

# Torrance First Baptist Church the Proclaimer

March 2019 Volume 32 Issue 3



Women's Ministries presents

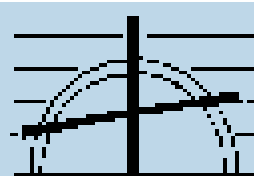
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*Saturday, March 23, 6:00 p.m.*

All ladies (men and teens, too) are invited.  
Bring a potluck dish to share.  
In addition to BINGO prizes,  
there will be a prize for the best  
St. Patrick's Day theme costume.



Torrance  
First Baptist Church  
Directory  
March 2019

*New Church Directory  
Available in March*

Watch for new TFB Address and Phone Directories which will be available sometime in March. You may take two per family. If you need more than that, please call the church office to order more.

Proclaimers are also available for viewing and printing on-line: [www.tfbclife.org](http://www.tfbclife.org)



Dear Church Family,

*"Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life"* (Prov. 16:31).

I think older people are underestimated. If given the chance, I think older church members will surprise you with what they can do.

It has been said, *"You can't teach an old dogs new tricks."* That phrase came from a British fellow named Fitzherbert in 1523. But is it true?

Two science buffs on the T.V. program *Mythbusters*, Jamie Hynerman and Adam Savage, challenged that truism. They found a pair of aging Alaskan malamutes who didn't know a single trick. As seven-year-old canines, siblings Bobo and Cece, were the equivalent to a couple of 50-year-olds, in human years. They were no longer "youngsters."

After four days of training, Bobo and Cece proved Fitzherbert wrong. Each could heel, sit, lie down, stay, and shake upon command from both Jamie and Adam. And since malamutes are known for being stubborn, Bobo's and Cece's performances definitely shattered the long-held belief that "you can't teach an old dog new tricks." I think this applies to humans too.

TFB is over 105 years old. Can we turn things around and fill this house again? Can we be creative and innovative? Can we learn any new tricks? Some pundits would say "no." The First Baptist Church of Pomona proved those pundits wrong. A leading church in our denomination with an attendance well over a thousand had slowly declined over the decades to a few hundred people with no money in the bank. Their average age was over 65. They were six months from closing their doors. Then Pastor Glen Gunderson challenged them to think big and team up with him to draw younger people back to the church. They kept their traditional service and decorum, but learned some new tricks on how to attract young people. That was over 20 years ago. Since then, hundreds of people have come to the Lord and now several thousand people attend "Purpose Church" (their new name) every Sunday morning. The gray hairs on those original members are truly the crown of splendor. Their wisdom is evident every Sunday morning. Is there the same kind of wisdom here at TFB? Doggone it ... Yes!!!

Pastor Alex

## Reflections

by Pastor Rog

Dear Church Family,

Heartaches...questions... weakness...failure—these are situations we all face throughout our lives. Sometimes we wonder if other people face these things as much as we do. They do. Way back in Old Testament days (approximately 1520 B.C.), the man Job said this:

*"Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward"* (Job 5:7).

When these things happen to us, we ask, "Is there any help for us?" Praise the Lord, there is!

Our Bible tells us that our God doesn't just possess strength—He **IS** strength (Psalm 93:1). Our Lord realizes how weak we are in ourselves and desires to **give us His strength** (Psalm 68:35).

Thankfully, it does not matter how **difficult** our trial is, how **alone** we might feel, or how **unworthy** we are. Our wonderful God is **ready** to minister to our deepest needs (Psalm 27:1, 46:1, 73:26).

But there is something we need to do. He desires us to call out to Him in our times of need with a **humble spirit** and **request** His help. Will He bend low to hear our cry? Listen to what David, the psalmist, learned about God:

*"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; He delivers them; He delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are CRUSHED in spirit"* (Psalm 34:17-18). [Emphasis mine]



Of course, this is where we must exercise faith in the Lord and allow Him to work in His way and in His time.

Years ago while preaching at a Youth Conference in Prescott, AZ, I met a dear older gentleman who had a gracious way about him. He had experienced a severe accident while working at the camp. He had fallen off a cabin onto his head. Severe trauma to his brain ensued. This left him

*Continued on p. 9*



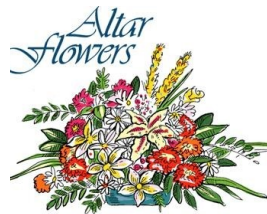


Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on **Saturday, March 9**, or you will be late for church.

### *Altar Flowers for 2019*

The Flower Calendar for 2019 is in the foyer. If you would like to celebrate a special event in your life or honor a loved one, please sign up to reserve your preferred date—one sign-up per date, please. The cost is \$70 per arrangement and is **tax deductible**.

Please choose one date per family until all have had an opportunity to sign up. You may make your payment any time before your chosen date. Mark your envelope **"TFB Flower Donation"** to get credit for your gift. There are a lot of dates left!!



### *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, spend time relaxing, listening for the Lord, and reflecting amidst the beauty of our mountains. Let them pamper you 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

Sign-ups are already being taken in the patio.

### *TFB Tithes & Offerings*



Thank you for giving approximately \$39,676 in the month of January.

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).*

### *Please Remember:*



*in the Worship Center*

# 4 MINISTRIES & Kids' News



*Sunday, March 10*  
*6:00 p.m.*

**Pizza, drinks, and snacks provided.**



**AKA PARENTS' DATE NIGHT**

*March 15, 6 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 donation of \$3/child.

(This event occurs on the 3rd Friday of each month.)



## WINTER CAMP

High School ~ March 8-10  
at Camp Edwards  
in Angelus Oaks  
(Rescheduled from  
February 15-18 when  
they were snowed out.)



## Operation Platypus

by Ann Pursche

What do you do when High School camp gets “snowed out” (by snowed out we mean that the roads were closed, the food truck couldn’t deliver, and the cabins had 4” of water on the floors)?

Well, you move the 55 students and leaders from the four churches to TFB and create *Operation Platypus*.

Why the name Platypus? If you have ever seen a duck-billed platypus, you know that they are one of the strangest creatures God ever made—a mammal that lays eggs, looks like a cross between a beaver and a duck, has ears on the bottom of its jaw, and feet like an otter. The male platypus is venomous.

Like this odd creature, our overnight event was also a weird and spontaneous gathering of assorted parts. Quickly, we arranged food and logistics for the large group, working around four different groups who were also here at TFB.

We had a chapel session in the Worship Center until the children vacated the gym, annex and kitchen from Kids Night Out. Then we took over the rest of the church to eat pizza, play games and just have lots of fun, before settling in to sleep in the North Education building.

The next morning, we got up, made a breakfast of eggs, pancakes and bacon, cleaned up all our messes from eating and sleeping so as not to interfere with the other groups meeting that morning before heading to our morning session of worship and speaking. Although our event concluded after chapel, the students continued to want to just hang out with one another afterwards.

Did we get the same camp experience in Operation Platypus? No, not exactly. Nothing beats going away for a long weekend to the mountains where the students disconnect from the outside world. Our time here was really short; but what this weekend did was to have them play together as the larger family of God and strengthen the friendships with churches that they only get to see a couple of times per year.

It reminded them that what we plan can often be upended, and that the scenic route is often more wonderful to behold than the straight line between points A and B. (And that the platypus was created by God just as much as the other animals.)





## Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship



**Dinner Night ~ Saturday, March 9, 6:30 p.m.** ~ Meet at California Pizza Kitchen, 25304 Crenshaw Blvd. (next door to Smok'n Joe's BBQ).



**Game Night ~ Saturday, March 23, 6 p. m.** ~ Potluck BINGO Night at church; bring a dish to share.



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

### TFB Academy

## "We Are Family"

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

Relevant Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48; 6:1-18; 7:7-11; 10:16-33; John 13:31-35; 15:12-17; Romans 12:9-13; Ephesians 2:11-22; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12; 1 John 3:11-24; 4:7-21; 2 John 4:11; 1 Peter 1:13-25; 4:7-11

We live in a culture in which “us versus them” has become a badge of honor. Brothers and sisters, it should never be so among us. As believers in Jesus, we have one Father and are members of one family. Our Father is fair and caring. He knows our needs. He watches over us and rewards us. He is always accessible. As members of his *Oikos*, his household, we are called to obey him and act like his kids. In good times and bad, we worship and trust our Father.

As children of one Father, we are siblings. Love for one another, expressed in mutual care, is of primary importance. Thus, we are commanded to love one another. We do this through humble, hidden service to one another. We support and protect one another through honest actions, carried out in ways that follow Christ's commands. We love one another sacrificially—the same way that Jesus loves us.

By loving one another as siblings, we show to the world that we are redeemed followers of Jesus and prove to ourselves that we are dwelling in God. We are family, and our family duties are grounded in and shaped by that family because we remain loyal to our Father's *Oikos*. We hold family commitment as more important than personal preference. We place our siblings' needs above our own.

As our Lord Jesus commanded, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35 ESV).

Note: Some of the principles about the church as a family are summarized from *When the Church Was a Family*, by Joseph H. Hellerman (2009). I recommend this book to those who would like to learn more about what it means to be a church that lives out the strong group family taught in the New Testament.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Recurring Weekly Events:
3 10:30a Deaconess Meeting 12:15p SLT Ming. w/ lunch 2:30p Sing at Royalwood	4	5	6	7	8 HS leaves for camp	9 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out	<b>Sunday</b> <b>Worship Services:</b> 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.
10 5:30p Prayer Gathering HS Home from Camp 6p H.S. Movie Night	11	12 12n Shut-in Team Meeting	13	14 7p Beacon Light Mission	15 6p Kids' Night Out	16 7p Share & Care	<b>Monday</b> Ladies' Prayer, 10:00 a.m. Men's BSF, 6:55 p.m.
17	18 6p FacMan Team	19 6p Ministry Teams: Fellowship, GO, Outreach, Worship, Disc. Dev. 6:30p Finance Team 7p Deacon/ess Mtngs	20	21	22	23 6p St. Patty Bingo Night	<b>Tuesday</b> C4 High School Leadership, 5:30 p.m. C4 High School, 7 p.m.
24 5:30p Prayer Gathering	25	26	27	28	29	30	<b>Wednesday</b> Men's Lunch @ Sizzler, 12 noon Family Dinner, 6 p.m. Colossians Kids, 6:30 p.m. <i>Knowing God</i> Small Group, 6:30 p.m. Small Group w/Pastor Alex, 6:30 p.m. Jr. High QUEST, 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, 7 p.m. Open Volleyball, 8:15 p.m.
							<b>Thursday</b> Ladies' Bible Study, 2 p.m. C4 College Group, 7 p.m. 7th Day Baptist Bible Study, 7 p.m.
							<b>Friday</b> Ladies meet @ Denny's for Bkfst., 9 a.m. Small Group @ Greteman's, 6:15 p.m.
							<b>Saturday</b> Men's BSF Leaders, 6 a.m. 7th Day Baptists, 9 a.m.

**Upcoming April Events:**

- 4/6 ~ Loaves & Fishes. 11a
- 4/13 ~ Singles' Dinner Out, 6:30p
- 4/14 ~ Easter Cantata, 6p
- 4/19 ~ Good Friday, Office Closed
- 4/19 ~ Kids' Night Out, 6p
- 4/20 ~ Staton Baby Shower, 1p
- 4/21 ~ High School Movie Night, 6p
- 3/27 ~ Singles' Game Night, 6:30p



**2019**

*"Getting to Know You"*  
by *Gloria Pedersen*  
**Spotlight on our Members:**  
*Roy Pursche*



**Roy Pursche** has been coming to Torrance First Baptist Church since 1948 when a friend invited him to start attending the college and career group. Our current sanctuary had recently been built, and **Roy** was one of the first to be baptized in the new baptistry in 1949. Upon graduation from Gardena High School in 1943, he joined the Army Air Corps when he was only 17 years old and became a fighter pilot. After WWII he joined the Air Force Reserves and retired in 1972 with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

The Pursche Family has been farming in the South Bay area for over 100 years -- three generations! In 1946, when **Roy** returned home from his active service in the Army Air Corp, he took over the operation of the Pursche Ranch from his grandfather, Carl Gustave (Gus) Pursche. His grandparents, Gus and Anna, emigrated from Germany in the 1890's and were active in Gardena politics as well as farming. The Pursche Ranch office is still located in the little house that his parents, Carl and Thora Pursche called home back in the 1920's. It is located on Redondo Beach Blvd. east of Western Avenue. Currently, the Pursche Ranch consists of 2,000 acres near the junction of the 405 and the 605 freeways at the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station. Their primary crops are lima beans, barley, and garbanzo beans.

After returning home from the service and becoming active at TFB, **Roy** would meet and eventually marry his wife, Juandell in 1960. Together, they had three children: Ann, Jimmy and Susie. Ann attends TFB and has never married while Susie, the youngest is married but has no children. Jimmy has two children: Alina (10) and Brady (8) which are Roy's only grandchildren. Tragically, Juandell died in 1988. In 1998 **Roy** remarried a widow who he, again, met many years before at TFB – Sara. And, **Roy** and Sara Pursche will have been married 21 years this June.

**Roy** attends the 2<sup>nd</sup> service where he has served as an usher for many decades. He also attends Kent Meyer's King's Fellowship Class during the 1<sup>st</sup> service as well as attending a monthly Share and Care group. **Roy** has served as a Member-at-Large on various committees over the years, driven the church bus, and was instrumental in crafting TFB's Constitution which was adopted in the early 1980's.

In addition to the crops that he grows commercially, **Roy** loves to grow fruits and vegetables that he shares with family and friends – he has supplied many a TFB Men's Fellowship dinner with corn on the cob and fresh strawberries. He also has a passion for growing roses and maintains an extensive rose garden at the family home in Torrance. He is a long-standing member of the Order of the Daedalians which is a fraternal and professional order of American military pilots which gives **Roy** a way of staying connected with his fly boy, fighter pilot past.

Some things that you might be surprised to learn about **Roy** are that at the age of 60 he was still waterskiing and successfully took off from a standing dock start while vacationing at the family home in Lake Arrowhead. In 1953, he survived the plane crash of his F-51 and walked away to tell about it!

But, what you might be the most surprised to learn is that **Roy** will be 94 years young on March 29, 2019, *and that he still goes to work on his farm every day!*







## *From our missionary Berná Boné with Grace Global Ministries*

These days people are visiting different websites and looking into their genealogy. There's a lot of interest and inquiries [about] where they come from and who could possibly be their ancestors. But what about spiritual genealogies? Have we reached out to someone with the Gospel and have become a part of someone's spiritual genealogy?

Thank you for your prayers for the work here in Idaho. Most of the folks I meet and relate to are not only from different countries, they are also mostly from a different faith and belief. I need to remind myself that they are not hostile to my belief in God, just indifferent. I need to continue practicing love with a passionate heart plus patience in cultivating a relationship that hopefully will grow into trust. I also need to continue to be available and be ready when opportunities come to share God's love. Perhaps the things I do don't directly equal evangelism, but my prayer is that my ministry of help will show Christ's love to these folks. Only God knows if any of them might, in the future, have me listed as part of their spiritual genealogy. You are part of that spiritual genealogy because you partner with me.

\* Baby Esrahim had his ultrasound... The urologist is pleased with the way the left kidney is developing. Rukiah was hoping that the visits and ultrasounds would end, but the doctor wants to continue the check-ups.

\* Perhaps you might have heard in the news [that] the Boise refugee community was struck with a mass stabbing tragedy on June 30th [of last year]. A man attacked a group celebrating a birthday party at the Wylie Apartments. There were a total of 9 victims—6 children and 3 adults. The 3-year-old birthday girl died a few days later. The other victims were cared for at the local hospitals.... Everyone was affected by this tragedy, and the resettlement agency [helped] move some to other apartments because they no longer [felt] safe living at that place.

\* One of the things I do is help new families sign rental lease agreements. I did that for Ibrahim and his daughter, Jamilah (one of the newest Rohingya families here). How long does it take to sign a lease? How about over 2 hours. When we have to explain terms in a different language...it takes awhile. Later, I took them to the resettlement agency to pick up a check and then to the bank before dropping them off to their temporary place.

\* My next stop that day was to the other new Rohingya family who has a brand-new baby. I was told they had a question about banking. I helped them with that and other things. However, Abdul Rahman, the husband, was most upset because of what happened at the Wylie Apartments in Boise. Abdul felt the stabber was targeting refugees, and he didn't feel safe and wanted to leave and go back to Malaysia, the last country he fled to from Myanmar. How do you give someone assurance that he and his family will be safe? Who would have guessed that these things could happen here—a safe and welcoming place for refugees?

I would appreciate your prayers for wisdom as I minister to the refugees. Some of the questions they ask are as follows: How do you get good credit so the bank can loan you money? Does owning a credit card mean you'll be able to buy a house? Why do you have to have a lease? Our apartment does not have a yard; can you help us buy a house with a yard so we can plant a garden? Can you help me write a letter so my boss will give me more hours to work? When will you come and visit again? Does this food have pork inside? .....

I teach English classes at the school [as well as] to a mixed group of ladies, and the special English class for the Rohingya women. [I am] grateful to have a good, reliable car to transport these women and kids to and from classes and to doctors, WIC appointments, etc.

Thank you for your prayers, love gifts, and notes of encouragement. Blessings always!

Berna

Editor's note: There are cities and towns in the United States where local leaders are conflicted about accepting refugees. But in Boise, Idaho, where a healthy economy is constrained by an aging workforce, many people see refugees as part of the solution. This midsized city has a low cost of living and a growing reputation for being welcoming. As defined by international law, refugees are people who are forced to flee their homelands because of "a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group."

By the time most refugees arrive in the U.S. they have learned to fear the police in their own chaotic, war-torn countries, and most are unfamiliar with U.S. customs and laws—a situation that can easily lead to conflict with law enforcement. But in Boise, the police department is right there, working alongside the official resettlement agencies to help integrate, educate, and make these vulnerable newcomers feel safe.



**Reflections** *continued from p. 2*

paralyzed on one side, and now he could only shuffle his feet. It also left him with a vocabulary of two words: **“WONDERFUL GOD.”** Whatever you said to him, his answer was always the same, **“WONDERFUL GOD.”**

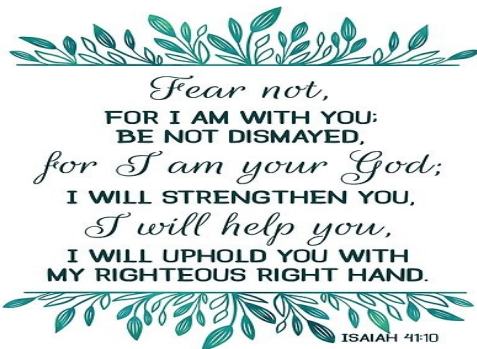
As I met with him during the week, I wondered at this man’s testimony. In his present condition, how could he have so much joy? In talking with others, it seems that this dear man had learned to **LEAN ON** God and **TRUST** His strength during the difficult times of life. And now, during this most difficult time of his life, he found, once again, God **strengthening** him, **loving** him, and **using** him more than ever before. It was my privilege to meet this dear man back in the 1970’s, but his testimony still speaks clearly to me today. I, too, must place my life and all of its difficulties into His Hands (Psalm 31:9, 14-15).

Whatever **your** need today, please call out to Him. He is as close as **your** heart’s cry to Him.

Yes, we do worship a Wonderful God and think of it—He, too, loves us and will grant us the strength we need for each new day and each new trial.

Yes, I am so thankful for this Savior Who is our **WONDERFUL GOD!**

Praising only Him,  
Pastor Rog



*We Get Mail*

Dear Church Family,  
I have been overwhelmed by all the calls, cards, and flowers, but the most important are your prayers.

God is so good in protecting and looking out for all of His children.

I miss you all and look forward to returning as soon as I can. I really miss church!

Again, thank you for your prayers and love. May God be glorified.

Love in His Name,  
Marlene [Richardson]



Please pray for the following family who has lost a loved one:

TFB member Joan Kindt is now with the Lord.



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, Helen Kessenich, Joy Moore, Bill Morgan, Joy Pierson, Darlene Purdom, Penny Rahmeyer, Jean Rayner, Connie Reimer, Marlene Richardson, Edna Hazel Ruth, Claudine Schultz, Mary Schultz, Jo Standifer, Bill & Gerri Stoodley, Jerrolyn Vitali, Tammie Wakefield, Gertie Wissinger, and Art Zeller.

Dear Torrance First Baptist,  
We are so thankful for you and your partnership in seeing the Gospel advance in Southeast Asia! We could not do what we are doing without you, and we are excited to see how God uses us together to transform the lives of people in Southeast Asia.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Blessings,  
EJ and Alysha Marquez

## *Is a Computer Male or Female?*



A professor, at the end of his last class to a group of post-graduates, told the students that he wants to have one last group activity with them before he leaves the college. He asked men to move to one side of the classroom and women to move to the other side. He then wrote the following question on the board and asked both the groups to think about the answer with justifications:

**"Is the computer a male or female?"**

**Men's response:** The computer is **female** because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic.
2. When computers communicate with each other, they communicate in code language only they can understand.
3. Every mistake we make is stored in their hard-drive which can be retrieved later.
4. As soon as you commit to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck accessorizing it.

**Women's response:** The computer is **male** because:

1. To get their attention, you need to turn them ON.
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think by themselves.
3. They are supposed to solve our problem, but half the time they ARE the problem.
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer you could have gotten a better model.

Submitted by Gloria Pedersen

*"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](mailto:tfbc@pacbell.net). Or visit us on the web at [www.tfbcclife.org](http://www.tfbcclife.org)