

the Proclaimer

January 2017

Volume 30 Issue



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Happy New Year from your TFB Staff!!



Back row, l. to r.: Peggy Moore (Office Volunteer on Fridays); Karla Gaines (Children's Director); J. J. Plock (Office Asst.); Rog Hosier (Assoc. Pastor); Daniel Marion (Contemporary Worship Leader/College Director); Sonja Sealey (Office Lead); Pastor Charlie (Lead Pastor). Front row, l. to r.: Tammy Hurtado (Nursery Director); Pam Fisher (Pianist); Andrea Lavoie (Secretary); Sharlene Jackson (Receptionist); Ann Pursche (Interim Volunteer High School Director & Office volunteer); and Jay Kim (Jr. High Director). Not pictured: Randy Stager (Director of Worship Choir), Karen Davis (Accountant); & Jonathan Norris (Set-up/lock-up guy).



Sunday, January 1
10 a.m. ~ Breakfast
11 a.m. ~ Worship Service

Join us on New Year's Day as we join our hearts together to worship the Lord in one combined service. A Continental Breakfast will be served at 10 a.m. After breakfast, we will meet in the Sanctuary to worship together. There will be no Sunday School that day, but there will be Children's Church (ages 5-7). Worship & Witness **will not** take place that night.

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

From the Pastor's Heart



Before we move on from the Christmas season, I want to share one last reflection focusing on the identity of this Baby born some 2000 years ago. When the angels appeared to the shepherds, they gave this Baby the name Christ the Lord. When I was born my parents gave me the name Charles Edward after my grandfather and great grandfather. The names given to this Baby are after His Father. There are actually three names given to this special Baby: Jesus, Christ, and the Lord.

Jesus is His personal name and was given to Him by the angel Gabriel when he appeared to Mary and then to Joseph explaining the pregnancy and coming birth. The personal name Jesus means “Yahweh saves” or “God saves.” That is why the angel Gabriel told Joseph to name Him Jesus because He will save people from their sins. So His personal name describes His primary purpose for coming to earth.

The next name given to this Baby was Christ. The Hebrew word Messiah and the Greek word Christ are one and the same. This is not a personal name but more like a title—a very specific title that was included in prophecies of the Old Testament. These prophecies referred to a future coming of someone in King David’s family line that would be the “Anointed One” or Messiah sent from God to lead Israel to greatness. The angel Gabriel gives us insight as to how special this Baby was when he tells Mary, “*He will be great and be called the Son of the Most High*” (Luke 1:32, NIV). When

Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River the text says that “*A voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, Whom I love; with You I am well pleased’*” (Mark 1:11, NIV). John writes in John, chapter one, that Jesus Christ is God Himself Who came and lived among us. Many times Jesus referred to God with the personal intimate term *Father*.

Also this Baby was given the name Lord. This, too, is not a personal name but a title of position and authority. The angel Gabriel also said to Mary “*...and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end*” (Luke 2:33).

Thomas was one of the disciples of Jesus who had a very hard time believing Jesus had come back from the dead. But when he came face to face with the resurrected living Jesus, he responded “My Lord and my God,” and Jesus did not correct him.

In the book of Revelation Jesus Christ’s second coming is described this way: “*I saw heaven open and*

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Reflections

by Pastor Rog



Dear Church Family,

In a few days we will be entering a new year—2017. How quickly time marches on. Perhaps, like me, as you look back on this past year, you wish that some of the goals you set for yourself had been reached but, for one reason or another, they hadn’t materialized. It might also be that you’ve experienced a failure in your life which has robbed you of joy and peace this past year. Failure comes in different “shapes” and “sizes.”

In saying this, I can’t help but remember what happened to John Mark many years ago (please read Acts 14:36-41).

Earlier in Acts 13:5, we read that John Mark is accompanying Saul (Paul) and Barnabas when they started out on their first missionary journey. Things were going well, but a short time later, John Mark deserted his friends (13:13). We are not told why this happened or what might have influenced his decision—he just left.

Apparently later, while at home, he regretted what he had done, and so he asked to be included the next time his older friends set out. Barnabas (this name means “son of encouragement”) wanted to give him another chance, while Paul didn’t. This caused a big problem which resulted in Paul and Barnabas splitting up. This split led Paul to take Silas and

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*Open House
Birthday Party
January 7, 1-4 p.m.*

Everyone is invited to the celebration of Carol Hubert's 90th birthday to be held at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Greg and Gina, 23501 Carlow Rd. in Torrance.

No gifts, please—just your presence!

RSVP by January 1 to Gina, 919/806-7289, or email: gnghubert@gmail.com.



**Attention All Committee Chairs
and Group Leaders:**

Please note that your reports are **due** on or before **January 8, 2017**, so they can be included in the 2016 Year-End Report that will be made available to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2017.

*Here we are
in Your presence,
lifting holy hands to You;
here we are,
praising Jesus,
for the things
He's brought us through.*



*Party for Bob Andrew on
January 15 ~ 12:30 p.m.*

Join us after church for refreshments in the gym and annex on Sunday, January 15, after church to celebrate Bob's 80th birthday.

No need to RSVP and no presents, please!

*Potluck Dinner &
Annual Business Meeting
January 29 ~ 5:30 p.m.*

Join us for our annual Potluck and Business Meeting as we review the year that has passed, give thanks to the Lord for what He has done, and focus on the vision He has given to us for 2017.

For the Potluck, those with last names that begin with A-M, bring a main dish and salad; those with last names beginning the N-Z, bring a main dish and dessert.

Is "New" a Good Thing or Is It Scary?

From the time I was five years old until I retired from working in my career, I always dreaded the first day back after the New Year holiday. It was not that I hated working hard in school or for the company, but that the change from one year to the next brought with it a new set of stresses: what new challenges would I be facing? What sort of new assignments, new people, or new responsibilities would be coming my way? For a person like me who doesn't like change in general, it was all too much sometimes. I've gotten better now with change because I am no longer chained to deadlines or to business goals imposed by others, plus I have a better perspective as a retiree.

As much as I previously disliked the idea of ushering in a new year, some of our High school students can be particularly averse to the change January brings because semester finals happen near the end of the month. For them, "new" means extra work and fear of the unknown. It's hard for them to be confident that everything will work out according to their plan, and they worry if they will get the grades they need to pass their classes.

However, in the midst of this, we have a God Who likes new things and proclaims that "I am doing a new thing..." (Is. 43:19) or that His mercies "are new every morning" (Lam. 3:23) or even, "I am making everything new!" (Rev. 21:5). This God of ours is making new creations out of us and bringing new circumstances to our lives. He is bringing new things because the old life, the old person with whom we are most comfortable, is not what He desires for us. He wants us to trust that as He brings in the new, He still is in control of our lives. So even when the students are faced with the pressure of finals, of deadlines, of the unknown of what the next semester will bring, they can be confident that the Lord of Heaven and Earth, Who will be remaking these things to perfection, will do the same in their lives. 2017 will be filled with many new things: students graduating in and out of the group, new friendships forming, new opportunities for ministry; pray for us then as the "new" comes our way.

Ann Pursche
Interim High School Director



*Wednesday
January 4
6:30 p.m.*

Join us here at church
to see the movie,
"Prince of Egypt."

Let's Eat!

*Sunday, January 29
12 noon-2 p.m.*

Join us after Sunday School for our "Not Your Usual" Luncheon here at TFB. Each Jr. High must bring a partner (friend, family member, or church member) to participate. We will be competing with other teams as we play games while eating.



WINTER CAMPS

High School ~ January 13-16 at Lake Arrowhead ~ \$60

Jr. High ~ February 3-5 at Thousand Pines ~ \$175

Juniors (3rd-6th grades) ~ January 27-29 at Forest Home ~ \$165

Sign up now with a \$50 deposit.

If you'd like to help a youngster go to camp, who could not otherwise afford it, please write *"Camp Scholarship Fund"* on your envelope.



Kids' Nite Out Parents' Date Night

Friday, January 20, 6~9 p.m.

Parents, leave the kids (infants through 5th grade) to have dinner and a movie with us while you enjoy a night out together. We are asking for a \$3 donation per child.



The new offering envelopes for 2017 will be in the foyer beginning on December 4. If you don't have any assigned to you but would like some, call Terri Mullin, 310/629-0396.



Men's Ministry
Guns 'n' Grub
January 28
8 a.m.

Meet at TFB at 8 a.m. We will be driving to a Shooting Range in Corona. There will be an entry fee and a cost to rent a weapon and buy ammo. You can bring your own weapon and ammunition if you want and only pay the entry fee—the amount to be announced later. We will have lunch on the way back, so bring \$\$ for that too.



Altar Flower
Calendar for 2017

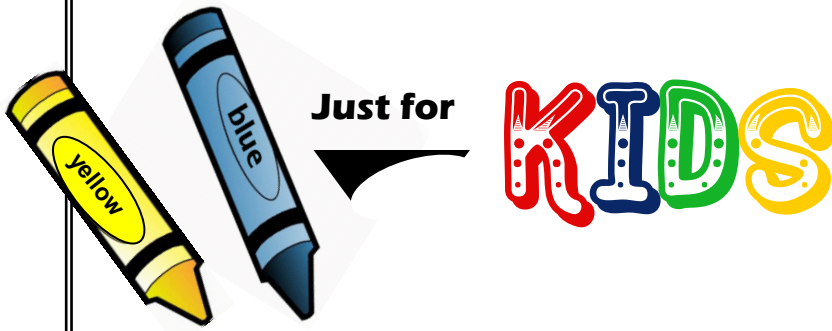
The Flower Calendar for 2017 is in the foyer. If you would like to celebrate a special event in your life or honor a loved one, please sign up to reserve your preferred date. The cost is \$50 per arrangement—one sign-up per date, please.

You may choose more than one date per family at this time. Please make your payment anytime before your chosen date. Mark your envelope "*TFB Flower Donation*" to get credit for your gift.

TFB Tithes
and
Offerings

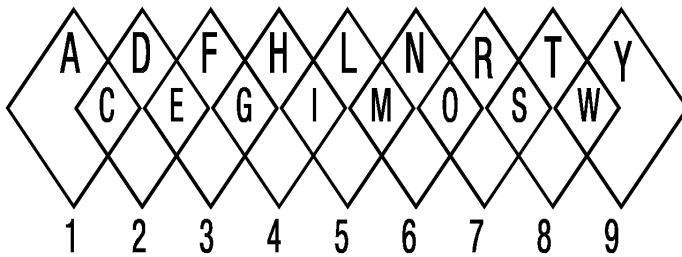


Thank you for giving approximately \$44,463 in the month of November.



"A New Year – A New You"

Find the words from 2 Corinthians 5:17.



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1,2 4 7 4,5 7,8 8 , 4 2,3 4,5 7,8 1

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8 4 2,3 6,7 5 2 4 1 7,8

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6 2,3 8,9 4 1 7,8

! ”
 1,2 6,7 5,6 2,3

Celebrate



“A New Year and A New You!”

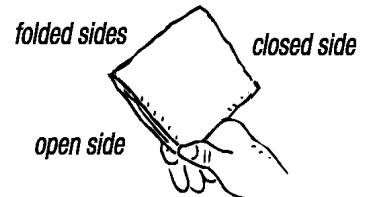
Make a paper noisemaker to celebrate with.

You will need:

- * a piece of notebook or copier paper
- * crayons or markers
- * ruler
- * scissors

How to:

1. Cut a piece of paper 7" or 8" square.
2. Color it or write “Happy New Year & Happy New You” on it.
3. Fold paper almost in half. The bottom edge should be 1/2" from the top. Crease the fold well. 
4. Fold in half side-to-side with the shorter flap inside. Crease well. 
5. Hold the paper tightly between thumb and index finger at open corner where there are only 2 thicknesses.
6. Quickly flick your arm and wrist downward. The inside paper will pop out and make a loud snap.



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Recurring Weekly Events:
1 Happy New Year 10a Breakfast 11a Combined Service; No S.S. or W&W 2p Sing @ Royalwood	2 Church Office closed	3	4 6:30p Jr. High Movie Night	5	6 Anx. Reserved for Loaves & Fishes 7p Young Marrieds	7 11a Loaves & Fishes 1p Carol Huberts' birthday open house [off-site]	Sunday 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. Children & Youth S.S., 11 a.m. [All above except 1/1 - see calendar] Covenant Children's S.S., 11 a.m. Covenant (Korean) Worship, 12:45 p.m. Covenant (Korean) Fellowship, 2 p.m.
8 Annual Report Due 5:20 Prayer Gathering	9	10	11	12 7p Contemporary Vocal Rehearsal 7p Beacon Light Mission	13 HS leaves for camp 7p College NeXus/ Young Adults	14 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out	Monday Ladies' Prayer, 10:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study Fellshp, 6:55 p.m. King's Family Karate, 6:30 p.m. [All above, except 1/2] Tuesday Classical Conversations High School Revive, 7 p.m. Both of above except on 1/3]
15 12:30p Bob Andrew's birthday party	16 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> HS home from camp 7p Finance & FacMan Teams	17 6p Ministry Teams: GO, Fellowship, Outreach, Worship, & Disc. Dev. 7p Deacon/ess	18	19	20 6p Kids' Night Out 7p Young Marrieds	21 7p Share & Care	Wednesday Handbell Practice, 5 p.m. Family Dinner, 6 p.m. Colossian Kids, 6:45 p.m. Jr. High Quest, 6:45 p.m. Crazy Love Bible Study, 6:45 p.m. Small Group Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice, 7 p.m. [All above will not meet on 1/4] Covenant (Korean) Bible Study, 8 p.m. Open Volleyball, 8:15 p.m.
22 5:20p Prayer Gathering	23	24	25	26 7p Contemporary Vocal Rehearsal	27 Juniors leave for camp 7p College NeXus/ Young Adults	28 8a Men's Guns 'n' Grub 6:30p Singles' Game Night	Thursday Ladies' Bible Study, 2 p.m. [Except 1/5 & 1/12] Friday Ladies meet @ Denny's for Bkfst., 9 a.m. [except 1/6] Saturday Men's BSF Leaders, 6 a.m. Covenant (Korean) Prayer, 6 a.m.
29 12n Jr. High Luncheon Juniors home from camp 5:30p Potluck & Annual Meeting	30	31					

Upcoming February Events:

- 2/3-5 ~ Jr. High Winter Camp
- 2/4 ~ Loaves & Fishes, 11a
- 2/11 ~ Singles' Dinner Out
- 2/17 ~ Seniors & Friends Luncheon, 12 noon
- 2/17 ~ Kids' Night Out, 6p
- 2/25 ~ Singles' Game Night



Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship



Please remember that Dinner Night (2nd Saturday of the month) and Game Night (4th Saturday of the month) 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, January 14, at 6:30 p.m.
Meet at HomeTown Buffet, 3520 W. Carson in Torrance.



Game Night ~ Saturday, January 28, 6:30 p.m. Meet at Gloria Pedersen's home, 817 Amapola Avenue, in Old Towne Torrance. Bring snacks & drinks to share.



If you have any questions, you may call Gloria Pedersen, 562/505-4495.

TFB Academy *"Jesus Is the Way, the Truth, and the Life"*

by Laura Springer, M.Div., Th.M

We tend to think goodness or special knowledge will bring us closer to God. We try to be better people. We read the Bible and pray. We learn theology. We practice spiritual disciplines. These are helpful things, but these are not the way to God. The way to God is a person, Jesus.

In John 14, Jesus is preparing the Eleven for his death and resurrection. He tells them that he will be going on ahead to the Father to prepare a place for them. They do not understand.

Thomas asks the question, "*Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?*" (John 14:5). Jesus responds that his followers already know the way, for Jesus himself is the Way. He will lead them to the where. Jesus is the way to the Father, and the Father is our forever home.

Jesus uses **way**, a plain, everyday word (Gk. *hodos*, meaning road or highway), to teach them a profound idea. Jesus himself is the Way; he is the truth and the life (John 14:6). His answer to Thomas places the conversation squarely in the realm of relationship. The road to God is Jesus. That is all.

Jesus is the **truth**, the full revelation of the Father. He is God in flesh, and he embodies the full revelation of the Father. He tells them, "*Whoever has seen me has seen the Father*" (14:9).

Jesus is the **life**; he is the fullness of the Creator, Savior, and Lord, who has made himself known. He has in himself the fullness of divine life. He is the life giver. His death and resurrection give life to all who have a relationship of trust with him.

As followers of Jesus, we ought to live out his life by becoming good persons. We ought to feast on Scripture and pray without ceasing. We ought to deepen our understanding of God and his ways. We ought to infuse our lives with spiritual disciplines that shape our souls. But none of these bring us to the Father. Only Jesus does that.

"Jesus himself is the Way... The road to God is Jesus."

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).



New Faces in the Office

Sonja Sealey has been our new Office Lead since May of 2016 but has not been officially introduced in *The Proclaimer*.

She, husband Scott, and son Zane, have been fixtures here at TFB since 2006. She can be seen on the front page of this newsletter peeking out between Ann Pursche and our new receptionist Sharlene Jackson.

Sharlene was born in Los Angeles, and except for one year in Central California, has always lived in the South Bay. She and her husband, Clay, met the night he came to faith in Christ and have been married for 23 years. They have a daughter, Ally.

Although Sharlene's mother was raised Roman Catholic and her father was raised Mormon, she was never drawn to those religions. She came to true faith in Jesus in 1986 and has been blessed to see her immediate family come to Christ as well.

Welcome to the Team, Sonja and Sharlene!



From the Pastor's Heart

Continued from p. 2

there before me was a white horse, whose rider is faithful and true...and His Name is the Word of God...On His robe and on His thigh He has this name: King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (Revelation 19:11, 13, 16).

So what is the meaning of Christmas? In a nutshell, it is that some 2000 years ago in the village of Bethlehem in the nation of Israel, the Son of God, the Savior sent from God, and the King above all Kings and Lord above all Lords was born. And He was born to save people from their sins.

What is the proper response to this? We find that in the book of Philippians, it says *"God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the Name that is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"* (Philippians 2:9-11, NIV).

When we give that response from the heart, we celebrate His birth the way God intended—not just on December 25th but every day of our lives.

Merry Christmas to you every day of 2017!

Pastor Charlie



Loaves & Fishes Update

Loaves and Fishes served about 119 guests for the Christmas luncheon.

We had 37 children attend, and we were able to provide each child with a gift or a gift card.

The adults (about 65) received a bag to fill up with various hygiene items. We had on hand for each adult: bars of soap, shampoo, hand cream, tooth paste, tooth brushes (2 each), hand sanitizers, Kleenex, sox, deodorant, and razors (2 each). We also had a box of miscellaneous items for them to pick from. In addition, we had Bibles on hand and several took them.

We were so blessed to be able to give to help the less fortunate.

One of our Bible study groups here at TFB came and served and helped in all kinds of ways. It was awesome to have everyone joining in and having a good time while they were helping and sharing their time and talents. I am so thankful for your group.

If your group wants to be involved, just call me or Gale Lee, and we will sign you up.

Thank you to everyone here at TFB for your help, prayers, and financial support for this outreach ministry.

In January we will be starting year 28. We are thanking our Lord for your continued faithfulness, and may God Bless you!

Linda Stratton and Team



Whenever you buy something on Amazon, if you go to the following website:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-1786079>

Amazon will donate 0.5% (.005) of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to First Baptist Church of Torrance California.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know—same products, same prices, same service.

We are registered as the First Baptist Church of Torrance California.



News from . . .

*Paul Pillai
India National Inland Mission*

Dr. Paul Pillai is the founder and director of India Inland Mission, which plants churches among Hindus. The mission also runs orphanages and a Bible College for training evangelists and pastors. Formerly a Hindu lawyer, Paul was converted when healed through an Indian Christian's prayer. During his thirty years in India, he has seen God's mighty hand at work.

Dear Church Family,

Greetings in the precious name of Christ our Lord.

Our evangelism and church-planting ministry has [top] priority [at] the mission. Grace Baptist College continues to produce our pastors and evangelists.

Our children's homes are under different pastors as part of their evangelism among children. Our first Wednesdays [of the month] pastors' meetings continue to encourage our pastors.

Our associates who have television ministries were stopped by the government as the government [has taken] over television. There are many laws [that have now been] passed by the Hindu-dominated government called anti-conversion laws. Our associates have an extensive ministry of educating the poor children in our society. Our women workers have a ministry among women by teaching them to read and write by which they share the Gospel with them. Our women graduates have an effective ministry among women through schools they established, and their evangelism through education is very effective.

We have orphanages under many of our pastors that train children by teaching in their schools. We rescue large numbers of female children trafficked from villages to the cities as slave labourers in city homes. Children [who] grow up in our orphanages come to our Bible College and become pastors and evangelists. Men and women [who] come from Muslim backgrounds are protected [when they are sent] to Christian centers [where they] are given a home and a good job.

We have a very fruitful ministry among the refugees [who] come to India from neighbouring countries like Pakistan.

Our Christian nurses are encouraged to share the Gospel with their patients while helping them in medical treatment. Evangelism through praying for the sick and afflicted in India brings large numbers of people to Christ.

Because the government restricts us [from] using public grounds for Gospel preaching, we concentrate in house meetings that are attended by large numbers of people. Certain people groups from the so-called lower caste in India are coming to Christ in large numbers through our work.

Our co-workers have an effective work among the industrial workers. Our Bible College and Seminary graduates are known as some of the best Bible teachers and evangelists in India.

Evangelism through English language teaching is very popular and effective in India. We have an effective literature ministry [during] the Hindu festival time in India with specially-made tracts for them. That brings a good response from Hindus.

With much love in Christ,
Paul Pillai



Annie and Paul Pillai and Family

Reflections *Continued from p. 2*

Barnabas to take John Mark on their next missionary journey.

Here we see that personal failure not only impacts our own lives but the lives of others.

I've often wondered what went on in Mark's mind as he reflected upon this turning back from what the Lord had called him to do. He couldn't erase what had happened, but neither was it the end of his serving the Lord. No! Our God is a gracious and forgiving God, and by His mercy He can bring beauty out of ashes. He certainly did in Mark's life.

Mark learned from his failure and became a respected Christian leader of his day. The Lord worked **in** and **through** his life, and God used him to write one of the four gospels.

Later on, Paul in his second prison epistle to Timothy asked for Mark saying, "...he is profitable to me for the ministry" (1 Timothy 4:11).

The Lord is teaching me many valuable lessons and one of them is this: **it doesn't do any good to keep on brooding about what went wrong.** To be sure, wishing we could do something over again is an exercise in futility! What is needed is to hand ourselves and our failure/frustration/defeat over to the Lord. James 4:6 says, "*God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*" Praise Him.

As we start this new year, let's give everything to Him. Yes, our victories and our failures. By God's **grace**, today is a **new day**. With His gracious help, we can **learn from** and **move on** from those difficult issues of the past. You see, if we learn from yesterday's failures, we're "living in the land of beginning again." Thank you Jesus.

Looking only to Him,
Pastor Rog



Christmas Card Exchange



Please make sure to check the box in the foyer to make sure there are no Christmas Cards remaining in it for you. We will not be able to forward by mail any cards that are left over. The box will be in the foyer through January 8.



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, Virgie Fletcher, Earl & Jean Forman, Dutchess Gattis, Mary Jacobsen, Joanne Jenkins, Helen Kessenich, Joan Kindt, Mary Larsen, Doug Luden, Joy Moore, Bill Morgan, Ralph Norsworthy, Joy Pierson, Darlene Purdom, Penny Rahmeyer, Jean Rayner, Barbara Rudé, Claudine Schultz, Mary Schultz, Lyle Smith, Bill & Gerri Stoodley, Norma Vinsonhaler, Betty Wallace, and Gertie Wissinger.

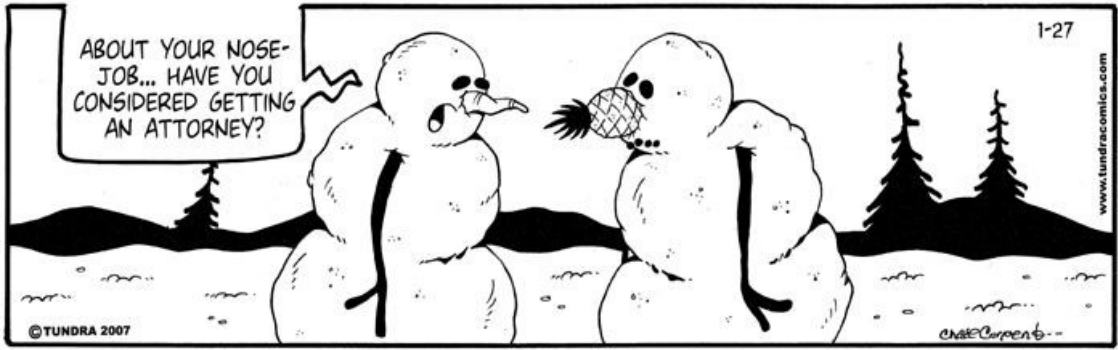


The following families have recently lost loved ones (please pray for them):

Megan Anderson lost her grandfather, and Ardys Burns, shut-in and former TFB attendee, is now with the Lord.



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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: College NeXus; High School Revive; Jr. High Quest; and Colossians Kids for children.

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