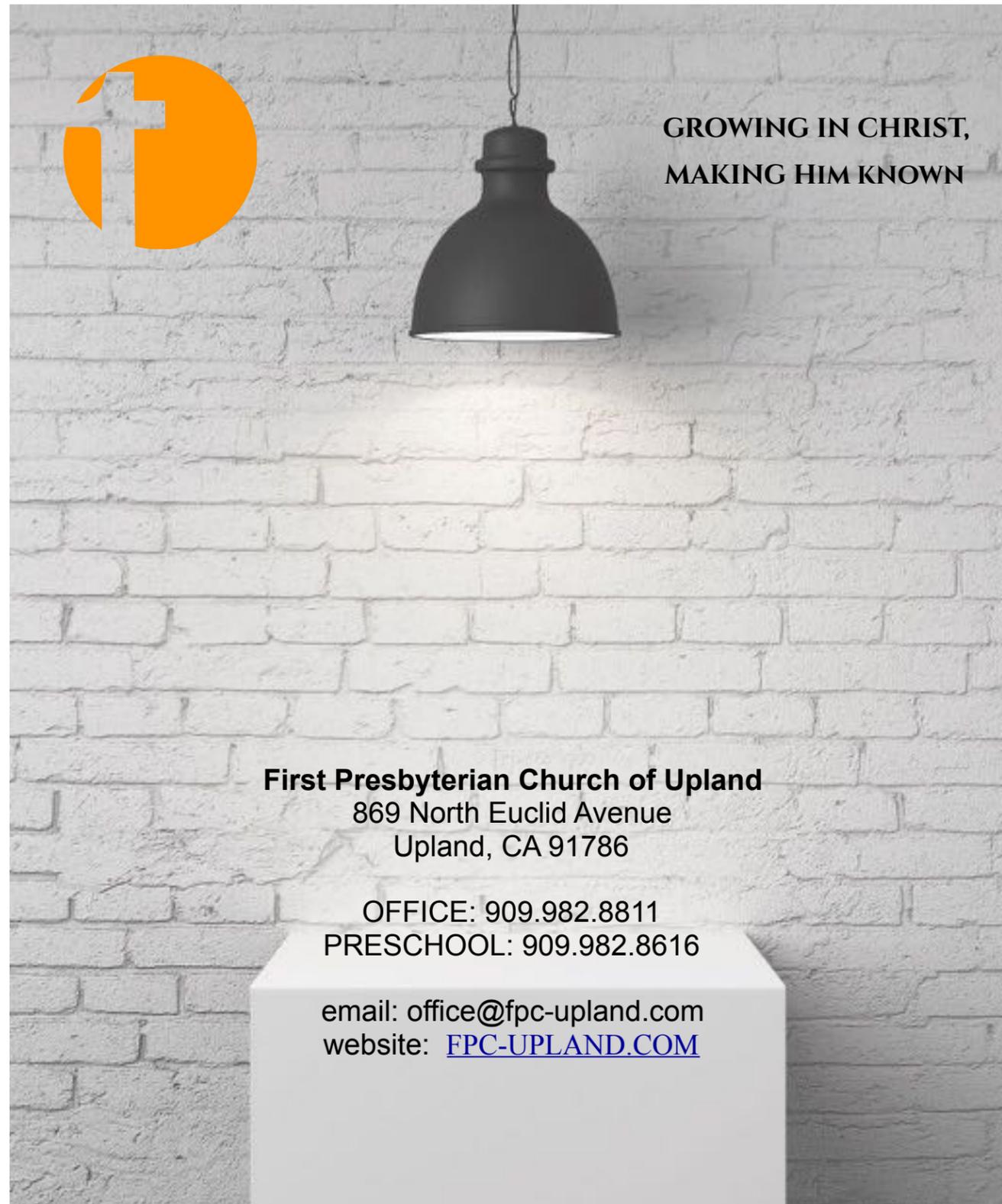


FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF UPLAND

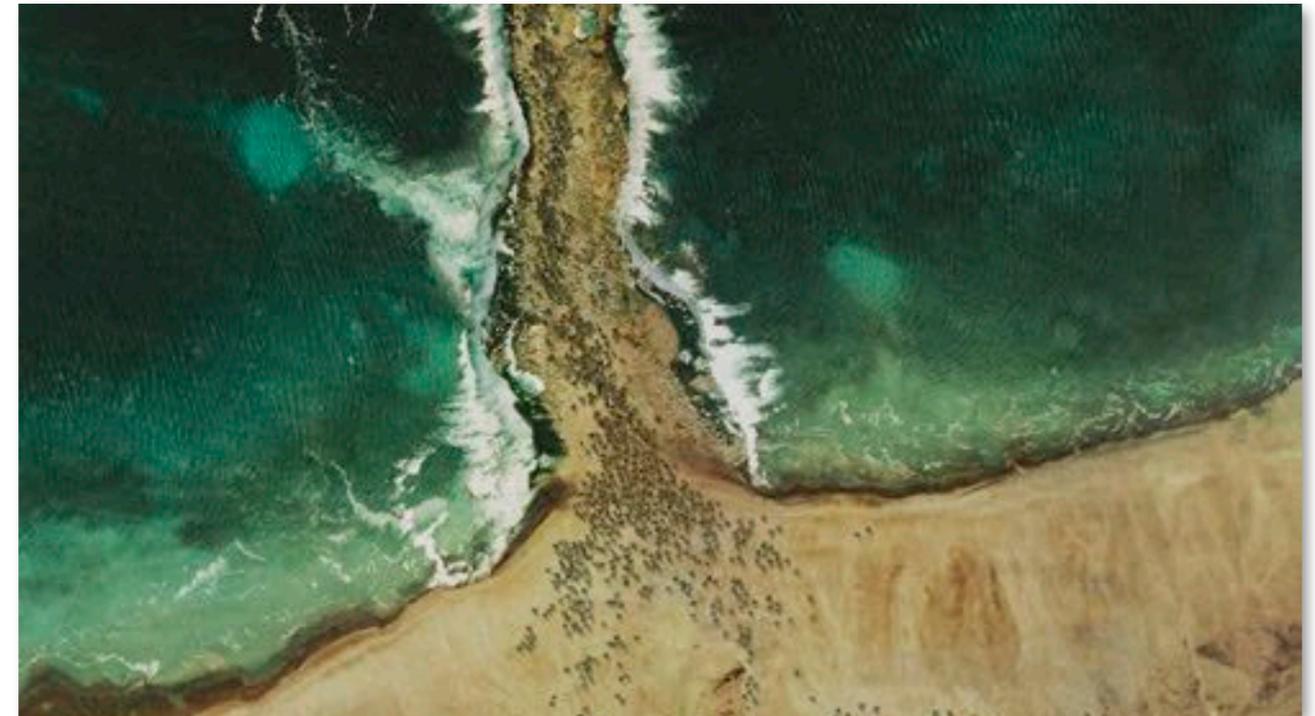


**GROWING IN CHRIST,
MAKING HIM KNOWN**

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THE RELUCTANT EGYPTIAN/HEBREW

Here's an idea: let's all quit our jobs, leaving all sources of income behind, and, after borrowing all of our neighbors' jewelry, let's convoy out to live in Death Valley for, oh, forty years or so. Sound good? No? Has it ever occurred to you what a tremendously influential person Moses must have been? Speaking simply in the name of "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob," Moses led tens of thousands (at least) of underpaid, over-worked servants out of Egypt into the Arabian desert.

Perhaps they were just excited about a change. They had been crying out to God for relief, but the world power of the day—Pharaoh—was neither sympathetic nor interested in even hearing their complaints. He hated the Hebrews and feared the growth of their population. What made things worse, they seemed to succeed at everything whereas he and his had to work diligently for any advances. So Pharaoh, wanting Egypt to be more purely *Egyptian*, works them to within an inch of their lives and implements male infanticide as a policy. Life is utterly miserable for the Hebrews, but God hears their prayers.

Moses, born Hebrew but raised Egyptian, is no saint; in fact, he is a murderer. Yes, he killed a bad Egyptian in a good cause, but that hardly excuses murder. Moses, un-hero-like, runs away to an absolute nowhere in the desert. His kindness to Jethro's daughters nets him a beautiful spouse, and he settles down

(continued on page 1)

PASTOR NOEL ANDERSON



THAT GOD IS WITH US MEANS SO MUCH

(continued from page 2)

to desert life. One day, while he was minding his own business tending sheep, he sees a burning bush that isn't actually burning. When he checks it out, The Lord speaks to him: "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, and have I got a job for you!"

Moses seems glad for the plan in general, but when he realizes he will have to do some public speaking—which terrifies him—he asks whether or not God might have the wrong number. God simply tells him, "I will be *with* you."

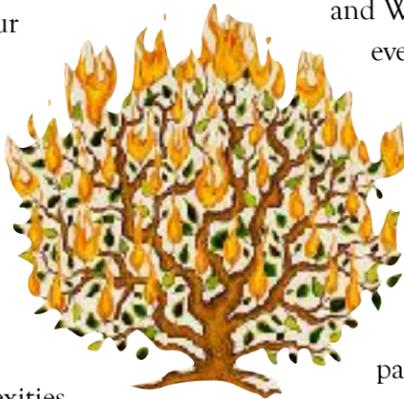
Isn't this what about 90% of our prayers amount to? "Lord, be with my friend in the hospital," "Lord, be with my husband as he travels," "Lord, be with us as we grieve"—so much of our prayer life is simply this: calling upon the Lord's presence and asking that he be present with those who suffer afflictions, dangers, pains, or perplexities.

The promise to Moses that, "I will be with you" is as wonderful and gracious a promise as any of us could hope for. To have God with us is our ultimate comfort and final hope. What would you and I *not* face with the assurance that God is with us? No trial, no temptation, no earthly danger can compare to the blessed assurance of God's presence.

It was the mere presence of God that empowers every great act of faith. It put David before Goliath in trust and strength. It kept Daniel cool-headed in the lion's den. It made Paul—when on death row—feel and act as though he were on vacation.

When we pray, "Oh Lord, be with..." whomever we pray for, we invest ourselves in trusting God's power and presence. Furthermore, we do so joyfully, knowing that we do in fact have access to the greatest power of all. That is why it always blesses us to pray for others.

But Moses wasn't convinced. When God lays out the plan, Moses tries to give God the third degree: "Lord, if I'm to do this, I need some serious authorization! If I, a stranger [and a murderer, don't forget], tell them all this, they're going to ask for my credentials. How shall I tell them about You and who You are? *Who* am I to tell them about You and *Who* You are?" It is as if Moses didn't even hear the "I'll be with you" part.



Moses goes for broke: "Give me your name so I can use it to authorize myself. So...what is it?" God sighs. "Moses, I AM WHO I AM! God reveals himself to Moses as the one, true GOD in the midst of a pagan world of manmade idols. Moses says, "Okay, exactly how do you *spell* I AM WHO I AM?" and, I think, God sighs again. After this, Moses makes his faith clear: "Please Lord, can't you ask somebody else?"

God is revealed through servants who are reluctant—who want to stay at home even if that home is a slave hut—and there is much complaining and griping on the road to freedom and the land of God's promises. Moses wanted to throw in the towel more than once, but deep down, God helped him and grew his faith. We don't so much say that Moses *had* faith; rather we say that God was with him, and that made all the difference †.

FEBRUARY PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1-McMullen	2-Merryman	3-Mitchell
4	5-Morgan	6-Mowery	7-Muelchi	8-Mulligan	9-Nelson	10- Nichols
11	12-Nunez	13-Obonyo	14-Ogot	15-Oji	16-Olson	17-Oshiro
18	19-Owen	20-Pearson	21-Perkins	22-Phillips	23-Phiri	24-Polchow
25	26-Powl	27-Reeder	28-Riccio			

Please also pray for those who have been ill or are recovering from surgery.

Ian Richardson, Jean Harley, Margaret Day, Jean Vanvielt, and

Martha Mba, Steve Frazee, and Janie Mannion

Please pray for those who are homebound or in convalescent care:

Sydney Dooley, Felicia and Drexel Foreman, Seth Martin, Gerry Perkins,

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 04 - PAYTON BLASETTI | 14 - BRADEN ROTH |
| 04 - MARGARET DAY | 18 - NINA JELINEK |
| 04 - MARIA VAN BEEK | 19 - SUSAN FRANCIS |
| 05 - ROBERT BARKER | 21 - TOMMY REEDER |
| 06 - SUE SINDELAR | 21 - ERIC WOLF |
| 07 - FRANK MCCLUSKIE | 24 - BOB SUMMERS |
| 08 - LORNE BELL | 26 - RAY BRAGG |
| 10 - SYDNEY DOOLEY | 26 - STEPHANIE FUJIWARA |
| 11 - CAREN ACHIENG | 28 - JUDY CARPENTER |
| 11 - CAROL GRIFFIN | 28 - JERRY WILSON |
| 12 - GEORGIA DECKER | 29 - PAUL FREDENDALL |

We would also like to extend birthday greetings to any other babies not on our list. If you know of a member's birthday that needs to be added, please call Gael in the church office @ 982-8811.

Thank you, and HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU!

Please call Gael in the office if we need to update any information. Thank you. 909-982-8811.

FEBRUARY 2018						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 5pm Girl Scouts 6pm Exec. Team 7pm Deacons	2 6pm UPDOC	3 Eagle Scout Award Ceremony
4 9am Sunday School 10am Worship w/ Communion	5 4:30pm B&G 7pm Scouts 7pm Handbells	6 6:30am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Knitting 6:30pm Reach 7:30/8pmAA	7 4pm Homework Club 5pm Kids Dinner 5:30pm AWANA 5:45pm <i>The Story Class</i> 7pm Choir	8 4pm Preschool Board 6:30pm Worship 5:30pm Gather 7pm Serve	9	10 12:30 Mother & Son Party
11 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 12-4pm Scouts Hart Hall	12 5:30pm Grow 6pm Trustees 7pm Scouts 7pm Handbells	13 6:30am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Knitting 7:30/8pmAA	14 6pm ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE Valentine's Day	15 9am-2pm PCCCI 4pm Loaves & Fishes 5pm Girl Scouts	16	17
18 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	19 Presidents' Day (office closed) 7pm Scouts 7pm Handbells	20 6:30am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Knitting 7:30/8pmAA	21 4pm Homework Club 5pm Kids Dinner 5:30pm AWANA 5:45pm <i>The Story Class</i> 7pm Choir	22	23	24 9-1 Scouts
25 9am Sunday 10am Worship	26 7pm Scouts 7pm Handbells	27 6:30am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Knitting 7:30/8pmAA 6:30pm Session	28 4pm Homework Club 5pm Kids Dinner 5:30pm AWANA 5:45pm <i>The Story Class</i> 7pm Choir			

TREASURER'S CORNER



I have now been your Church Treasurer for eight years (my final year), and I have to say that it continues to be a challenging, exciting, and blessed way for me to give back in service to the Lord and to our church. And, it is an honor to serve on the Board of Trustees, and the Session, helping to guide the future of our church. Our Church, alone, in 2017, is actually a \$643,627 a year 'business'. And, if you add in the Preschool, that figure jumps to well over a million dollars with employees, buildings, programs, income, and expenses to balance and hopefully, at least, break even at the end of the year.

This month, I would like to briefly share with you the church finances of 2017 and give you a glimpse of what your Session and church leaders see for 2018.

Beginning with Last year's 2017 Program Budget,

Staff, Deacons, Teams, and Committees identified the programs and activities they wanted to work on during 2017. It resulted in a budget with expenditures projected at \$590,251. Looking at the "revenue" side for 2017, we projected various revenue sources totaling \$594,966 plus a carryover checking acct. balance of \$6,000.....all totaling up to \$600,966.

Thankfully, this created a balanced budget requiring no borrowing from reserves as we had to do a few years ago.

I think we can agree that the programs and opportunities in 2017 allowed us to significantly "*Grow in Christ and Make Him Known*". We added 38 new members. The various programs and spiritual activities were excellent. Additionally, from a financial standpoint, during the year, while providing those wonderful programs, and needed capital improvements, everybody did a fantastic job of containing costs or seeking out-of-the-box funding wherever possible. We also rented space to three small Christian congregations to meet on Sundays. By the end of the 2017 year, revenues totaled \$643,627, and expenditures totaled \$618,125 both significantly more than expected,

TREASURER'S CORNER (CONT'D)

Looking Forward to 2018.....

After much serious and prayerful thought, your Trustees and Session approved an essentially balanced revenue and expenditure budget for 2018. The approved program budget calls for an expenditure program of \$711,033. On the revenue side for 2018, we are projecting revenues from all sources at \$713,076.

Pledge revenue continues to be our single greatest assurance of a recurring revenue stream during the year to pay bills. The revenue side is not based on a projection, but is based on how much pledge commitments we have actually received. To date that totals: \$365,866.

I believe that 2018 will be a very rewarding, but challenging, year in the financial life of our church and congregation. With a focus on growth for the year through: congregation participation in reading and studying "The Story", "Awana", our growing children's and youth ministries, and the "Homework Club", potential movement of preschool families into closer relationship with the church, to physical improvements around the campus, we can already see excitement building.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Thinking of submitting something for our Lenten devotional? Would you like a little help to get it just right? We have a professional editor, Janice Baskin, who has offered her services (free) to help you find all the right words and make your sentences flow. Janice recently retired from Azusa Pacific University after serving nine years as the director of publications for the library and an English composition professor. Previous to that she worked more than 30 years as a writer and editor in public relations and business. You can call Janice at 951-675-5984 or email her at janicejbaskin@gmail.com to set up a time to meet at the church during the week.

SERVE TEAM

SOVA
February Food Donation Suggestions:
Canned Fruit Cereal

February 25th
Loaves & Fishes Special Offering
 Your Gift of Love will Support this Important Outreach to Homeless Families and Individuals of our area. May we be Generous of Spirit in Helping this Ministry of Compassion and Generosity.

Breakfast Bags
 Volunteers are Welcome to Help Fill Breakfast Bags for the Homeless. Come to Hart Hall 3rd Thursdays at 4 PM.

Witnessing Ministries of Christ
 Exodus Christian Presbyterian Church—India
 Children's Ministry
 Thank You for Your Support for Saving the Untouchable Children

Education
 Increasingly excites teachers and students
 Education Director **Rajesh Joseph Dharmi** inspires the education environment in our schools. Teachers engage as they participate in this joyful, Christ-centered community. Through collaboration, books, and the Internet, teachers inspire learning beyond anything they have done in the past. Creatively, the children produce colorful and inventive ways of learning their subjects. Here, a child studies about insects and proudly shows his own personal collection while a friend admires his project.

Christmas Joy Offering
 Thank You for Caring!
 Donations of \$2,070 were given To Monte Vista Grove in Pasadena, A Retirement Center & Homes for PCUSA Pastors & Christian Workers.

Marera Community Self Help Project
 St. James Preschool Marera Kenya—Update:
 We have:
 * Completed two classrooms,
 * Painted & Tiled these classrooms,
 * Installed electricity
 * Employed 3 teachers & helped pay salaries
 * About 70 students.
Thanks for your gifts to support this ministry!