

Torrance First Baptist Church
the Proclaimer

September 2018

Volume 31 Issue 9



Men's Conference

September 14-16

Men: If you signed up to go to camp at 1000 Pines, be sure and get your digital medical form filled out at <http://app.campdoc.com/register/tpcc/tfbc914> **on or before August 31.** If you have any questions, contact J. J. Plock, 310/324-6583.

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Please join us here at TFB as we celebrate **Loren and Barbara Harvey's** 50th anniversary and renewal of vows on **Friday, September 14 at 7:00 p.m.** A cake reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. RSVP to Becky, 310/650-4302, by September 10.

Women's Ministry Coffee & Crafts September 29 ~ 10 a.m.-12 noon

Ladies are invited to meet in the Friends in Christ room to enjoy coffee (or tea) together and to create handmade Christmas cards.

You are welcome to bring any paper crafting supplies that you want to use and/or share.

There will be samples and additional supplies for everyone.

We are asking for a donation of \$5 each to cover costs.

Sign up in the patio.



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



Dear Church Family,

Every successful company on planet earth has a clear and articulated mission statement that communicates to everyone its reason for being. It states its purpose as a company or organization. These successful companies also develop a vision or game plan that communicates to everyone how they intend to fulfill their mission. Churches are no different.

Our mission is summarized in the “Great Commission” found in Matthew 28:19-20: *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

In the next several months, as transitional pastor, I hope to help this church formulate a clear, concise mission statement that reflects Matthew 28:19-20. This won’t be easy. It needs to be simple, clear, memorable and above all biblical. That will take a few months. Next we need to fashion a vision statement that spells out how we hope to fulfill our mission. This vision statement will be totally custom made as it will reflect the unique talents, spiritual gifts, history, and personality of TFB as well as the unique characteristics of this community. That will take several months as well.

The group of people who will be crafting this masterpiece, and other things as well, is the Strategic Leadership Team, or SLT for short. They will be meeting every month, for several months, until this is all accomplished. Please pray for our SLT team as they take on this noble challenge and feel free to share with them any comments or observations that you feel they need to know. The actual members of the SLT team will be announced shortly.

Pastor Alex

Reflections

by Pastor Rog



Dear Church Family,

Let’s face it, we are in desperate need of God. We’re alarmed about all the tragic things we see going on in the world, and it disturbs us. But more importantly, we look into our own lives and realize things are not as they should be. We realize we need help and that we should go to the Lord, but at times we hesitate. Why? Perhaps we feel unworthy to come before Him. Perhaps we realize that changes need to be made in our lives—changes that we are reluctant to make. Perhaps we wonder if the Lord will truly understand our situation. Thankfully, He does.

In the book of Hebrews, we have a glorious invitation to come before the Lord in prayer—an invitation that stirs our hearts and assures us that we are important to Him:

“Therefore, since we have a great High Priest Who has gone through the

heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one Who has been tempted in every way just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” (Hebrews 4:14-16).

What a glorious invitation this is to us!

In the days of the tabernacle and the temple, the Jews had a High Priest. This priest was appointed by God to act on behalf of the people in their relationship with Him. One day each year, he was required to make sacrifices for his own sins and the sins of the people. How different is our glorious High Priest. Jesus Christ is our Mediator Who alone possesses the proper credentials to be both the perfect sacrificial

offering for sin and the great High Priest interceding on our behalf. His death satisfied the just demands of a Holy God and paid the price for our sins. Praise Him! Now we have been granted access into God’s presence through Christ’s atoning work.

It is this great High Priest Who loves us, understands us, has made Himself available to hear us when we pray, and ministers to our need. Our need is never too great for Him to address. Our sin does not cause Him to turn away from us. He is never too busy answering others’ prayers that He cannot attend to ours. Verse 15 says that He sympathizes with us. In other words, He has COMPASSION for us. If we’ve

(Continued on page 9)

*Wednesday Night Schedule
returns September 12*



All are welcome to join us for our famously delicious dinners for only \$3 per person. Sign up each Sunday in the patio.

COLOSSIANS
KIDS

Starts at 6:30 p.m. for kids in pre-K through 5th grade under the direction of Karla Gaines. Contact Karla for more information.

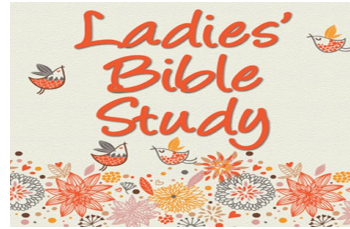


Our 6th through 8th graders meet at 6:30 p.m. under the leadership of Jay Kim.



There are two Adult Bible Studies to choose from both beginning at **6:30 p.m.**:
One (formerly known as “Crazy Love”) which is led by Eric and Karen Hatt will be listed simply as “Adult Bible Study.”
The other will be for parents and will be led by Pastor Alex.

**Adult Choir Practice
7:00 p.m.**



*Resumes
September 6
2 p.m.*

The Thursday afternoon Ladies’ Bible study led by Jean Rayner will resume on September 6 at 2 p.m. All ladies are invited to attend. The study for this year is the Gospel of Luke. Light refreshments will be served.

*Theology Brunch
September 9 ~ 12:30 PM*

Topic: Engaging the Bible
Cost: Food to share or recyclable cans/bottles
Sign up at academy@tbfclife.org
High School through adult are welcome.



*Men's Bible Study
Fellowship Resumes
September 10
6:55 p.m.*

TFB will once again host Men’s Bible Study Fellowship classes beginning on Monday, September 10, at 6:55 p.m.

This is an in-depth weekly study that requires homework and faithful attendance, but the probing questions enable the student to learn and understand deep biblical truths that can be applied to one’s life. This year the study is called, *People of the Promised Land, Part 1*, which covers Joshua, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings. Men can also bring their school age children. For more information, men can contact Terry Hind, 310/374-5543.

For women who are interested in attending BSF, classes begin on Wednesday, September 12, from 9:30-11 a.m. They meet at South Bay Community Church, 2549 W. 190th Street in Torrance. There are also classes for children (newborn-age 5) for moms or grandmas who attend classes. Register online at bsf844ca@gmail.com or come to the first class (no children on first day, please). Call Joanne Kim, 310/265-0447, for more information.

Classes are FREE for both men and women, but a freewill offering is optional following each class.

C4 MINISTRIES & Kids' News



Pizza, drinks, and snacks provided.



3rd Friday of
each month
September 21
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.
We are asking for a donation of \$3/child.

Backpack Ministry

We reached our goal of 250 backpacks and would like to thank everyone who donated money and/or filled backpacks.

A big thanks to the high schoolers who helped with the daunting task of filling 200 of them!



High School Happenings

On behalf of Matt Strand, I will be discussing C4's activities throughout the past month.

Our last full month of summer has seen much excitement and service to our great God. It has been amazing to see God working in the lives of our students following their commitments to Him at camp.

We started the month with our entire church family at Kamper Kamp. We had 10 students attend in addition to our four leaders, making for great participation. Though not everyone stayed the entire weekend, our group had an enjoyable time interacting with the other families in a camp setting. This was an uplifting activity for our students as they were able to experience the unity of the church body during this weekend.

Our next service opportunity came when Peggy Moore asked us to assist with the backpack ministry. We had a large number of our students volunteer to assemble backpacks for underprivileged students. In just a few hours we were able to fill around 200 backpacks full of many supplies that the kids would need for school.

Most recently we attended the Harvest Crusade at Angel Stadium led by Greg Laurie. We had large groups of students attend all three days. In all, we had 21 members of our ministry that were able to experience God's power at work. We saw two of our college students make new decisions for Christ and one high schooler recommit his life to God. This was an important outreach event for us and we are grateful for God's work through our students.

We appreciate your prayers and support of our group. Please continue to pray that God would keep using our students for His mission. Our hope is that He would keep bringing new students to our group and providing opportunities for our group to serve Him.

Our next event is the Light at the Lighthouse festival on August 25th.

With school approaching quickly, please pray that God would strengthen our students to be salt and light for Him on each of their campuses.

Sarah [Simpson]

Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship



Please remember that *Dinner Night (2nd Saturday of the month)* and *Game Night (4th Saturday of the month)* are great opportunities to invite friends, whether they attend TFB, go to another church, or don't go to church at all.

Dinner Night ~ Saturday, September 8, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at Zayna Flaming Grill (Mediterranean), 1310 Pacific Coast Highway, Redondo Beach (N. of Avenue F on the east side).



Game Night ~ Saturday, September 22, at 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at Gloria Pedersen's, 817 Amapola Avenue, Old Towne Torrance. Bring drinks and snacks to share.



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

TFB Academy

Exegesis—Studying and Understanding the Word

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

This year we have seen that the Bible is God's written revelation of himself (revelation), co-written with his apostles and prophets, such that the words they wrote were exactly what he intended to say (inspiration). We have seen that it is true and not false (inerrancy) and has an authority that has been discerned by the people of God (canonicity). We have seen that the Spirit illuminates our minds and the Scripture (illumination) as we work to understand the meaning of God's Word and its call upon our lives (interpretation). Exegesis is the process by which we uncover that God-intended meaning. Biblical exegesis asks three questions.

What does it say?

- Understand the big picture of the whole text by reading it at least a dozen times, each time in a single sitting.
- Read the text again, looking for clues about the author, original readers, and circumstances.
- Create an outline of the text by reading while looking for the text's main divisions.
- Study the text sentence by sentence within paragraphs, understanding the words and grammar.

What did it mean? (and What does it mean?)

- Summarize the text by writing one sentence that states the subject of the paragraph and what the paragraph says about that subject.
- Review your findings and list the main themes expressed in the text.

How should I/we respond?

- Spend time thinking and praying about the text and your findings until the meaning of the text has sunk deeply into your soul.
- Consider the significance of the meaning of the text for your life and the life of those in your community by comparing your culture and circumstances with the culture and circumstances of the original readers.
- Remember, what it meant for them it means for you. The significance in your life will always align with that meaning.

We save the most important point for last: The God-intended meaning of a text is not an end in itself. Rather, understanding the meaning of Scripture is the beginning of living out our worship of him in everything we do, think, and feel.

Go Deeper

Torrey, R. A., 1903. *How to Study the Bible: The Methods and Fundamental Conditions of the Bible Study that Yield the Largest Results.* James Nisbet & Co., Limited.

Recurring Weekly Events:

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.

Monday
 Ladies' Prayer, 10:00 a.m. [except 9/3]
 King's Karate, 6:30 p.m.
 Men's BSF, 6:55 p.m. [except 9/3]

Tuesday
 C4 High School Leadership, 5:30 p.m.
 C4 High School, 7 p.m.

Wednesday
 Men's Lunch @ Sizzler, 12:30p
 Family Dinner, 6 p.m. [except 9/5]
 Colossians Kids, 6:30 p.m. [except 9/5]
 Bible Study (aka Crazy LoveTM), 6:30 p.m. [except 9/5]
 Jr. High QUEST, 6:30 p.m.
 Choir Practice, 7 p.m. [except 9/5]
 Open Volleyball, 8:15 p.m.

Thursday
 Ladies' Bible Study
 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
 6a Men's BSF Leaders [except 9/1]
 7th Day Baptists, 9 a.m.

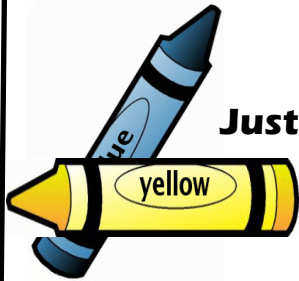
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 2:30p Sing at Royalwood	3 Labor Day Office Closed	4	5	6	7	8 6a BSF Men's Leaders resume 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out
9 12:30p TFB Theology Brunch 5:20p Prayer Group	10	11 12n Shut-in Meeting	12 Family Dinners, Colossians Kids, Bible studies & Choir practice resume	13 7p Beacon Light Mission	14 Men leave for 1000 Pines 7:30p Harvey's 50th anniversary	15 7p Share & Care
16 Men return from 1000 Pines 6p H.S. Movie Nite	17 7p Finance & FacMan Teams	18 6p Ministry Teams: Fellowship, GO, Outreach, Worship, & Disc. Dev. 7p Deacon/ess Mtngs	19	20	21 6p Kids' Night Out	22 6:30p Singles' Game Night
23 5:20p Prayer Group	24	25	26	27	28	29 10a Ladies' Coffee & Crafts

Upcoming October Events:

- 10/6 ~ Loaves & Fishes, 11a
- 10/12 ~ Transformation Ministries Survey Meeting
- 10/13 ~ Transmin Survey (continued)
- 10/13 ~ Singles' Dinner Out, 6:30p
- 10/15-19 ~ Srs. & Friends Carnival Cruise
- 10/19 ~ Kids' Night Out, 6p
- 10/27 ~ All Church Work Day, 9a
- 10/27 ~ Singles' Game Night, 6:30p



SEPTEMBER 2018



Just for

KIDS

Psalm 46:10

Sometimes our lives are so busy that we cannot seem to fit another thing into the day! But there is something very important that we need to do each day.

Find the answer using the code below.

A	B	F	G	K	L	O	R	U	V
1		2		3		4		5	
D	E	H	I	M	N	S	T	W	Y

W

5	1	3	5	4	4
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4	1	3	3	4	4	2	4	1
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1	3	1	3	2	4	4	1	3
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2	4	4	2	4	1
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1	1	4	4	2	3	3	1	3	1
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3	3	4	5	4	2	1	4
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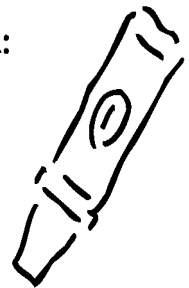
We must talk to God and listen for God. "Be still, and know that I am God"

Play a "Listening" Game

Here is a game that you can play by yourself or with a group of friends.

You will need:

- white paper
- pencil or markers or crayons



How to play:

Draw a large ear on your paper. Make it as big as the paper! Sit quietly. Just listen.



Draw all the sounds that you hear on your "ear." Choose different places to play. Set a time limit. If you're playing with friends, share what you heard.

From Steve and
Cindi Barrett with



Dear Friends,

In mid-May, I spent a week at a training camp in New York with my AIA wrestling teammates Rob Bronson and Sukhee from Mongolia. A coach from New York hosts this annual camp and tournament for Junior wrestlers. The past couple of years they have struggled to get visas for teams coming from Central Asia and Russia. This year teams from Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Estonia received visas and I was happy to go and help with the Russian speaking teams.

Sukhee brought a wrestler named Baggi. He attended our annual AIA wrestling camp, and last year he prayed to receive Christ as his Savior. Baggi attends church regularly and studies the Bible with Sukhee! He won the tournament in New York and was the most outstanding wrestler from among all [those] participating.

We met an Estonian coach in New York who was enthusiastic about everything we shared. He will be attending our AIA wrestling camp in Ukraine and will bring a team of wrestlers. We know the Lord orchestrated our meeting and look forward to seeing how He uses the camp and the spiritual input to influence the Estonian coach and his wrestlers!

[In June we had] a four-day sport camp at our church. It was for kids ages 7-12. Four sports were offered, and every day we used FCA materials for Bible studies. The coaching staff consisted of a great group of Maplewood Church friends. Our nephew Dustin from Oklahoma and our son-in-law Josh took off work to help for two days! Five of our grandchildren and two nieces participated in camp which was a highlight for [us].

Fifteen years ago, we started a wrestling camp in Russia. When I had to leave Russia, we moved the camp to Ukraine, and every year I look forward to seeing old friends and sharing the Gospel with new ones. For the first time, I'm not attending the camp, but the Lord has provided great coaches to carry on His work!

At the same time as the camp in Ukraine [July], I [was] in Mongolia helping Sukhee with outreaches—a wrestling tournament and camp for junior wrestlers. I led a team of wrestlers from California and Virginia.

As we have opportunities to share the Gospel with wrestlers, please pray for us. We believe that [these tours] will give the American Christian wrestlers experience in other cultures and that they will grow in their faith!

Please be praying for my [Stephen's] health, for boldness in sharing my faith, and for the people we meet to have hearts receptive to the Gospel.

Thank you for partnering with us in the ministry!

We are blessed by your faithfulness,
Steve and Cindi

Loaves & Fishes / Doors of Hope / Beacon Light Ministries

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 is heading up the clothing ministry and 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.

I know its only September, but keep an eye out for our 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 me.

Thank you and God bless,
Linda [Stratton]



Reflections continued from p. 2

sinned, we are to confess our sins to Him, and He freely grants us His mercy and cleansing (1 John 1:9).

How then should we approach this glorious High Priest? Verse 16 says:

“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence.”

Yes, with boldness and openness, which assures us that we will find His mercy and grace in our time of need.

Today, whatever our need may be, may we not hesitate to come to our Lord. He is there for us. He is there to lift us up and draw us to Himself. Oh, what a glorious Savior we worship and serve! May we get to know Him better and better with each passing day.

Drawing near to Him,
Pastor Rog



We Get Mail

Dear Pastor and Congregation,

What a treasure you all are to the Pregnancy Help Center. We are especially grateful that you are a *Circle of Hope* pledge donor, and we'd like to thank you with this small token of our appreciation:

“God . . . will not forget your work and the love You have shown Him as you have helped His people” (Hebrews 6:10).

Thanks to everyone at Torrance First Baptist for helping to transform the lives of the women we serve and for saving their precious babies.

Norma Groves
Your Church Liaison

A few weeks ago, the TFB office received a request for stamps and note cards from a prison inmate from Chowchilla, CA so that he could write to his daughter and family members. We fulfilled his request, and the following is a thank you from him:

Dear First Baptist Church,

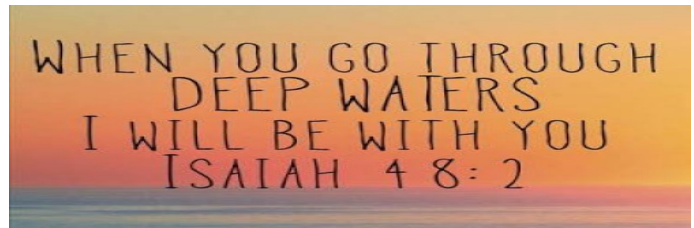
Thank you so so much for the stamps and cards. God bless you all. I cannot put into words how grateful I am. So I'm just going to say: Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely in Christ,
Jeffrey



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

Debbie Arquisch lost her mother, Carol Backer.



Please pray for the following who need continued prayer:

Barbara Ashcraft, Michael Banfield, Nancy Christensen, Julie Cochran, Tom Cochran, Mary Crutchfield, Leah Douglas, 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, Jo Standifer, Bill & Gerri Stoodley, Tammie Wakefield, Gertie Wissinger, and Art Zeller.

Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes



Don't forget that now is a great time to buy school items for your shoeboxes. You can wrap your own box or pick up a pre-wrapped box in the patio beginning in September. They will be due, filled with small toys, school supplies, and hygiene items [but no candy or toothpaste], by November 11.

TFB Tithes & Offerings



Thank you for giving approximately \$46,765 in the month of July.

Do You Know Your Hymns?



Dentist's Hymn ~ "Crown Him with Many Crowns"
Weatherman's Hymn ~ "There Shall Be Showers of Blessings"
Contractor's Hymn ~ "The Church's One Foundation"
Tailor's Hymn ~ "Holy, Holy, Holy"
Golfer's Hymn ~ "There's a Green Hill Far Away"
Politician's Hymn ~ "Standing on the Promises!"
Optometrist's Hymn ~ "Open My Eyes That I Might See"
IRS Agent's Hymn ~ "I Surrender All"
Gossip Hymn ~ "Pass It On"
Electrician's Hymn ~ "Send the Light"
Shopper's Hymn ~ "Sweet Bye and Bye"
Realtor's Hymn ~ "I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop"
Massage Therapist's Hymn ~ "He Touched Me"
AND for those who speed on the highway, a few hymns:
55 mph ~ "God Will Take Care of You" 75 mph ~ "Nearer My God to Thee"
85 mph ~ "This World Is Not My Home" 95 mph ~ "Lord, I'm Coming Home"
100 mph ~ "Precious Memories"

Submitted by Irene Hardy

"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.tfbclife.org