

## *Pastor's Ponderings*

"Draw close to God and He will draw close to You." James 4:8

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22 this year. Lent spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week on the Saturday before Easter. Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

Today, Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays in Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self examination, and repentance. Many people take more time to practice spiritual disciplines, like Bible reading, meditation on Scripture, and times of solitude and silence.

This year we are trying something new at First Presbyterian Church Corona. For six weeks we will be offering a Confirmation Class for those in SPARK who are interested in learning more about their Christian faith, baptism, and church membership. We are also aware there are adults

who are considering joining the church. We would like to merge the two. We want to invite adults who are praying about the possibility of joining the church to consider coming as listeners to the confirmation class to learn more about the Reformed tradition and the Presbyterian Church before making a decision. Those who want to be baptized and/or join the church will be received into membership on Easter Sunday, April 8. More details will be soon forthcoming.

As Lent approaches I want to suggest an excellent devotional to you that may help you draw near to God. Sarah Young's devotional, *Jesus Calling*, is one of the best devotionals I've ever read, stirring both the mind and the spirit. One colleague has passed out over 150 copies of this book to his congregants and friends.

I would also like to invite you to come and pray for the church on Wednesdays at 11:00 in my office. There are a small handful of us who lift up the church weekly. I find it easier to pray if I pray with other people. I can hear how the Spirit is leading others, and it often sparks ideas in my spirit to pray to the Lord. Prayer fuels God's movement in the church. I am continually amazed how God will "all of a sudden" answer a prayer I've been laying before him for a long time. It reminds me that God doesn't forget what I pray, but waits for the right timing to bring about His will.

Lent is a time to draw close to God. I pray that will be your experience this year!

Peace and Joy,

*Pastor Bill*



**SCHEDULE**

8:30 Check-in and coffee Begins  
 9:15 Opening  
 9:30 Workshops  
 11:00 GA Moderator Cynthia Bolbach will speak.  
 Lunch 12:15  
 Presbytery Meeting

**WORKSHOPS**

**Ruling Elders? What Do We Do?**

--Joan Carpenter  
 What will be expected of me as a Ruling Elder? We will work together to learn the ends and outs of being on session ... and more.

**Being an Effective Deacon**

--Bruce Hanson and Sue Templeton  
 Come, and learn, and discuss the realities of serving God as a deacon in the Presbyterian Church and your congregation.

**Hassle-free Clerking: Smiling while being Clerk of Session**

--Sue Berry  
 In this workshop we will explore both the work of the clerk and how new Book of Order changes impact the tasks before you. This workshop is for both new and experienced clerks.

continued...

**About The Moderator**

A Presbyterian elder, Cynthia (Cindy) Bolbach is executive vice president and corporate secretary of BNA, Inc., the oldest company in the United States owned entirely by its more than 1600 employees. She is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Arlington, Va. Cindy is a graduate of Wittenberg University (Ohio) and Georgetown University Law Center. She became a member of the Washington, D.C. bar the same year she graduated from Georgetown.

Cindy became a Presbyterian when she joined New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in D.C., where she was ordained as a deacon and elder and served as clerk of session. After moving to Arlington, Va., in the mid-1980s, Cindy transferred her membership to First Presbyterian Church, where she was

also elected as clerk of session. Cindy writes, "When I was first ordained an elder, I suspect I was like many new elders. I didn't fully appreciate one astonishing aspect of Presbyterian life: I, as a ruling elder, have equal leadership in the ministry and mission of the congregation with the congregation's pastors."



**Workshops continued...**

**Sing a New Song to the Lord! (and old ones, too)**

--Beverly Howard  
 Come explore the new *Hymns and Songs for Worship*, to be published by the PCUSA in summer, 2012. We will be led by Beverly Howard, organist at Calvary Presbyterian Church and a member of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song that planned the new book.

**New and Better Youth Ministry**

--Rick Harrison  
 In the last 20 years the number of youth regularly attending PCUSA churches has dropped over 60% while more youth attend Christian churches today than at any time in history. In this seminar we will explore not only the reasons for this phenomenon but also what we can do about it.

**Seasons for Prayer**

--Jacquie Lyman  
 An interactive exploration of the many facets of Prayer as a spiritual discipline. Our prayers are known to God ... God listens...we listen... God is always present with us in prayer.

**LEaD 2012 Registration**

**Deadline February 2, 2012**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHURCH: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign Up For Workshops and Lunch:   
 \$10.00  
 A.M. Workshop Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare Upon Request

NAME	AGE

Please send payment to or call: (909) 881-1595

Presbytery of Riverside

Attn: Nurturing Discipleship Team  
 1875 N. D Street  
 San Bernardino, CA 92405



SAVE THE DATE!

**February 11, 2012**  
**First Presbyterian Church, San Bernardino**  
**9:00 a.m. -1 p.m.**  
**followed by Presbytery Meeting**

First Presbyterian Church 1900 North D Street San Bernardino Ca 92405

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**General Assembly Moderator Cynthia Bolbach**



**You're Invited to Join Us for a Valentine Luncheon**  
February 12<sup>th</sup>, after worship.

We would **LOVE** it if you'd bring a salad or dessert to share and spend some time in fellowship on the patio with us!

Please RSVP on bulletin board. Questions? Talk to Meghan Almeida.

**Women's Ministries**

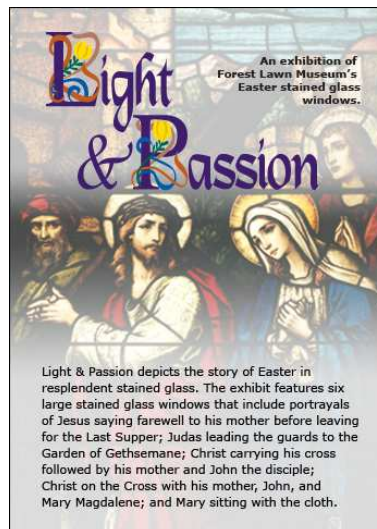
There was much talk of "next time" after the January day-trip to Laguna Beach. A good time was had by all when perusing the shops and art galleries in the village. It seemed a consensus that more outings or events would be welcomed. We will be having a planning meeting in the near future. Stay tuned for more information.



**Light & Passion: The Story of Easter**

The Church Life Committee is planning a field trip during lent, to visit Forest Lawn of Glendale Museum where we will view the "Light and Passion" exhibit.

Date and more information coming soon.



## DEACONS NEWS

New Deacons are: Debbie Galguera, Anna Grozav, Lynda Rodish, and Silvia Thorne These four Deacons were installed at the January 8<sup>th</sup> worship service. They join the experienced deacon team of Rochelle Heller, David King, Mike Say, Teri White, and Kim Wilson. With these changes, the deacon flock list has been shuffled. Your new deacon will correspond with you either by mail, or by phone to introduce themselves. The deacons are all looking forward to getting to know their flock members, and assist them in anyway possible.

## MISSION TREE

Thank you FPC for your generosity. Below is a list of items donated from the Mission Tree:

1. Pen set
2. 2 reams of paper
3. 10 boxes of tissue
4. \$20 and shirts for youth
5. Baby wipes (4 packs)
6. Hand sanitizer (2 bottles)
7. Diapers (2 packs)
8. Clorox wipes (3)
9. Kids scissors (23)
10. Adult scissors (1)
11. Glue sticks (18)
12. White board markers (36)
13. Portable CD player (1)
14. White board erasers (2)
15. White board wipes (2 pkgs.)
16. White board cleaner (1)
17. Construction paper (3 pkgs.)



	<b>Dec. 31, 2011</b>	
Income	16,062.63	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>
Expenses	15,998.48	
Net	\$64.15	

	<b>December 31, 2011</b>	<b>Year to Date Totals</b>	
Income	634.60	6,754.60	<b>DEACONS</b>
Expenses	749.69	6,769.69	
Net Income	(112.09)	(15.09)	

## MISSION 2011

### 2011 was a very exciting year for missions!

First we want to thank everyone who contributed to the mission's Christ tree in December. We collected many items (see list on Pg. 4) This was our last mission of 2011!

The Mission Committee was active in local and international mission projects this year. **Congregational participation was immense.** We would like to thank all the members of our congregation for their generous contributions of time and finances to the following offerings and activities.

#### **Habitat for Humanity Helping Hands:**

We had a great turnout for our two local Habitat for Humanity Helping Hands Projects (April 16<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup>). We painted the exterior of two mobile homes for very low income families that were at risk of eviction from their mobile home parks. Thank you to all who participated either physically or in prayer.

#### **Uncommon Hope La Rumerosa**

We joined with a group called Uncommon Hope to finance and build a barn for Casa Para Pobre Desamparados, a facility for ill and handicapped men without families to care for them. This facility was started and is run by Franciscan Hermano Pablo. A small group made 3 trips to plan and design a barn to allow for a self sustaining food source. The final building took a long weekend of hard work! We succeeded with the help of some strong builders and the financial support of the congregation. Thank you!!

#### **Alternative Christmas**

We participated in a joint venture to hold our Alternative Christmas event on Worldwide communion Sunday. As a joint effort with Worship and Church life we held a combined worship service with the Vietnamese church followed by a pot luck luncheon and an Alternative Christmas marketplace. The sanctuary was overflowing with attendees and the Spirit of our Lord! Mission committee hosted the market place with items for sale from Ten Thousand Villages, Mary Magdalene Project, CASA, Habitat for Humanity, Institute for Children's Aid, Team Barry (Leukemia Foundation), Africa Youth and Health Development Foundation. All market place sellers were representing a nonprofit organization; we raised more than \$2,500 for mission projects during this event!



#### **We continue to support:**

- **One Great Hour of Sharing**
- **Pentecost Offering**
- **Peace Offering**
- **Joy Offering**
- **Wycliffe Translators**
- **Global Recordings**

We will start planning for 2012 at our next Mission meeting. If Missions are an area of interest to you please plan to attend the next committee meeting. We will welcome you with open arms!!

In Christ, Claudia King  
Chair, Mission Committee

# CELEBRATIONS



## February Birthdays

- 2.....James Ian Jager
- 7.....Rudy Burbank
- 9.....Courtney King
- 10.....Dennis Trippel
- .....Enu Ndipagbor
- 15.....Don Purcell
- .....Margie Wilkerson
- 24.....Haley Hanson
- 25.....Paula Adams
- .....Claudia King
- .....Claire Hillis
- 27.....Bailey Nadeau
- 29.....Alyssa McCormick

## February Anniversaries

- 22.....J.P. & Holly Nadeau (1997)






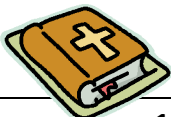





# FEBRUARY PRAYER FAMILIES

Virginia Watson	Doug, Kim, Josh & Matthew Wilson
Lew & Corey White	Barry, Paula, Barry, Jr., Elijah & Anna Sophia Adams
Darwin (Squeak), Teri, Alyssa & Danielle White	
Margie Wilkerson	
Walt, Deneva, Spencer, Sierra & Savanna Williams	





# FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Choir Rehearsal</b> <b>9:00 Sunday morning</b> 	<b>*5:30 Wor &amp; Mus, Bud &amp; Fin, Church life; 6:30 dinner.</b>	<b>*7:00 Bld &amp; grounds, CE &amp; Mission, Stew &amp; Outreach</b>	<b>1</b> 11:00 Prayer, Pastor's office 6:30 Loving Needles 	<b>2</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Life Group 	<b>3</b> 8:00pm Viet. Church	<b>4</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 
<b>5</b> 10:30 Worship, 1:30 Viet. Church	 <b>6</b> 3:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> <b>9:30am Community Bible Study</b> <b>COMMITTEE MEETING NIGHT*</b>	<b>8</b> 11:00 Prayer, Pastor's office 	<b>9</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Life Group 	<b>10</b> 8:00pm Viet. Church	<b>11</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study LEaD Event & Presbytery San Bernardino
<b>12</b> 10:30 Worship, 11:45 Valentine luncheon, 1:30 Viet. Church	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>9:30am Community Bible Study</b> 6:30 Deacons 	<b>15</b> 11:00 Prayer, Pastor's office 6:30 Loving Needles	<b>16</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Life Group	<b>17</b> 8:00pm Viet. Church	<b>18</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study
<b>19</b> 10:30 Worship, 1:30 Viet. Church	<b>20</b> 6:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> <b>9:30am Community Bible Study</b>	<b>22</b> 11:00 Prayer, Pastor's office	<b>23</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Life Group	<b>24</b> 8:00pm Viet. Church	<b>25</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 8:00am Women's breakfast, Polly's Norco
<b>26</b> 10:30 Worship, 1:30 Viet. Church	<b>27</b> 3:00 Girl Scouts 	<b>28</b> <b>9:30am Community Bible Study</b> 6:00 Session	<b>29</b> 11:00 Prayer, Pastor's office		<b>ELDERS: CONSENT AGENDA DUE 2/19</b>	