

the Proclaimer

March 2016 Volume 29 Issue 3



Inside this issue:

The Pastor's Heart	2
Reflections	2
Pageant of Our Lord	3
Women's Bunco Night	3
Kid's Night Out	3
Tenebrae Service	3
Night of Worship	3
H.S./College Events	4
CCCU Scholarships	4
We Get Mail	5
Peep-a-paloosa	5
Purim Celebration	5
Just for Kids	6
Calendar	7
Singles' Ministry	8
TFB Academy	8
Smile Awhile	9
Church Work Day	9
TFB Global Outreach	10
Reflections (cont.)	11
Sympathy	11
New Baby	11
Tithes & Offerings	11
Prayer Requests	11
Daylight Saving Time	12

Amazing
LOVE!

Recalling Christ's Sacrifice
by Lloyd Larson and Joel Raney

Easter Cantata
Sunday, March 20, 6 p.m.

The life and ministry of Jesus is characterized by His extraordinary love for others. For 3 years He taught, healed, served, and preached the Good News. And yet as He approached the end of those years, there was a stark contrast between those who embraced His message and those who were skeptical. *Amazing Love!* walks us down the road to the cross as we recount the final hours of our Lord's life when He was rejected, mocked, beaten and ultimately crucified by the very people He had come to redeem. May you find hope in the amazing, sacrificial love of Christ! And may it prompt you to fully embrace the claims of Christ, responding with your very best in devotion and service to the One Who gave His best for us.

Bring your family and friends to enjoy this tribute to our Lord and Savior by our Worship Choir under the direction of Randy Stager. You won't want to miss it.

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

From the Pastor's Heart



Allowing the grace of God to flow through you

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. This 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 change on a regular basis. I'm unsure how it might look, but I think there would be no mistaking the results. Our excitement for our future with Christ in eternity

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.

Just like the first followers of Jesus, this change only happens as we focus on Jesus Christ and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. I am asking God to do that work in me this year. I hope you will do the same.

Pastor Charlie

P.S. Easter is right around the corner. I encourage you to invite a friend to join you in celebrating Easter with our Palm Sunday Choir Concert, March 20, and our Easter Services on March 27.

Reflections

by Pastor Rog



Dear Church Family,

Spiritual failure. It's a harsh thought, but it's something we are all acquainted with. The sting of spiritual failure can be devastating to our lives. And though some people claim they've never spiritually failed (sinned), the Bible makes it clear that we all have (Romans 3:23). Why, even some of God's most faithful servants have "walked in our shoes." Take for example Abraham (Genesis 12:14-20), Moses (Numbers 20:6-12), David (2 Samuel 11:2-5), and Peter (Mark 14:66-72). Oftentimes when we've failed, we forget that our God is a

merciful God Who delights in forgiving us of our sin. **Of course, there is one who** wants us to live in a continual state of defeat, and that's the devil. He delights in reminding **us** and **God** of our failures (Revelation 12:10). But when he comes accusing us, we need to take **refuge** in the truths of God's Word. Rejoice with me at these promises from our Lord:

"If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? . . . But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are to be feared [revered]"

(Psalm 130:3-4).

But many have asked: "How can a perfect God **forgive** sin?" Lamentations 3:22-33 gives us the answer: *"Because of the Lord's great **love**, we are not consumed, for His **compassions** never fail... they are new every morning; great is Your **faithfulness**."*

How thankful I am that our God forgives our spiritual failures and our sins. He does



*Pageant of Our Lord
March 12 (Saturday), 9 a.m.*

Seniors and Friends will be going to Rolling Hills Covenant Church to see this annual event—a theatrical masterpiece that places live models into some of the world’s most renowned works of art. The concept finds its roots in Laguna Beach’s *Pageant of the Masters* and has continually utilized the talents of over 400 volunteers each year to present the Gospel in a unique and powerful way. Accompanied by an inspiring musical score presented by the Rolling Hills Covenant Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, and narrated with an original script each year, the Pageant has painted a canvas of emotions and touched the hearts of thousands who have attended the event over the past 30 years.

The bus will leave the church at 9 a.m. We will stop at Hoff’s Hut for lunch after the play.



Friday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.

All ladies are invited to join in on the fun. If you’ve never played before, this is an easy-to-learn dice game with lots of prizes for both the winners and the losers.

This is a FREE event but each lady is asked to bring an hors d’oeuvres to share.



a.k.a

Parents' Date Night

*Friday, March 18
6~9 p.m.*

Kids (infants through 5th grade) will have dinner and a movie, while the parents get an evening to themselves. This is a once-a-month event on the 3rd Friday of each month.

We are asking for a \$3 donation per child.



*Tenebrae Service
March 25 (Good Friday)
7:00 p.m.*

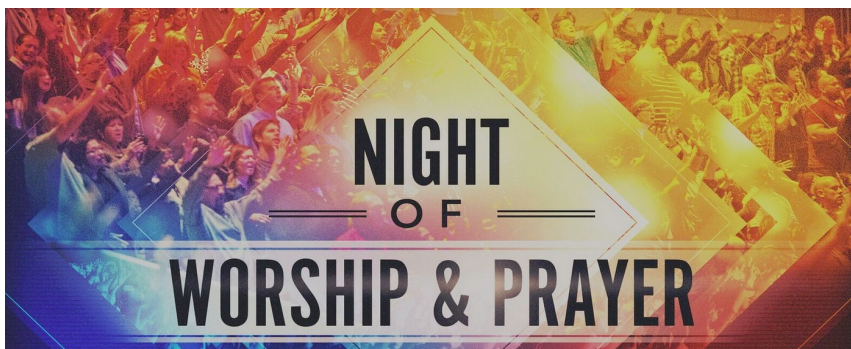
Tenebrae is Latin for “shadows” or “darkness.” The darkness reminds us of the time between the Last Supper and Jesus’ body being put into the tomb.

The purpose of the service is to recreate the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the Cross, and it is left unfinished, because the story isn’t over until Easter Day.

Join us for this solemn service as we contemplate our Savior’s love.

*March 31 (Thursday)
7 p.m.*

The entire church body is invited to a powerful night of praising the LORD together with music, prayer and reflection.





&



Praise Report: Winter Camp for the high school students brought a new depth to worship and Christ-centered fellowship. Praise God.



Christian Community
CREDIT UNION®

*Christian
Community Credit Union
Scholarships*

CCCU's 2016 Scholarships for Success Program is awarding \$65,000 in scholarships. Awardees will receive multi-year scholarships of \$1,000 per year. The scholarship program is open to members of Christian Community Credit Union with a checking/debit card account (newly -opened or existing). The scholarship deadline is March 31, 2016 and scholarships will be awarded by mid-May.

For a scholarship application and/or Credit Union membership information, please call 800/347-CCCU (2228) or visit my CCCU.com/scholarship.





We Get Mail

Dear Torrance First Baptist Church,
Thank you for all the cards, letters, flowers, visits and attendance at my brother, Gary's, memorial service.
Our family really appreciates your love and care for Gary.
Bob Schiller for the family

Dear Torrance First Baptist Church,

Please accept my deepest thanks on behalf of the Salvation Army in Torrance for your contributions to our various Christmas assistance programs. This holiday season, we were able to provide gifts to over 800 families!

Please [also] accept our thanks for your donation to the Stillman Sawyer Family Service Center's Food Pantry [this past year].

Once again, your generous support is greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping us to help others and "DOING THE MOST GOOD"!

May God truly bless you,
Major Brian Bearchell
Commanding Corps Officer

**Special* Dinner Events on Wednesdays
for the Family in March:*

Peep-a-palooza

Family Fun Night

"Telling Peeps about Jesus"
Join us for a fun-filled night with
PEEPS!!!*

Games,
Relays, Snacks,
Prizes, Raffles



March 16
6-8:00 p.m.
(Dinner starting
at 6 p.m.)

®

***Any donations of Peeps will be greatly appreciated!**



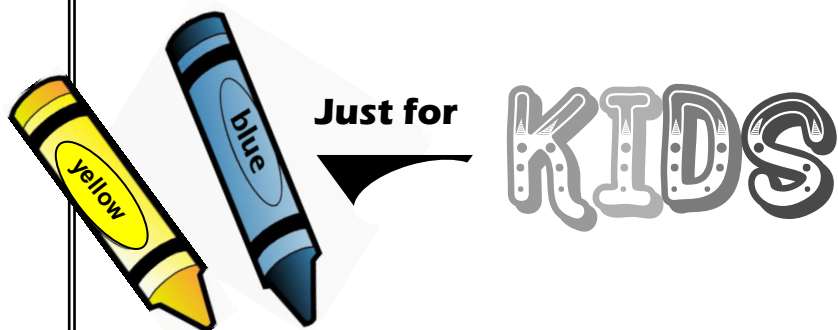
Celebration
March 23 ~ 6-8:00 p.m.

Purim celebrates the miraculous deliverance shown in the book of Esther.



- Learn how God preserved His people from annihilation.
- See how God works behind the scenes of our everyday lives even when He seems to be silent.
- Discover how Jewish people joyously celebrate Purim today and taste some Purim food.
- Laugh out loud cheering for Mordecai and booing Haman with noisemakers.
- See the amazing parallels between physical deliverance and spiritual deliverance.

Come dressed as Queen Esther, King Ahasueras, Mordecai or your favorite Bible character.

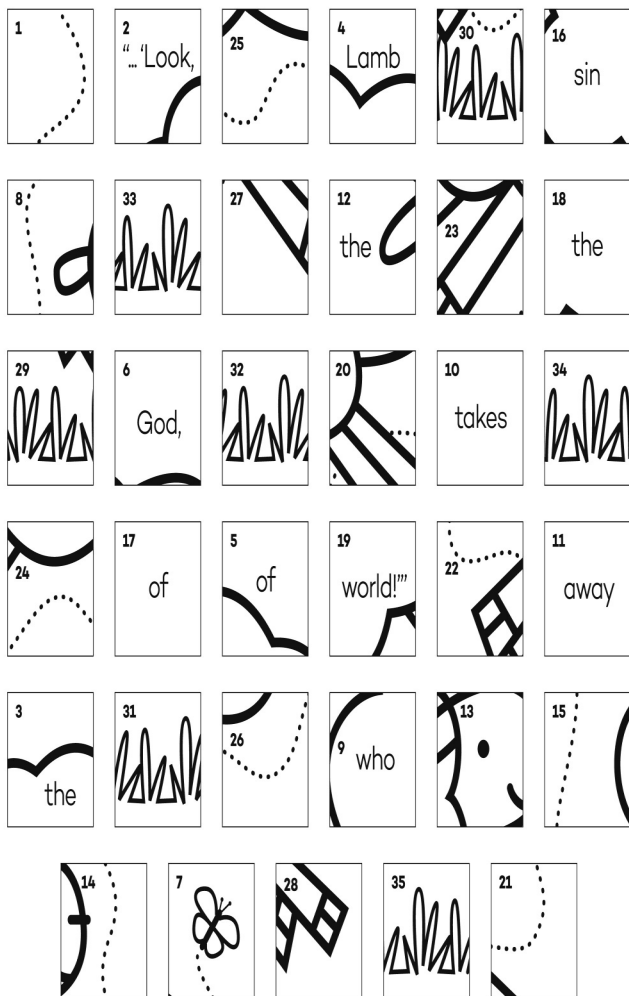




Lamb of God

 John the Baptist knew Jesus was the Messiah —  and offered a special greeting when he saw Jesus.

Directions: Cut apart the squares and arrange them in a rectangle in numerical order, starting with #1 in the top left and going across to #7. Continue building four more rows of seven squares each, to reveal John 1:29, NIV.



LITTLE LAMBS

Make these cute treats as a reminder that Jesus our Savior is also the Lamb of God.



What you need:

- Vanilla cupcakes
- Vanilla frosting
- Butter knife
- Mini marshmallows
- Jellybeans
- Red licorice

What you do:

1. Bake and frost the cupcakes.
2. Place marshmallows around the edge of each cupcake.
3. Cut green or blue jellybeans in half and place two on each cupcake as eyes. Cut pink jellybeans in half and place one below each pair of eyes as a nose.
4. Cut thin strips of licorice, and place one on each cupcake as a mouth.
5. Enjoy!

Recurring Weekly Events:

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.
 Covenant Children's S.S., 11 a.m.
 Covenant (Korean) Worship, 12:45 p.m.
 Covenant (Korean) Fellowship, 2 p.m.

Monday

Ladies' Prayer, 10:00 a.m.
 King's Family Karate, 6:30 p.m.
 Men's BSF, 6:55 p.m.

Tuesday

Classical Conversations, 8:30 a.m.
 High School Revive, 7 p.m.

Wednesday

Family Dinner, 6 p.m.
 Colossians Kids, 6:30 p.m.
 Jr. High QUEST, 6:30 p.m.
 Small Group Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.
 Choir Practice, 7 p.m.

Covenant (Korean) Bible Study, 8 p.m.
 Open Volleyball, 8:15 p.m.

Thursday

H.S. Band Practice, 7 p.m.

Friday

Ladies meet @ Denny's for Bkfst., 9 a.m.

Saturday

Men's BSF Leaders, 6 a.m.
 Covenant (Korean) Prayer, 6 a.m.
 H.S. Guys/Gals Bible Study, 10 a.m.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 2p Sing @ Royalwood	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Daylight Saving Time Begins	14 7p Finance Team	15 6p Ministry Teams: GO, Fellowship, Outreach, Worship, Disc. Dev. & FMT 7p Deacon/ess Meeting	16 6p Family Dinner "Peep-a-paloosa" Event	17	18	19
20 Palm Sunday 6p Easter Cantata	21	22	23 6p Family Dinner "Purim Celebration"	24 7p Contemporary Vocal Practice	25 Good Friday Church Office Closed 7p Tenebrae Service	26
27 Easter Sunday	28	29	30	31 7p Night of Worship & Prayer		

Upcoming April Events:

- 4/2 ~ Loaves & Fishes, 11a
- 4/15 ~ Kids' Night Out, 6p
- 4/27 ~ Passover Seder, 6p
- 4/29-5/1 ~ Ladies' Retreat





Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship

Please remember that Dinner Night (1st Saturday of the month) and Game Night (3rd 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, March 5, at 6:30 p.m. Meet at Golden Pheasant Restaurant, 1077 W. Carson Street (across from Harbor UCLA Medical Center). Any questions, call Brenda-Jean Shephard, 310/901-0816.



Game Night ~ Saturday, March 19, 6:30 p.m. Meet at Gloria Pedersen's home, 817 Amapola Avenue, Old Towne Torrance. Bring snacks & games to share. Contact Gloria, 562/505-4495, if you have any questions.



TFB Academy "God is Steadfast (Immutability)"

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

Life can hurt. Sometimes it hurts because of our own foolish choices. We do something fun or cool or necessary, only to realize the consequences later. Other times the cause is from outside whether from persons, nature, or circumstances. In any case, we're left with a pile of hurt. The writer of Psalm 102 had such hurt.

He opens his lament with a bare cry for help (Psalm 102:1-2). It seems to him that God had hidden his face and let him wallow. He just can't take it anymore. He goes on to describe the horrible condition of his body and soul (Psalm 102:3-7). His life hangs by a thread, everything hurts, and he feels utterly alone. On top of all that, his enemies have taken advantage and made it worse (Psalm 102:8). He recognizes God's sovereignty while lifting his complaint (Psalm 102:9-11).

In the midst of his pain, his attention turns to his people, and he calls God to restore Jerusalem (Psalm 102:12-14). He reminds God that the stories of discipline and restoration will be a witness for generations to come about God's rule and care and will serve as an encouragement to worship (Psalm 102:15-22).

Having remembered God's rule and care, the psalmist returns to his own situation with new understanding (Psalm 102:23-28). In the context of God's eternity, his life is short and subject to discipline. Even the life of the ancient mountains is short, for God made them and he will one day take them off like a robe.

So, what does this mean for our own piles of hurt? God's immutability means that he is the same sort of person whether disciplining us or restoring us. His character remains steadfast throughout eternity. His decisions are always in line with his character. His actions are always reasonable and just.

Even when we don't see him and he seems slow in responding, he yet remains steadfast and hears us when we call. When our strength has gone, we can trust his strength and care. When we share stories of God's care for us, we encourage others to join in worship and share their own stories.

"When our strength has gone, we can trust his strength and care."



Smile Awhile

Good News . . . Bad News

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: I have good news and bad news.

The good news is: “We have enough money to pay for our plumbing problems.”

The bad news is: “It’s still out there in your pockets.”

Something Borrowed

When a Sunday school teacher told her class that Jesus was buried in a borrowed tomb, one girl raised her hand to share an insight. “I know why,” the girl said. “It’s because Jesus only used it for three days.”

No Parking

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter.

Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: “I have circled the block 10 times. If I don’t park here I’ll miss my appointment. *‘Forgive us our trespasses.’*”

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note, “I have circled this block for 10 years. If I don’t give you a ticket, I’ll lose my job.”

20th -Century Martyr

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) was born in Germany to parents who rarely took their children to church. When, at age 14, he declared his intent to become a theologian and pastor, his parents were dismayed. According to Mark Devine in *Bonhoeffer Speaks Today*, Dietrich’s brother called the church a “poor, feeble, boring, petty, bourgeois institution” — to which Dietrich replied, “If what you say is true, I shall reform it!”

At 21, he earned a doctorate in theology... [and then] attended Union Theological Seminary in New York [where he] gained sympathy for oppressed people. Bonhoeffer returned to Germany and was ordained at age 25.

Opposed to Hitler’s rule from its start, Bonhoeffer helped form the Confessing Church in resistance to Nazi persecution of Jews. He was arrested in 1943 and hanged in April 1945, only weeks before Germany’s surrender.

Shortly before his death, Bonhoeffer famously declared: “This is the end—but for me the beginning of life.”

Published in: *The Newsletter Newsletter*, April



Saturday, March 19
9 a.m. ~ 4 p.m.

Please join us as we work together to keep the Lord’s house in good repair.

Come anytime and stay as long as you can.

Many hands make light work.

A Continental breakfast will be available as well as lunch for all workers.



From our retiring missionaries to Mexico: Chuck & Ramona & Shawvers

Dear Wonderful Friends,

At a time when the path of peace seems more elusive than ever, we join Zechariah in affirming “the tender mercy of our God.” As we return to the United States following 28 years of ministry in Mexico, we bear witness to that “tender mercy” in humble gratitude to the amazing people on both sides of the border who shared the labor and made our ministry possible.

We are in our old-new home in the foothills of the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains, beginning the transition to retirement which will come for us at the end of March 2016. We plan to continue supporting our wonderful colleagues in Mexico, both missionaries and national leaders, and discover the new ministries to which we are being called. We are glad to be near our California children, Silas and Anna, and their families and a bit closer to Samuel and Elena who, with their families, live in Indiana.

We are not far from Disneyland but we prefer treating our grandchildren to a walk in the rain and the chance to splash in a puddle. Like you, we want a better future for them than appears on the horizon. We struggle with the irony of living in a time when so much is known and so little is understood—the irony of being truly fortunate in a world where there is so much sadness and hardship. Our prayer for you is also our prayer for ourselves: that we will never stop being missionaries, that we will never stop loving this world for which Christ came, and that we will never forget why He came and the call of love on our lives!

“Glory to God in the highest” — Ramona & Chuck



Reflections

Continued from p. 2

this because He is a God of love and compassion. I John 1:9 tells us,

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

As we are forgiven of our sins, our God restores us to fellowship with Himself. How wonderful to know that upon confession of our sin, we are **cleansed** by God, **restored** to fellowship with Him and, once again, **renewed** by the Holy Spirit to live for Him. Praise You, dear Lord.

My friends, if spiritual failure (sin) has entered your life, don't put off making things right with the Lord. Rather, come to Him now; be honest with Him and allow Him to cleanse you. He desires your restoration to Himself, and He is waiting at His throne of mercy to hear you call out to Him.

Yes, Jesus is THE FRIEND OF SINNERS. How thankful we should be that He is the Lord of love, mercy, grace and forgiveness. My friends, rejoice in Him and live daily in His strength.

I'm so thankful for Him,
Pastor Rog



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

Tom Cochran lost his father, Andrew; and Vivian Sisco's lost her brother, J.L. Scroggins.



Grandma & Grandpa Lance and Terri announce the birth of a new grandson, Tanner Mullin, who came into this world a little early on February 15. He weighed in at 4 lbs. 14 ounces and was 16 Inches long. He joins Mom and Dad Katie and Adam Mullin and big sister, Lily. CONGRATULATIONS!

TFB Tithes and Offerings



Thank you for giving approximately \$46,166 in the month of January.

Prayer Requests

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

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



*Daylight Saving Time
begins on
Sunday, March 13.
Don't forget to turn your
clocks **AHEAD**
one hour on
Saturday Night.*

The Proclaimer is a monthly publication of the First Baptist Church of Torrance, California, located at 2118 West Carson Street (6 blocks east of Crenshaw). Sunday services: 9:15 a.m. Worship Gathering (Contemporary Service); 11:00 a.m. Blended Service (with Sunday School for all ages); and 6:00 p.m. Evening Service. Mid-week events for children and students: High School Revive; Jr. High Quest; and TFBKidz for children.

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