

Torrance First Baptist Church the Proclaimer

October 2018

Volume 31 Issue 10



Women's Ministries Presents

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*Friday, October 26
6:30 p.m.*

All ladies are invited to join us here at TFB to enjoy our annual Bunco Night. This is a fast-paced dice game that is fun and easy to learn. You can win prizes, too! This is a free event. Just bring snacks to share.

A prize will also be given for the best black and orange outfit.

Sign up in the patio.



Harvest Fest
Wednesday, October 31, 2018
6:00~8:30 p.m.



Invite your friends for a great time of family fun with:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Game Booths | Crafts | Photo Booth |
| Pumpkin Patch | Pie Baking Contest* | Food |
| Hot Beverage Bar | Cotton Candy | Bounce House |
| Pumpkin Carving Contest* | Chili Cook-off* | |

*Carve a pumpkin, bake a pie, make some chili, and bring to enter our pumpkin-carving, pie-baking, & chili contests. Come in costume, if you want (no witches, ghosts, or goblins, please), and have your picture taken.

YOU CAN HELP by dropping off candy/small toy donations. Let Karla know if you would be able to create and/or man a game booth. Sign up at the Children's Ministry table for any or all of the contests.

This is a family event for the whole church and a wholesome, fun and safe alternative to "Trick or Treating."

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



Message from our Transitional Pastor:

Dear Church Family,

We want your input. We really want to know what you think about Torrance First Baptist—what we do well and what we don't do so well.

Two denominational leaders from Transformation Ministries will be conducting an assessment of our church on October 12-14. They are part of the CHAT team (Church Health Assessment Team). They will be on our church campus all day Saturday, October 13, from nine to five. They want to hear from all of you. They also want you to be honest.

In the front lobby of the church, you will find two sign-up sheets. The entire church family has been divided into focus groups and given a certain time slot. We're only asking for one hour of your time. The purpose of the focus groups is to help people feel a little more comfortable as they share their personal thoughts. So, if you are a member of Gale Lee's Sunday School class, try to sign up for that focus group. If you are a member of the choir, try to sign up for that focus group. However, I realize we all have commitments and a personal life, so just sign up when you can. We all can fit into two or three different groups, but just pick one of them for yourself.

In order to plan for the future of our church, we need to know what we've done well in the past and what we can do better in the present. Our "Strategic Leadership Team" will be studying the results of this all church assessment and plan accordingly. But don't worry, you will not be kept in the dark. In approximately three to four weeks after the assessment, the CHAT team will return on a Sunday morning and give us the results. So please look at your calendar on October 13 and sign up as soon as possible.

Pastor Alex

Reflections

by Pastor Rog



Dear Church Family,

Have you ever wondered what your life would be like if the Lord Jesus Christ were not your Savior and Lord? I shudder even to think what the answer would be, but praise His Name through the means of His grace and through faith in His Name, we belong to Him. Praise You, Jesus.

Life truly is worth living (John 10:10). We have been given His strength whereby we can face the difficulties of life with confidence (Philippians 4:13). Even when we fail, He never lets go of us (Psalm 37:23-24), and when we feel so very alone during those hard times, even though no one else is praying for us, we know that He is interceding for us (Hebrews 7:25). What awesome promises the Lord has given to us. Yes, we are a blessed people. But we are also to be a witnessing people.

It is our privilege and responsibility to be living witnesses for Him to a world that

is lost in sin and headed for a Christless eternity if they do not place their faith in Him. This indeed is tremendously sorrowful. We who have this personal relationship with Jesus are all called to be His witnesses. The Holy Spirit makes His home in us the moment we receive Christ Jesus as our Savior. He not only testifies to us of Jesus but also through us as we humble ourselves before Him. May we never forget that we have a story to tell—a life-transforming message of what Christ has done for us. May we never forget that people are looking for answers—life-changing answers, but, sadly, they are looking in the wrong places and to the wrong people. It's our privilege to point them to Christ.

In saying this, I'm reminded of the believers who lived in Thessalonica back in the first century A.D. They indeed had become living witnesses for Jesus. What did they do? 1 Thessalonians 1:3 gives us the answer.

Paul tells what faith in Christ has done in them and for them. There is a trilogy of blessings.

We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:3).

But notice, please, that this spiritual trilogy of blessings manifested themselves to others through their daily living.

1 Thessalonians 1:8b-10 tells us this:

Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God

Continued on p. 9



Hello Church Family,
 Your Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) met for the first time on Sunday, September 9, and had a positive discussion about the health of the church and future steps needed to move forward. We are excited about the upcoming **Church Health Assessment Team (CHAT) weekend on October 12th thru the 14th**. It is also important for us to know your opinions regarding our church health, so we are asking **everyone to sign up for a one-hour focus group discussion on Saturday, October 13th**. Please sign up for the hour that best fits your schedule. Two sign-up sheets are available in the church foyer. The SLT also concluded that TFB could be more visitor friendly. We know where everything is located but our guests do not. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please speak with an SLT member [see below for names].



Pray for our Strategic Leadership Team

The following names are members of our Strategic Leadership Team. They will be planning and strategizing the future of this church.

If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions concerning the future of Torrance First Baptist, please share your thoughts with one or more of them. **THIS IS A TEAM EFFORT!**

But above all, please pray for our SLT everyday. We need it!

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Bruce Eyerly | Chris Spitzer |
| Michael Gaines | Loren Harvey |
| Debbie Nawa | Glenn Moore |
| Kent Meyer | Peggy Moore |
| Megan Feuerborn | Barbara Harvey |
| Scott Sealey | Ann Pursche |
| Laura Springer | Jill Lee |
| Gale Lee | Janet Luden |
| Karla Gaines | Jane McKenzie |
| Matt Strand | Gloria Pedersen |
| Jay Kim | Randy Stager |
| Rog Hosier | Sonja Sealey |
| Bethany Landen | |



*Cupcake Sunday
 October 7*

We will be celebrating September and October birthdays with cupcakes during Fellowship Time on the above date. If you can bring cupcakes to share on that day, please sign up in the patio.

transformation ministries conference **#UNITE**
 October 18-19, 2018
 Second Baptist Church,
 Santa Ana, CA

The **Transformation Ministries Conference** is an annual, two-day gathering designed for inspiring, equipping, and encouraging, where you can connect with a community of ministry leaders. Our theme is #UNITE. Our world needs something radically different than alienation, division, fault-finding, and anger with no real solutions. To register and/or get more information go to their website at <https://tmchurches.org/tm-conference>.

CHURCH WORK DAY
 October 27

Join us as we honor the Lord by keeping our church building in good repair. Many hands will make our work lighter. We will begin at 9 a.m. and finish up at 4 p.m., but you can come anytime during those hours. A Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided to all who help.



& Kids' News

C4 Happenings

by Sarah Simpson

High School Movie Night

Sunday

October 21

6:00 p.m.



Pizza, drinks, and snacks provided.

The C4 high school and college groups have had another busy month! On behalf of Matt Strand, I will be giving a quick overview of the opportunities God has provided for our ministry this month. The summer saw a number of rededications and new commitments to Christ in our group. September has been a month of continued growth, bonding, and spiritual development.

Our last events of the summer included the CLC College Beach Day and Light at the Lighthouse Festival. For the beach day, a majority of our college students carpooled to Huntington Beach for worship, fellowship, and food with other churches in the CLC group. One of our own young men, who had given his life to Christ earlier in the summer, chose to be baptized in the ocean at this event. A few of our students and Matt joined the rest of our church body at the Light at the Lighthouse Festival and really enjoyed the time of fellowship.

In the more recent weeks, our high school students started school. We ask that you would pray for their academic year and ask God to give them an opportunity to invite new friends into His kingdom. With the new year, we have welcomed a few new freshmen to our group. We have also made additions to our C4 leadership team and are grateful for each person God has chosen to be in and serve our family. Additionally, we have sent a couple of our leaders to Men's Conference and look forward to all that experience will do to grow their personal relationship with God and enhance our ministry.

We thank you for your continued prayers and support of our ministry. In the near future we have another slew of fun events approaching. We will round out September with another movie night on the 16th and a CLC broomball night on the 28th for our youth. If you know any students that may be interested in joining us, we would be happy to have them!

Colossian Kids' Cupcake Wars *Saturday, October 13, 2-4 p.m.*



Calling all kids, K-5th grades, to come to church and decorate a cupcake making your favorite Bible story come alive with your decorations.



Cupcakes and frosting will be provided, but bring a favorite topping to share: sprinkles, mini-chocolate chips, gold fish crackers, teddy grahams, gummy worms, etc. Bring, too, your imagination to create your story.

On Sunday, October 14, the congregation will vote on the cupcakes and prizes will be given in certain categories, e.g. most original, etc.



*3rd Friday of
each month
October 19
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. It will be "Costume Dress Up" night. We are asking for a donation of \$3/child.

Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship



Dinner Night ~ Saturday, October 13, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at Marie Callender's, 21211 Hawthorne (& Torrance Blvd.)

Game Night ~ Saturday, October 27, at 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at Gloria Pedersen's, 817 Amapola Avenue, Torrance. Bring drinks and snacks to share.



For additional questions, suggestions, or more information, call Gloria, 562/505-4495.

TFB Academy

The Importance of Context: Commonly Misunderstood Passages

By Laura Springer, M.Div., Th.M, Ph.D.

During elementary school, I received Christ, and one of the benefits in my church was taking communion. Once a month, the pastor would lead us, repeating the words of Jesus in Matthew. When he got to the cup, he would read "Drink ye all of it" as "Drink ye <pause> all of it." To my literalist, elementary school brain, this meant I could not leave any juice in the cup. So I dutifully stuck my tongue in the tiny plastic cup to get the last drop. Sure, it's a funny story, but it has a serious side. As we have seen this year, the written word of God matters. Because it matters, we need to understand and communicate its intended meaning.

This month we look at four commonly misunderstood passages, laying out some common misinterpretations, informing context, and the meaning in light of that context.

2 Chronicles 7:14

- Assumption: If <insert name of modern nation here> prays, everything will be okay.
- Context: This verse is part of his blessing of the Jewish Temple built by Solomon, during which God restates to Solomon the promise of discipline for sin and his covenant-based response to their prayers (2 Chronicles 7:11-18).
- Meaning. In the midst of God's discipline of his people Israel, he will hear their contrite prayers and bring healing and deliverance.

Proverbs 22:6

- Assumption: If I raise my child as a Christian, God promises that my child will return to Christ if he or she falls away.
- Context: The book of Proverbs is composed of wise sayings intended to guide a wise, godly life. These sayings are not promises (Proverbs 1:1-7).
- Meaning: The way one raises a child has a strong influence on the child's life but does not guarantee specific outcomes.

Matthew 18:20

- Assumption. God is (only) present when two or three of his followers are gathered.
- Context. Here Jesus is teaching his followers about church discipline. An important part of the process requires two or three witnesses (Matthew 18:15-20).
- Meaning. When two or three believers are carrying out church discipline on a fellow believer, God is with them as they do this difficult work.

1 Timothy 6:10

- Assumption. Poverty is more holy than wealth; desire for money causes all sin.
- Context. In this passage, Paul is teaching Timothy about contentment versus craving (1 Timothy 6:2-10). Key terms are "love of money" and "a root."
- Meaning. Contentment is healthy and possible in Christ.

Returning to elementary-age Laura: I spent my childhood and teenage years not understanding the incredible depth of Jesus' very simple statement in Matthew 26:27. At the time, I assumed this passage meant we must not waste any of the communion juice. Thankfully as a young adult, I came to realize that in this context Jesus is talking to the community of his followers who had gathered for the last supper. When he hands them the cup, he says, "All of you drink it" (Matthew 26:26-29). Every believer, regardless of status, is called to drink from the cup. We are one people. We have one Lord, and we are siblings. That is worth knowing. All biblical truth is worth knowing and worth getting right.

6:30 SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Recurring Weekly Events:
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Sunday Worship Services: 9:15 a.m. & 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 & 11 a.m. Worship & Witness, 6 p.m. Children's Church, 9:15 a.m. Patio Fellowship, 10:30 a.m. Children & Youth S.S., 11 a.m.
7 10:30a Fellowship Time ~ Birthday Cupcakes 2:30p Sing at Royalwood	8	9 12n Shut-in Meeting	10	11 7p Beacon Light Mission	12 6:30p SLT Meeting	13 2p Colossians Kids' "Cupcake Wars" TransMin (C.H.A.T.) Survey Meetings 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out	Monday Ladies' Prayer, 10:00 a.m. King's Karate, 6:30 p.m. Men's BSF, 6:55 p.m.
14 5:20p Prayer Group	15 Srs. & Friends leave for Carnival Cruise 7p Finance & FacMan Teams	16 6p Ministry Teams: Fellowship, GO, Outreach, Worship, & Disc. Dev. 7p Deacon/ess Mtngs	17	18 TransMin Conference	19 TransMin Conference Srs. & Friends home from Cruise 6p Kids' Night Out	20 7p Share & Care	Tuesday C4 High School Leadership, 5:30 p.m. C4 High School, 7 p.m.
21 6p H.S. Movie Nite	22		24	25	26 6p Ladies' Bunco Night	27 9a All Church Work Day 6:30p Singles' Game Night	Wednesday Men's Lunch @ Sizzler, 12:30p Family Dinner, 6 p.m. Colossians Kids, 6:30 p.m. Knowing God Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. Bible Study w/Pastor Alex, 6:30p Jr. High QUEST, 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, 7 p.m. Open Volleyball, 8:15 p.m.
28 5:20p Prayer Group	29	30	31 6p Harvest Fest & Chili Cook-off				Thursday Ladies' Bible Study, 2p C4 College Group, 7 p.m. 7th Day Baptist Bible Study, 7 p.m.
							Friday Ladies meet @ Denny's for Bkfst., 9 a.m. Bible Study @ Greteman's, 6:15 p.m.
							Saturday Men's BSF Leaders, 6 a.m. 7th Day Baptists, 9 a.m.

Upcoming November Events:

- 11/3 ~ Loaves & Fishes, 11a
- 11/4 ~ Bonner Singers
- 11/10 ~ Singles' Dinner Out, 6:30p
- 11/16 ~ Srs. & Friends Luncheon, 12n
- 11/16 ~ Kids' Night Out, 6p
- 11/22-23 ~ Office Closed, Happy Thanksgiving
- 11/24 ~ Singles' Game Night, 6:30p





Just for

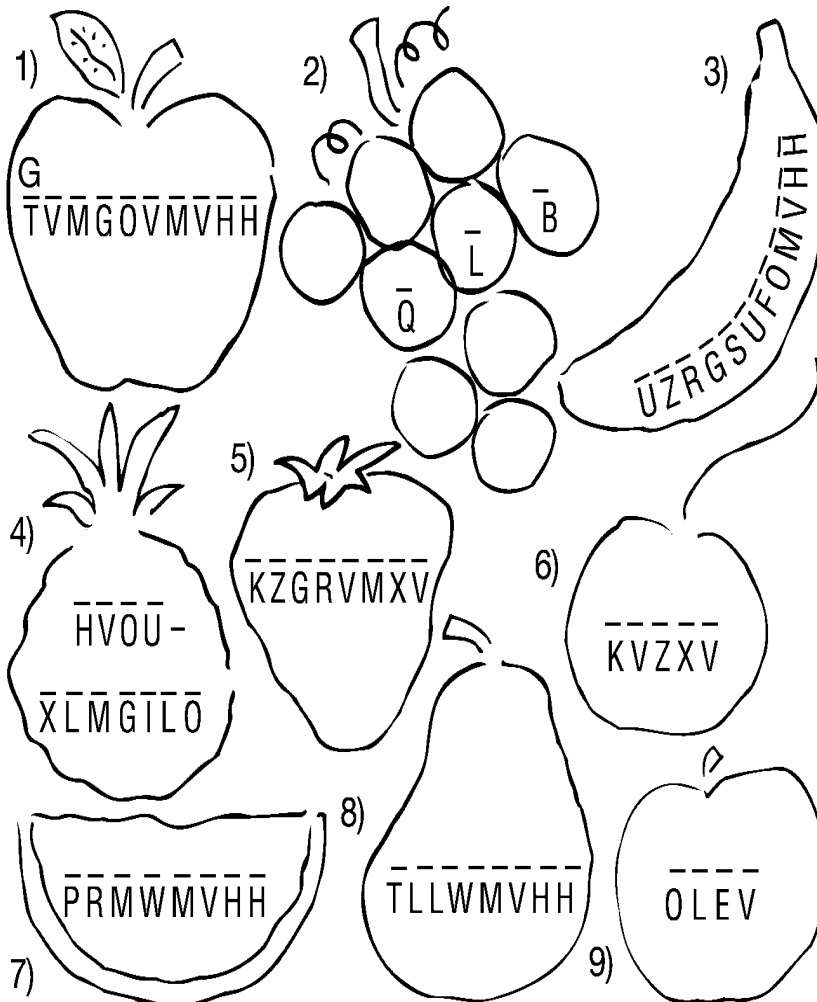
KIDS

Fruits of the Spirit

In the book of Galatians, Paul told the people to “live by the spirit” – to live God’s way. He told them what they would need to do this. These characteristics are called the “fruits of the Spirit.”

Find the "Fruits of the Spirit" using the code below.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFE DCBA

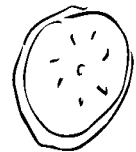


Gentleness, Joy, Faithfulness, Self-Control, Patience, Peace, Kindness, Goodness, Love

Make a Fruits of the Spirit Snack

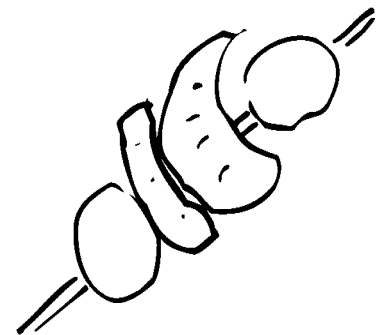
You will need:

- fresh or canned fruit
- apples
- oranges
- bananas
- cherries
- grapes
- pineapple
- melon
- toothpicks



How to make it:

1. Open cans and drain juice.
2. Cut fresh fruit in chunks or slices.
(Tip: To keep fresh fruit from turning brown, soak it in lemon-lime soda pop!)
3. Arrange pieces of fruit on toothpicks. Share with family or friends!



[Editors Note: The following was written by a former TFB member and originally published in the October 2008 *Proclaimer*. I think it bears repeating. al]



The Amazing, Fantastic Tale of a Shoebox

by Michelle Wood

Once upon a time, there was a lowly, red shoebox. The benevolent and ever-resourceful Lady Carol (of the Hubert clan) found the box, as it sat in a rubbish pile at the village store. Although it was empty and seemed worthless, Lady Carol recognized that this shoebox had great potential in the King's eyes. So she brought it to her cottage workshop and wrapped pretty Christmas paper around the box and its lid. Because of Lady Carol's love, the lowly shoebox became beautiful!

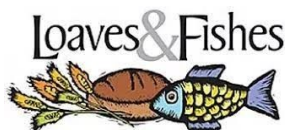
Lady Carol placed the transformed shoebox on the Welcome Table at the church. As the sunlight fell on the sparkling box, a Kindly Man saw it from across the courtyard. The Kindly Man had recently been saddened by the observation that his young grandchildren seemed to be ungrateful for all their many gifts. He longed for them to appreciate what they had and learn the joy of helping those less fortunate.

So the Kindly Man picked up the beautifully wrapped shoebox and took it home. He gathered his grandchildren and told them about families in other parts of the world, outside their village. "They have children just like you," he said, "but they are poor and have no toys to play with." Just as the Kindly Man had hoped, his grandchildren's hearts were touched. "How can we help these boys and girls?" they eagerly asked. "I have a beautiful shoebox that we can fill with presents," the Kindly Man told them. "Huzzah!" shouted the children. And they went to the Toy Shoppe, Candy Shoppe*, and Ye Olde Pharmacy finding wondrous presents. Then they wrote loving notes to the children in the far-off land and filled the box. The Kindly Man and his grandchildren's hearts were warmed!

The shoebox moved on to where it met many other shoeboxes, which were also beautiful now on the outside and inside. As it happened, young lads and maidens from Lady Carol's church were there to greet it! Under the guidance of the Wise Youth Pastor, they made sure all the shoeboxes were ready to go on their long journey across the sea. The last thing the young villagers did before they packed up our shoebox was to place inside it words from the Holiest of Books.

The shoebox traveled in a big ship that flew through the sky and landed in a country called Uzbekistan. The children there were very poor and very sad. Amazingly, the people who met the shoebox there were also from Lady Carol's church! Sir Steve and Lady Cindi (of Barrett lineage) were so glad to see the beautiful shoebox full of love and gave it to a little boy who really needed it. The boy was overjoyed with the sweet candy* and toys, and he marveled that someone so far away would care to send him this wonderful box. But what meant the most to the boy were the messages inside—the loving note from the Kindly Man's grandchildren and the proclamation of Love from their great King.

You, too, can be a Kindly Man/Woman/Child and fill one of Lady Carol's shoeboxes! Just use a shoebox of your own and wrap it or pick up an already wrapped box and a list of suggested items in the patio and fill it with school supplies, toys, hygiene items, etc. Please remember that toothpaste and *candy* are no longer admissible items. (The deadline to turn your box(es) in is November 11, 2018.)



The loaves and fishes ministry is thriving with all of your prayers and support. We, the team, thank each and every one who helps for all that you do. If others of you would be interested in

serving in any way at Loaves & Fishes, call me (Linda Stratton), or Gale Lee, or just show up on the first Saturday of each month.

Laura Leyman heads up the clothing ministry and is doing an awesome job. Please keep her in mind when cleaning out your closets of gently used or new clothing items. When you bring them to the church, put her name on the bags and the office will take them upstairs to the clothing room.

If you bring items for Beacon Light Mission or Doors of Hope, also mark each bag for each ministry.

Be sure and keep an eye out for any large hygiene items for our Christmas give-away to the needy. You can bring them to the church anytime (marked for Linda). We need them by the middle of November. If you have any questions, just call Linda Stratton.

Thank you and God bless.

Reflections continued from p. 2

from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, Whom He raised from the dead—Jesus, Who rescues us from the coming wrath.”

Yes, these first century believers were living witnesses for Jesus. May it be our hearts' desire to follow in their foot steps as we humble ourselves before Him and yield to the Spirit's ever-present ministry in our lives.

Praising Jesus only,
Pastor Rog



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

Former TFB member Diana Bunting, loving wife of Don, is now with the Lord; and faithful TFB member Leah Douglas is now in the arms of Jesus.



We Get Mail

Dear Church Family,

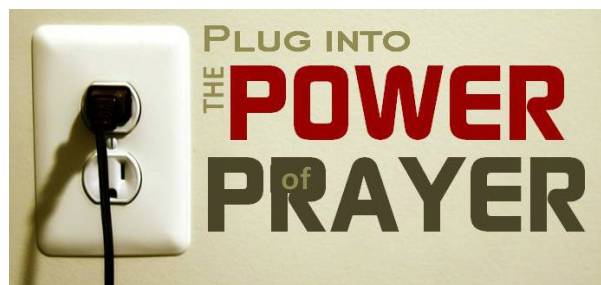
We want to thank everyone for their prayers and cards during my surgery and Louie's shingles. We love you!

Louie & Lucia Martinez

Pastor Rog and Joyce,

Thank you for your love and support and prayers. It was good to have you at Mom's farewell.

Thank you to TFB for all their prayers.
Chris Hach
(daughter of Virgie Fletcher)



Please pray for the following who need continued prayer:

Barbara Ashcraft, Michael Banfield, Nancy Christensen, Julie Cochran, Tom Cochran, Mary Crutchfield, Ruth Easley, Dutchess Gattis, Janet Graves, Mary Jacobsen, Barbara Johnson, Bill Johnson, Helen Kessenich, Joan Kindt, Joy Moore, Bill Morgan, Joy Pierson, Darlene Purdom, Penny Rahmeyer, Jean Rayner, Connie Reimer, Barbara Rudé, Edna Hazel Ruth, Claudine Schultz, Mary Schultz, Frank Spinney, Jo Standifer, Bill & Gerri Stoodley, Tammie Wakefield, Gertie Wissinger, and Art Zeller.

The entire Jenkins family et al. thank you for the marvelous memorial service which so encapsulated the life of our beloved Joanne.

I have listened to the recording provided and was delighted to learn how so many had been lifted in their Christian walk through Joanne's life and witness.

Thank you for these blessings.

Dick

Thank you to all who shared our 50th anniversary celebration with us. Your presence made it very memorable. A special thank you to those who participated in making the event so successful. We really are grateful to all of you!

Love in Christ,
Loren & Barbara Harvey

TFB Tithes & Offerings



Thank you for giving approximately \$45,598 in the month of August.



Animal Markings



“I’m going to the party dressed as a cat. Do you think anyone will recognize me?”



“Well, I’m going as a monkey because there’s been one on my back ever since I was born!”

“A merry heart does good, like medicine” (Proverbs 17:22, NKJV).

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: C4 College; C4 High School; C4 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.tfbelife.org