

The Messenger

First Presbyterian Church of Garden Grove

February 

2019

Sunday Worship
9:30 am

11832 Euclid Street
Garden Grove, CA
92840

office (714) 534-2269
www.fpcgg.org
church email:
fpcgg@fpcgg.org

Pastor

Rev. Cynthia
Cochran-Carney
pastorcynthia@fpcgg.org
908-358-9505

Business Administrator

Denise Cerince
denise@fpcgg.org

Music Director

Marilyn Stiltz

Shower Plus Ministry

Coordinator
Tom Windhausen

Custodian

Mike Hudson

Editors

Sharon and Wayne
Wolfe
wayashar@aol.com

Pastor Cynthia's Reflections

EPIPHANY: CHOOSING FAITH NOT FEAR



"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Wise Men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.'" (Matthew 2:1-2)

I love the story of the Wise Men. We don't know much about them except the brief description Matthew provides in the second chapter. In the church calendar, the story of the Wise Men ushers in the season of Epiphany that lasts from January 6 through the start of Lent. Epiphany means the "manifestation" of God's light in Jesus Christ to the whole world.

The Wise Men were likely Persian scholars who studied the stars. They had been watching the skies for signs of cosmic and earthly changes. The Wise Men planned to follow the star to find the new king. King Herod was threatened by news of this new king and the light of the star. The contrast between Herod's and the magi's approach to God – and to life – has much to teach us.

To begin with, the magi travel with others, while Herod uses others. We don't know how many magi there were, but there were at least two of them traveling together. When they arrive in Jerusalem, they seek information from others. Herod, on the other hand, rules alone and merely uses the chief priests and the magi to get the information he wants.

Then there is Herod's secrecy and the openness of the magi. These strangers from the east waltz right into Jerusalem, asking about the star and the new king. In stark contrast, Herod meets with the magi secretly and tells them a blatant lie. He has no intention to welcome a new king.

(continued, page 2)

The Messenger is published monthly to inform members and friends of church news, upcoming events, and "food for thought".

Deadline for contributions is the **10th** of each month.

Contributions are subject to editing with regard to subject matter, space requirements, and *timely* submission. The Editors and Staff appreciate your kind and thoughtful cooperation.

For weekly updates, please come to Worship Service each Sunday morning to receive your copy of the Bulletin with announcements.

Sunday Worship begins at 9:30 am



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3
COMMUNION

**THEME: THROUGH THE ROOF
FAITH, FRIENDSHIP, AND HEALING**

Mark 2:1-12

**Guest Musicians:
Celebration Choir
Helen Weed, Director
from Calvary Chapel, Tustin**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

**THEME: FOLLOWING JESUS,
DISCIPLESHIP AND GOING DEEP**

Luke 5:1-11

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
LUNCHEON AND MEETING
after worship**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

**THEME: TEACHING AND
HEALING – BEATITUDES**

Luke 6:17-26

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

**THEME: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES:
HOW DO WE DO THAT?**

Luke 6:27-36

Pastor Cynthia's Reflections

(continued from page 1)

Another difference is the magi's desire to give gifts to the new king. The giving of gifts and the giving of worship are the points of their journey. Herod, on the other hand, is only concerned with what he can get from other people

Herod says he wants to worship the child, but we know this is not true. We soon learn of Herod's evil command to kill all of the boys two years old and younger. The original hearers of Matthew's Gospel would have spotted the lie right away. They would know that Herod himself had claimed the title "King of the Jews" since about 40 B.C. and that he had killed many – including his own son – in order to keep his power.

All these differences between the magi and Herod stem from one basic difference: the magi base their lives on faith, while Herod bases his life on fear. Matthew tells us clearly, "When King Herod heard [that the magi were looking for the child who had been born King of the Jews], he was frightened."

The magi operate on faith, a faith that there is something bigger and better in the world – and a faith that they are invited to be part of it, even though they don't quite understand it. It is this faith that draws their eyes to the heavens in the first place and sparks their journey.

As we begin a new year, what are some commitments you will make to live by faith and not by fear? What are some commitments FPCGG will make as a congregation to live by faith and not by fear?

May God show us each day how to live lives that are grounded in Christian community, lives that are bold and loving, lives that are generous in giving.

Grace and peace,

Cynthia

Faith
»-OVER-»
FEAR!



WHAT EXACTLY IS “HOSPICE”?

including excerpts from an article by Alex Smith
@ www.geripal.org

Because there are some misconceptions about hospice, the word *hospice* can feel like a "loaded term." Hospice is NOT really a service for people who have gone through every curative treatment imaginable and are finally exhausted and ready to die. Hospice is both a concept or philosophy of care

and a benefit. Hospice is for people with serious illnesses who want to focus on quality of life. A person under hospice care may live for a year, many months, or a very short time depending on his or her condition and when the person and his or her doctor agree it is time for this kind of support and care.

The primary focus of hospice is helping people to live each day as good as it can be. Hospice specialists help patients define their own goals of care in a realistic framework. This is a service that focuses on keeping a patient as comfortable as possible after he or she leaves the hospital. They provide home nursing services that provide expert pain and symptom relief.

People in hospice have generally made a choice to focus on living at home, whether that be in the community, a nursing home, or a residential hospice home. While people on hospice are occasionally admitted to the hospital, the general preference of patients on hospice is for receiving all care in their home.

Hospice is also a benefit. Medicare (or possibly the VA) offers hospice services to patient and family for free. Hospice services are delivered by an interdisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains, and volunteers. Hospice provides outstanding and expert care for persons with serious illnesses. They are the experts in treating pain and other symptoms, and in helping address financial and spiritual concerns. Having control over choices that best serve the patient and surrounding family, and aligning with those who will help facilitate those choices, is what's important here. In that light, death can truly be embraced with dignity.

It's important to recognize what hospice can do for you, and what they can't do. They will generally send a nurse to see you in your home for an hour or so two or three times a week. A social worker and chaplain will visit with you to provide support. Someone may come to sit with the patient so that the care-giver (spouse, family member) can take a break and leave the house for activities such as grocery shopping, appointments, have a meal out with family or friends, go to worship services, etc. Hospice is available by phone 24 hours a day, but is not able to provide 24 hour care for days at a time.

When you, a family member, friend, or church member is under the care of a hospice organization, it means he or she and the family are receiving support and care, usually at home. One's illness or medical condition is something that is no longer being treated and symptoms and pain are being managed. The person may leave the house, enjoy time with family and friends, and have many good days. When health begins to diminish, hospice offers more services and different kinds of pain management.

If you would like to learn more, contact Pastor Cynthia or local hospice and palliative care organizations. As Christians, we trust in God's eternal love and can face death with that hope.

AN INSIGHTFUL CHRISTMAS 2018 MESSAGE FROM A FPCGG PERSONAL INTEREST MISSIONARY WHOM WE SUPPORT YEARLY

I spent a night in the hospital, but not for me. My husband, Rob Collins, had a little adventure when his bicycle tangled slightly with a motorbike on a ride out to the home of his friend, Bill Yoder (a retired PC(USA) mission co-worker). Rob rides 10 miles there, has breakfast, and then rides home, three or four times a week. I'm glad to report that Rob's son, Andy, was with him, and helped him off the pavement. A policeman nearby called an ambulance, and they rode in it on to Bill's house, so they could still enjoy a hearty breakfast! Then Bill brought Rob into town, and I took him to the hospital. By now he was feeling some pain, and x-rays revealed 3 cracked ribs. The doctor admitted him for observation, just to make sure nothing serious developed regarding a bump on his head, or complications with his lungs.

When we got to his hospital room, I read the instructions for patients. **Patients are to have a family member stay with them at all times.** It's hospital policy! And I don't think it is because the hospital wants to reduce staff numbers. I think it is because, in Thailand, **suffering humans should not stay alone.** The reality in Thailand is that folks don't do much of anything alone. You always want to be part of a group—or at least have one friend with you. Students won't even use the restroom alone—usually they will go with a friend. As an American, schooled in independence and individualism, this has always surprised me. As a Christian, Thailand has taught me much about what it means to be the body of Christ. We truly are part of one another, and we need one another.

That day in the hospital, on the eve of Advent, I thought of Christmas--the incarnation—God becoming human—coming to live among us--**because God does not want suffering humans to stay alone.** God is with us, and God is one with us, and he invites us to enter into his life, death, and resurrection, that we may have new life in him, and join in his mission bringing his rule and reign into reality on earth. I'm so grateful for your prayers and support for my work in Thailand—that give me the opportunity to share the good news that we are not just a human community on our own, but that the God who made us to rule and reign with him, lives in us, among us, and with us, empowering us to live life in the way God always intended. (I'm also glad to report that Rob is recovering at home, and we would appreciate your prayers.)

Participating in the life of Payap University, where we get to celebrate Christmas every year, with our mostly Buddhist students and staff, is a great joy. We celebrated Christmas wonderfully with caroling all over campus, worship featuring CCI's traditional Thai drama (the Christian Communications Institute), and a free feast for all. Joy to the World and Peace on Earth for Immanuel is here.

Joy and Peace to you this Christmas and throughout the new year.

Rev. Esther Wakeman, Ph.D.
Staff, Office of Spiritual Life
Lecturer, McGilvary College of Divinity
Payap University
Chiang Mai 50000 Thailand
office 665-385-1475
home 665-324-3645
cell 6689-835-0786



Rev. Dr. Esther Wakeman



CURRENTLY SERVING RULING ELDERS AND DEACONS

On January 27th during worship, FPCGG proudly witnessed Ordination and Installation of newly elected officers and pledged to support our entire slate of officers as we begin another year of ministry for the Lord in this church.



Guest Preacher Jack Loo ordained and installed two Deacons, Karen Flores and Sharon Scism, and installed two additional Deacons, Sue Clemons and Barbara Allinger. Joan Mildenstein was installed as a returning Ruling Elder.

Our currently serving Ruling Elders and Deacons by Class are:

RULING ELDERS	DEACONS
<u>Class of 2019</u> Elaine Eads Sharon Wolfe (second term)	<u>Class of 2019</u> Sue Clemons (1 year term) Ann Deckard Doris Schoon
<u>Class of 2020</u> Mary Ann Eide (second term) Wayne Wolfe (Presbytery okayed 3 rd term)	<u>Class of 2020</u> Jeongkyu (Jay) Choi Karen Flores (2 year term) Ellen Winters (Presbytery okayed 3 rd term)
<u>Class of 2021</u> Joan Mildenstein (second term) Vacancy	<u>Class of 2021</u> Barbara Allinger Sharon Scism <u>Vacancy</u>

**We appreciate these folks who have committed to being officers!
Praise the Lord!**



FPCGG CAROLERS RECEIVED A CARD FROM A HOME-BOUND MEMBER:

Dear Carolers,
Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.
We all enjoyed singing carols with you.
Arlene Opstad

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, 2019, YOUNG-AT-HEART
VISIT TO SHERMAN LIBRARY AND GARDENS,
FEATURING SPECIAL BONSAI SHOW**



Sherman Library and Gardens always offers a museum of living plants, displayed amidst a peaceful setting of immaculate gardens, patios and conservatories linked together by wide brick walkways, beds blooming with seasonal flowers, and bubbling tile fountains. Visitors are surrounded with foliage of all kinds, from the spiny cacti of desert regions to the most exotic flowers of tropical climates. The Gardens, located at 2647 Pacific Coast Hwy., Corona Del Mar, CA 92625, are open from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm daily; adult admission is \$5.

On the weekend of February 2-3, Orange Empire Bonsai Society (which meets monthly at FPCGG) and Sherman Gardens will present A Bonsai Exhibition and Show. It will include Winter Silhouette Bonsai as well as a variety of other bonsai trees. On Saturday, a \$100 two-hour bonsai workshop for ten people will be offered by Jason Chan of Eastern Leaf Bonsai. This workshop will be in progress and may be observed by all visitors to the Gardens. The Bonsai Show displaying 18 exquisite trees will be in an adjacent area.

Join the FPCGG Young-At-Heart friends who plan to carpool to Corona Del Mar and arrive at Sherman Gardens at 1:00 pm, with time to view the last of Jason's instructions and experience the beauty of the entire Sherman Gardens' grounds. Denise Cerince will be organizing carpools. She may be reached at the church office (714.534.2269) Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Be certain to contact Denise to tell her to expect you, to offer rides, or to make arrangements for one. Admission fees will be paid individually upon entry.



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, 2019,
YOUNG-AT-HEART THEATER OUTING TO ENJOY
THE GIN GAME AT NEWPORT THEATRE ARTS CENTER**

Newport Theatre Arts Center, 2501 Cliff Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92683, is located on a bluff with spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. All 90 comfortable seats deliver unique, cozy views of the show; free parking and complimentary refreshments at intermission round out their offering. This Saturday matinee begins at 2:00 pm; tickets are \$20 each.

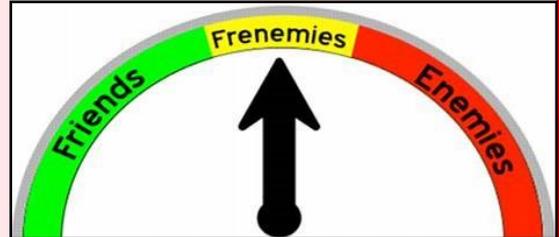
The Gin Game by D.L. Porter won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1978, and was nominated for four Tony Awards. The play's brilliance lies in its simplicity and economy. The metaphor of a common card game played by two people raises universal issues. Weller Martin and Fonsia Dorsey meet on the porch of their nursing home and strike up a friendship, with Weller teaching Fonsia how to play gin rummy. As they play, they share stories about the lives they led in the outside world. But when Fonsia wins every hand, Weller becomes increasingly frustrated, until their gin games and conversations become a battleground, with each player exposing the other's failures, disappointments, and insecurities.

FPCGG friends will plan to carpool to Newport Beach to enjoy the drama. We have reserved 20 tickets for this event, to be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets can be secured with a check made out to First Presbyterian Church or exact cash. Contact: Sharon Scism. You may see her after worship on Sundays, call her at home (714.530.6243) or on her cell (714.930.6465) or email her at sharonscism@sbcglobal.net. Invite a friend and join us!

SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH, 2019, YOUNG-AT-HEART THEATER OUTING TO ENJOY OLD ACQUAINTANCE AT WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

Westminster Community Playhouse, 7272 Maple Street, Westminster, CA 92683, features a community theatre experience in an intimate U-shaped 125 seat setting — not a bad seat in the house! Free parking is close and plentiful. This Sunday matinee begins at 2:00 pm; tickets are \$15 each.

Old Acquaintance by John van Druten is a Hollywood classic that tackles the boundaries of friendship and the true meaning behind the word “frenemy”. The dramedy is about two childhood best friends who, as adults, are now dealing with success and love on their own terms. Both become well-known authors, but when they get a chance to reunite, their simmering professional rivalry tests their manners and friendship.



FPCGG friends will plan to carpool to Westminster to enjoy the drama. We have reserved 25 tickets for this event, to be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets can be secured with a check made out to First Presbyterian Church or exact cash. Gather your friends and share the fun!

Contact Wayne and Sharon Wolfe at home phone (714.540.2746) or Wayne’s cell at (714.342.4331) or email at wayashar@aol.com.

Group Outings

FINANCIAL NEWS

by Administrative Ministry



Here are the numbers!

Commitments and Regular Giving Income as of December 31st, 2018:

YTD 2018 Actual	\$ 94,285.20
YTD 2018 Anticipated	<u>\$ 83,652.00</u>
YTD Difference	\$ 10,633.20

PRAISE THE LORD!

Financial Update as of December 31st, 2018, for total income and expenses:

YTD 2018 Income	\$ 216,385.03
YTD 2018 Expense	<u>\$ 216,205.57</u>
TD Difference	\$ 179.46

IN THE BLACK!

We rejoice at the generous commitment this smaller church community makes financially. End of the year giving brought in additional funds which made an appreciative difference. Your Session is diligently striving to keep expenses reasonable. As this new year begins, we pray that God will continue to bless our ministries as we give generously beyond ourselves — our time, our energies, and our financial resources.



FPCGG LADIES AND GENTLEMEN ENJOY SEPARATE MONTHLY LUNCHES!

The guys started the tradition of meeting once a month to share lunch and talk informally about those topics they enjoy. They had such a good time that the gals decided to copy their play book and have their own lunch, at the same time, at a separate location close by. Outback Steakhouse and Oggi's share the same parking lot at the intersection of Chapman Avenue and Harbor Blvd. in Garden Grove, so we can all share rides. The meeting date is the third Friday of the month at

11:30 am. We order from the menu when all have arrived. Each restaurant provides individual checks for each diner.

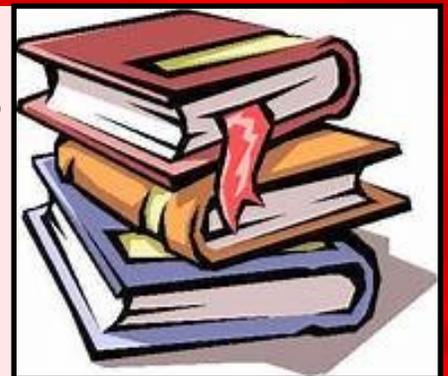
The February plan is to have lunch on Friday, February 15th, at 11:30 am. If you plan to join one of the groups, please contact the designated person to make reservations by Wednesday, February 13th, so that the restaurants can plan enough seating. If you need a ride or can give a ride, please let them know so they can match you together.

Ladies, please call Joan Mildenstein at 714.539.1034 to reserve your spot. Your lunch will be at Outback Steakhouse, 12001 Harbor Boulevard, Garden Grove (714.663.1107).

Gentlemen, please email or call either Wayne Wolfe (714.342.4331) or Mel Lichty (714.530.6268). Your lunch will be at Oggi's Pizza and Brewing Company, 12362 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove (714.534.3599).

**Let us get together to share enjoyable Christian fellowship!
Come—and bring a friend!**

JOIN THE FPCGG BOOK CLUB IN READING A BEAUTIFUL STORY OF LOVE, LOSS, AND THE REDEMPTIVE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP



KIRKUS REVIEWS tempts with this insight: "With an unforgettable cast of characters that includes a teenage girl with special powers, a handsome gardener, a fussy ghost, and an array of irresistible four-legged friends, *The Keeper of Lost Things* by Ruth Hogan is a heartwarming read about second chances, endless possibilities, and joyful discoveries." For February, FPCGG Book Club is enjoying this charming, clever, and quietly moving debut novel that explores the promises we make and break, losing and finding ourselves, the objects that hold magic and meaning for our lives, and the surprising connections that bind us.

Won't you join the challenge to read *The Keeper of Lost Things* and then come to share your perceptions with the group who will gather around a table in the back room at Marie Callender's at 13252 Brookhurst in Garden Grove on Tuesday, February 19th, at 5:00 pm. Couples and singles choose from the menu (possibility including a sinfully-delicious piece of pie), and share ideas of other good books to read and interesting conversation on a whole range of interests.

Direct your questions and RSVP to: Joan Mildenstein (714.539.1034) or Jolene Lichty (714.530.6268). (Please leave a message if you reach a machine.)

SHOWER PLUS MINISTRY UPDATE

by Outreach Ministry, from Tom Windhausen
Shower Plus Ministry Coordinator

Thanks to the good will and generosity of those in our local community, our Shower Plus Ministry ended 2018 very strongly. On the financial front, First Presbyterian Church of Santa Ana, and Debbie Haley, with Canvas OC, blessed us with \$500.00 donations each. We received a donation for \$250 from Spirit of the Desert Presbyterian Fellowship. We also received an anonymous donation of \$500.00 as well to bring our November / December donations to a grand total of \$1,750.00!!



Along with those amazing financial donations, we also had several groups come to the Ministry and cook us some tasty meals! Crafting Hope and employees from the Goodwill on Magnolia and Katella came in around Christmas time and made our participants some really yummy meals of sandwiches, pasta and meatballs, and assorted sides. The Women's Club of Garden Grove brought everyone a truly authentic Asian meal, which was very popular among all who attended that day. We are currently working with The Women's Club of Garden Grove to set up a day each month when their generous members can come in and cook everybody a mid-morning meal in the future. The Vietnamese Presbyterian Church also provided delicious Pho (Vietnamese soup) for everyone.

Together we are providing cleanliness, sustenance, and hope for some of the many in our community who do not have homes. Please continue to pray for our Shower Plus Ministry guests and their needs for places to live, jobs, sobriety and hope, and for long term solutions for homelessness.

Amazon Wish List:

https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/1J8DCJN6820LY/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_gm_wl

SHOWER PLUS MINISTRY STATISTICS FOR 4 WEEKS OF DECEMBER 2018 (a total of 6 days)

Total showers taken: 351 (duplicated individuals; approximately **59** unique individuals each day)
Total breakfasts served: 387 (duplicated individuals; approximately **65** unique individuals daily)
Number of participants who were new to us: 23 (unique individuals)
Number of volunteer hours donated: 384 (a value of **\$4,224.00**,
\$11.00 per hour, CA minimum wage)
Bakery Donations from Costco: approximate value, \$1,138.08.
Food Finders, St. Jude's Hospital Fullerton, Donation: 445 lbs. of pre-cooked food

SHOWER PLUS MINISTRY STATISTICS FROM 2015 TO 2018

Total showers taken: 18,625
Total breakfasts served: 25,271
Number of participants who were new to us: 971 (unique individuals)
Number of volunteer hours donated: 12,153.7 (a value of **\$123,863.55**,
\$9.00 to \$11.00 per hour, CA minimum wage)
Bakery Donations from Costco: approximate value, \$93006.54
Food Finders, St. Jude's Hospital Fullerton, Donation: 8,337 lbs. of pre-cooked food

BREAD OF LIFE



BREAD OF LIFE DONATIONS

Non-perishable food items are collected monthly. These gifts are then shared with H.O.P.E., a Garden Grove organization which helps families who are hungry and hurting. Requested donations for February's Bread of Life program: **canned main dishes**. Thank you for your generosity!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Erin Kural
- 10 Jeffrey Cochran-Carney
- 12 Carol Opstad
- 13 Walt Hauenstein
- 25 Joan Mildenstein
- 26 Herb Meadowcroft



“MUNCHIES FOR MISSION” February Focus: CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)



After Sunday worship, as we gather in the choir room for fellowship, Coffee, and punch, we also may enjoy sweet treats from the “Munchies for Mission” table. Those goodies are donated each week; the binder with the upcoming calendar of volunteer sign-ups is on that table, along with a donations basket. Those cash donations (augmented by the Deacons’ Fund to reach \$150 monthly) are sent to a designated local non-profit organization at the end of the month. In February those “Munchies for Mission” moneys will be given to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

Every day, abused and neglected children in Orange County are taken from their homes and placed in foster care because their parents cannot provide safe homes. Court Appointed Special Advocates of Orange County (CASA) is a privately-funded non-profit organization that serves those severely abused, neglected, and abandoned children through the recruitment, training, and continued support of volunteers who advocate and mentor these children, representing their best interests in the courtroom and other settings. Their mission is to provide quality advocacy for children through a unique one-on-one relationship between a trained and supervised court-appointed volunteer and an abused, abandoned, or neglected child.

CASA serves annually approximately 1,000 of the children who move through our court system as a direct cause of abuse and neglect. Today, more than 120 children are on CASA’s wait list, referred by a judge and in need of a mentor-advocate of their own. For volunteer opportunities, contact **Matthew Wadlinger** at **714-619-5155**, or contact **CASA** at **714-619-5151** (1505 East 17th Street, Suite 214; Santa Ana, CA 92705).

UPCOMING FPCGG SPECIAL EVENTS OF NOTE



Saturday	Feb. 2	1:00 pm	Tour of Sherman Library and Gardens, Corona del Mar
Sunday	Feb. 3	9:30 am	Celebration Choir as Guest Musicians during worship Distribute printed Annual Reports
Sunday	Feb. 10	10:45 am	Annual Congregational Meeting with Luncheon (Pastor Cynthia will be attending the Los Ranchos Presbytery Pastor's Retreat from Monday, Feb. 11—Wednesday, Feb. 13)
Friday	Feb. 15	11:30 am	Ladies Lunch at Outback Steakhouse Men's Lunch at Oggi's
Saturday	Feb. 16	2:00 pm	<i>The Gin Game</i> at Newport Theatre Arts Center
Tuesday	Feb. 19	5:00 pm	FPCGG Book Club at Marie Callender's Garden Grove
Wednesday	March 6		Ash Wednesday, Lent begins
Sunday	March 10	2:00 pm	<i>The Acquaintance</i> at Westminster Playhouse

Note: In February, Pastor Cynthia will be returning to her original three-quarter time schedule with the church – Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays — full days working at church, meetings, and pastoral care calls and visits — and Sundays of course. She also works on her sermon on Saturdays at home. Denise and Cynthia will meet on Mondays at 10:30 am for staff meetings.



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS OF FORWARD FOOTSTEPS IN ONE OF FPCGG PRIORITIES FOR JOURNEY FORWARD



Serving Our Community and the World Forward Footsteps

Initiate joint hands-on mission projects with VPC, such as Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.

November 2018 – FPC and VPC together made 52 boxes to donate

Explore opportunities to serve children in our local community.

December 2018 – Donation from Pentecost Offering to support Garden Grove Police Youth Explorers that provide programming for at-risk and other youth ages 14-21. They will volunteer with our Shower Ministry.

Invite guest musicians and actors to share their gifts with us in worship.

February 2019 – Helen Weed is bringing her Calvary Chapel Choir to provide special music in worship on Sunday, Feb. 3.

Christmas Caroling—Joy to the World!

On December 9, fourteen people enjoyed singing Christmas Songs at Rowntree Gardens. Rowntree resident and FPC member, Jim Rogers sang with us.



Bringing Christmas Joy to Church Members

The group also enjoyed singing with Cecile and Bruce Weed. Special thanks to our musicians—Marilyn Stiltz, Bob Cerince, and Jeffrey Cochran-Carney



Singing with Arlene and Carol Opstad was a special time.



Advent Worship Services “Calm & Bright: 200 Years of Silent Night”

Each Sunday in Advent we focused on different themes and scriptures reflecting Christ’s light coming into the world. On the 4th Sunday of Advent, we heard the Story of the Magi. Reflected on what gifts do we bring? “Grandma Sharon Wolfe read “The Littlest Angel” by Charles Tazewell. The congregation enjoyed the display of the Wolfes’ collection of angels on the communion table.





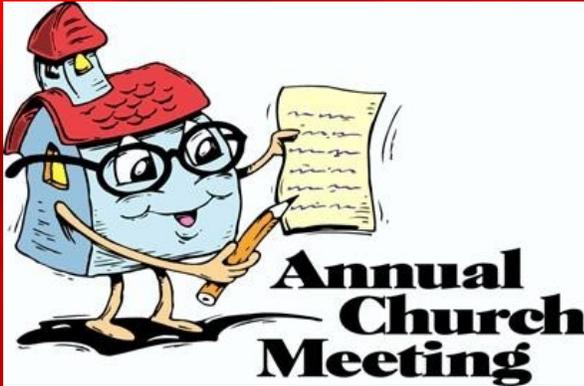
Let There Be Light!

When you drive by the church at night you will notice the stained glass dove is now lit up. Special thanks to Wayne Wolfe. Also, you will see the whole west face lit up. Thanks to VPC member Jeremy for this project.

Christmas Eve

Members, family members and visitors worshiped on Christmas Eve in a Service of Lessons and Carols "Silent Night, Holy Night, Son of God, loves pure light."





**AFTER WORSHIP
ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH,
JOIN US FOR
THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL LUNCHEON AND MEETING
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
AT 10:45 AM**

**Come to hear about the great things we did in 2018!
Come to envision where we are heading in 2019!**

**Deacons will be serving lunch.
Donations of \$5 each
are encouraged
to defray luncheon costs.**

