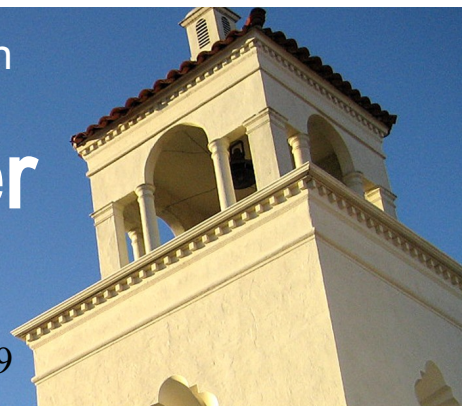


the Proclaimer

September 2015

Volume 28 Issue 9



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Ladies' Retro



Night
September 26 ~ 7 p.m.



Ladies join us for a time of fun dressing in your favorite era (40's, 50's, 60's, etc.) and playing Bunco. There will be a prize for the best representation of their era as well as Bunco prizes. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre to share.



*Colossians Kids
Resumes on
September 2
6-8 p.m.*

Kids, 1st through 5th grades, join us on Wednesday, September 2, for a new mid-week Bible study season.

Hot dogs and banana splits will be served. **Please bring 2 bananas, one for games and one for the banana split.**



*Resumes on
Wednesday
September 9*

Dinners will be served from 6-6:30 p.m. The Jr. High and Colossians Kids groups will begin at 6:45 p.m.

We will let you know in the bulletin each week what will be served so that you can sign up the whole family to eat together for only \$3 per person or \$10 per family.



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

From the Pastor's Heart



Allowing God's Grace to Flow Through You

Over the years I have discovered how easy it is to forget God—to allow Him to drift away, both in my thought process and in my decision-making. I can get so caught up in trying to fulfill my goals and dreams and dealing with all the daily responsibilities of life that forgetting God can come pretty easily. I don't mean that I mentally forget that God

exists, but it is more that I place Him on the back burner of my priorities; that I do not include Him and His teachings as much in my evaluating and decision-making process; or that my love for Him grows somewhat cold at times.

Life has a way of throwing so much in front of us that replacing God with other things is not hard at all. Jesus told us that in a story about a farmer planting his crop. He said, "The worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke out the ways of God." To put it in my words, the things of this life can cause us to forget God.

In the Old Testament, when the Israelites were about ready to enter the Promised Land which was full of good things, God told them, "Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God...when you eat and are satisfied, when

you build fine houses and settle down, when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied." In other words, **remember God!**

This "forget God" tendency is one key reason why we need each other as followers of Christ. It is a key reason we need to gather often to talk about God in our lives, whether here at 2118 West Carson Street, or in a home or a coffee shop, etc.

So in all your business of living life: taking care of family, fulfilling your responsibilities at work, taking care of your things like a house or car, and spending time on your hobbies, let me encourage you to *Remember God*. I encourage you to make it a priority to put activities in your life that help you remember God.

Serving Christ together,
Pastor Charlie

Reflections

by Pastor Rog

Dear Church Family,

Daily living presents many **hard challenges, difficult questions** and **heavy-duty stress**. And though culture has changed dramatically over the years, **LIFE** hasn't. Years go by but life's problems remain the same. The people who had contact with Jesus experienced these same situations. They were just like us: harassed, frustrated, over-burdened and needing help.

In John 6, we see some of these people taking time off from the normal routine of life so that they could be with Jesus and hear His teaching. In verse 2, they followed Him because they saw Him perform miracles, and they

desired that He would touch their lives as well. Who wouldn't?

In verses 5-11, we see that the Lord was **concerned** for their physical welfare. They had no food. Out of love, He performed the miracle of feeding thousand of those hungry people with 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish. What a powerful God we worship and serve. What a loving God! The Lord taught them many spiritual truths, but sadly, those truths did not **penetrate** their hearts.

Later, when the Lord changed locations (vv. 22-27), they followed Him again. They were seeking more physical



food, but the **nourishment** they needed was **SPIRITUAL**. Sadly, they still did not comprehend what He was saying and walked away from Him (v. 66). Think of it, they actually walked away from God!

When Jesus asked His disciples (the 12) if they, too, would walk away from Him, one of them, Peter, responded with an astonishing statement. It's found in verses 68 and 69. He said, Lord, to Whom shall we go? You

Continued on p. 9



Men's & Women's Bible Study Fellowship Resumes

Torrance First Baptist Church has the privilege of hosting this International Bible Study that men and women are attending all over the world. It is an intensive weekly study that requires homework and faithful attendance, but it is interesting and asks probing questions that enable the student to learn and understand deep biblical truths that can be applied to his/her life. The study this year is the book of **Revelation**.

Women: The first day of class is on **Wednesday, September 16, at 9:15 a.m.** If you have not yet signed up, there will be a Welcome Session for newcomers on that day also and opportunities on every first Wednesday of the month thereafter for those who want to start coming. There are also classes for children ages 2-5, but please do not bring children to a Welcome Session day unless you have already registered.

Men: The first class is on **Monday, September 14, at 6:55 p.m.** Men can call Terry Hind for more info, 310/374-5543.



**PARENT'S
DATE
NIGHT**
a.k.a

*Friday, September 18
6-9 p.m.*

Kids (infants through 5th grade) will have dinner and a movie, while the parents get an evening to themselves (after viewing a brief couples' devotional video, if they'd like). This is a once-a-month event on the 3rd Friday of each month.

Samaritan's Purse

While school supplies are still on sale, don't forget to pick some up for the Shoebox Ministry. We will be collecting filled shoeboxes with school supplies, small toys, candy, hygiene products, etc. in early November for Samaritan's Purse to send to children in need in many 3rd world countries.



Backpack Ministry



Thank you so much for giving to this ministry. We were able to give away many backpacks to the delight of many children in need.

Following are 3 letters from some of the recipients.

Dear First Baptist Church,

Thank you very much for your generous donation. Your gift of 30 backpacks with supplies helps families as the children head back to school. For clients served by Rainbow Services, the support of their community brings a sense of belonging and aids their healing.

As you know, many of Rainbow's clients come to us with very little. As they struggle emotionally to develop lives free from violence, they also struggle financially, and the items that you donate offer aid and comfort to them as they start their new lives from scratch. We thank you, on behalf of our participants, for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Eileen Mosler, Development Director

Hello, Mari,

Thank you so very much for the usual support that the First Baptist of Torrance Church gave us during this year's Back to School Program. We had 176 kids who received back packs plus an added supply of school items and accessories. Our community effort will help these families and their kids cope with the demands and cost of schooling. Our appreciation and gratitude that you continue to support this project.

God bless,
Ernesto Madrid, Jr.
The Salvation Army

Dear Mari,

You are such a blessing! Thank you for your help. I am so grateful for all that your church provided for my 24 students.

With blessings,
Carole Kawamura
(2nd grade LAUSD teacher)

College (NeXus) & High School (Revive) News

NeXus



**Wednesday
September 30
7 p.m.**



Revive

**Wednesday
September 2
11 a.m.**



**Saturday
September 12
10:00 a.m.**



**Saturday
September 26
2 p.m.**



NeXus & Revive Prayer Time: Saturday, September 19, 10~11a.m.



Wednesday, September 23, 7:00 a.m.

For the last 25 years, See You at the Pole has been about one simple act—prayer. SYATP is still about students uniting themselves in prayer before God interceding for their generation.

There are two opportunities to unite in prayer with your friends:

DAY: SEE YOU AT THE POLE day is on Wednesday, September 23, at 7:00 a.m. local time. All around the globe, in every time zone, students will be gathering at their flagpoles, praying for their school, friends, families, churches, and communities. SEE YOU AT THE POLE is a day committed to global unity in Christ and prayer for your generation.

WEEK: The *GLOBAL WEEK OF STUDENT PRAYER* (Sunday, September 20 through Saturday, September 26) encourages students to find new and unique ways, places, and times to pray throughout the week. Whether you attend **PUBLIC SCHOOL, PRIVATE SCHOOL, or HOME SCHOOL**, gather your friends wherever and whenever and pray! The *GLOBAL WEEK OF STUDENT PRAYER* is dedicated to prayer and launching your on-campus Bible clubs, prayer strategies, and student ministries.

“They all met together and were constantly UNITED in prayer.” —Acts 1:14

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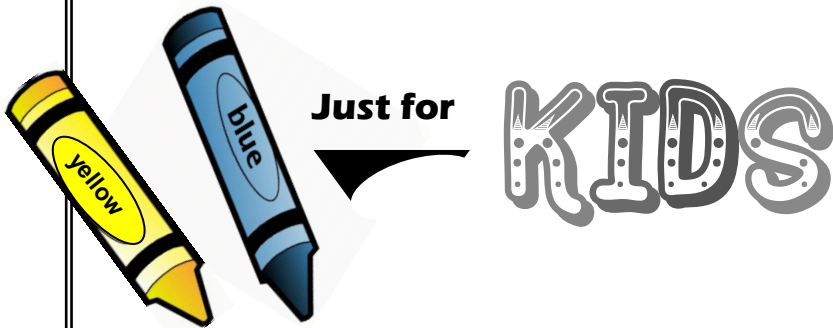
*Craft Day
September 11
6-8 p.m.*

Meet at Peter's house, 25529 Cypress Street, in Lomita, for a fun evening of crafting. Be sure and bring your creative imagination.

Taking **SMALL BITES**

*September 25
6-8 p.m.*

Meet at the church for this event.



STAY NOURISHED

Eating nutritious foods such as apples helps keep our bodies healthy. But Proverbs tells us about other important sources of “nourishment.”

Directions: Use the words in the apples to complete Proverbs 3:7-9, NIV.



Do not be  in your own ;

 the  and shun .

This will bring  to your 

and nourishment to  bones.

 the LORD  your wealth,

with the firstfruits of  your .

PROVERBS 3:7-9, NIV

Answer: Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.



AFTER-SCHOOL SNACK

Enjoy this healthy apple snack after a busy day of learning.

What you need:

- Apple
- Apple corer (optional)
- Peanut butter (or other spread)
- Pecan pieces
- Shredded coconut
- Chocolate chips

What you do:

1. If you have an apple corer, remove the core. Then slice apple into thin rings. (If you don't have a corer, slice into rings first and then remove the core.)
2. Spread peanut butter across one side of each ring.
3. Sprinkle with pecans, coconut and chocolate chips.
4. Enjoy with a glass of milk!

Recurring Weekly Events:

Sunday
Worship Services:
 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
 Adult Sunday School, 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Children's Church, 9:15 a.m.
 Patio Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.
 Children & Youth S.S., 11 a.m.
 New Covenant Children's S.S., 11 a.m.
 New Covenant (Korean) Worship, 12:45 p.m.
 New Covenant (Korean) Fellowship, 2 p.m.

Monday
 Ladies' Prayer, 10:00 a.m.
 King's Family Karate, 6:30 p.m.
 Men's BSF, 6:55 p.m. **[not 9/7]**

Tuesday
 Classical Conversations, 8 a.m.
 Women's BSF Leaders, 9:15 a.m. **[not 9/1 or 9/8]**
 High School Revive, 7 p.m.

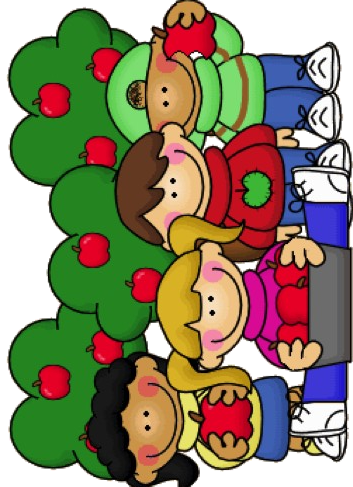
Wednesday
 Women's BSF, 9:15 a.m. **[not 9/2 or 9/9]**
 Dinner & Colossians Kids, 6 p.m. **[see calendar for 9/2]**
 Jr. High QUEST, 6:45 p.m.
 Small Group Bible Study, 6:45 p.m.
 Choir Practice, 7 p.m. **[not 9/2]**
 New Covenant (Korean) Bible Study, 8 p.m.
 Open Volleyball, 8:15 p.m.

Thursday
 Ladies' Bible Study, 2 p.m.
 Worship Band Practice, 6:30 p.m.

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

Saturday
 Men's BSF Leaders 6 a.m. **[not 9/5]**
 New Covenant (Korean) Prayer, 6 a.m.
 H.S. Guys/Gals Bible Study, 10a **[except 3rd Sat. of month]**

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 | 2p Sing @ Royalwood | 1 | 2 11a Revive to the Beach 6p Colossians Kids resumes w/ Banana Bash | 3 7p Contemporary Vocal Practice | 4 Anx. reserved all day: Loaves/Fishes 7p NeXus | 5 11a Loaves & Fishes 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out |
| 13 | 5:20p Prayer Gathering | 8 | 9 6p Family Dinners resume 7p Choir Practice Resumes | 10 6:30p Band Practice 7p Beacon Light Mission | 11 7p Young Marrieds | 12 6a Men's BSF Leaders Resumes 10a NeXus, Subways & Sandwiches |
| 20 | 3p Men return from 1000 Pines | 15 | 16 9:15a Women's BSF Resumes 6p Ministry Teams: Fellowship, GO, Outreach, Worship, Disc. Dev. & FMT 7p Deacon/ess | 17 7p Contemporary Vocal Practice | 18 1p Men Leave for 1000 Pines 6p Kids' Night Out 7p NeXus | 19 10a College/HS Prayer 6:30p Singles' Game Night [Gym] 7p Share & Care |
| 27 | 5:20p Prayer Gathering | 22 | 23 7a See You at the Pole [school campuses] | 24 6:30p Band Practice | 25 6p Jr High Quest, Taking Small Bites 7p Young Marrieds | 26 2p HS Water Wars Women's Ministries Bunco |



September 2015

Upcoming October Events:

- 10/3 ~ Loaves & Fishes, 11 a.m.
- 10/6 ~ Revive to Coldstone/Starbucks, 7 p.m.
- 10/10 ~ Friends of Israel Conference
- 10/16 ~ Kids' Night Out (Date Night), 6 p.m.
- 10/17 ~ Journeyman to Go Kart World
- 10/24 ~ All Church Work Day, 9 a.m.
- 10/24 ~ College to Getty Museum



Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship

Please remember that game night and dinner night 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, September 5, at 6:30 p.m. Meet at Inka Wasi, 40 Peninsula Center, Rolling Hills. Please RSVP to Brenda-Jean Shephard, 310/901-0816. When you call, she will also give you directions on where to park, because the shopping center is under construction and access is limited.



Game Night ~ Saturday, September 19, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet in the church gym. Bring games and snacks to share. Call Sue, 310/534-0995, if you have any questions.



TFB Academy *"We are Christ's Body in Life Together"*

By Laura K. Springer, M.Div., Th.M.

God gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teachers to the church to equip their fellow members for working together (4:11). All members exercise the grace God has given as they work together (4:12-13). All are responsible for their own participation and for building up other members. Apart from this full, responsible participation and exercise of grace, the maturation of the whole church is hindered.

The body is composed of many members. Their stewardship of God's variegated grace creates beautiful, interdependent diversity (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; 1 Peter 4:10). Each member serves the body in Christ. The interdependent work of all the members makes the body whole and mature (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:11-16). Some work is visible and some is hidden. Some is complex and some is simple. All work is given by God for his glory and for the good of Christ's body. We are the church. We are Christ's body in life together.

Gathered and dispersed, we are Christ's Body. The relational bonds we have with one another in Christ persist into eternity. We are one when we feel unified and one when we do not. Unity and diversity are part of who we are, not simply something we do.

The church is one body. As all the members work in relationship, the body grows toward the mature image of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16). Each member exercises the grace given in a way that honors God and builds the church (4:16).

"The interdependent work of all the members makes the body whole and mature"

"There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift" (Ephesians 4:4-7 ESV).



From Lauran Bethell Our Missionary in The Netherlands

Dear Friends and Family in Torrance,

O.K....the truth is that I lead a “double life.” It’s a “double life” which puts me on the road and then brings me home.... It’s a “double life” of receiving and then extending hospitality. Here’s some stats:

On the road in 2014:

101,000 miles (approximately) in the air; 36 different beds; 34 different airports; 10 countries on 4 continents including 2 times in India, 6 times in U.S.

At home in 2014: 216 meals served; 72 nights with guests in beds; 35 Skype consultations at home; 26 overnight guests/sets of sheets washed/beds made.

My 2015 calendar so far:

January: 7 - Lecture for Bethel University students in Amsterdam; 8-11 - Host Finnish anti-trafficking organization VALO in my home to visit projects in Holland; 16 - Portland, OR, to present seminar at Ecumenical Missions Conference; 18 - Preach at Portland First Baptist Church; 19-20 - Seattle, WA, for discussions with anti-trafficking activists; 21-28 - Hong Kong to celebrate 70th birthday of dear friend and visit anti-trafficking projects.

February: 1 - The Hague, preach at Faith, Hope, Love Chinese Church; 11 - The Hague, Valentine’s Outreach to Thai clubs; 12-13 - Zurich, Switzerland for European Baptist Federation Anti-trafficking Working Group; 18-25 - Cairo, Egypt - Global Consultants Annual Conference, Consultation with local pastors.

March: 6-14 - New York City Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations; 15-18 - Hamilton, New Zealand, with anti-trafficking pioneer, Patricia Green (her last 3 days of life); 19-20 - London, England, Justice and Care Board Meeting; 29 - Hoofddorp, Netherlands to preach at “de Meerkerk.

April: 1-17 - Volunteer Maggi Susman with me to help with newsletter and administrative tasks; 3-5 - Reimer Family with us for Easter week-end; 8 - Amsterdam to speak at YWAM’s “SUNSHINE Seminar”; 13 - Brussels, Belgium, to visit anti-trafficking organization “Oasis” and their work with Thai women; 21-30 - Thailand for Anti-Trafficking Conference.

May: 1-4 - Hong Kong to visit anti-trafficking projects; 9-16 - ICAP (International Christian Alliance on Prostitution) leadership team meeting and staying in my home; 24 - Preach at American Protestant Church of The Hague; 31 - Gouda to preach at International Christian Unity Church

June: 7 - Ede, to preach at Karen Community Church; 11-13 - Wilmington, NC, for “Make Way Partners” Board meeting; 14-17 - Atlanta, GA for ICAP/North America Conference on trauma; 26-28 - Kansas City, KS, American Baptist Churches Biennial Mission Summit

July: 18-21 - Johannesburg, South Africa for Baptist World Alliance Women’s Department Leadership Conference; 22-27 - Durban, South Africa, for Baptist World Alliance Conference; 28-31 - Cape Town, South Africa, to visit anti-trafficking projects.

August: VACATION!!

I hope you get the picture of a full life of travel and then a life at home full of great conversations and good times. I wake up every morning full of gratitude that God has called and equipped me for such a life, continues to keep me healthy—AND provides me with YOU, who pray and provide the resources to stay the course!

Thank you so very much for your faithful financial and prayer support through these years! I’m humbled and honored that you have called me “yours” and that the ministry God has given me has flourished because of your generosity and encouragement. THANK YOU for being with me on this incredible journey!

I will be in Southern California in the Fall [end of October] to be able to say thanks in person. I look forward to being with you then!

With great gratitude,
Lauran

Reflections

Continued from p. 2

alone have the words of eternal life. We **BELIEVE** and **KNOW** that You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

Wow! Peter was right on with his answer, but how did he believe what Jesus was saying? He “**listened**” with his heart, not just his head. You see, he understood how needy he was before the Lord. As he listened to the Lord, what he heard turned into **FAITH**, “We believe and know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (v. 69).

It’s amazing what happens to **US** when we really take time to listen to the Lord. He not only has the answer for sin, death and eternity but also for what we are facing right now.

It is no wonder that He calls us to Himself many times a day. You see, He **KNOWS** exactly what we need—**HIM**.

May your life be deeply enriched as you spend time alone with Him in **PRAYER** and in His **WORD**. He knows what you need, and He has the **provision** for which you are seeking. Go to Him. You won’t be disappointed (Matthew 11:28-30).

How thankful I am for Jesus,
Pastor Rog



2015 Flower Calendar

The following dates are still available for our 2015 Flower Calendar:

November 8, 15, 22, and 29
December 20 and 27

If you’d like to pay for our standing order of flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person or occasion on one of the above dates, please call the office. The cost is \$50.



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

Ron Rentfrow lost his brother-in-law, Dan, and Leslie Peacock lost her father.

TFB Tithes and Offerings



Thank you for giving approximately \$50,073 in the month of July.



We Get Mail

To My Church Family,
My thanks to you all for my wonderful 85th birthday celebration. A special thanks to those who did the set-up and served the refreshments.

My Lord and Savior has been so good to me to put me in such a loving, caring church.

Sincerely,
Claudine Schultz

Prayer Requests



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

Della Andrew, Paul Ashcraft, Michael Banfield, Loretta Barnett, Reba Belcher, Julie Cochran, Tom Cochran, Bob Crutchfield, Gloria Deering, Leah Douglas, Robin Fisher, Virgie Fletcher, Earl & Jean Forman, Eugene/Mary Jacobsen, Joanne Jenkins, Helen Kessenich, Joan & Debbe Kindt, Mary Larsen, Doug Luden, Jane McKenzie, Joy Moore, Dave & Joy Pierson, Darlene Purdom, Penny Rahmeyer, Austin Rayner, Jean Rayner, Margaret Rentfrow, Nellie Rizzi, Barbara/Randy Rudé, Mary Schultz, Bill & Gerri Stoodley, Norma Vinsonhaler, Tammie Wakefield, Aggie Williams and Gertie Wissinger.



Men's Conference

September 18-20

Wanna get away? Thousand Pines Men's Retreat is the place for you! During this weekend, we will not: overload your schedule, count your calories, or ask you to mow the lawn. What we will do is provide you with gourmet meals boasting choice meats, opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship with godly men, and an open schedule to just let you be. So grab a couple friends or your whole church and we'll provide the bacon!

Things To Do: •Paintball — \$5 •Confidence Course •Mountain Bikes •Swimming Pool
•Archery •BB Guns •Dirt Bike Ride - Bring your own gear •Frisbee Golf •Rec Equipment
•Motorcycle Ride to Big Bear - Bring your own Gear •Malt Shop •Big Oak Café •Arte Shoppe
•Foosball •Air Hockey •Ping Pong •Basketball •Games and More

Cost: \$164, with total due by September 6. Sign up in the patio or call J.J., 310/324-6583.

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

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