



MARCH 2015

Beach Breeze

Holy Week & Easter at PB UMC!

As we look toward the season of Easter and the celebration of Christ's resurrection, we often seek signs of new hope and new life in the world around us. The journey of Holy Week is not simply a story from long ago, but is a narrative that can parallel our own journey out of darkness and into light. Let us all gather together to hear again the stories of parades and crowds, of betrayal and death, and ultimately of resurrection.

On **Palm Sunday**, March 29, we will celebrate in a special way as we welcome children and youth to take special roles during our worship service. We will begin with the waving of palms and loud hosannas as we explore Jesus' final week in Jerusalem with his disciples. Look for a twist in the ways we tell these stories, and consider the opportunity to seek out new ways in which God may be speaking today. As always, our worship services will begin at 9 am and at 10:30 am.

Good Friday falls on April 3, where the church will again be open from 5 pm to 7:30 pm for an exploration of the meaning of Good Friday for each of us as unique persons of faith. Suitable for persons of all ages and abilities, stations of interactive prayer and learning will be available for participants at an individual pace.

On **Easter Sunday**, April 5, those who are willing to meet the beginning of the new day – experienced by some as a resurrection moment – will gather at Crown Point Park on Mission Bay for a sunrise service beginning at 6 am. You can find us close to the Lamont Street entrance by parking near the playground and walking toward the bonfire in the fire ring at the place where the grass meets the sand. Dress warmly; feel free to bring a chair or blanket and a thermos of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate to share.

Back at 1561 Thomas Ave, the social hall will open for our annual pancake breakfast at 7 am and serving will continue until 10 am. Worship services will take place as usual in the sanctuary at 9 am and 10:30 am. The Easter Egg Hunt for children will begin in the courtyard at 10 am. Those who wish to contribute to the joy of the day may donate Easter lilies in honor or memory of loved ones, by bringing donations of plastic eggs and baskets to help the Easter bunny, and by being present to join in the songs and prayers of praise. Note: please do not put any treats containing nuts into donated eggs in care of those with allergies.



Pastor Bob's Printed Blog

Dear Friends:

A friend of mine who is a pastor at a United Methodist church in Santa Barbara asked me to join with others in a written series he was assembling called "Why I Believe." The series explores the choice – and indeed it is a choice for each of us – to live a life of faith. We are in the season of Lent, a time where Christians around the world take time for personal reflection and to focus ourselves more fully on our God. I submit the following as a beginning of my own exploration during this Lenten season. May we all continue the exploration of our faith as we continually turn ourselves to God.

I grew up in The United Methodist Church. My grandfather was a Methodist pastor; my great-uncle is a retired District Superintendent from the UMC. My parents raised me in the local UMC going to Sunday School and UMYF.

Well, there was that brief stint in a Presbyterian church. But it was when we first moved to a new state and a new town, and I was only 5. And that's where I first began to learn about music. So it's ok.

What I'm saying is that I'm basically a dyed-in-the-wool United Methodist. I love Annual Conference. The Wesleyan Quadrilateral has been essential to my theological education. I know which churches merged in 1968 to add the "United" to the "Methodist." I drank the Kool-Aid.

And so it may be no wonder that I'm a Christian. It may be no wonder that I ended up leading a church in beautiful San Diego as a pastor. It may be no wonder that I ended up with an office filled with theological books and Bibles (though the bobble-heads and Rubik's Cubes may be somewhat of a question mark). As it turns out, the journey wasn't all that simple. It wasn't all that easy. And I've found that the answers to deep questions are never as easy as my talking Jesus doll makes them out.

And it's easy to make fun and call it all "magical thinking." Many do. Some of my extended family members do. Some of my friends do. After all, who could believe in an invisible all-powerful all-knowing deity that still lets trains explode and buildings collapse and storms ravage and babies have cancer and people kill each other? To me it seems to be easier to look at all the terrible things that happen and let myself fall into hopelessness and despair. And yes, maybe there's some hope in a few people, and maybe a few people try to make the world a better place. And surely there's value in taking on some personal responsibility rather than leaving it to the invisible far-away one. Even with a small glimmer of hope and the urging toward personal

responsibility, it's easier to assume that the very existence of all this bad stuff must rule out a "magical god" who lets it all happen when this "god" is supposed to be good and powerful.

And do you know how this sounds to me when I boil it down? It sounds a little bit like resignation, like an understanding that the bad always overpowers the good. It sounds a little bit like giving up. And that's not me. I'm an optimist. In fact, I use the term "terminal optimist." I always look for the good, even when it's hard to find. Even when it seems dark and hopeless and meaningless, I choose to look for the good. And you know what I've figured out? When I look for God, I find God. In the bright sparks in the middle of darkness; in the flickers of hope; in the unbelievable accomplishments of people who won't be held back or held down; in the seemingly random miracles that seem to happen way more often than the random horribleness.

I believe in a God who is both far away and close, a God who continues to call on humanity to participate in the ongoing act of creation. I believe in a God who speaks continuously, in whispers and shouts, in Sunday morning sermons and on the pop & rock & rap radio stations. In still small voices and in strange warmings of the heart.

And sometimes we don't hear. Sometimes we're too focused on ourselves, an inherent narcissism. Nobody's perfect. And so we do hurtful things to ourselves and to others. We overeat, we prioritize profit over safety, we speak words of fear and hate and even turn them into violence, we neglect, we bully, we kill. And God continues to speak. God continues to create. God continues to make the universe into a new place.

I believe in a God who is ultimately good and ultimately responsive, who calls humanity to do good and selfless things for each other, and who continues to lead us – if we'll follow. So I choose to follow. I choose to believe. Could I be wrong? Sure. But I don't think so. I'm too optimistic.

Grace & Peace ...



Pastor Bob

We Care for One Another

Easter Lilies

What would Easter be, at PB UMC, without a sanctuary filled to the brim with Easter Lilies? Be on the lookout for an Easter Lily insert in the Sunday bulletins, so you can order your own Lily for \$10. You may also contact the church office directly if you would like to place an order. All orders must be received by the office no later than Sunday, March 29.



Easter Morning Breakfast

The United Methodist Men will serve their annual Easter Morning Breakfast in the Social Hall on April, 5, from 7 to 10 am, following the Sunrise Service.

The menu will consist of pancakes, scrambled eggs, turkey sausage, coffee, and juice. Donations are \$5 per adult, \$3 per child, with a maximum of \$15 per family.

Proceeds will benefit the Methodist Men's benevolence projects. Advance tickets will be available March 22 and 29 in the church courtyard.

We Welcome our New Members

On February 22, we received the following new members: Nick, Sarah, & Gail. Thank you for becoming members of the PB UMC family! We are pleased to be in fellowship with you.

Prayer Phone Tree

Would you like to join in prayer with the faithful prayer team on our email prayer chain, but lack a computer? Al has offered to setup a prayer chain using a phone tree to spread the blessing (and prayers) over a larger area! Please contact the church office with your name and the phone number you wish to add to the tree. You'll receive a call from Al, letting you know your "limb" on the tree!

Where Did You Go?

Does it seem like we dropped out of touch? Have you not heard from us for awhile? Has your Beach Breeze gone astray? Did you move, recently?

Please remember to notify the church office if you move, if your phone number has changed, or if you've changed your email. We'd miss you, if we couldn't find you!



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 March

March 6-8

- All Church Family Camp

Sunday, March 15

- 5-7 pm, UMYF meeting and meal. Please bring \$10 for dinner if you can.

Sunday, March 22

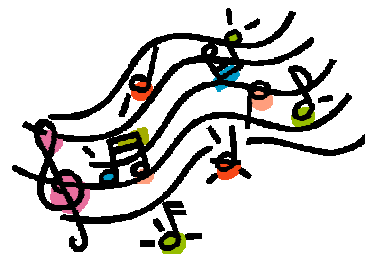
- 5:30 - 7 pm, UMYF meeting

Sunday, March 29

- 5th Sunday - Youth and Best Group to help in worship. After worship, we will have lunch. Please talk to Dee if you would like to participate in the service.

March 29 - April 5

- We will have some activities during spring break to be announced soon.



Children's Choir

By now many of you would have seen and heard the young songsters of PBUMC singing "Pebbles" in worship.

That was the first song for our Winter/Spring theme of EVERYONE being important to God and in God's world.

We continue to both appreciate Maggie's dedication to our Children's choir, but will miss her greatly when she moves to Arizona!

We are hoping there are those who can come Sunday mornings between services to play piano for us. Ron and Steve, have both graciously said they can play for performances, but are very involved on Sunday mornings! Please let Vicki or the church office know if you can help by being a rehearsal pianist from 10 – 10:25 am on Sundays.

Thank You

Thank you to all who have donated toward the youth fundraisers in February. The envelopes for giving will be available on the patio on Sundays. There is also a chart on the bulletin board to show our progress toward our goal.

-Dee and the youth.



Bible Study Group

The Sunday morning Bible Study group will join the Acts Bible Study, which will be held in the Lanai, from 9-10am on Sunday mornings. The regular bible study will resume on Pentecost, May 24.

We Reach Out to Others

Wednesday Night Profile — Intuit

Our own Jeanette remembers the start of the Wednesday Night Program, and Intuit's entry into volunteering. Jeanette writes...

Harvest for the Hungry - the original name of the Wednesday night ministry - came into being back in the early 1990's. It was then that a new member of PB UMC was attending the Adult Bible Study in the Lanai. Her name was Mary Mahy (eventually shortened to Mary May).

Mary, a college graduate, had experienced bouts of mental illness which lead her to be living in Kate Sessions Park in PB. A frightening predicament in which to be but, Mary says she was always protected by her new family, the homeless. One night Mary prayed, 'Dear God if you get me off the streets, I will help the homeless.' Days afterward she was living indoors. She was true to her word.

One morning in Bible Study, Mary shared her story to the class about wanting to provide a meal for the homeless. In her time living on the streets, she had eaten at the Sunday night Presbyterian homeless meal and wanted to model our program after it. She asked if anyone would be willing to help her. Four people in the class that day said Yes - to what we didn't know! They were Alan, Hazel, Bill (Jean's husband), and me. Mary was thrilled. Many, many others over the years have added their own particular gifts of service to the program we now see today! You know who you are. :)

Mary went to see about securing Hughes Hall and the kitchen for Wednesday nights for a meal to be served. Next she approached Pizza Hut for food donations. Pizza Hut agreed to let her come and get the pizzas of customers who hadn't picked up their orders which Pizza Hut put in their freezers. So the 'Harvest' began; reheated pizzas of every kind - even anchovy. I was, so it seemed, the only person who liked anchovy pizza but, there was one guest at the time who shared my taste - our own Art!

I worked in Marketing at Intuit and also lead the community outreach for the San Diego offices. Intuit's grass root community efforts were just being formalized company wide. In 1996 Grants became an option and I submitted a request for Harvest for the Hungry. Intuit approved a grant for \$1,000! Now with some breathing room, Mary set her sights on finding much needed services for our guests. After one speaking engagement, UCSD Medical School approached Mary about possibly setting up a free medical clinic after the UC Berkeley model. Mary got approval and the first Wednesday Night Clinic began - which lead to the additional much needed clinics we have today.

Over the years various groups, individuals and businesses sponsor and/or donate to the weekly meal, each bringing their particular gifts every week for our guests. Early on, Intuit pledged to sponsor the meal for the 4th Wednesday of the month - typically a time when money, if there is any, runs short. Intuit originally provided lasagna but, changed it up to provide variety throughout the month.

As the San Diego community outreach leader for 1200+ people here at Intuit, the Wednesday night meal provided me the opportunity to get other Intuit employees involved in volunteering. Most told me they had always wanted to volunteer but, just didn't know how. The meal was a perfect starting place, especially for those volunteers who had never spoken to a 'homeless person'. I sent a monthly email for volunteers and eventually had to limit the number so we wouldn't have too many people in the kitchen. Some volunteers brought their children to help serve - and show the kids how simple and fun it is to volunteer. One department at Intuit very much enjoyed serving a BBQ, so they signed up for a picnic grilling at both the beginning and end of summer - and donated a gas grill to the program. Volunteering is contagious!

Intuit's most recent grant to the Wednesday Night Program was \$5,000, which arrived at the end of 2014! Thank you, Jeanette, for telling the story of the beginning of the Wednesday Night Program, and to Intuit, for your generous contributions of volunteers and grants over the years. The 4th Wednesday wouldn't be the same without you!



Circle of Support

Record of Generosity as of January 31 2014

Jan giving – budget \$27,009	\$23,654
Jan other sources of income – budget \$5,524	\$5,746
Jan total available for ministry – budget \$32,533	\$29,400
Jan expended in ministry – budget \$31,915	\$33,543
Jan income minus expenses - budget \$618	-\$4,143
YtD giving – budget \$27,009	\$23,654
YtD other sources of income – budget \$5,524	\$5,746
YtD total available for ministry – budget \$32,533	\$29,400
YtD expended in ministry – budget \$31,915	\$33,543
YtD income minus expenses - budget \$618	-\$4,143
Year 2015 budget	\$390,391

Sharing the Grace of God in Worship

February 1 – 189 persons
February 8 – 182 persons
February 15 – 170 persons
February 22 – 215 persons
Ave. Weekly (2015) – 186 persons

Joined at Christ's Table on Wednesday Nights

January 28 – 145 persons
February 4 – 156 persons
February 11 – 184 persons
February 18 – 194 persons

Reflections from the Finance and Stewardship Team

It's encouraging that we held expenses close to budget in January. This year's budget is optimistic, and so we are keeping a close eye on it. Your continued generosity makes our ministry possible.

A note about reserves: Although income and expenses are not as smooth from month to month as our budget numbers would suggest, our reserves

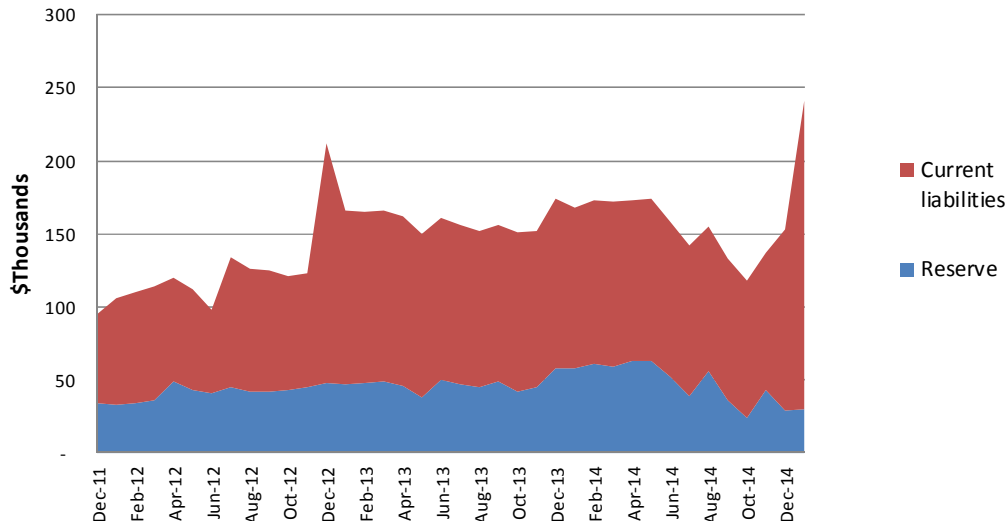
help us smooth out timing differences. Reserves are defined as current assets (in our case, cash in the bank) minus current liabilities (pending payroll taxes and trust accounts for specific purposes). We add to our reserves in years when we have more income than expenses. The chart above helps to show in perspective last year's use of reserves for pastor and staff transitions. Already we show some recovery from the low point in October 2014.

Current assets are up this month due to accounting recognition of a gift from the Prewitt estate, part of which is classified as current. Other non-current categories of assets include real estate

and endowments (legacies) invested with the United Methodist Foundation. We don't carry a mortgage or any other long-term liabilities.

PBUMC Reserve

Reserve = Current Assets Minus Current Liabilities



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

- Sun, Mar 1 Worship, Communion
9 am, ACTS Bible Study, Lanai
1 pm, GriefShare support group
- Wed, Mar 4 5:30 pm, Wed Nite Ministry
6:30 pm, ACTS Bible Study, Wesley Palms
- Thurs, Mar 5 11 am, ACTS Bible Study, Room 205
5:15 pm, Hand Chime rehearsal
7 pm, Choir rehearsal



Week 2

- Sun, Mar 8 Worship
9 am, ACTS Bible Study, Lanai
1 pm, GriefShare support group
- Tues, Mar 10 6:30 pm, Trustee meeting
6:30 pm, Staff Parish meeting
7:30, Finance Committee
- Wed, Mar 11 5:30 pm, Wed Nite Ministry
6:30 pm, ACTS Bible Study, Wesley Palms
- Thurs, Mar 12 11 am, ACTS Bible Study, Room 205
5:15 pm, Hand Chime rehearsal
7 pm, Choir rehearsal
- Fri, Mar 13 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
- Sat, Mar 14 9 am, Men's Prayer & Share



Week 3

- Sun, Mar 15 Worship
9 am, ACTS Bible Study, Lanai
1 pm, GriefShare support group
5 pm, UMFY meeting and dinner
- Wed, Mar 18 5:30 pm, Wed Nite Ministry
6:30 pm, ACTS Bible Study, Wesley Palms
- Thurs, Mar 19 11 am, ACTS Bible Study, Room 205
5:15 pm, Hand Chime rehearsal
7 pm, Choir rehearsal
8 pm, Draughts of Faith
- Fri, Mar 20 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
- Sat, Mar 21 9 am, Men's Prayer & Share
9 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters



Week 4

- Sun, Mar 22 Worship
9 am, ACTS Bible Study, Lanai
1 pm, GriefShare support group
5 pm, UMFY meeting
- Mon, Mar 23 Beach Breeze Deadline
- Tues, Mar 24 7:30 pm, Growing in Faith Team Meeting
- Wed, Mar 25 Storefront Ministry
5:30 pm, Wed Nite Ministry
6:30 pm, ACTS Bible Study, Wesley Palms
- Thurs, Mar 26 11 am, ACTS Bible Study, Room 205
5:15 pm, Hand Chime rehearsal
7 pm, Choir rehearsal
- Fri, Mar 27 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
- Sat, Mar 28 9 am, Men's Prayer & Share

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

Week 5

- Sun, Mar 29 Worship, Palm Sunday
9 am, ACTS Bible Study, Lanai
1 pm, GriefShare support group
- Wed, Mar 31 5:30 pm, Wed Nite Ministry
6:30 pm, ACTS Bible Study, Wesley Palms

We Love and Worship God

Weekly Lectionary

March 1

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31,
Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38

March 8

Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19,
1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

March 15

Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21

March 22

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12,
Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

March 29, Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-11, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Pacific Beach United
Methodist Church



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Communion: One Great Hour of Sharing

When disaster strikes around the globe—Haiti's 2010 earthquake or Hurricane Sandy of 2012—so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.

Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we've continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world. The response of UMCOR isn't something "they" do, it's something "we" do.

When You Give You Equip Christ's Body to Serve in His Name. That's because your generous giving to One Great Hour of Sharing is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded

And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond. UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through One Great Hour of Sharing. In fact, it's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes.

Not "they."

We.