



# NEW LIFE NEWS

The official newsletter for New Life Presbyterian Church • February 2009

## NEW LIFE AT NEW LIFE

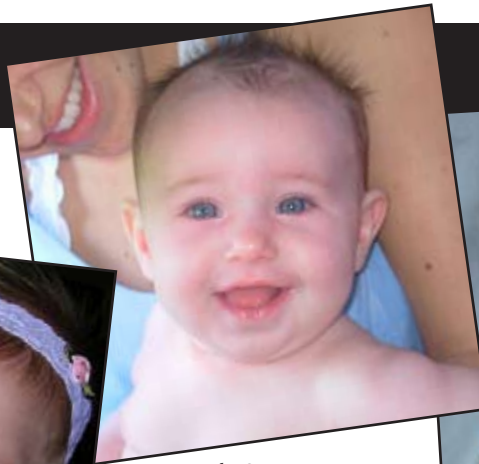
photos (in church) by Tina Settegren



Luke Craven



Tessa Hodge



Isla Orr



Karsten Tallman

*But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." —Luke 18:16*

## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH 2009

By Marcia Vanderpoel

The women of our church serve in six specific ministries: worship support, discipleship, outreach, missions prayer, spiritual growth, and fellowship. We strive to lift one another up in prayer, provide hospitality, and mentor one another. Support is given to those who are ill, have experienced the death of a loved one, or who are caring for the elderly. On-going ways are sought to serve and impact our community and the world through evangelism, works of mercy, volunteering, and missionary support. Various Bible studies, Sunday school classes, seminars, reading of books (book club), annual retreats, and corporate church worship allow us to continue to grow spiritually. May our goals as Christian women also include imitating Christ's humility. In Philippians 2:2-3 Paul exhorts us... "make my joy complete by being like-

minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves." Our WOC board members are dedicated to serve the Lord in this manner, and we covet your prayers and support as we strive to carry out the mission of our church. The WOC board members this year are: President-Marcia Vanderpoel, Vice President-Barbara Abbott, Sec/Treasurer-Karen Rousse, Worship Support Director-Allison Dossett, Discipleship Ministries Director-Anita Patton, Outreach Support Ministries Director-Lori Bowman, Women's Spiritual Growth Ministries Director-



Kelly Byce, and Fellowship Ministries Co-Directors-Coco Stringer and Teresa Yerbury. If you were unable to attend our annual continental breakfast and would like to volunteer to help in any of these areas, or if you have other talents you would like to share, we will have a sign-up sheet and table in Fellowship Hall through the middle of February. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have then. Please consider how the Lord has equipped you to serve Him. Finally, let us strive to be women willing to trust God with our everything (our all), knowing that He is the Lord of everything, and the Alpha and Omega of all life's experiences. ☛

## THREE OPEN HOMES

By Sue Martin, Susan Bugbee and Erika Giangregorio

### SENT FOR A SEASON AND A REASON

By Sue Martin

We long ago lost count of the people who came our way for shelter. There may have been 25 over 37 years of marriage. Some stayed for two weeks, a summer or two years. Each one we viewed as sent by our Father for a season and a reason. We never turned down an opportunity to open our home during our years in Massachusetts. We welcomed college students, couples and families. There were young teachers, a foster teen, the son of a troubled church friend, a couple who lost their home to a fire, and women needing a place to live until they married a few months later.

Reasons for opening our home have varied and evolved over the years.

*...as each one has received a gift,  
minister it to one another, as  
good stewards of the manifold  
grace of God.*

When we believed we could not have children, we thought sharing our home with others might keep us more flexible. As avid readers of *Sojourners* and *The Other Side* in the 70's and 80's and with an extra room in our new home, it seemed almost a mandate. Later, the rent provided additional income for our young family as we endeavored to live on one salary. With preschool children, sharing our home with others added meaningful relationships for them, enriched the lives of singles, and occasionally provided a respite for us.

And then, we were approached last fall about renting a room again. Emily was losing her apartment as roommates went their own way. She had no place to go, so she came to live with us for a

few months. For most of our time in San Diego we had a smallish 1000+ square foot house crammed with two sons, their things and their friends. Now the house is bigger; they are on their own, so Emily came. Next week our younger son returns to California from seven years of school and work in Massachusetts. We will flex and welcome him for a season.

Sharing your space is not always easy. Hospitality and flexibility are essential; some privacy may be relinquished. But we decided then and now that the rewards exceed the inconvenience. Consider if you have room and inclination to open your heart and home to someone in need of a place to stay. The hand of friendship extended my return as a hand of blessing. ✪



### ALL MY CHILDREN

By Susan Bugbee

“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so. Do not say to your neighbor, ‘Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it,’ when you have it with you” (Proverbs 3:27-28).

We know that to whom much is given, much is expected, and so it is with the Bugbees. In God's providence, two like-minded people crossed paths: Jeff lived in a house full of single men all serving the Lord in some ministry or other; his gift was housing and feeding them (physically and spiritually), mentoring, encouraging, and growing with them in faith. I also had a house, too big for just one person, which was shared with single women: a place for prayer, mini-retreats and fellowship, though I had no gift of cooking. We were a skinny bunch. Prior to marriage, I informed Jeff that children would not be part of the equation. Unlike Sarah, no one told me I was mistaken. But then, “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”

It was not long before Pastor Miladin asked if we would be willing to take in a seminary student. Unlike previous roommates, this was a “stranger.” But then we would be strange to them also. We prayed, knowing the answer. Our first “son” arrived. What a blessing! Dave Holmlund served as an assistant to Pastor, teaching and preaching and praying for us. He stayed three years until he graduated and married Elizabeth. Now, he serves as an OPC pastor in New Hampshire, and we have two grandsons. Our second child, another son, arrived shortly after Dave left. Matt Smith, a junior in high school, wanted to continue his studies in San Diego while his parents relocated to the east coast. Two years later, he was off to college in Pennsylvania studying pre-med. Our third son, Spencer Yen, had graduated from Westminster and needed a place to stay while attending law school. Who could turn down the request of sweet Shirley, whom I had grown very fond of and with whom I had spent wonderful evenings prior to choir studying our faith and praying for family? After almost two years with us Spencer married Shirley, and now we have a lovely granddaughter, Emma Faith. After three boys, the Lord delivered a girl, again only for a season. Gabrielle Felix attended Pt. Loma Nazarene University and commuted to New York for culinary school. Now married, our “family” continues to grow to include her husband, Jeff. Our latest is Amy Churchill, and God alone knows the future. Jeff and I have discovered that “as each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” We have received more than we ever could give by sharing meals, faith, fellowship, love, and prayer with His saints. Isn't this what every mother wants from their children: a doctor, lawyer, pastor and chef? ✪



## GRACE

By Erika Giangregorio

I always thought that my college roommate would be my last roommate. The only ones living with me would be my family. I wouldn't have to fear what others thought of my life, my home, my cooking, my kids, the messes, the noise, and my reaction to it all.

God's plan was different from mine. Grace came along. She was an exchange student from Taiwan who lived with us for six months. She was much relieved to move out of the dorm and live with a Christian family. She felt blessed to attend our church, get to know our Christian friends and family, gain experience with young children,

and learn about American culture. My children loved having her around. They learned to be respectful and considerate of her space, time, and way of doing things. It was good for them to know another Christian from another culture. I believe it was God's "grace" that was molding and teaching me as well. Before her stay I felt my patience thinning and my temper quickening. God answered my prayer for help by putting Grace right before me, 24/7. I wanted to give Grace my best, my best cooking (which isn't to say much), my best help, my best attitude, my best example of a godly mother and wife. I acted with more patience and gentleness toward my children. My words were more carefully chosen. In a way she was holding me accountable, although she didn't know it. Then I realized that if I

am willing to do this for her, why don't I strive to do this for my family? While God was teaching me to give my best to my own family, He was showing me that I was more concerned with having a clean appearance than with having a clean heart. I needed to fear Him rather than seeking Grace's approval. Whether or not I have a guest in my house, I am to "walk in my house with a blameless heart" (Psalm 101:2).

All along we wanted to be a blessing to Grace, and yet, she was a great blessing to us. We now have our second roommate, Craig's grandmother. Her gratitude for simple things is contagious. Yes, there are some challenges and sacrifices, but it's about serving others to the glory of God. ❁

## BRIANNE BECK

By Brianne Beck

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake*  
—Psalm 23:1-3.

I am so thankful to God for the people and sound teaching at New Life. I just became a member in December 2008 (although I have attended since 2007), and am grateful for the leadership and friendships I've been blessed with here. I am fortunate to have been raised in a Christian home in Northwest Iowa, and although I memorized this Psalm around the age of three, the truths that lie therein are strongest in comforting me yet today. Thank you to those who continue to point me to the One who does restore my soul and guide me in paths of righteousness, all for His name's sake.

I attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, and majored in Bible/Theology and Evangelism/Discipleship, with a minor in Music. At Moody, I was involved in various cross-cultural ministries with the desire of teaching women and/or children.

After graduation in 2001, I moved to San Diego and established a career as an analyst in the worker's compensation insurance industry. I also became involved in Middle Eastern ministry as I had been in Chicago. After attending a reconciliation conference in Holland between Jews and Arabs in 2003 and 2005, eventually my desire "morphed" into helping with the reconciliation between these two groups in

the Middle East. It is only through our Lord Jesus Christ, that Jews and Arabs (or any people groups) can walk beside quiet waters. I thank Him for this power, in the mystery of the gospel that transforms lives and families even among the Jew and Muslim. Praise be to God that through the blood of Jesus, He has the power to restore our souls. May we only boast in the cross of Christ. Although foreign missions has not been God's sovereign plan for me (at least as of yet), I give Him praise for calling me to Himself and (through Christ) leading me, along with the Jew and Arab, beside quiet waters.

*Lord, I give up all my own plans and purposes, all my own desires and hopes, and accept Thy will for my life. I give myself, my life, my all utterly to Thee to be Thine forever. Fill me and seal me with Thy Holy Spirit. Use me as Thou wilt. Send me where Thou wilt. And work out Thy whole will in my life at any cost now and forever.* —Prayer of Betty Stam (martyr in China) ❁



*There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. —Ephesians 4:4-6 NIV*

## THE WAR BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HAMAS

**M**y name is Maayan Emily Zadok, and I just turn 12 today, Jan 10, 2009! I live in Israel in a city called Gedera. I found out that Gedera is 40 km from Gaza. I was not aware of this till this war began. For the last seven years, towns in south Israel have been suffering from bombs that were thrown by the Hamas in Gaza.

Hamas is a Palestinian terrorist organization in Gaza. Lebanon, Syria, Iran and few other Arab countries support the Hamas because they all hate Israel and want to destroy every person here and get our land.

Last Tuesday a bomb landed in a school in Beer Sheba. Thankfully the mayor the day before decided to close all the schools. On Wednesday we were still in school and then around 11 we heard the siren. We and also the teachers were not sure if this was a real siren or just a test. Many parents rushed to the school and took their children home. Though we were taught how to behave in case of siren, many started to scream and run to the bomb shelter rooms. This was in particularly hard for the younger children, but not only for them! The next day they decided to close all the schools in Gedera.

The bombs kept falling into Israel and each time it got closer to Gedera. Some people were afraid and tried not to get out of their houses, even though we did. We kept praying for safety of our congregation and our soldiers. On Tuesday we heard the siren again, and we went into the bomb shelter. We have a bomb shelter in our home, and have 45 seconds to one minute to get into the bomb shelter. Then we heard a bomb land, and it was loud, and the house shook. I was sure it landed in our back yard. We stayed in the bomb shelter for another five minutes (in case more bombs may land) and then my mom's friend called and said, "A bomb landed on your



*Rocket damage near the Zadok's house*

street." We were all shocked and surprised. We weren't very scared, but mainly shocked. Police and other forces started to pour in our street, and then the press and then the electricity company. We lost electricity for six hours. About four houses from

our house the bomb landed and five houses were damaged from the shrapnel and blast. Windows were broken, and cars were damaged. A three month old baby that lives three houses away was lightly injured and was rushed to hospital. Also, a dog was killed as the result of the blast.

In another house a 12 year old girl ran immediately to the bomb shelter, and if she wouldn't have

gone into the bomb shelter, she would have been injured seriously. The press interviewed various neighbors, and it was on the radio and news.

It was a scary experience, but it has helped many people and me understand what people are going through and have gone through in the last few years. However, for us it is a bit easier because as Jewish Christians we believe in God who is sovereign and in control. I hope this whole situation will stop soon, and we will have some sort of peace with the Hamas. People both in Israel and Gaza are suffering and dying each day. It is scary to see how much hatred exists and how the Hamas purpose is to destroy us. I pray and hope that the peace of God will enter the hearts of the people and replace the hate. Both we and the Palestinians need God and the Gospel of Jesus the Messiah. Please pray for this hard situation, the people both in Israel and in Gaza, for our soldiers (a few from our congregation are involved in the fighting), and even the Hamas. 🙏

**H**i, my name is Hadas Dor Zadok. I am nine year old living in Gedera, Israel. This is the second time that war came out since we came back from San Diego. It started when there was siren to go into the bomb shelter room. We got into the room and waited till the siren stops. So we were in and then we heard a boom! The ground was shaking a bit, and it was scary. At first we did not think that it landed in our street, until my mom's friend called and told us. My mom went out to see what happened and within five minutes police and other security forces including ambulances and the mayor and his staff were in our street and around our home. The mayor spoke with my mom to make sure that we were OK and there were no damages to our home. After about an hour we all went to see the damages. It was really bad. The Gerad rocket landed between the house and the sidewalk and hit the electricity pole as well. Various groups of people came to fix things. There were five houses that were damaged from the shrapnel that scattered all over and caused damages. In one of houses there was a 12 year girl by herself, but thankfully she was not hurt, but there were damages to the house. A dog was killed, and in another house a three month old girl got a little shrapnel on her leg and was rushed to hospital. We have to trust and believe that God protects and in this case for sure protected us and the other people. 🙏