



DECEMBER 2014

Beach Breeze

Countdown to Christmas!

This Holiday Season is going to be filled with lots of laughter, love, and worship! We invite you to be a part of it. Highlights of this Holy Season are:

- **“The Homecoming,”** a wonderful way to start off the Christmas season with song, story, and laughter. For more information, see the bottom of this page.
- **“Hark! The Angel Sang Off-Key.”** Not that our Children's Choir would ever do so! Come celebrate our children singing to the Glory of God! For more information, see page 4.
- **Christmas Caroling.** Many of our members have great difficulty getting to church every Sunday. Help us to spread a personal gift of Christmas cheer to members that we may not have seen in some time! More information can be found on page 3.
- **Wednesday Night Christmas Dinner.** Our Wednesday Night Christmas dinner will be held on December 17. During that time, we will also hand out Christmas gifts to our guests. For more information on how YOU can be a part of this special night, see page 5.
- **Sack Dinners.** Since both Christmas Eve and New Years Eve fall on Wednesday Nights, we will be preparing sack dinners for our Wednesday Night guests. More information can be found on page 5.
- **Christmas Eve services.** There will be three Christmas Eve services held this year at PB UMC, including an early, family-friendly service! See page 3 for more details.
- **Interfaith Shelter Network.** Our Interfaith Shelter guests will arrive at the end of December and stay through the beginning of the New Year. For more information on how you can become involved, please see page 8.

The Homecoming

Question: What do you have in common with a 30-voice choir, a blue grass band, 10 actors and a great compelling story? Answer: A date with destiny on December 7th. In the tradition of great Christmas musicals, the *Voices of Praise* and the *Act of Faith Players* will present “The Homecoming: A Smoky Mountain Christmas,” at 9:00 am, 10:30 am and 6:00 pm in the PB UMC Sanctuary.

The compelling and humorous story of sibling love and conflict comes to a head during the Christmas Season at a rather remote mountain retreat. The story is told by an outstanding acting core featuring Amy, Jayna and Lauryn, Louis, Joe, Brenda, David, Michelle, Elektra, Cameron and Adam. It is also rumored that Pastor Bob is playing a minor role.

When interviewed about the show, Co-Director Ron stated, “This is an amazing team of people, donating their talents to produce a professional quality experience that will tell a powerful and relatable story for our time. The inherent humor doesn't impede the commitment of the cast to the spiritual impact of this musical. Definitely invite your friends!”

The Homecoming is co-directed by Hope and Ron. Jot down the date now!

Date: Sunday, December 7, 2014
Time: 9:00 am, 10:30 am and 6:00 pm
Place: PB UMC Sanctuary

Pastor Bob's Prodigious Blathering

Dear Friends...

Can I tell you how excited I am? And I mean *really* excited. I'm talking about the kind of excited that kids get around their birthdays. I'm talking about the kind of excited that our dog gets when we get home.

I'm talking about the kind of excited that we don't always get around Christmas.

Because we can get bogged down in lists and shopping and where the kids (if we have any living at home) will be when school's out. We can get bogged down in end-of-the-year financials and figuring out the date & time of the big sale and where we're going to fit the next-big-thing in our homes or our lives. We get bogged down in *stuff*.

And we're less focused on Jesus.

And this isn't me as "The Pastor" standing up on some soap box and pointing my finger. I'm just as guilty as anyone. I struggle with this too. And I'd like to do something different.

Would you?

And so this Advent season – that season where we prepare for Christmas, where we prepare for the coming Christ child – we spend time refocusing and recommitting ourselves to Christmas as God would have us celebrate. We spend time reclaiming Christmas from the retailers and manufacturers and refocus on the incarnation of God's love present in the Christ.

And like the shepherds were called to witness the newness of God's infant son, we too are called to bear witness to the new things that God is doing in our world today. And to see the newness before us, we have to filter out the stuff. We have to filter out the shopping. We have to filter out the ways we get bogged down so that Christ can lift us up.

A few years ago, I read a book called Advent Conspiracy. Its authors talk about this kind of consumerism as idolatry. "We become lost in crowded malls, financial debt, and endless lists of gifts to buy. The false doctrine of consumer



Worship Fully



Spend Less



Give More



Love All

religion insists, again and again, that money equals love – a convincing enough take to make believers out of non-Christians and Christians alike."

Advent Conspiracy consists of four elements that we will explore together during the season of Advent:

1. Worship Fully – because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus.
2. Spend Less – and free your resources for things that truly matter.
3. Give More – of your presence, your hands, your words, your time, your heart.
4. Love All – the poor, the forgotten, the marginalized, the sick, in ways that make a difference.

Two thousand years ago, the birth of the Christ child changed the world. I believe that Christmas continues to change the world. Here. Today.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bob

After our stewardship series, several asked about the prayer that I included in the sermon on "Gifts." This is a paraphrase of Wesley's suggestion on how to pray when facing doubt about how we spend our money:

"God, you see that I'm about to spend this money on food, on clothing, on furniture; and you know that I'm simply acting as a steward of your good gifts, trying and trusting that I spend this amount with your instruction in mind. You know that I honor you, God, that I choose to follow your call. And so let this be a holy sacrifice, acceptable to you, and let me understand more completely that I do this as a labor of love and that your reward for continuously responding to you in love is the gift of eternal life."

We Care for One Another

Joyous Tidings!

We welcome Franz Lee, grandson of LaJuna, born October 15, 8lbs, 6oz, 21". Mother Mikaela and Franz are doing very well.



“WHEN CAROL MET COOKIE” -

A Happily-Ever-After Holiday Story By Lynn

'Twas many years past, though I recall it as only moments ago; the story of how two loves first discovered each other and the enchantment that meeting would bring to their village. This year you too can discover, or *rediscover*, the enchantment that happens when Carol and Cookie are together again. Find out for yourself how the story grows when we set out together to share carols with local PB UMC family members; then make merry together with cookies and other goodies after an evening in the crisp, wintery air of the holiday season. Meet in the church parking lot at 5 pm on Sunday, December 21st, to begin the story anew. Transportation and goodies provided—just bring your holiday spirit and enjoy reliving the story. Please contact Lynn to RSVP by December 17th for planning purposes.

Christmas Eve at PB UMC

This Christmas, we enter again into the story of Christ's birth. It is wonderful to celebrate Christmas each year so that we can be reminded that God is continually making things new; that our God is a life-giving God. Please plan on coming to worship on Christmas Eve and consider inviting a friend or a neighbor. This year, PB UMC will offer three worship services on Christmas Eve:

- 5 pm – story and song for children and families.
Note: Do you have (or know) a child or youth with musical gifts who might be able to share musical gifts at the 5pm Christmas Eve service? If so, please contact Ron Jessee or Pastor Bob!
- 7 pm – worship and carols with choir and candlelight
- 11 pm – worship and carols with choir and candlelight



Let us celebrate the birth of the Christ child together!

Communion Offering

Our offering for the month of December will be to our church Sunday School here at PB UMC. During the year, while the adults are sharing in worship in the Sanctuary, our children attend Sunday School to receive the (age-appropriate) word of God under the supervision of our Sunday School Teachers. They also receive tasty snacks, juice, and get to work on art projects and other crafts. Thank you for supporting our children

The Beach Breeze is a monthly publication of the Pacific Beach United Methodist Church. Please visit our website at www.myPBchurch.org.

We Grow in Grace & Faith

Youth Activities for Dee-cember

Remember to talk to Pastor Bob if you would like to share some musical talent on Christmas Eve at the 5 pm service.

Sunday, December 7

- Be sure to come and enjoy "The Homecoming"

Sunday, December 14

- UMYF please attend the children's choir Christmas program in the afternoon. We will gather and meet after the show.

Wednesday, December 17

- Check with Dee about helping out on Wed night to distribute gift items.

Saturday, December 20

- 3:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Youth are needed to help care for younger kids for Parents Day Out.

Sunday, December 21

- Please join other church folks in caroling at 5 pm. Middle School and High School youth will go from there to join other youth at Parkway Bowl for a lock - in. See Dee for details on the lock-in.

Wed, December 24

- Christmas Eve Worship Services

Parents Evening Out

All are invited to sign up and bring your children to church on Saturday, December 20 from 3:30 to 8:30 pm. Cost \$20 per child which includes dinner. Dee and the Youth Group will be prepared to watch your kids while you enjoy an evening out. Please let Dee know if you would like to register your child(ren) for this event.



Children's Choir

The young songsters of PB UMC have been working on, and having fun getting their Christmas play ready for the afternoon of December 14th at 3 pm. The play is "Hark! the Angel Sang Off-Key." Come join us as the Herald angel choir learns about getting to proclaim a VERY SPECIAL BIRTH, and how to really listen for God's message. Florence will provide a dessert immediately following the performance. All are invited to attend.

Our thanks to Maggie for accompanying our children, and to Dart for the angel garb and props, and all of our wonderful parental help! By the way, more help is ALWAYS welcome!

Our children's choir will take a holiday break after their performance and resume rehearsal on January 11.

Let's keep our children learning and singing about God!

Sunday School News

Needed: Do you have an extra TV or DVD player around the house? The Sunday School program is looking for a TV and DVD player or a combo TV/DVD player. The TV should be at least a 21" screen. Please let Malea know if you have one of these you would like to donate.

The Sunday School teachers had a wonderful lunchtime meeting with Pastor Bob in October. We all got to know each other a little better and enjoyed the time together! The teachers also decided to try a new curriculum that will start in the Spring. This curriculum has a short video component with fun characters reinforcing the story of the week. It will be exciting to see how it goes!

Parents, please remember during this holiday season to give your children the gift of TIME! Try to keep the stress level down by not over scheduling and just plan a few fun family outings and/or family fun evenings at home. Traditions are great, but trying to do it ALL can take the fun out of them (maybe some things become every-other-year traditions?).

Wishing you all a peaceful holiday!
Malea

Bible Study Group "In Awe of God"

The Sunday morning Bible Study group continues during the month of December. Join them any Sunday morning at 9 am in the Lanai. The readings for December are:

- December 7, Worship Christ's Majesty, Hebrews 1:1-9
- December 14, Make a Joyful Noise, Psalm 95:1-7a
- December 21, Glory to God in the Highest, Luke 2:1-20
- December 28, In Awe of Christ's Power, Matthew 14:22-36

We Reach Out to Others

Christmas Baskets

A big THANK YOU to those who have donated towards baskets for our Christmas families! On Sunday, December 14, we will gather in the Lanai at about 11:45-- after second service-- to assemble, decorate, and bless the baskets. There's still time to contribute. You can put an offering in the plate labeled "Xmas families." Or if you prefer to donate in kind, see our shopping list in the November Beach Breeze. Please let Hope Anderson know what you are buying so we can avoid duplication.

Helping to Reach Out by Kathleen

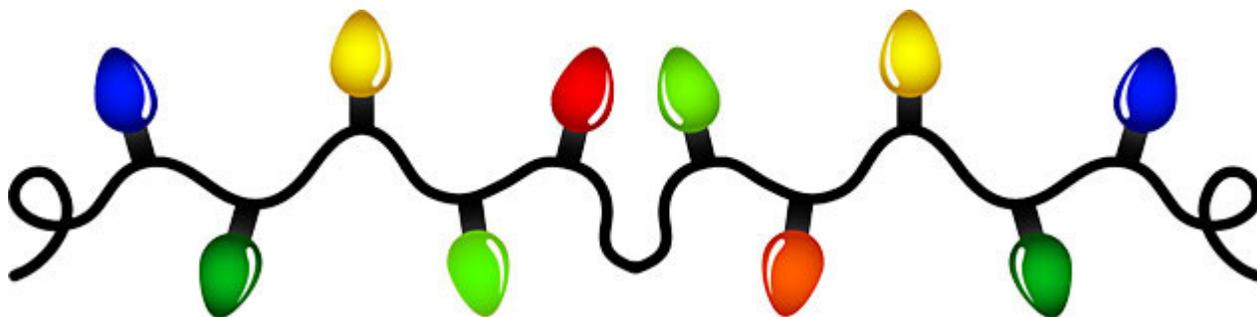
(This is the full text of the short notices that have been appearing in the November announcement pages in your weekly Sunday bulletins.) This December 7th it would be Wonder(Full) to reach a goal of 250 stamped Christmas cards for our guests at the Wednesday Night Ministry. We will hand them out on Wednesday Dec 10th as our guests come in. What a Blessed way to serve! I know many like myself have an abundance of unused cards from previous Christmases that could bring joy to those in need. If not, the 99 cent Store has oodles of them you can get for a song! Many of our guests face a challenge just buying a card, and the money for a stamp is a luxury. Christmas is a time to connect with our families and loved ones, and this small gift will help make it a bit easier. You can even tuck in a personally written note if you'd like! I'd like to see a few children's Christmas cards as well, that the kids could send to someone special. Spanish cards would be great as well! If you do give children's or Spanish cards, please mark "C" or "S" in small letters in the corner of the envelope. Any extra cards will be handed out the following Wednesday. I will be on hand to help with addressing and writing the cards if needful and if you would like to help, please feel free to drop in to help out! We'd love to see you! There will be a basket set up in the entry way of the Church, but it's ok to drop them off at the Church at any time. Our "Presence" is our presents.

Christmas for our Wednesday Night Guests

Our Christmas Dinner for our Wednesday Night guests will be held on December 17th this year. Chef Ben is planning on cooking a wonderful Ham dinner with all of the fixings! If you would like to share in this Christmas offering to our less fortunate neighbors, you have plenty of opportunities to contribute!

Gifts: We are seeking contributions of new (mostly) men's athletic crew or longer socks, adult-sized watch caps (also known as beanies, tooks, knit caps), neck scarfs, hoodie sweaters, and warm gloves Please place your items in the Christmas-wrapped boxes in the entry area or contact the church office for drop off.

Sack Dinners: Since Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fall on Wednesday this year, we will be serving a sack dinner to our Wednesday Night guests. Chef Ben and Art have plans in place to serve Turkey and Ham Sandwiches, along with snacks, chips, fruit, and a drink. Volunteers to help assemble the sack dinners would be cheerfully welcomed. Each Sack Dinner will probably be assembled on the Monday before the holidays (December 22 & 29), late in the afternoon. Details on time to follow; keep an eye out for the weekly Sunday bulletins and Pastor Bob's email blasts.



Circle of Support

Record of Generosity as of October 31, 2014

OCT giving – budget \$24,413	\$20,121
OCT other sources of income – budget \$5,399	\$6,523
OCT total available for ministry – budget \$29,813	\$25,593
OCT expended in ministry – budget \$31,499	\$37,551
OCT income minus expenses	-\$11,958
YtD giving – budget \$259,310	\$243,447
YtD other sources of income – budget \$53,990	\$51,416
YtD total available for ministry – budget \$313,301	\$294,862
YtD expended in ministry – budget \$314,987	\$329,562
YtD income minus expenses	-\$34,700
Year 2014 budget	\$377,984

Reflections from the Finance and Stewardship Team

Our stewardship campaign has a practical side. Whether you are changing the amount you plan to contribute or keeping it the same, we rely on your pledges to help set an accurate budget for the coming year. Pledges are confidentially compiled by our financial secretary. Then the team projects the income we can expect, and that determines how much we can plan to accomplish through our ministries. Have you turned in your pledge card yet? It's not too late.

Trustee End-of-Year Update

All good things must come to an end and that just means there is another new beginning. We, the trustees, wish all Happy Holidays.

Our year has been filled with many projects for our campus and it's staff. We finished the windows project in the office, and paved the parking lot, and completed many small projects around the facility. In the middle of the year, we were surprised by the end of an era at PB UMC, as Pastor April was re-assigned and Pastor Bob began his tenure here. As the Trustees tried to assist in the transition for Pastor Bob and his family, we found that the Parsonage wasn't as solid as all thought and that the downstairs bathroom needed total redo.

Continued in next column:

Sharing the Grace of 161 in Worship

November 2 – 161 persons
November 9 – 163 persons
November 16 – 192 persons
November 23 – 165 persons
Year to Date – 179 persons

Joined at Christ's Table on Wednesday Nights

October 29 – 158 persons
November 5 – 168 persons
November 12 – 125 persons
November 19 – 185 persons



Trustee Update Continued

We embarked on the long needed redo of the foliage in front of the Thomas Street rentals, to beautify and provide a greener (less water) landscape.

We lost our trusted and true Tracy Starr, and we had to get his apartment refurbished for rental again. We miss you Tracy.

Finally, we needed to fix the doors to the social hall. They no longer were able to provide the protection needed and it became more cost effective to replace them, than to repair them.

We at the Trustees pray that you all can see and appreciate all the improvements and alterations, that we have done for you this year. God Bless and Merry Christmas

CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor: The Rev Bob
Office Administrator: Aimee
Music Director: Ron

Sunday School Coordinator: Malea
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Dee

Calendar of Events

Worship Times:
9:00 am, Worship Celebration
10:30 am, Worship Celebration

Sunday Music Rehearsals:
8 am, Voices of Praise
(Adults & Youth)
10 am, Children

Week 1

Wed, Dec 3 5:30 pm, Wed Nite Ministry
Thurs, Dec 4 5:15 pm, Hand Bell rehearsal
7 pm, Choir rehearsal
Fri, Dec 5 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 6 9 am, Men's Prayer & Share
9 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters



Week 2

Sun, Dec 7 Worship, "The Homecoming"
Performances at 9 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Tues, Dec 9 7:30 pm, Finance Committee
Wed, Dec 10 5:30 pm, Wed Nite Ministry
Thurs, Dec 11 5:15 pm, Hand Bell rehearsal
7 pm, Choir rehearsal
Fri, Dec 12 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 13 9 am, Men's Prayer & Share

Week 3

Sun, Dec 14 Worship
11:45 am, Christmas Basket assembly
3 pm, "Hark! the Angel Sang Off-Key!"
Wed, Dec 17 5:30 pm, Wed Nite Christmas Dinner
Thurs, Dec 18 5:15 pm, Hand Bell rehearsal
7 pm, Choir rehearsal
Fri, Dec 19 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 20 9 am, Men's Prayer & Share



The Hand Bell choir's new Hand Bells! Congratulations, Amy Burrow, who found a wonderful, gently used set for PB UMC.



Week 4

Sun, Dec 21 Worship
5 pm, Christmas Caroling
Mon, Dec 22 Beach Breeze Deadline
Wed, Dec 24 Christmas Eve
Storefront Ministry
5:30 pm, Wed Nite Sack Dinner
Thurs, Dec 25 Merry Christmas!
Fri, Dec 26 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 27 9 am, Men's Prayer & Share

Week 5

Sun, Dec 28 Worship
Wed, Dec 31 New Year's Eve
5:30 pm, Wed Nite Sack Dinner

Thank you to our Beach Breeze production crew:
Aimee
Judi
Ed & Fran
Dick

We Love and Worship God

December Scriptures

December 7

Matthew 1:18-23, Isaiah 40:1-11

December 14

1 Timothy 6:7-10, John 1:1-14

December 21

Luke 4:14-21, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Luke 2:1-20

December 28

Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Galatians 4:4-7,
Luke 2:22-40

Pacific Beach United
Methodist Church



1561 Thomas Avenue
San Diego, CA 92109

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

NonProfit
Organization
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San Diego, CA
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Interfaith Shelter and PB UMC

With the arrival of our guests on December 28, PB UMC will once again participate in the Interfaith Shelter Network. The guests will be at the church from 5 pm in the evening to 7 am the next morning during their two-week stay. They will sleep at the church, shower at the church, and eat their breakfasts and dinners at the church. During the day they will be working, job hunting, or going to school. We will send them out each day with a sack lunch.

Our volunteer recruitment started in November; however we still are in need of volunteers. Sign-up sheets will be located in the church lobby after each worship service. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities, but the most critical needs are overnight supervisors, dinner hosts, lunch hosts, set-up on December 28th (including luggage and cots pick-up) and clean-up January 10th (shelter break-down, washing bed linens).

During the month of December donation boxes will be available in the narthex and in the church office to collect personal care items for our guest, such as deodorant, hand and body lotion (travel size), gloves, socks, soap, toothpaste and brushes, feminine hygiene items, razors, shampoo and conditioners. Full size sheets and bed linens are helpful; however, blankets, bath towels, socks and gloves are of greater need. Ken, Betty, and Steve, coordinators of this year's hosting, thank in advance those who volunteer. Together everyone can look forward to hosting and displaying genuine PB UMC hospitality in welcoming these guests and showing them the love and devotion of the members and friends of PB UMC. For questions and inquiries, contact Ken. \

Books, Movies, & Writing Club

The Books, Movies, & Writing (BMW) Club meeting to discuss *In the Time of the Butterflies* has been rescheduled from November to December. Please contact Jesse for details.