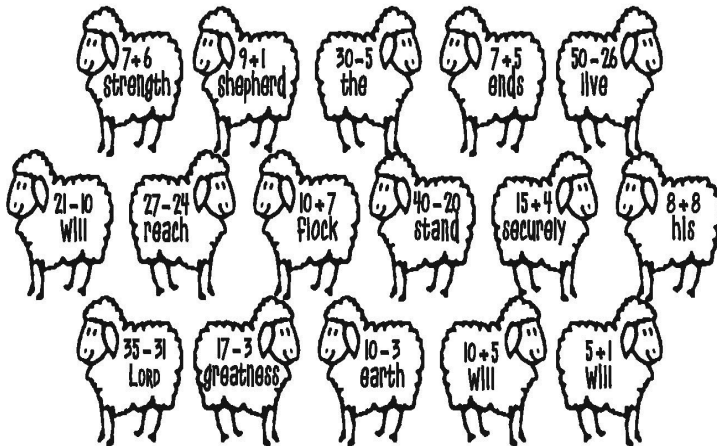
**Thank you so much
for anything that you can give!**



A Promised Ruler

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.



"He _____ and _____ his _____

15 20 10 17

in the _____ of the _____ And they _____

13 4 11 24

_____, for then _____

19 16 14 6

_____ to the _____ of _____."

3 12 25 7

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

SAVIOR ORNAMENT

This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

What you need:

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

What you do:

1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.

Recurring Weekly Events:

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 10:30a Circle of Friends	2 Anx reserved all day for Loaves & Fishes	3 11a Loaves & Fishes (Christmas) 3p Quest Scavenger Hunt
4	5 7p Women's Christmas Cookie Exchange & Craft Party	6 3p Srs. to Mission Inn (Riverside) 7p Lauran Bethell Circle	7	8 7p Beacon Light	9 12 noon Srs. & Friends Potluck	10 6p Children's Ministries Open House @ Condons 6:30p Singles' Game Night
11 6p Christmas Cantata	12	13 7p Committees: Outreach, Finance, Worship, GO	14	15	16 12 noon Widow's Luncheon 6:30p CRUX Christmas Party	17
18 4p C. E. Committee 5p Prayer Gathering	19 7p Ad Ops Committee	20 6p Fellowship Committee 7p Deacon/Deaconess Mtng.	21	22	23	24 8:00p Singles' Dinner Out after Cantata
25 10a Combined Service Merry Christmas	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed 6:30p Singles Movie Night	31

Sunday

Worship Services:

9:15 & 11 a.m. [only 10a 12/25]

Worship & Witness: 6 p.m. [no 12/25]

Adult Sunday School: 8:15, 9:15 & 11 a.m.

[no Sunday School 12/25]

Children's Church: 9:15 a.m. [no 12/25]

Patio Fellowship: 10:30 a.m. [no 12/25]

Children & Youth S.S.: 11 a.m. [no 12/25]

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): 6 p.m. [no 12/25]

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.

[no Tuesday events 12/20 & 27]

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.

[above events will not meet 12/21 & 28]

Choir Practice: 7 p.m.

Life of Jesus 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.

[except 12/23 & 30]

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.

MasterLife: 8 a.m. [except 12/24 & 31]





Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship

Please invite anyone of any age to join us.

Game Night ~ Saturday, December 10, 6:30 p.m. ~

Meeting place: Scott Schuler's loft in San Pedro, 285 W. 6th Street, #518 (cross streets are 6th and Centre). Don't forget to bring snacks to share.



Dinner Night ~ Saturday, December 24, 6:30 p.m. ~

If anyone wants to get together for dinner after the Christmas Eve Service, call Brenda-Jean.

Movie Night ~ Friday, December 30, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at Brenda-Jean Shephard's, 5757 Ravenspur Dr., #3, RPV.



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

Intentional, Reflective Discipleship

by Laura Springer, M.Div., Th.M.
[http://www.facebook.com/
pages/TFB-Sanctify-Academy/
166588986702549](http://www.facebook.com/pages/TFB-Sanctify-Academy/166588986702549)

What is the basic knowledge of Christian discipleship?

Before our minds go too far toward a narrowed focus on intellectual knowledge, let us broaden the scope: types of knowledge, like skills and values, take intentional, reflective practice – and time.

Through intentional practice of discipleship, one sets out to become like Jesus and determines to do the things that will form skills and values leading to that end. Through reflective practice of discipleship, one looks back at what has been done, evaluates the skills and values that have formed, and adjusts accordingly. The practices themselves are communal and personal worship, service, and study.

Over the past few months, we have laid out the broad subject categories within the practice of study: story, context, issues, and identity.

The story includes the storyline of Scripture and our own personal story. The storyline of Scripture is found in the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah, Luke, Acts, and Revelation. All other books of the Bible fit somewhere along this storyline. As followers of Jesus, our story is a continuation of the story begun in Scripture.

The context includes a deeper look at a Gospel to get to know Jesus and begin to grasp his heart. But our context doesn't stop there, for each of us is embedded in a culture that shapes how we see and understand the world. As Christ followers, we must participate in culture with open, biblically informed eyes.

The issues include the big questions, like the nature of truth and reality, our purpose as humans, and the nature of beauty and value. But it also includes questions arising from our daily lives, questions raised by our joys and struggles, by excitement and boredom, by courage and fear.

The final element, our **identity**, is the most crucial, for who we are and how we see ourselves shapes all our decisions. Church is not something we attend, but is something we are. Deeper still, every Christ follower exists in Christ every moment of life.

During the first few months of 2012, we will look at intentional, reflective worship (Proverbs 9:10) and intentional, reflective service (1 Peter 4:10), relating these to these subject categories.



Next Events for Seniors & Friends



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.

We will leave the church at 3 p.m. and return at 9 p.m. Bring money for dinner.



Old Town Music Hall January

We are hoping to go to the Music Hall in El Segundo in January. Check for the date, time and program in the January "Proclaimer."

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.

Seniors & Friends Potluck Luncheon Friday, December 9, at 12 noon

Sign up now in the patio (or call the office) for our Potluck on **Friday, December 9 at 12:00 noon**. Turkey and ham will be provided. Please bring side dishes to share.



**Christmas
Potluck**

Widow's Luncheon December 16 at 12 noon



*~ Eating a wonderful lunch
~ Singing some favorite hymns
~ Connecting with friends*

Sign up in the patio or call the church office to let us know if you will be able to come.



TFB Global Outreach

by Marla Dodd



Christmas Offering for our Missionaries

Your Global Outreach Committee has chosen Chuck and Elouise Corwin (Tyrannus Halls Ministries) and Beacon Light Mission to receive this year's Christmas Offering

Please be generous in giving this extra support to these dear folks as a powerful encouragement to them for their ministry in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Ministry

Thank you for giving **278** shoeboxes this year which will be sent to various places in the world that are in great need. The children who receive them will hear the Good News of Christ and also be greatly blessed by your generosity.



As we move into the Christmas Season, please remember all of our missionaries and their families. Send a card or note to let them know you are thinking and praying for them.

This month, we want to spotlight Jerilyn and Jon Sousa. They are missionaries with InFaith (formerly known as AMF, American Missionary Fellowship). They have been called to work with Spanish-speaking people in Oregon. They mostly minister to Hispanics when they first arrive in the United States, which is a time when they are most open to the Gospel.



There are four areas of ministry that God has called them to focus on. First, they hold ministry outreach events throughout the year that are aimed at attracting recent newcomers to the U.S. Those activities include Open Gym, Good Friday Outreach, a Carne Asada Outreach, Prayer Outreach, and Christian Concerts.

Secondly, they are involved in planting Spanish-speaking churches. So far, they have planted three churches and continue to serve in all three of them. Jon is the pastor of two of these churches. They will continue to plant more churches as God opens doors.

Thirdly, they are involved in multiplying their ministry through leadership training and involving other people in their ministry. They help others to step up into leadership through Home Bible Studies and visitation ministry opportunities.

And finally, they actually sent people from their church to Mexico to start a new church. The missionaries they sent actually went back to their home town to start that church.

A story that Jon and Jerilyn recently shared was such an encouragement to me that I would like to share it with you. I will summarize it:

Juan and Vicki are a couple that Jon and Jerilyn ministered to and led to Christ. They have been Christians for only a few years. Juan and Vicki were expecting a child. She was in the ninth month, but the baby had died. She had to give birth and had no support from family or hospital staff. After the birth, they did not even get to see the baby, nor did they get to find out if it was a boy or girl. Juan's family was very unkind and unsupportive. The church was not as supportive as they could have been. This is a tragic story, however, because of this couple's new relationship with Christ, they were able to find His comfort and peace through this situation. Juan shared Isaiah 43:2, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you."

Please continue to pray for Jon and Jerilyn as they minister and share the love of Christ.

Reflections

continued from p. 2

heaven. Yes, Jesus Christ is the “Light of the world” (John 9:12) and through faith in Him we can rejoice.

Yes, the coming of our Savior truly is
GOOD NEWS:

- * It was Good News from heaven;
- * It was Good News to the lowly;
- * It was Good News for all men;
- * It was Good News of great joy;
- * It was Good News of salvation; and
- * It was Good News for us.

May this Thanksgiving and Christmas season be a time of rejoicing for you as you reflect on your Savior, Jesus Christ, Who came to earth so that you might have life and light in His Name.

Yes, it is as the apostle Paul declares in 2 Corinthians 9:15:

“Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable Gift.”

With much thankfulness, Joyce and I wish you and your family a blessed and joyous holiday season.

Rejoicing in Him,
Pastor Rog



Operation Bake & Take

We want to make the holiday season a little more joyous for our shut-ins through our 3rd annual *Operation Bake & Take*.

You may bake cookies (frozen cookie dough is available in the patio or office) and take them to a shut-in any time during the months of November and December.

Stop by the outreach table in the patio to sign up, pick up cookie dough (if needed) and get helpful information.

You may also call the church office for information.

2012 Offering Envelopes

New envelopes are available in the patio for those who have assigned numbers. Please be sure and pick yours up for the upcoming new year.

Anyone who does not have numbered envelopes and would like them for next year, stop by the table in the patio and put in your request.



Attendance & Giving



AVERAGE WEEKLY
ATTENDANCE
FOR OCTOBER = 295



Thank you for giving
approximately \$57,661
in the month of October.



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

Willow Grace Schonberg, infant daughter of Arond and Andrené, sister of Kari, Madison, Jackson, and Peyton, and granddaughter of Tom Nordstrom, is now in the arms of Jesus, Grandma Candy, and sister Candace.

She earned her crown without the conflict;
and

Janet Perdue, TFB member and loving mother
of Roger, is now with the Lord.



Don't Forget . . .



*Saturday
November 26
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.*

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 time of service. Space is limited to 25 people (check with Pastor Jay to see if there is still room), and you must be 13 years old to participate. Release forms are available in the HS room.



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

Our class Christmas party will be held at the Bundoc home. Class members should bring a salad, side dish or dessert. The cost is \$7.50 per person (which covers the cost of the meat, bread, coffee, punch, bottled water and paper goods). Also bring a gift to exchange (\$10 limit).

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

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