

Torrance First Baptist Church the Proclaimer

April 2019 Volume 32 Issue 4



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Easter Cantata
April 14 ~ 6 p.m.

Jesus' extraordinary love for others characterized His life and ministry. Yet, as He approached the end of His life, many were skeptical of His message. *Amazing Love!* walks us down the road to the cross, recounting the final hours of Christ's life. This inspiring worship experience presented by our Worship Choir under the direction of Randy Stager uniquely blends original and familiar melodies in dramatic and compelling ways.

Come and bring your unsaved friends to be inspired by the powerful claims of Christ that flow from the impassioned music and scripturally based narration.

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.

Torrance First Baptist Church

& TFB Academy present

TENEBRAE

service of shadows

Friday, April 19

7:30 p.m.



Join us on
Resurrection
Sunday
for breakfast
at 9 a.m.
and
One Combined
Service
at 10:30 a.m.

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



A Word from Our Transitional Pastor

Dear Church Family,

You may have been wondering what our Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) has been up to these past few months. I assure you ... it has been hard work! We have not spent the time chatting, eating, and telling funny stories. Rather, we have been brainstorming, discussing, tweaking, and praying. At long last, we have finalized the core values of Torrance First Baptist. They are not perfect. No set of core values is perfect. They are not inerrant like the holy Word of God. You might have phrased a few things differently, but they do generally reflect who we are and what is important to us. You'll notice the first one starts with God and then is followed by the Gospel ... then it goes from there.

Let's do more than just affirm these values as a church body. Let us sincerely attempt to live them out both individually and corporately—in our personal lives and as members of TFB. This would be a perfect time to put into practice Hebrews 10:24, *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."*

Pastor Alex

Core Values of Torrance First Baptist

We depend on God, because without Him we are utterly hopeless and lost.

We share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Bible, the Word of God, is our guide to living and behaving as followers of Jesus.

We worship God and pray to Him as ways of living out our relationship with Him.

Jesus is the source and standard of our life together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

People and our relationships with them are essential because people matter to God.

We learn and experience life together to become more like Jesus.

See our new Mission Statement on page 9.

Reflections

by Pastor Rog

Dear Church Family,

As we read the Gospels, we see again and again the love and mercy of the Lord Jesus to all people. One such Scripture passage is Matthew 9:9-13:

"As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the collector's booth. 'Follow Me,' He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, 'Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?'

On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy not sacrifice." 'For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.'"

As we read these verses, we see that tax collectors and sinners are linked together twice in this passage. This is significant. You see, both groups were shut out from pious Jewish society. In other words, these people were not considered worthy of God's love or interest. But the Lord Jesus reached out to all of these people no matter who they were or what they had done. He wanted each of these ostracized ones to know that



they, along with everyone else, were priceless to Him. Sadly, many people today don't feel worth much to anybody...let alone God. What a privilege it is for us to share with them that they are.

In verses 12 & 13, the Lord Jesus uses the analogy of physical health to represent spiritual health. He made it very clear to the Pharisees (who thought they were well) that He came to call the sick.

Continued on p. 9

Sunday, April 7
Church
Business Meeting
10:40 a.m. (after
1st service)

This will be a very short meeting to ratify the members of the Search Committee who will be looking for a new pastor.

Birthday Cupcakes needed on April 7.

Please sign up in the patio if you will be able to bring cupcakes to share for March and April birthdays.



Love In the Name of Christ
ANNUAL DINNER & FUNRAISER

COMEDY
Love INC 30th Annual Dinner

FOR A CAUSE 2 & FUN-raiser!

DINNER • SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS • ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY • 5:00 PM JOURNEY OF FAITH CHURCH
APRIL 27TH, 2019 1243 ARTESIA BLVD • MANHATTAN BEACH

LAUGHS PROVIDED BY
CHRISTIAN COMEDIAN
NICK ARNETTE

LOL!

ME WE GLEE

The Book of Dude

DINNER SERVED AT 6 P.M.
TICKETS: \$55/PERSON \$50/PERSON WHEN YOU BUY A TABLE FOR 6 OR 8.
PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 17
310/831-5683, X104 OR CECILIA@LOVEINC.ORG

THOUSAND PINES | WOMEN'S RETREAT 2019

Victorious

2 COR. 10:3-6

Women's Retreat at Thousand Pines

May 3-5

We know that as Christian women, your days are filled with busy schedules, commitments and responsibilities. Take a break from the busyness and go with us to Thousand Pines Women's Retreat* for a weekend to re-charge both spiritually and physically.

Take this opportunity to hear some great teaching and spend time relaxing, listening for the Lord, and reflecting amidst the beauty of our mountains. Be prepared to be pampered with gourmet meals, professional massages, and other special activities.

**Children and babies are loved—but attendees need to be 18 years of age or older.*

Standard Cabin (includes full bath) ~ \$195

Rustic Cabin (restrooms in cabin; showers a short walk away ~ \$180



& Kids' News

C4 High School Winter Camp



Snow-filled successes at camp this year:

- 4 churches participated
- 70-80 kids from all churches attended
- 18 went from TFB
- 2 made decisions for Christ
- 2 rededicated themselves to following the Lord

God is moving our young people on AND OFF the mountain!



Special Event for the Whole Church Family



**Movie Preview
April 17, 2019
at TFB**

Dinner: 6 p.m.
Movie: 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Dessert: 7:30 p.m.

After the movie for Colossian Kids . . .

Peep-a-palooza

7:30 ~ 8 p.m.



NOTE: For our **PEEPS** Party, we need **Peeps**, **Peeps**, and more **Peeps**!
Please bring donated Peeps to the office.



**HIGH SCHOOL
MOVIE NIGHT
APRIL 28 ~ 6 P.M.**

For Colossians Kids



Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship



Dinner Night ~ Saturday, April 13, 6:30 p.m. ~
El Torito Mexican Restaurant, 23225 Hawthorne Blvd. (corner of Hawthorne & Lomita)



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



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

Relevant Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-22

TFB Academy

"We Are a People"

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

Galatians 3:28 (ESV): There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

As a person born and raised in Western culture, where individualism filters out a deep understanding of community, I sought help from a friend born and raised in Sub-Saharan Africa as I worked on this article. The description of Christian life in his home country,

combined with biblical teaching in Ephesians 2, tells me we have much to learn from Scripture and our brothers and sisters across the globe about what it means to be church. I thank my friend for helping me think through what it can look like to be the people of God.

One people. We are one people, siblings who are ever willing to give and receive aid. In the church, it is normal to ask for help and to offer help without being asked. Kindness is expected and freely offered, and folks feel bad when they lack the wherewithal to offer hospitality. As believers gather to worship God and minister to one another, our identity as God's people strengthens. As we disperse, we carry this identity into the world, inviting those who are not a people to come and see.

No divisions. Within the people of God, divisions are removed in Christ. Indeed, divisions are wholly out of place for we are one people, reconciled to God and one another. Our bonds are strong. While earthly conflicts sometimes show up, such conflict is not fitting because loyalty to Christ and to our brothers and sisters is stronger than other loyalties. Serving God is more important than getting our way or making our point. As we gather, our unity strengthens, and our diversity is put to use. As we disperse, we demonstrate and communicate life as God's people to a broken and divided world.

Responsibility. As fellow citizens, each of us bears citizenship responsibility to the whole, caring for one another as whole persons. We make ourselves aware of one another's needs and capacities. We help one another to develop a ready willingness to help those not yet belonging to Christ.

As I listened to my friend talk about being a people, one point surprised me: for Christians in his country the church family is closer than one's blood family. He gave an example, saying that if a Christian were to visit a town where a member of his or her blood family lived, the Christian would still reach out to fellow believers for a place to stay before reaching out to family members. He noted that this is the case even when the relationship between blood siblings is strong.

We have much to learn.

Recurring Weekly Events:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Sunday | <p>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. (All above except 4/21)</p> <p>Monday Ladies' Prayer, 10:00 a.m. Men's BSF, 6:55 p.m. (except 4/8)</p> <p>Tuesday C4 High School Leadership, 5:30 p.m. C4 High School, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday Men's Lunch @ Sizzler, 12 noon Family Dinner, 6 p.m. Colossians Kids, 6:30 p.m. Knowing God Small Group, 6:30 p.m. Small Group w/Pastor Alex, 6:30 p.m. Jr. High QUEST, 6:30 p.m. [Men's lunch is a go, but all the rest of the above not on 4/10] Choir Practice, 7 p.m. Open Volleyball, 8:15 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday Ladies' Bible Study, 2 p.m. (except 4/18) C4 College Group, 7 p.m. 7th Day Baptist Bible Study, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Friday Ladies meet @ Denny's for Bkfst., 9 a.m. Small Group @ Greteman's, 6:15 p.m. (except 4/19)</p> <p>Saturday Men's BSF Leaders, 6 a.m. (except 4/6) 7th Day Baptists, 9 a.m.</p> |
|---------------|--|

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | <p>11a Loaves & Fishes</p> |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| <p>7 Birthdays cupcakes 10:40a All Church Business Meeting 2:30p Sing at Royalwood</p> | <p>8 12n Shut-in Team Meeting 7p Deaconess Meeting</p> | <p>9 Spring Break</p> | <p>10 7p Beacon Light Mission</p> | <p>11 2-4p Colossians Kids Paint & Praise 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out</p> | <p>12 19 Good Friday Office Closed 7:30p Tenebrae Service No Kids' Night Out</p> | <p>13 20 7p Share & Care</p> |
| 14 Palm Sunday 12:15p SLT Mng. w/ lunch 6p Easter Cantata | 15 6p FacMan Team | 16 6p Ministry Teams: Fellowship, GO, Outreach, Worship, Disc. Dev. 6:30p Finance Team 7p Deacon Meeting | 17 6p Fam. Dinner 6:30p "Pilgrim's Progress" Movie & Dessert 7:30p Colossians Kids Peep-a- Paloosa | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Resurrection Sunday 9a Breakfast 10:30a One Combined Service | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 5:30p Prayer Gathering 6p H.S. Movie Night | 29 | 30 | | | | |

Upcoming May Events:

- 5/3-5/5 ~ Ladies' Retreat at Thousand Pines
- 5/4 ~ Loaves & Fishes, 11a
- 5/4 ~ Colossians Kids' Raingutter Regatta, 2-4p
- 5/11 ~ Singles' Dinner Out, 6:30p
- 5/17 ~ Kids' Night Out/**Marriage Night Seminar, 6p**
- 5/18 ~ All Church Work Day, 9a-4p
- 5/19 ~ Membership Class, 12:15p
- 5/24 ~ Srs. & Friends Luncheon, 12n
- 5/25 ~ Singles' Game Night, 6:30p





*There is something for every age group to do and get involved with here at Torrance First Baptist Church. This month we are featuring a young man from our college age group, **Kurt Kellogg**.*

Kurt Kellogg, who is 22 years old, has been attending Torrance First Baptist Church all of his life. **Kurt** is the son of Dr. Gregg Kellogg and Diane Kellogg Banfield who raised him up “in the way of the Lord” while attending TFB. **Kurt** has lived in Torrance all of his life.

Kurt attends the first service where he also participates in the Worship Band as the drummer during our first service. **Kurt** says that the Scripture verse that most inspires him is Romans 12:21: “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

In addition to playing the drums during the first service, **Kurt** also plays the drums for the Tuesday night high school group and also plays the drums when he attends the Thursday night College and Career group at Torrance First Baptist Church. **Kurt** inherited his love of music though his parents, who are also very musically gifted. Kurt has played the drums since he was 14 years old, and the drums are his preferred method of musical expression. However, in the past he has also played the piano, violin, trombone and guitar. He also volunteers his time at TFB by helping Karla Gaines during the Lightseekers’ Summer Camp trip every year.

Kurt graduated from North High School in 2014 and then attended El Camino Community College. Currently, Kurt is working at The Great Room Café in Redondo Beach as a Cashier / Barista / Server. He likes playing video games and especially loves to go hiking. Kurt’s favorite place to hike is all around the Palos Verdes Peninsula, but especially around the area of Abalone Cove.



Abalone Cove, Palos Verdes Peninsula

Something that we would be surprised to learn about **Kurt** is that when he was attending North High School, he took a web design course and won an award for the most improved student in the course.

*India National Inland Mission
Dr. Ajay Pillai*



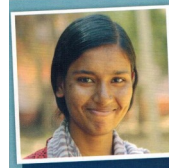
Paul and Annie Pillai founded India National Inland Mission, Inc. ("INIM") in 1964. It is headquartered in New Delhi, India, with outreach concentrated in the largely unevangelized northern states of India. INIM includes Grace Bible College for the training of native evangelists who go out into North India and establish churches. The

organization also maintains a children's home for orphans. Upon the home-going of Paul last year, his son Dr. Ajay Pillai has continued in his father's footsteps of bringing souls to Christ, training them, and sending them out to bring others to Christ. Torrance First Baptist Church has been supporting this ministry for many years. This month we will be focusing on "Treasures Rescued from Darkness," who are now living at their orphanage, the Bethesda Children's Home.



KAVITA (age 9) arrived at age 5 after the local police rescued her from a human trafficking group. There are no known records of her family although she thinks she may have a sister. She accepted Christ at 6 years old at the children's home Chapel Service. She wants to be a school teacher. Her one prayer request is that she would do well in school and that she would be a bold witness for Christ among her friends.

JONISHA (13) was dropped off at the Home at 4-years-old by an anonymous older adult. There are no records of her family. She was led to Christ at 7 years old by her roommate and best friend at the children's home. She dreams of someday being a medical missionary serving where there are no hospitals. Her one prayer request is that she would be healed of her constant stomach ailment as doctors do not seem to have found the remedy.



RAJESH (6-years-old) arrived at the Bethesda Children's Home at 3 years old, after he was found at the local garbage heaps by one of the INIM slum church planters serving outside New Delhi. The local police verified that he did not have any family records and so released him to be cared for by Bethesda. He accepted Christ at 5 years old and wants to be a soccer player. He asks for prayer, that he will be a bold Christian witness and not be shy.

PYARI (14) came as a 10-year-old after her parents were given a life sentence for an undisclosed crime. She has been separated from her 3 sisters for the last 4 years, and she does not know their whereabouts. She accepted Christ when she was 12 at a devotional meeting at the Home. She says her faith in Christ gives her this overwhelming feeling that she is going to see all her sisters and parents again and that they will all be able to live united as a family. She hopes to have a family of her own someday and serve as a missionary to Women's prisons. Her prayer request is that she wants to lead 12 people to Christ this coming year, one soul every month.



KAPIL (7) was dropped off at the gates of Grace Bible College when he was 6 years old by an unknown person. Upon investigation by law enforcement Kapil was deemed homeless. He accepted Christ within 9 months of being at Bethesda. He has memorized 53 Bible verses in the last 9 months. Kapil hopes to be a medical doctor someday.

DHEERAJ (8) was rescued from a child labor camp when he was 5-years-old. He thinks he has other siblings but does not ever remember meeting his biological parents. Dheeraj accepted Christ 4 months after arriving at Bethesda at a Sunday morning children's church service. He has grown to love his newfound Christian family. He wants to be a Youth Pastor when he grows up.



SUNITA (15) was rescued from a human trafficking group when she was 10 years old and was brought to Bethesda by a local pastor. Sunita does not remember what part of India she was born in, but Police determined that she was more likely sold by family members. She came from a Hindu background but accepted Christ when she was 11. She wants to go to Grace Bible College to become a Bible teacher and rescue other girls just like her.

Please pray for the above young people and the many other children who are at the Bethesda Orphanage and also those who still need to be rescued from the streets of India.

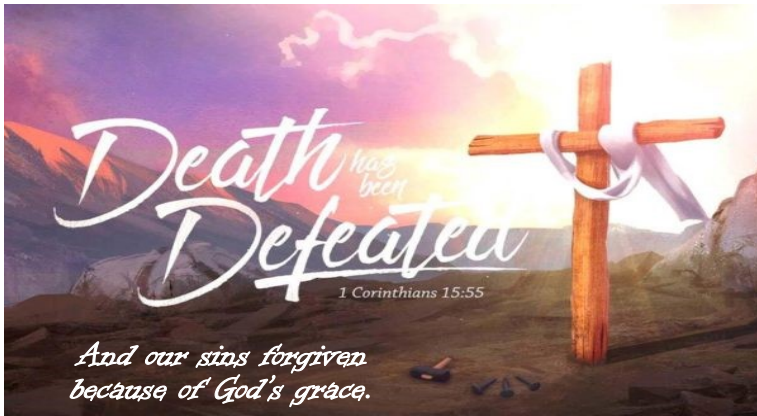
Reflections continued from p. 2

Who are the sick? They are those who realize their sinfulness! The tax collectors and sinners realized their need for a Savior; therefore, they were enabled to receive the salvation Jesus offered them. Praise Him! But sadly, the Pharisees thought because of their religious position and their “obedience” to man-made laws that they were righteous and didn’t need a Savior. But they did! God knew their inner spiritual condition and had judged their supposed righteousness (their sacrifice) as worthless. You see, in not experiencing God’s mercy for themselves, they did not show mercy to others (Hosea 6:6; Luke 7:47).

I realize at times that it’s very easy for me to act as a Pharisee—to think of others as in deeper spiritual need than myself. Wrong! The Holy Spirit reminds me that but for God’s grace, I, too, would be lost spiritually. It then is my privilege to reach out to others in Jesus’ Name and tell them of His great love, mercy, and grace.

May it be our prayer to be His loving witnesses to all those He places in our path.

So thankful for Him,
Pastor Rog



We Get Mail



TFB,
Thanks for all the prayer and get well cards. They were greatly appreciated.

Ester Adams



Please pray for the following families who have lost a loved one:

Carolyn Morris lost her mother,
Hatsuki Yano;
Jan Taylor also lost her mom;
Peggy Hill lost her aunt;
Michelle Fisher lost her dad;
TFB member Helen Kessenich, beloved wife of Robert, is now with the Lord; and Janet Luden lost her Dad, Ted Sands.



Please pray for the following who need continued prayer:

Barbara Ashcraft, Bob Baker, Michael Banfield, Nancy Christensen, Julie Cochran, Tom Cochran, Mary Crutchfield, Ruth Easley, Elle Estee, Dutchess Gattis, Janet Graves, Mary Jacobsen, Barbara Johnson, Bill Johnson, Josephine Joosten, Bill Morgan, Joy Pierson, Darlene Purdom, Penny Rahmeyer, Jean Rayner, Connie Reimer, Edna Hazel Ruth, Claudine Schultz, Mary Schultz, Jo Standifer, Bill & Gerri Stoodley, Jerrolyn Vitali, Tammie Wakefield, Gertie Wissinger, and Art Zeller.

New TFB



“Our Mission is to Love God, Love People, and Teach Others to do the Same.”

TFB Tithes & Offerings



Thank you for giving approximately \$37,198 in the month of February.

Spring Cleaning "Tweets"



Did a bunch of spring cleaning and now I'm the proud new owner of another box of random cords.

[cleaning out our bedroom]

Me: Half of this stuff is junk we don't need.

Wife: The other half is mine.

Fantasia gave me unrealistic expectations of how much cleaning a bucket and mop would be motivated to do.

burns down house

checks spring cleaning off list

"Come on in; excuse the mess," as I pretend that I didn't spend an hour cleaning just to get it to the point where I could pretend THIS is "messy."

Just got done with a deep cleaning of my kitchen so no one will be eating, drinking or even standing in here for the next 10 years.

"Do what you're supposed to or no dessert!"

—Me talking myself into cleaning the house

I wish I spent as much energy cleaning my house as I do worrying about people unexpectedly stopping by and seeing my dirty house.

"Who said your 40s aren't full of magic," I say to myself as I stand in the cleaning aisle swooning over sponges that are in my favorite color.

Spring cleaning has been rescheduled for Summer. Because I said so.

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

