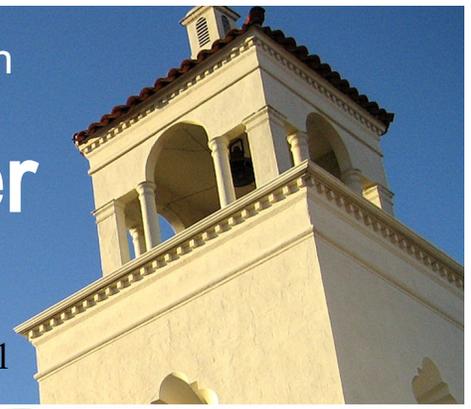


the Proclaimer

November 2016 Volume 29 Issue 11



Sunday, November 6, 6 p.m.

The Gary Bonner Singers are coming once again to Torrance First Baptist Church for another enjoyable evening that you won't want to miss. Ken Barker, Senior Editorial Director of *Word Music* has summed up their performances this way: *"To experience the Gary Bonner Singers is to encounter incredible choral sounds, riveting precision, musical depth and richness, and a captivating flow and variety that will leave you wanting to hear more! All this with a fun, relaxed, spontaneous atmosphere that reflects the personality of their charming director, Dr. Gary Bonner. One of the very best choral groups in existence today!"*

Invite your family and friends for a remarkable musical experience. A freewill offering will be taken.



All are invited to meet in the gym for our annual time of *Giving Thanks* to the Lord for all of our blessings. This is also a time when your church staff gives thanks not only to the Lord but also to **you** because of your presence and service here at TFB. To show our appreciation, the staff will be providing and serving dessert.

Those with last names beginning with A-M, bring a salad; N-Z, a main dish. After we eat, we will have a short Business Meeting in the Worship Center to adopt the 2017 Budget and elect our Officers, Deacons and Deaconesses for the coming year.

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

From the Pastor's Heart



Recently we conducted a Sunday morning worship service in which we focused exclusively on expressing our praise, adoration, and thanksgiving to God for Who He is and all He does. I intentionally structured the service differently in order to hopefully help us step out of our routine and focus on God.

We worshipped through song, prayer, and the reading of scriptures from which I briefly shared some thoughts.

That experience and the texts I shared taught me that I can decide to express adoration and praise to God even when parts of my life are not right, that I can truly give thanks to Him and see Him on His throne and appreciate Who He is and all He does even when I have sin in my life, that I can choose to elevate God in my mind and heart even when I struggle to faithfully follow Him, and that I can choose to do that—even if I am not very motivated.

Jesus tells us in John, chapter four, that God is looking for people to do just that—to not wait for everything to be right but instead to truly, deeply, meaningfully, and humbly declare God’s worth—to exalt Him and praise Him.

I want to invite you to join me in deciding to often declare God’s worth, to spend moments and minutes many times during the week in God’s throne room loving Him and adoring Him, to speak to

Him of His greatness and His mercy and grace, to tell God how much you love Him and how you want your love for Him to grow, and to thank Him intensely for all He does for you.

Sure, I know, you have baggage and struggle with your walk with God in some ways. Sure, I know that you are not the Christian you want to be. Me too. BUT God is asking us not to let that keep us from exalting Him, declaring Who He is, and praising Him.

“...Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name...”
(Psalm 96:7-8, NIV).

Pastor Charlie

P.S. Please be praying for our search for a Senior High Ministry Leader. Daniel has stepped down from that position at our request while he continues to serve as our worship leader and young adult ministry leader.

Reflections

by Pastor Rog



Dear Church Family,

For the child of God, one relationship is to be closer than all others: our personal relationship with our Heavenly Father. We know this, but all too often we fail to nurture it. Life, personal failure, broken relationships, and family problems get in the way; and our time alone with God is interrupted. Before we know it, days, weeks, months and, yes, even years go by before we realize how desperately we need Him. Then we wonder, “Will He take me back?” Please consider the following scripture verses:

“He (God) will respond to

the prayer of the destitute; He will not despise their plea” (Psalm 102:17).

“I sought the Lord and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame” (Psalm 34:4-5).

What promises...and from God Himself!

Dear friends, may I ask you a question? How is your prayer life? Do you make regular times to be alone with Him? Know this, the Lord is waiting for us to meet with

Him, and He earnestly desires to communicate His heart and will with us. He is not frowning at us because we’ve failed to come to Him earlier. No, He is waiting with outstretched arms and calling for us to come to Him. Praise You, Dear Heavenly Father. Again, the Psalms tell us:

“As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear [revere]

LOVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR FALL FUNDRAISER

**A GOOD OLD
USO**

ALL Vets & Military WILL BE Recognized FOR THEIR SERVICE

★★★ *Show* ★★★

DINNER // ENTERTAINMENT // RAFFLE PRIZES

★ SATURDAY / NOVEMBER 5, 2016 ★

CALVARY ASSEMBLY OF GOD: 25501 OAK ST., LOMITA

DONATION \$30 ADULTS / \$10 CHILDREN
 RSVP BY - NOV. 1, 2016 CHILDREN UNDER 6 FREE

Prizes for best vintage 40's, military or patriotic attire

IF YOU'RE UNABLE TO ATTEND PLEASE CONSIDER A FINANCIAL DONATION TO HELP KEEP OUR MINISTRY DOORS OPEN

DOORS OPEN AT **6 PM** BRING A TOY FOR OUR HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE* & GET 10 FREE RAFFLE TICKETS! **6:45** DINNER SERVED

THESE DONATED TOYS WILL GO TO THE YMCA MILITARY FAMILIES IN NEED SUPPORT PROGRAM

RSVP BY NOVEMBER 1 ★ RESERVATIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR

To RSVP by phone or email

310-831-5683 X104 ★ LOVEINCSB@ICLOUD.COM
DONATE ONLINE @ BIT.LY/LOVEINC_FALLDINNER



*Saturday, November 12,
at 9 a.m.*

All men are invited to meet at Hometown Buffet, 3520 W. Carson Street, in Torrance for breakfast. Bring \$9 in cash. Sign up in the patio, call the church office, or just show up!

Seniors & Friends



This is our Thanksgiving & Christmas celebration

it's a Luncheon

Sign up in the patio or your Sunday School Class

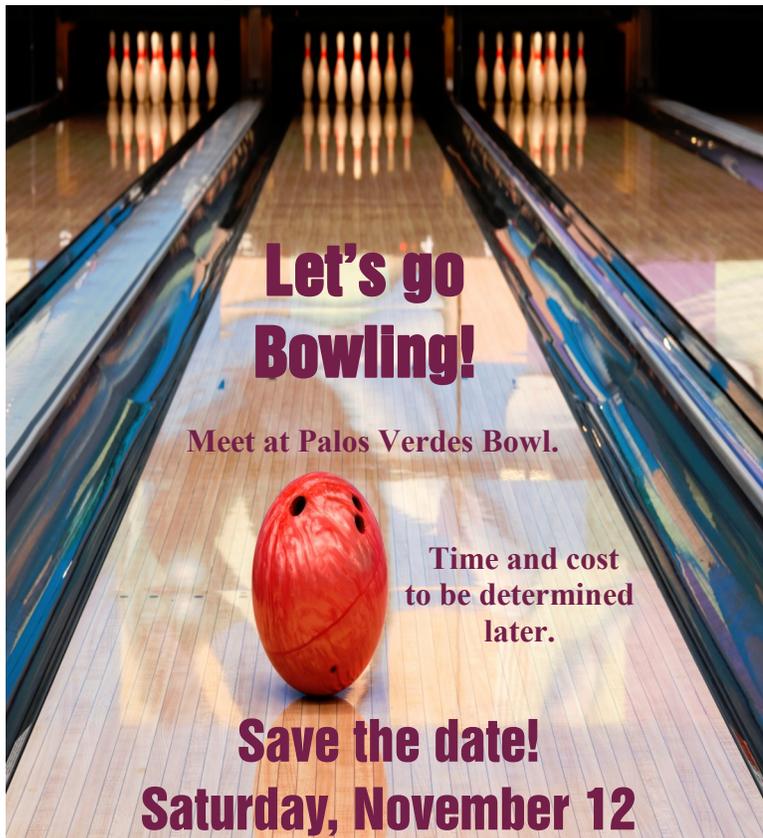
November 18 ~ 12 noon

Everything is FREE but we will take a freewill offering to benefit Senior Ministries.



*Friday, November 18
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. This will be a "Scarecrow" theme.



What goes into the box is fun... What comes out is eternal.

Colossians Kids Shoebox Shopping November 5 5-7 p.m.

Colossians Kids will be going shopping and putting together shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse on Saturday, November 5. We will be meeting from 5-7 pm. Bring \$10 for purchasing items at the Dollar Store for your shoebox.

Your family is invited to join us.

High School Ministry Update

by Ann Pursche

It's been almost two months since my volunteer role has expanded to directing the Revive High School ministry. In that time, we have seen many changes. We have moved to a more student-led approach to ministry.

The student leadership team, which meets weekly before youth group on Tuesdays, is staffed by seven students who assume various roles within the group. These roles include planning and leading games on Tuesdays, leading worship, greeting, prayer, outreach, tech, and activity planning. Some of the students have volunteered to help teach/lead the Bible studies (under supervision, of course), and we are working towards making that a reality.

As a result, the students are beginning to discover/use their spiritual gifts, plus they feel more responsibility and more ownership towards the group as a whole.

We are in the process of renaming the group to C4 (yes, like the explosive) to reflect that we are a Called Compassionate Community for Christ but still need to work on a logo before publicly launching it.

We really are becoming a little community for Christ, and I have noticed that what the students really like to do is just hang out together in an environment where they can be comfortable to invite their friends. For example, we have had a couple of movie nights as well as an all-nighter/lock-in here at the church. We did a Tie Dye event on a Monday that the TUSD students had a day off from school. At each event, we had someone new attend.

Our group is not just about having fun (or eating pizza), but it is centered on our relationship with Christ and growing closer to Him. With that in mind, we are emphasizing our small group ministry through our Saturday Girls' Bible Study (we are trying to get the Guys to get their own started, but they need some help still).

We hosted a special Tuesday night of Worship and Prayer in the patio (the chalk drawings you saw on the patio cement were from the Adoration and Praise station that night).

We will have our special Christmas Celebration in December on a date to be determined, and our Winter Retreat will be held January 13-16.

We all would appreciate your prayers as we work to build this ministry. As with anything in which you have a bunch of beginners trying new things, you have many stops and starts, triumphs as well as setbacks, but with God's help, we will accomplish much.

Ann



We Get Mail

We actually got a phone call (not mail) from Wanda Nicholas of Samaritan's Purse. She called to thank TFB for the donation (\$1,643) that we sent for the disaster relief in Louisiana.

They have had 3100 volunteers come to help in the clean-up efforts, and they have helped 931 families. She said that 242 people have come to a saving knowledge of Jesus! So, "the donation that TFB sent has made a difference in Louisiana now as well as for eternity." Because the damage is so severe, she said, Samaritan's Purse is planning on continuing their efforts for the next two years!



Volunteers pray before heading out at the beginning of the day, asking God to use them to show His love and concern for people impacted by the storm.



Just for

KIDS

Ephesians 5:19b-20

Fill in the blanks using the code below.

“

Fill in the blanks using the code below.

_____”

CODE	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	o	d.	d	d.	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o

Give Thanks

Sing a prayer at your Thanksgiving meal— or any meal!

(sung to the tune of “Kum Ba Yah”)

For our food, o Lord,
we give thanks.
For our homes, o
Lord, we give thanks.
For our families,
we give thanks.
O Lord,
we give thanks.

For our friends, O
Lord, we give thanks.
For our earth, O
Lord, we give thanks.
For each night and
day, we give thanks.
O, Lord,
we give thanks.

—Marie Senften

Recurring Weekly Events:

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.
 Men's Bible Study Fellowship, 6:55 p.m.
 King's Family Karate, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Classical Conversations, 8:30 a.m.
 High School Revive, 7 p.m.
[except 11/22]

Wednesday

Family Dinner, 6 p.m.
 Colossian 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.

[Those above will not meet on 11/23]

Thursday

Ladies' Bible Study, 2 p.m.
[Except 11/24]

Friday

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

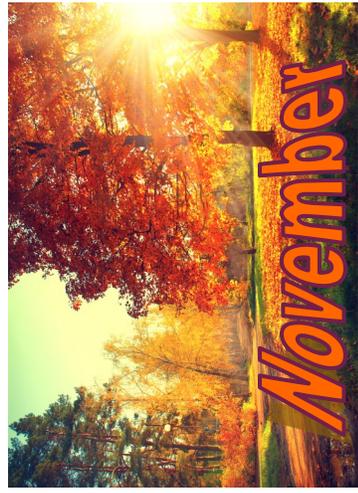
Saturday

Men's BSF Leaders, 6 a.m.
 Covenant (Korean) Prayer, 6 a.m.
 H.S. Girls' Bible Study, 2 p.m.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Daylight Savings Time Ends 2p Sing @ Royalwood 6p Bonner Singers	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 5:20p Prayer Gathering 6p HS Movie Nite	14 7p Finance & FacMan Teams	15 6p Ministry Teams: GO, Fellowship, Outreach, Worship, & Disc. Dev. 7p Deacon/ess	16	17	18 12n Seniors' Luncheon 6p Kids' Night Out 7p Young Marrieds	19 7pm Share & Care
20 5:30p Potluck & Business Mtg.	21	22	23 24 Thanksgiving Office Closed	24 Thanksgiving Office Closed	25 Office Closed 7p College NeXus/ Young Adults	26 6:30p Singles' Night
27 5:20p Prayer Gathering	28	29	30			

Upcoming December Events:

- 12/3 ~ Loaves & Fishes, 11a
- 12/5 ~ Ladies' Christmas Craft Night, 6:45p
- 12/11 ~ Christmas Cantata, 6p
- 12/15-17 ~ A Charlie Brown Christmas, 5p
- 12/16 ~ Kids' Night Out, 6p
- 12/24 ~ Christmas Candlelight Service, 5:30p
- 12/25 ~ Christmas Combined Service, 10a



November 2016

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, November 12, at 6:30 p.m.
Meet at Joey's Smokin' BBQ, 25308 Crenshaw, in Torrance (in AMC Rolling Hills Center near California Pizza Kitchen).



Game Night ~ Saturday, November 26, 6:30 p.m.
Meet at Gloria Pedersen's home, 817 Amapola Avenue, Old Towne Torrance. Bring snacks & games to share.



If you have any questions, you may call either Brenda-Jean Shephard, 310/901-0816, or Gloria Pedersen, 562/505-4495.

TFB Academy *"God is Always with Us* *(Omnipresence)"*

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

God is always present. There is nowhere we can hide from him, and every part of creation reflects his glory (Psalm 19 and 139). Everywhere we go, he is already there. From the infant in the womb to the elder breathing his last, God is there. From the largest planet to the smallest microbe, God is there. From the stunningly beautiful to the utterly mundane, God is there. He is always present, and everything is his concern.

God is present for his creation. The heavens declare his glory (Psalm 19). Sparrows eat from his hand (Matthew 10). Mountain goats birth their calves in his presence (Job 39). God is present among his people. When we gather in worship, he is among us. When we disperse in service, he is among us. Whether our community is obedient or neglectful, he is among us. God is present in each believer's soul. God is present when we focus our hearts on him, and he is present when we are distracted by many things. He is present when joy overflows and when deep sadness fills every crevice of our being. When we go about our mundane dailies, he is here. The God who is everywhere always is God with us and God for us. The self-existent, eternal, steadfast, all-knowing, holy, righteous, good, loving, sovereign, all-powerful God is always with and for his people.

"The God who is everywhere always is God with us and God for us."

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age'" (Matthew 28:20 ESV, emphasis mine).



Loaves & Fishes

Wow! Hard to believe it's time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. For our Thanksgiving luncheon, which takes place on November 5, we once again are asking for turkeys and hams to serve to our guests. Call Linda Stratton, 310/328-5371, if you can help.

For our Christmas luncheon on December 3, we are looking to give away 100 hygiene bags for adults. We are praying that you can help provide large-size shampoo/conditioner, tooth paste, deodorant, hand cream, lip balm, individual packets of Kleenex, socks for men/women, razors for both, combs, hard candy, and bags to put them in.

We also need toys for children, ages 1-16 (worth at least \$10-15), but more needed for those over 8 years of age. Gift cards are great for teens.

Please bring your Christmas donations to the office marked "Loaves & Fishes" by November 27.

Beacon Light Mission/ Doors of Hope Thanksgiving Needs

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. Donations of money are also gladly accepted.

Please have donations at Beacon Light at least 4 days before Thanksgiving.



Whenever you want to 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.



Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes

There's still time for you to participate in the ministry described on page 10 of this Proclaimer by filling a shoebox with small **new** toys, hard candy in zip-lock bag (this is the last year candy will be allowed), hygiene items (toothpaste/brush), **low-scent** soap in separate zip-lock bag or candy will taste like soap, school supplies, etc. You may pick up an empty, wrapped shoebox in the patio or you may wrap it yourself. You can also pick up a brochure giving details about what to put in your box and what not to put in. Don't forget to enclose \$7 per box to cover shipping costs.

If unable to fill a shoebox, a donation to help with shipping costs would be very much appreciated!

Filled shoeboxes need to be here at the church by **November 6**.



Operation Bake & Take

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY TO OUR SHUT-INS

The holiday season, which is so joyful to many, is actually a time of sadness for those who are shut-in and alone. "Operation Bake and Take" will give you a chance to reach out to others. You may **bake** cookies (frozen cookie dough will be available at the church for your convenience) and **take** them to a shut-in. Can't bake...no problem. The visit is the most important part of this gift. Please consider spreading holiday cheer by visiting one of our shut-ins during November & December. If this is something that the Lord would have you do, please stop by the **Office starting November 7** to sign up, pick up cookie dough (if needed) and/or get helpful instructions.

Operation Christmas Child

The Miracle of a Shoebox—Leading children to Jesus

Erika looked down at her feet and sighed. She desperately wanted to replace her only, very worn pair of shoes. The 12-year-old approached her mother to ask for a new pair of sneakers. Erika's mother...reminded her that times were tough for their family living in the highland of Peru, especially since she was unemployed.

Erika understood..., but her disappointment didn't deter her from praying for a replacement. Soon after, Erika attended an Operation Christmas Child outreach event at her church, [and] received a shoebox. Digging into her box, Erika found socks, soap, towels, notebooks—and to her amazement a pair of teal blue sneakers!

"When I opened my box and found shoes, I learned that God can make miracles," she said.

At the outreach event that same day, Erika heard about the miracle of God's love and that Jesus died on the Cross for her sins. She prayed to receive Him as Savior and later enrolled in The Greatest Journey discipleship program.Patricia, Erika's mother who is not yet a believer, said, "I'm happy my daughter goes to church. She teaches others what she is learning."

Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has delivered 135 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts to children affected by war, poverty, disease, famine, and disasters in more than 100 countries. People of every age group pack boxes with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items, and send them off with prayer to bless boys and girls with tangible expressions of God's love. These gifts provide a springboard for presenting the Greatest Gift of All—Jesus Christ—to children, their families, and entire communities.

Many children who receive these shoeboxes also participate in our discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. Through 12 Bible lessons, volunteer teachers trained by Samaritan's Purse in the local church mentor boys and girls, teaching them to follow Christ and to share Him with others.

After receiving a shoebox gift in her town in Paraguay, 8-year-old Luciana was asked, "Do you understand what this gift means?" It came from the Holland family in Morganton, N.C.

"Yes, Luciana responded. "This family loves me because Jesus loves me." What she said next elicited great joy: "I want to accept Jesus into my life."

God had been preparing this young girl's tender heart beforehand while attending the Christian school where she received her shoebox. "When I heard it explained how to accept Jesus, I knew that's what I wanted to do," Luciana said. So after receiving her gift, she surrendered her life to Christ.

Meanwhile, on the African continent, Temeini lives in a poor, rural village outside Lusaka, Zambia's capital city. The 13-year-old attends church with his mother and siblings, but his father, who drinks a lot, refuses to go.

One day Temeini's Sunday school teacher invited the class to an Operation Christmas Child outreach event. The teenager came, received a shoebox gift, and decided to attend The Greatest Journey program...where he first heard the Bible story about David and Goliath. God used it to change his life.

"David was a young man. God used him to fight against Goliath," Temeini said. "I knew God could also use me when I am young."

Temeini prayed to receive Jesus Christ as his Savior and has dedicated his life to serving Him. "I want to be a pastor. I want to work for God."



Reflections

Continued from p. 2

Him; for He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust (Psalm 103:13-14).

How thankful I am that we can come to our Lord just as we are as we seek His mercy. And because our Lord is a God of mercy, He graciously receives us as we are, but...He desires to work in us so that we are drawn closer to Him and transformed by Him.

Dear friend, has it been awhile since you were quiet before the Lord—alone before Him? If so, why not do it now. You see, He's waiting. He's waiting just for you. Praise You, Dear Lord.

I'm rejoicing in His goodness,
Pastor Rog

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, Bill & Gerri Stoodley, Norma Vinsonhaler, and Gertie Wissinger.

Our Deepest Sympathy



Please pray for the families of the following:

long-time faithful member, Ralph Potter, who is now with the Lord;

former member, Carl Sievers, who passed away; and the Musser family as they lost their niece, Ann.

It's a boy!



Josiah James Anderson was born on September 20. He weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and was 22" long. Congratulations to mom and dad, Megan and Ryan!

Flower Calendar for 2017



Altar Flowers

The Flower Calendar for 2017 will be in the foyer the last Sunday in November. 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.

Please choose one date per family until all have had an opportunity to sign up. You may make your payment anytime before your chosen date. Mark your envelope "TFB Flower Donation" to get credit for your gift.

Pick up one of these beautiful 2017 calendars for yourself or as a gift or both. The cost is \$8 each or 2 for \$15.



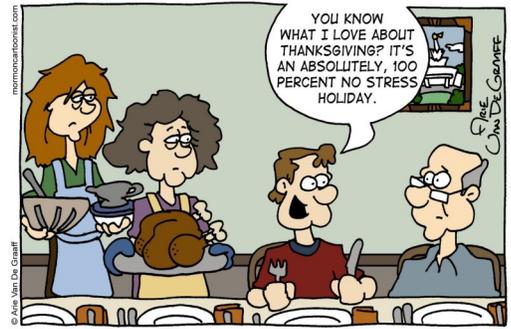
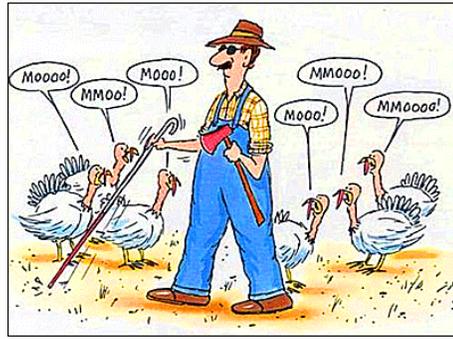
TFB Tithes and Offerings



Thank you for giving approximately \$58,392 in the month of September.



Smile Awhile



God's Plan for Aging

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw that there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it is God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you may mutter under your breath. In all things, give thanks.

Submitted by Leah Douglas

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.tfblife.org