

# Torrance First Baptist Church

## the Proclaimer

April 2012 Volume 25 Issue 4



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### *Easter Cantata* *April 1, 6:00 p.m.*

On Palm Sunday, April 1, our choir, under the direction of Randy Stager, will present "Once Upon a Tree" by Pepper Choplin. This cantata, narrated by Luke, will take us on a journey, from Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, through the last supper, to his betrayal, to death on the cross and finally, to Easter Sunday, when Christ rises from the tomb!

Join us for a profoundly moving experience.

### *Passover Seder & Potluck* *Good Friday* *April 6, 6:30 p.m.*

Join us in the Gym as we participate in an actual Seder as a way to connect with the heritage of our own Christian beliefs and to see how the practices of the ancient world are still relevant to Christianity today.

The Passover Seder Plate (above right) is a special plate containing six symbolic foods used during the Passover Seder. Each of the six items arranged on the plate have special significance to the retelling of the story of the Exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt.

Learn what each food represents to the Jews and taste some of the elements. You will also: ➤ see how Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us; ➤ see the Lamb of God pictured in the Old Testament and revealed in the New; ➤ appreciate Communion, its roots in the Last Supper and the significance of God's promise, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you"; and ➤ have an opportunity to bring family and friends to a clear presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

If you're adventurous, you can bring a Jewish dish (see Nathan Montgomery for recipe) or just make your own creation for the potluck.



*Proclaimers* are also  
available for viewing and  
printing on-line:  
[www.torrancefirstbaptist.org](http://www.torrancefirstbaptist.org)

## From the Pastor's Heart



### Living Outwardly Focused Lives in an Inwardly Focused World

Have you ever noticed the incredible change that occurs in Jesus' disciples after the resurrection? It is amazing!

Before the resurrection they were a combination of doubting, self-centered, arrogant, confused men with very little faith, almost no servant mind-set

and jostling for positions of prominence within the group.

But afterwards they shared their faith wherever they went, genuinely developed a humble servant's heart, sacrificed the comforts of life, stayed bold in the midst of persecution, and stayed focused on God's mission.

These were men driven in their passion and vision for God's mission. It sure was a change from that day in the Garden of Gethsemane when they ran away, leaving Jesus all alone to face the enemy.

I am thinking we all could use this kind of transformation. I'm unsure how it might look, but I think there would be no mistaking the results. Our excitement for the future would

become infectious, our boldness would increase, our pettiness would disappear, our encouragement of others would blossom, and there would be a consistent flow of people hearing from us the Good News of Jesus Christ.

What those first disciples had that we also have is the reality of a risen Jesus Christ. May this Easter be a time of renewal as we open ourselves to the transforming work of our living Lord.

I encourage you to invite a friend and join us in celebrating Easter with our Palm Sunday Choir Concert, April 1, our Passover Seder, April 6, and our Easter Services on April 8.

Pastor Charlie

Living Outwardly Focused Lives  
in an Inwardly Focused World

## Reflections

by Pastor Rog

Dear Church Family,

None of us is immune from the trials and sorrows of life. One man who knew a great deal about these things said this...

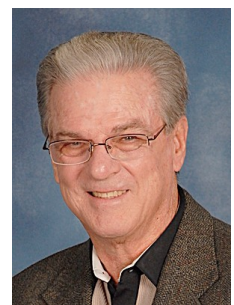
*"Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward" (Job 5:7).*

Yes, Job certainly knew about the heartaches and trials of life that the righteous face.

I must admit that at times when trials come my way, instead of relaxing in God's care, I worry. You know what I mean? It's then that the Holy Spirit reminds me to Whom I belong and His loving

care for me and my situation. A simple story underscores my point.

"While walking along the edge of the Dead Sea one day, a man lost his balance and tumbled into a deep section of water. Because he didn't know how to swim, he was panic-stricken. In desperation he began to thrash about, fearing he would drown. After a few minutes, he was completely exhausted and felt he could do no more. Crying out to God for help, he expected the worst. But what a surprise awaited him! As soon as he relaxed, he began to float. In his fear, he had forgotten that the Dead Sea is so full

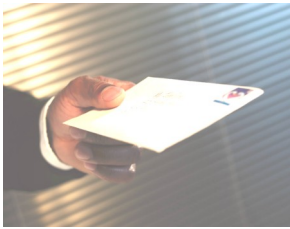


of salt and other minerals that if a person lies still, he will quickly come to the surface. All he needs to do is to trust himself to the buoyancy of the water."

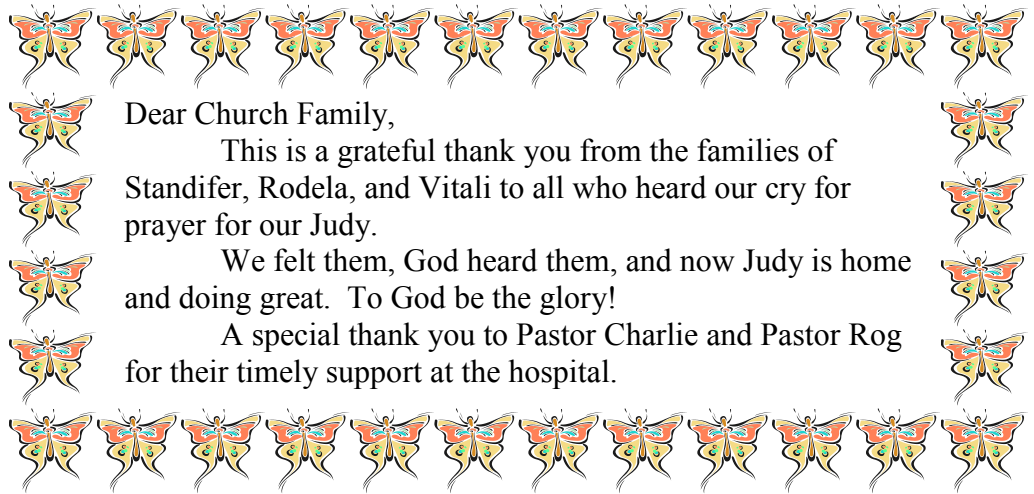
This simple story has a profound lesson for every anxious believer. God's everlasting arms support us if we but give up our unnecessary

(Continued on page 11)





*We Get Mail*



Dear Church Family,

This is a grateful thank you from the families of Standifer, Rodela, and Vitali to all who heard our cry for prayer for our Judy.

We felt them, God heard them, and now Judy is home and doing great. To God be the glory!

A special thank you to Pastor Charlie and Pastor Rog for their timely support at the hospital.

## *Community Baby Shower April 28 ~ 1-3 P.M.*

Ladies, you are invited to attend our 5th annual Community Baby Shower which benefits His Nesting Place, Harbor UCLA Medical Center, Love INC, and Pediatric Therapy Network. Each agency helps underprivileged expectant mothers in our community. This is an excellent outreach opportunity to show unjudgemental Christian love to those less fortunate than ourselves. Please bring an unwrapped baby gift. Several new moms will be in attendance. They will be able to pick out some things that they need. The rest will be sent to the above agencies to be dispersed to other mothers in need.

If you would be interested in helping with this event, contact Mari in the church office.



## 2011 Pictures



# Summer Camp 2012

## Jr. High (July 1-6)

THOUSAND PINES PRESENTS  
**PYRITE**  
The Quest for Longbeard's Treasure Matt 6:19-21

**Cost: \$360**



## High School (July 8-14)

**Ponderosa Cost: \$450**



**Wildwood  
Discipleship Camp  
(11th & 12th Grade)**

**Cost: \$360**



Summer will be here sooner than you think. Camp registration is now open. A \$50 deposit holds your spot and starts you on a road to putting a little aside each month for camp. Keep watch for some fundraising opportunities this spring.

*Junior Summer Camp ~ August 13-17*  
*Camp Ponderosa ~ \$300*

**Sponsor a Child  
for Summer Camp**



We are again asking for donations for our **Camp Scholarship Fund** to help our kids go to Camp. The high cost of camp often keeps kids at home. If you'd like to help in this area, please mark your donations "Camp Scholarship Fund." Those who receive these fund are extremely grateful!



*Jr. High going to  
Beacon Light Mission  
April 12*

The Jr. High Service Project this month will be to help out at the Beacon Light Mission where they will help serve and clean up the dinner meal. They will also be able to interact with those who are there that night.

*F. A. D.  
Movie Night  
April 27  
6:30-9 p.m.*



The April "Friday After Dark" event will be a movie of your choice in the Jr. High Room. (Be sure and cast your vote as to which movie you would like to see.) Eat dinner before you come, but you can bring a favorite snack and popcorn and drinks will be provided.



WOMEN'S  
*Retreat*  
*April 20-22*

Ladies, if you have signed up, be sure your money is in and that you have filled out the Thousand Pines Health Form. For those who wanted to go but were late in signing up, there is a Waiting List in case of last-minute cancellations.

The bus will leave at 10:00 a.m. on Friday and stop at the Ontario Outlet Mall on the way up. We will return at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday.



*April 29*  
*6 p.m.*

CRUX Student Ministries will host an evening of worship through song and Scripture. Everyone is welcome to join us in the gym as we celebrate our amazing God and rejoice together united in Him.

*Do you have the desire to  
be a Christian drug &  
alcohol counselor?*

Help those caught in the bondage of addiction through the powerful name of Jesus Christ by becoming a state certified counselor. The Association of Christian Drug & Alcohol Counseling is holding classes on **Monday nights** from **7-9 p.m.**, here at Torrance First Baptist Church in Room 208. For fees and more information, contact:

Pastor Simon Suh  
310/751-0619, or  
e-mail: [pastorsuh81@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsuh81@gmail.com)  
or go to [www.acadc.org](http://www.acadc.org).



*Thank you for a  
Successful Work Day!*

The Ad Ops Committee would like to thank all, especially the TFB Youth, who came out on Work Day. We praise the Lord for everyone and all that was accomplished!



*at*  
*Indian Hills*  
*Campgrounds*

*June 22-24*

Sign-ups have begun for our annual family camp in Jamul, California. We have changed the date (making it later in the month) hoping that this is a more convenient time for most of you.

Activities include: swimming, biking, horseshoes, basketball and the ever popular "Zip-Line"! God's Word will be presented by Charlie and Tom Witherill.

You can bring your own tent, motor home, etc., or you can sign up for one of the cabins, each of which sleeps 10.

Below are the costs:

R.V. Area (per person):	\$17 (one night); \$22 (two nights)
Cabins (per person):	\$40 (two nights) [minimum of 5 people]
Tents (per person):	\$17 (one night); \$22 (two nights)
Day use only:	\$7 (per person, 13-adult) \$6 (per person, 3-12)



## The purpose of the gospel

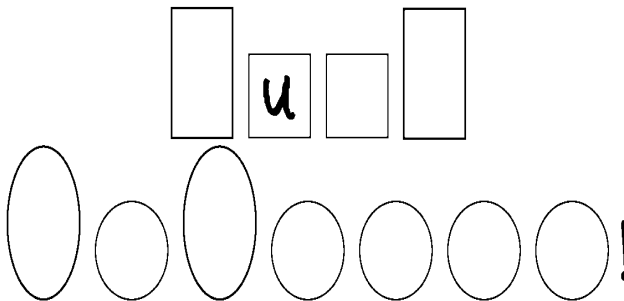
The gospel of John records many signs and miracles that Jesus performed in front of his disciples. Discover why these were written.



Directions: Use a Bible to fill in the missing letters of John 20:31. Then write the shape-enclosed letters in the corresponding boxes and circles below, in order of appearance, to discover John's message.

"...    e    ie    e    hat    es u s  
is th    es    iah, the S    n  
of    od,    nd tha    by  
be          ing    ou m    y  
ha    e lif    i    hi    na    e."

JOHN 20:31, NIV



Answers: "... believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."  
Just Believe!

## Resurrection COUNTDOWN

Make this interactive craft to use as Easter approaches.

### What you need:

- An empty egg carton
- Scissors
- Tissue paper (a dark color)
- Pencil
- Bible
- 12 slips of white paper
- Glue
- Marker



### What you do:

1. Cut the lid and side flaps off the egg carton.
2. Lay the carton open-side down on tissue paper. Trace and cut out the rectangular shape.
3. On the paper slips, write 12 verses from John 12 about Holy Week (including one about Easter).
4. Place each slip in an egg cup, in order, starting at the top left and ending (with the Easter verse) at the bottom right.
5. Put glue around cups and carton edges. Lay the tissue paper on top.
6. Gently mark numbers 1-6 on the tissue paper along the top row and 7-12 along the bottom.
7. Before Easter, punch through one cup each day and read the verse.

Recurring Weekly Events:						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Palm Sunday 6p Easter Cantata	2	3 7p Luran Bethell Circle	4	5 10:30a Circle of Friends	6 Good Friday Anx reserved all day for Loaves & Fishes 6p Passover Seder	7 11a Loaves & Fishes 7p Full-Moon Hike
8 Happy Easter 5p Prayer Gathering	9	10 CRUX Mission Trip	11 CRUX Mission Trip	12 CRUX Mission Trip 7p Beacon Light w/Jr. High	13	14 6:30p Singles' Game Night
15 4p C. E. Committee	16 7p Ad Ops and Finance Committees	17 6p Committees: Fellowship, Worship, GO & Outreach 7p Deacon/ Deaconess Mtng	18	19	20 10a Ladies leave for Camp	21 7p Share & Care
22 3p Ladies return from camp 5p Prayer Gathering	23	24	25	26 10a Srs. & Friends to Botanical Gardens	27 6:30p Jr. High Movie Night	28 1p Community Baby Shower 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out
29 6p Ardent Worship with CRUX	30					

**Sunday**

Worship Services:

9:15 &amp; 11 a.m. Worship &amp; Witness: 6 p.m.

[Adult Sunday School: 8:15, 9:15 &amp; 11 a.m.]

Children's Church: 9:15 a.m.

Patio Fellowship: 10:30 a.m.

Children &amp; Youth S.S.: 11 a.m.

New Covenant Children's S.S.: 11 a.m.

New Covenant (Korean) Wship: 12:45 p.m.

New Covenant (Korean) Fellowship: 2 p.m.

NeXus (College): 6 p.m.

**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. [not on 4/10]

High School Revive: 7 p.m. [not on 4/10]

Bible Study: 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday**

BSF: 9:15 a.m. [not on 4/11]

Children's Program: 6:45 p.m. [not on 4/11]

Jr. High QUEST: 6:45 p.m. [not on 4/11]

Small Group Bible Study: 6:45 p.m.

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.

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.



2012

April



## *Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship*

*Please invite anyone of any age to join us.*

**Game Night ~ Saturday, April 14, 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 Out ~ Saturday, April 28, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at** Hometown Buffet, 3520 Carson Street (behind Del Amo Mall).



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

### *Friendship with God? Really?*

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

We are all looking for something. The amazing thing is that we are all looking for the same basic things: persons to trust, real freedom, wholeness, and authentic relationship. It does not matter how much money or power you have; at bottom these are things for which we were created and we are less than without them. It all begins with trust and specifically trust in Christ.

Our trust evidences itself in freely loving others, for we are only able to love when we are free to take risks. Love is inherently risky. We may get hurt. We may experience deep loss. We will certainly spend life giving ourselves away. This is how it is.

The other side is that if we don't love, we aren't really living, for true freedom is freedom to be who we are and live according to our design. We are designed by a triune God who eternally loves. We are created as his image bearers, to show creation what God is like. Freedom is living out this design.

*This sort of freedom  
requires that we  
trust the designer.*

This sort of freedom requires that we trust the designer. Our whole corruption of his design requires that we trust him to make us whole and restore in us his image. The focus of this trust is Jesus. The object of this trust is the triune God, Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit, who is Creator, Sovereign Master, and Ultimate End.

This trust is a relational thing, not a forensic thing. Friendship, real friendship hangs out in enjoyment and reaches out in pain. We don't get there often I expect. This is unfortunate, for it is relationship with him that makes us like him.

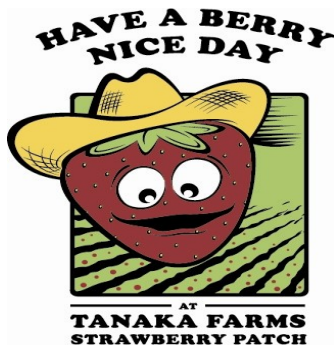


## Next Events for Seniors & Friends



### South Coast Botanical Gardens April 26 (Thursday)

We will leave the church at **10 a.m.** and head up to Palos Verdes to witness the beautiful Botanical Gardens. The cost, which includes the tram and lunch is \$19. We will return to the church at 2 p.m.



### Tanaka Farms Strawberry Tours May 31

This is a guided tour around the farm that takes approximately 1-1/4 hours on a tractor pulled wagon. You will see how the fruits & vegetables grow and sample various fruits & vegetables that are in season. The last stop on this tour is to pick & eat strawberries as well as pick yourself a one (1) pound basket to take home. We will leave the church at 9:45 a.m. The cost is \$14 for the tour and includes a 1 lb. basket of strawberries (you pick 'em). Bring money for lunch on the way home.

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



### *Smile Awhile!*



On my way home one day, I stopped to watch a Little League baseball game that was being played in a park near my home. As I sat down behind the bench on the first-base line, I asked one of the boys what the score was. "We're behind 14 to nothing," he answered with a smile.

"Really," I said. "I have to say, you don't look very discouraged."

"Discouraged?" asked the boy with a puzzled look on his face. "Why should I be discouraged? We haven't been up to bat yet!"



Whenever I'm disappointed with my spot in life, I stop and think about little Jamie Scott.

Jamie was trying out for a part in the school play. His mother told me that he'd set his heart on being in it, though she feared he would not be chosen.

One the day the parts were awarded, I went with her to collect him after school. Jamie rushed up to her, eyes shining with pride and excitement.

"Guess what, Mom," he shouted, and then said those words that will remain a lesson to me: "I've been chosen to clap and cheer!"

A police recruit was asked during the exam: "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?"

He answered, "Call for backup."



## *News from Berna Boné working with Grace Global Ministries*

*“But let all who take refuge in You be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your Name may rejoice in You. For surely, O Lord, You bless the righteous; You surround them with Your favor as with a shield” (Psalm 5:11-12).*

I trust you have been experiencing our loving Father’s grace and mercy [in this new year]. As with the Psalmist, I take refuge in God and rejoice. We are righteous by God’s grace and with that knowledge, we can claim His blessings to surround us always.

The covenant groups at our church plant are [meeting again after] a 2 months break in December and January.... We have 4 groups this year and I’ve been asked again to lead one of the groups. Previously, I had mentioned about wanting to mentor young women. However, the senior pastor encouraged me to do it in a covenant group setting. I have chosen to use the book Knowing God by J. I. Packer and I’m looking forward to journeying with the group until November. It will be a long stretch, but I’m confident God will bless our desire to know Him more.

Right after our covenant leader’s retreat at the beginning of February, I left the country for a necessary visa trip. Peiter, one of Dar’s spiritual sons, generously paid for my trip to Papua. While there I was able to get some overdue blood tests done and discovered my blood sugar count is elevated and I have a cholesterol problem. As my body aged, my health also went south. ☹️ Appreciate prayers in diligence for a healthy life-style of eating and exercise. Despite my poor blood test results, I had a wonderful visit with Peiter and Herman’s families. Herman is another godly man we were privileged to mentor when he was young. Both Peiter and Herman are blessed with loving wives, wonderful children and good paying jobs. Both families blessed me in more ways than one by hosting and caring for me during my entire visit.

Thank you for your continued partnership towards the work I’m doing here. Your prayers and financial support allows me to be here to work along side a group of people who are reaching out with the gospel.

I have been asked to plan something for Good Friday and Easter. I was away for 2 weeks so I now need to work on this sooner than later. That and the start of the covenant group will keep me busy for the next few weeks. Thanks for bringing me before the Lord. Do let me know how I can also pray for you. I would count it a privilege to bring you before the throne.



*April 10-12*

Please pray for our High School students who will again team up with San Diego area ministries to serve over Easter vacation. They will be working with San Diego inner city organizations and putting their faith into action with street evangelism.

They would very much appreciate your prayers for them as they serve the Lord in this way.

# Reflections

continued from p. 2

fears and cease from our own futile efforts. Only then will the safety and serenity offered by a complete reliance on Him quiet our hearts. Oh, how true this is. In Psalm 55, David encourages us to relax in God's love and care as well. He tells us:

*"Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall"* (Psalm 55:22).

Perhaps you, like the man in the Dead Sea, have come to the end of your own resources. Dear friend, don't despair—there is hope for you. CAST YOUR CARES UPON HIM. Stop fretting, rest comfortably in His loving arms, and you'll find them more than adequate to support you.

So thankful for His love and grace,  
Pastor Rog



Shellby Grace  
Nordstrom  
was born on February 22  
to Brian and Shelly.  
She weighed 8 lbs. 14 oz.  
and was 19" long.  
Congratulations to  
Grandpa Tom and  
the Schonberg clan on this new  
addition to the family.



## Attendance & Giving



### ATTENDANCE

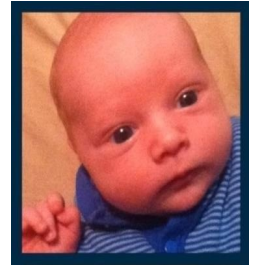
AVERAGE WEEKLY  
ATTENDANCE  
FOR FEBRUARY = 289



Thanks you for giving approximately  
\$54,823 in the month of February.

Chase Powell Martin  
was born on February 23.  
He weighed 7 lbs. 12 oz. and  
was 19" long.

Congratulations to  
Mom and Dad:  
Christina and Matthew  
and big sisters, Nicole &  
Kady!



### April 7 (Saturday)

### Hiking & Backpack Ministry

Our next hike  
will be on Saturday,  
April 7 at 7 p.m. Actual  
destination and time is  
unknown at this time.

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



## *Don't Forget . . .*

### **Men's Ministry** *Bowling Night*

Join the "Journeyman" for a "striking" good time of bowling, food and fun on **Thursday, March 29, from 7-9 p.m.**, at the AMF Bowl-O-Drome Lanes. The cost is \$20/person.



### *CREATION SCIENTISTS*

If you are interested in creation or science in general, come to the South Bay Creation Science Association meetings which take place **every 4th Saturday** of the month at Calvary Assembly of God Church, 25501 Oak Street in Lomita. There is a video at 6 p.m. and then a special speaker at 7 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **April 28**. Visit on the web at [www.creationinthecrossfire.org](http://www.creationinthecrossfire.org) or call Steven Gaal, 310/371-0245, for more information.



### **QUEST** *MINI-GOLF*

On **Friday, March 30**, the Jr. High youth will meet at Mulligan's, 1351 Sepulveda, in Harbor City at **5 p.m.** Parents can pick up their children at **8 p.m.**

*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 Task Force Bravo for children.

For more information, contact the church office: 310.328.5030 or [info@tjbclife.org](mailto:info@tjbclife.org) or visit us on the web at [www.tjbclife.org](http://www.tjbclife.org)