



BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

December 2016

Joy Tradition Familiarity *Know the Presence of Christ in the Unexpected*

Sunday Worship

Our sermon series, "The Redemption of Scrooge" (based on Matt Rawle's book by the same name) will begin on November 27th and run throughout the month of December. During the series, we'll explore the world of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and the Cratchits, with an eye to our Christian faith.

Children's Choir Concert

As we seek the Christ child in all parts of the world, it is important that we hear from our youngest participants at PB UMC! Our Children's Choir has been working very hard to offer "Shepherds, Sheep, and a Messiah" on Sunday, **December 4th** at both the 9 am and 10:30 am services. Come see our children as they explore the Christmas story through music and acting.

Christmas Caroling

What's the Christmas Season without Caroling? Get ready to indulge in your Fa La La La Lah's on **December 18th** beginning at 5 pm. Meet at the church to ride together (or caravan) as we journey to some of our nearby members' homes to bring good cheer!

"Santa's Backup Plan"

Hope A., long-time member of PB UMC, has written a beautiful and timely musical that we are producing for Christmas 2016. This lively show features The Baby Jesus, Santa Claus, St. Nicholas, Mrs. Claus, several reindeer, and a host of church folks in crisis over Global Climate Change! You may be asking, how does this unlikely cast of characters interact in a crisis of current events? Hope has woven a sweet story melding the legend of Saint Nicolas with the Christmas story. It's remarkably clever writing that will be beautifully staged in our Sanctuary on **December 11th** at 9 am, 10:30 am, and 2 pm. Start telling your friends now. This will be a great show filled with the joy of Christmas; a great way to usher in the season.

Wednesday Night Christmas Dinner

Our Wednesday Night Christmas Dinner – a special offering of our regular SD Project Grace – will be held on **December 21st**. Chef Ben will prepare a traditional Ham dinner with all of the fixings, and after our guests dine, they will be invited upstairs to pick out some practical gifts offered by our youth group. If you would like to help sponsor this dinner, you can sign up with Chef Ben to donate one or more hams, or make a donation to cover the cost of the dinner. This is a great chance for you and your families to help bring Christmas to our neighbors in need, by volunteering to help serve the meal or simply sitting and chatting with our guests.



Christmas Eve Worship

We will present three services on Christmas Eve (**December 24th**), at 5 pm, 7 pm, and 11 pm. Christmas Eve is a time for the entire family to worship together, so while a family-friendly service will be presented at 5 pm, plan on the entire family being together for every service.

Christmas Day Worship

We will join together for a fun and informal worship service on **Christmas Day at 10 am**. *This is a change from our regular 9 am and 10:30 am services!* Come as you are – even in PJs – and enjoy time with a welcoming faith community. Be ready to sing your favorite Christmas carols and tell about your Christmas wishes!

Pastor Bob's Printed Blog



Dear friends...

Will you forgive me if I feel a bit discouraged as we look toward the Christmas season? Will you forgive me if I don't have quite the energy and excitement that I think maybe I should? Two years ago, I wrote this in the December issue of our *Beach Breeze*:

"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."

This year, I'm not feeling that way. At least not yet. Instead, I'm feeling a bit run down by the world. I'm feeling run down by the growing flood of advertisements coming at me through the mail slot, bulking up newspapers, filling web pages, and overtaking social media feeds. All this comes at us immediately on the heels of the most divisive election that I can remember, one where campaign rhetoric came at us through the mail slots, bulking up newspapers, filling web pages, and overtaking social media feeds.

I'm overwhelmed, and I want it all to stop. I want to withdraw into my own little cocoon and shelter in place. I want to hide. I want to put my hands over my ears and close my eyes and say repetitive and nonsensical words to drown out the cacophony. Because this doesn't feel like Christmas. Whether it's the political stuff or the advertisements and everything else, so much of what's overwhelming me is – as I see it – intense narcissism. And especially when it comes to Christmas, I want to shout at the top of my lungs something phrased well by UMC Pastor Mike Slaughter: "Christmas is not YOUR birthday; it's Jesus' birthday!"

So, am I just being a Scrooge? In being discouraged and overwhelmed, in wanting to hide or shout, am I being the same kind of narcissist that I think I see in the world? Do I need to get over it and accept that this is the world we live in today and move on?

I'm not willing to do that. Even if I'm being a bit of a Scrooge, I think there's room for faith; I think there's room for redemption; I think there's room for hope.

I hope that you will join me on this journey toward faith, redemption, and hope. Just as we know the story of a pregnant Mary and her husband Joseph journeying through ancient Israel, we may be reminded of our important emotional journey each Christmas season. This must not be a season focused on the best sale price, but on the gift of our redeemer and Christ. We can be reminded that redemption is possible, and the message is available to us in many ways.

We have already begun the season of Advent and our series exploring the classic story of Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*. We will continue to explore this story through Christmas to discover both Scrooge's redemption and our own. And we can rest assured that redemption is possible. The foreshadowing is more present than we may realize.

Did you know that Scrooge's first name comes from an ancient story in our Bibles? In 1 Samuel 7, the prophet Samuel erects a monument stone after a particularly tumultuous time. He names it Ebenezer, an ancient Hebrew word meaning "stone of help." Even knowing the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, we see that he has the potential to be a rock, a foundation, a cornerstone, a mainstay of aid to all who are in need. And if redemption is possible for Scrooge, let us be filled with hope that redemption is possible for each of us as well. Our faith and our sacred texts and our individual experiences of God offer foreshadowing that may be more present than we realize.

Let us join together to seek out faith and hope this Christmas season.

Grace and peace to you....

Handwritten signature of Pastor Bob.

Pastor Bob

We Care for One Another

Second Sunday Concerts

By Roving Reporter Marcia M.

This year, we have been having inspirational concerts the 2nd Sunday of each month. Yvonne and her troop of musicians performed in October. It was a preview of “Searchin’ For the Write,” in which she performed at the Diversionary Theatre in November.

Yvonne provided a mix of poems and songs for us. Each was an inspirational performance. She wrote most of the poems and some of the songs. In the opening poem, she asked us to support her. “Please show me love. I’m scared. For once this is not an act.” She received all the love she needed because she continued sharing a lot with us. She ended with “I will,” a song in which she told us “I will be strong. I will hold on. Do the same; you are worth more.” We all had a load of fun, and learned a lot about what makes Yvonne who she is. She inspired us to think about our own lives.

I totally enjoyed this event, and so did many others in attendance. Below are a few of the comments I heard.

Bill E. talked about the concerts in general: “We are so blessed to have such great talent in our church. What I enjoy the most is the different styles of music we’ve heard. Each musician has brought something different to the table. And the variety has been fun and inspiring.” He then said this was especially true of Yvonne.

I asked Hope A. about Yvonne’s concert: “I was impressed with the spoken word portion. I haven’t had much exposure to spoken word poetry. Of course the music was fantastic—from Yvonne’s expressive singing to the excellent musicians and backup singers.”

Denny H. enthusiastically chatted about this concert: “It was very eclectic. Her talent certainly speaks for itself, the backup singers did a great job, and the musicians filled the bill. I enjoyed it very much. It’s obvious she works at developing her talent. It shows in her demeanor. She appears to be confident in her stage presence.”

Like so many of you, I’ve loved our 2nd Sunday Concerts. This was the last one this year. I certainly recommend you attend the concerts next year, starting in February. Maybe you and others could arrange to go to lunch following church and then come back to be inspired by a concert.



Yvonne in Concert—October 2016

New Year’s Resolution

Thinking about your 2017 new year’s resolutions? What about joining a group that walks together? What a fun way to get the exercise you resolve to do and to ensure you keep your resolution.

Consider joining the walking group if you want to walk slowly, fast, or somewhere in between. In any case, contact Marcia through the church office, and she will organize the group(s) to decide on where, when, and how often to walk.



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

December Youth Happenings



Youth: Please let Dee know if you are interested in helping out on Christmas Eve, especially for the 5:00 pm service. You can assist in worship by reading, sharing musical talent, ushering, etc. Also, let us know if you want to help on Christmas Day. Pastor Bob, Ron, and Dee would love to have youth and children participate in leadership for these special services!

Sunday, Dec. 4 – We will stay in the service to support the Children's Choir and participate in communion. After church, we will go to Subway, get lunch, and head to Balboa Park to check out some Christmas decorations. We will return to church before 3:00 pm.

Sunday, Dec. 11 – Attend worship or come at 2:00 pm to see the choir perform "Santa's Backup Plan."

Sunday, Dec. 18 – Parents' Day Out. Noon - 5:00 pm. (Time may be adjusted a bit.) Cost \$20.00 per child. Lunch provided. (Please let Dee know about food allergies.) Youth will supervise the younger kids in games, crafts, etc. All youth and young children Please RSVP so we can be prepared with enough food and supplies. Email Dee B. to find out more, or to RSVP with the names and ages of your children.

Monday, Dec. 19 – 6:00 pm - deadline to RSVP for the Dec. 29 Lock-in (see below).

Wednesday, Dec. 21 – Youth, please join Dee at church to organize Christmas Gifts and pass them out to our guests at Project Grace. We will organize and get gifts set out about 4:00 pm. Gift giving takes place around 6 – 8 pm.

Saturday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve. Join us for one of (or all three) services.

Sunday, Dec. 25 – Worship at 10:00 am.

Thursday, Dec. 29 – District Youth Lock-in at Parkway Bowl. The Lock-in hours are 10:30 pm to 6:30 am. Yes, the youth basically stay up all night. Two slices of pizza and soda are provided as well as some tokens. Parkway has bowling, a few rides, video games, laser tag, and more. There is plenty to do all night. There is not a place for youth to sleep, so do not plan on youth sleeping. Our times will be a little different than this to allow carpooling and the possibility of a healthy meal before we stay up all night. Youth are welcome to invite friends, but I need to be in contact with parents of guests. Everyone needs to RSVP by Dec. 19.

Dee B. can be reached at: DeeB@pbumc.org.

Children's Choir Notes

Did you KNOW that shepherds were thought of as the "lowest of the low"?

Did you know they were the first to hear the angelic announcement of the birth of a Messiah?

The mighty 6 members of PB UMC Children's Choir are ready to tell you all about it on Sunday, December 4th, at both services.

Do not miss the opportunity to see, hear, and support these precious and enthusiastic children (as well as one of our own church families as the Holy Family).

We will take a break from rehearsals after that presentation until early January.

LET'S KEEP OUR CHILDREN LEARNING AND SINGING ABOUT GOD!

Parents' Day Out

Parents, do you need a little extra time to do some shopping, wrap some gifts, or just take a break and go out to lunch or to a matinee? The youth will supervise the younger kids in games, crafts, and fun on Sunday, Dec. 18, noon - 5:00. (Time may be adjusted a bit.) Cost is \$20.00 per child. Lunch provided. (Please let Dee know about food allergies.) Both youth and younger children need to RSVP so we can be prepared with enough food and supplies. Email Dee B. to find out more, or to RSVP with your children's names and ages.

Bible Study Group "The Savior Has Been Born"

The Sunday morning Bible Study group continues during the month of December. Join them any Sunday morning at 9:00 am in the Lanai.

The readings for December are:

- December 4, God Promises a Savior, Luke 1:26-38
- December 11, An Affirmation of the Promise, Luke 1:39-56
- December 18, The Forerunner of the Promise, Luke 1:1-23, 57-66
- December 25, The Savior Has Been Born, Luke 2:1-21

We Reach Out to Others

CCSA Christmas Baskets

We've received our assignments of five families from CCSA: a senior, three families of two children and two adults, and a family with two adults and seven kids. Your contributions of cash, \$35 Target or Wal-Mart gift cards, and nonperishable food suitable for a holiday meal will give these families a joyous Christmas dinner. Mark your contributions to the collection plate "Christmas Baskets" or check with Hope A for further information. We will assemble the baskets on December 11 after second service.



Sunday School News

During a service in October we thanked our Sunday School teachers, but I wanted to do it again here for those that missed it. I am so very thankful for all these people who give of their time for the children of PB UMC!

Dee B.	Brenda B.	Barbara C.
Kym C.	Cliff F.	David G.
Jesse H.	Kurt I.-K.	Jesus J.
David N.	Zanette P.	Amy S.
Wayne S.	Ndinda S.	Heide T.
Robert T.	Jeanine W.	Elise Y.

There is a lot going on in December, and Sunday School will be affected by some of it. There will be no Sunday School on December 11th so the children can see the choir Christmas production. Also, there will be no Sunday School on December 25th. There are always activity bags, books, and sheets in the narthex for those children that need something to keep their hands busy.

I hope you all have a fantastic, peaceful holiday season!

Remembering Hazel

By Jeanette V.

"I grew up in this church!" Hazel Holmes liked to say about PB UMC, and it's true. It was her home away from home. The Holmes family is one of PB UMC's founding members.

Hazel was born on January 26, 1960. She loved celebrating her birthday, and preparations are being made to have a Celebration of Life for Hazel near her birth date. We do need your help. It would be very much appreciated to have Hazel's church family look for pictures of her—especially when she was young. She was in choirs with Vickie T., and there may be Sunday school pictures, etc. I hope someone will have a photo of Hazel with her Mom, Beryl, in their matching yellow gingham dresses with their bikes (my first memory of Hazel).

If you do have photos of Hazel and can loan them to the church, please do. All photos will be returned; simply put your name on the back of the photos (return address labels work nicely).

Circle of Support

Record of Generosity as of October 31, 2016

	Budget	Actual
October giving	\$22,094	\$20,260
October other sources of income	\$11,421	\$8,500
October total available for ministry	\$33,515	\$28,760
October expended in ministry	\$33,460	\$37,915
October income minus expenses		(\$9,155)
YTD giving	\$220,937	\$195,672
YTD other sources of income	114,226	\$119,459
YTD total available for ministry	\$335,163	\$315,131
YTD expended in ministry	\$334,672	\$369,662
YTD income minus expenses	\$491	(\$54,531)
Year 2016 budget	\$401,619	

Reflections from the Finance Team

This has been a difficult year financially. The table above exaggerates this picture because of our renovations of a rental unit next to the church. We've spent about \$36,000 on renovations, and recorded an extra \$25,000 in other income from the Sabatka legacy, as a temporary replacement pending insurance reimbursement. In November we'll see an additional \$11,000 draw from Sabatka to cover the final repairs. Ignoring the renovation issue, our net income YTD is about -\$45,000. Though we generally stayed within budget on expenses, we were over-optimistic in estimating 2016 income.

Now we have a really hard job before us, to create a 2017 budget that we can afford. We want to do so much with our wonderful church! Your Finance Team invites you to submit all your ideas via email brainstorming. If you don't email, talk to one of us. Brainstorming rules: include crazy, ridiculous, outlandish ideas as well as practical ones. You never know what other ideas an outlandish proposal could spark. Here's an example: ask Chelsea Clinton and Ivanka Trump for donations. No comments about previously submitted ideas, please. Evaluation is a separate step that, prematurely, can stem the creative tide. As a starting point: try thinking of something that could generate or save \$5,000 or more.

Sharing the Grace of God in Worship

October 23 – 137 persons
 October 30 – 168 persons
 November 6 – 167 persons
 November 13 – 182 persons
 November 20 – 150 persons

Avg. Weekly (2016) – 158 persons

Joined at Christ's Table on Wednesday Nights

October 26 – 82 persons
 November 2 – 158 persons
 November 9 – 112 persons
 November 16 – 149 persons

December Communion Offering: UM Student Day

There are UMC young people who might not have had the resources to attend a school of their choice, or, for some, any school at all, who've been sent into the world God loves because of your giving to United Methodist Student Day.

When you support United Methodist Student Day, you make it possible for more students to serve the world God loves. When you give generously, you are supporting these students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge.

CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor: The Rev Bob Rhodes
 Office Administrator: Aimee Kay
 Music Director: Ron Jessee

Sunday School Coordinator: Malea Sandstrom
 Youth Ministry Coordinator: Dee Baraw

Calendar of Events

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

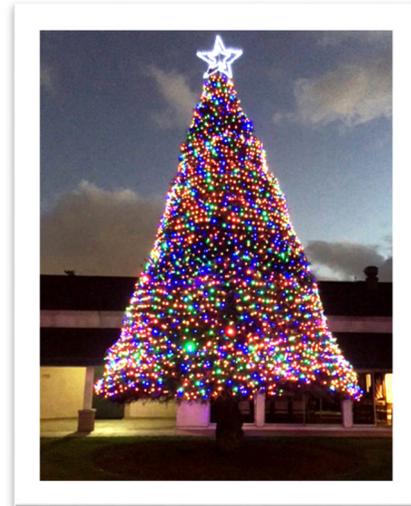
Sunday Music Rehearsals:
8 am, Voices of Praise
(Adults & Youth)
10 am, Children

Week 1

Thurs, Dec 1 5:15 pm, Hand Bell rehearsal
7:45 pm, Choir rehearsal
Fri, Dec 2 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 3 9:00 am, Men's Prayer & Share
9:00 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters

Week 2

Sun, Dec 4 Worship, Children's Musical
Communion Sunday
Youth to Balboa Park (p. 4)
1:00 pm, Choir rehearsal
Mon, Dec 5 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Wed, Dec 7 5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Dec 8 5:15 pm, Hand Bell rehearsal
7:00 pm, Choir rehearsal
Fri, Dec 9 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 10 9:00 am, Men's Prayer & Share



Our 2016 Courtyard Tree

Photo by Dick V. S.



Zach as Zacchaeus

Photo by Malea S.

Week 3

Sun, Dec 11 Worship, "Santa's Backup Plan" Choir
Musical (p. 1)
Noon, Assemble CCSA Baskets (p. 5)
Mon, Dec 12 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Dec 13 6:00 pm, Staff Parish meeting
6:30 pm, Trustee meeting
7:30 pm, Finance Committee
Wed, Dec 14 5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Dec 15 5:15 pm, Hand Bell rehearsal
7:00 pm, Choir rehearsal
Fri, Dec 16 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 17 9:00 am, Men's Prayer & Share
9:00 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters

Week 4

Sun, Dec 18 Worship
Noon, Parents' Day Out (p. 4)
12:30, GriefShare
5:00 pm, Caroling
Mon, Dec 19 *Beach Breeze* Deadline
6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Wed, Dec 21 4:00 pm, Youth meet (p.4)
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace Christmas
Dinner (p. 1)
Fri, Dec 23 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 24 9:00 am, Men's Prayer & Share
5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 1:00 pm, Christmas
Eve Services (p.1)

Week 5

Sun, Dec 25 10:00 am Worship (one service) (p.1)
Mon, Dec 26 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Dec 27 9:30 am, *Beach Breeze* Folding Party
Wed, Dec 28 5:30 pm, Storefront Ministry
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Dec 29 10:30 pm, District youth Lock-In (p.4)
Fri, Dec 30 7:30 pm, Narc Anon



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We Love and Worship God

December Scriptures

December 4
Matthew 4:18-23 and
"Shepherds, Sheep, and a Messiah"

December 11
Luke 2:8-20 and
"Santa's Backup Plan"

December 18
Romans 8:4b-17

December 24
Luke 2:1-20

December 25
John 1:1-14
One worship service at 10 am

Pacific Beach United
Methodist Church



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This Just In! *(New Details About Christmas Caroling)*

By Lynn N.

(Sung to the tune of Jingle Bells)

(Verse) In just a few more weeks, we're gonna take a ride-
Around Pacific Beach, all singing side-by-side.
We'll pass out teddy bears, and fill each heart with cheer-
Then head up to the pastor's house for goodies, did ya hear? Oh-

(Chorus) Car-ol-ing, car-ol-ing, carol all the way.
There is no horse, or snow of course, and we don't have a sleigh – Hey!
But we have songs, to sing along, and bells to fill the air.
We'll even have some candles lit, and festive clothes to wear.



Yep, it's official. The after social will be at the Road House (uh, *Rhodes' house*) this year. So get ready to share gifts of joy all over PB then head up to the parsonage for goodies and good times. Meet at the church at 5 pm. Dress festive but comfy. **RSVP** if you plan to join us so I can have enough transportation for everyone! -Lynn