



Beach Breeze

DECEMBER 2015

Celebrate “The Journey” at PB UMC

Christmas is all about a journey – the journey of faithful people through the desert to find a Savior. And people today are still seeking, although they don't always know where to look. We invite you to join us, at PB UMC, this Christmas season to experience the journey together. For the shepherds and wise men, it ended with a baby in a manger. But for us today, it's where the journey begins. Our sermon series, “The Journey” will run throughout the month of December.

And while we're on the journey, let's not forget about our very special stops along the way!

Our Children's Choir has been working very hard to present “The Best Place to Celebrate Christmas” for you on Sunday, December 6th at both the 9 am and 10:30 am services. Come see our Angels in Training as they explore the Christmas story through music and acting. More information can be found on page 4.

The Voices of Praise will hold their choir concert on December 13, during both the 9 am and 10:30 am services, and will also add a performance at 6 pm. Their presentation, “The Heart of Christmas” tells the timeless story that we remember each year in a creative, profound way--by probing the hearts of those most directly involved in St. Luke's account of that first Christmas. This touching construct is complemented by a variety of musical styles including the warmly melodic and chorally traditional. Three narrators propel the scripture-based narrative, while soloists help to enhance the choir. The result is a musical, worshipful, and very accessible musical presentation. We invite you to embrace the courage, faithfulness, joy, and love of those who were there and live in “The Heart of Christmas.”

What's the Christmas Season without Caroling? Get ready to indulge in your Fa La La La Lah's on December 20th at 5pm. More information can be found on page 3.

Our Wednesday Night Christmas Dinner will be held on December 23rd. 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. 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.

We will present three services on Christmas Eve (December 24th), at 5, 7, 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 5pm, plan on the entire family being together for every service.

So plan on this Christmas season on being a Journey. A Journey towards a timeless destination – the birth of Christ!



Pastor Bob's Printed Blog

Dear Friends:

I hope and pray that we have all enjoyed a fulfilling Thanksgiving filled with good company, good food, and perhaps a bit of our favorite sport (whether that can be found on a television or a couch or a beach). It is an important thing to gather and give thanks for the richness of our lives, both in terms of material items and in terms of relationships.

I have shared with some of you that I enjoyed a fantastic tradition in my own childhood each Thanksgiving. One particular family in our church decided one year that they would invite everyone who didn't have a place to be on Thanksgiving. After the loss of my mother, the Rhodes family felt warmly drawn into this fellowship and it has been nearly 30 years of on-and-off Thanksgiving revelry!

As a part of this somewhat-regular Thanksgiving group, we learned much about one another. We learned who was best at particular board games; we learned who preferred which college football teams; we learned who made the best pre-Thanksgiving appetizers (the 7-layer dip was always my favorite); we learned who was most likely to set the candied yams on fire in the oven; we learned who was best at carving the turkey; we learned who made the smoothest mashed potatoes; we learned to always pass the serving dishes clockwise; and we learned precisely how many dishes could fit in the dishwasher and where the extra glasses should be put away.

This learning wasn't something that took place all at once, but was experienced on a journey of years as children grew – as did a few waistlines – and some from our merry band moved on into life eternal. For all of my life, I will envision Thanksgiving as a complex and precious gathering of people who grew in life and love together. And for all of my life, I will seek to journey with the complex and precious people in my life remembering to learn and to laugh and to love.

To quote – once again, and surely not for the last time – one of my favorite theologians: “Life’s a journey, not a destination.” – Steven Tyler, Aerosmith

This particular phrase is often incorrectly attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson, though it seems to simply be a modern proverb from the early 20th century. In practice, the phrase seems to have been commonly used by persons of faith as wisdom that the journey continues to transform us. God continues to transform us.

This Christmas season, we enter into a sermon series based on Adam Hamilton's book *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*. Part of the exploration is geographical as Mary and Joseph came together from different towns (Mary from Nazareth and Joseph likely from Bethlehem), as Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth in Ein Karem, and the late-pregnancy journey to Bethlehem. There was also a spiritual journey of profound implications as the promise of Messiah was proclaimed to families of humble backgrounds.

Learning about these journeys may help us to *parallel*, to experience these journeys anew as we reflect on the arc of our own lives. I believe this exploration can help us to see ourselves in the Christmas story and to see Christ in our own story.

Please join PB UMC as we join together on a journey of faith through the Christmas narrative. Let us explore our challenges, our fears, our hang-ups, and most of all our transformation. I believe the story of Christmas told for these past millennia continues to transform the world.

Come and journey to transformation. Invite someone who may wish to experience their own journey and transformation. Let us learn about our God, ourselves, and one another in new and meaningful ways.

May we all be filled with grace, peace, and love...



Pastor Bob

<p>Nov. 29: Mary of Nazareth (<i>Luke 1:26-38</i>)</p> <p>Dec. 6: Joseph of Bethlehem (<i>Matthew 1:18-24</i>)</p> <p>Dec. 13: Mary's Visit to Elizabeth (<i>Luke 1:39-45</i>)</p> <p>Dec. 20: From Nazareth to Bethlehem (<i>Luke 2:1-7</i>)</p> <p>Dec. 24: The Manger (<i>Luke 2:8-20</i>)</p>
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We Care for One Another



Come Sing With Us!

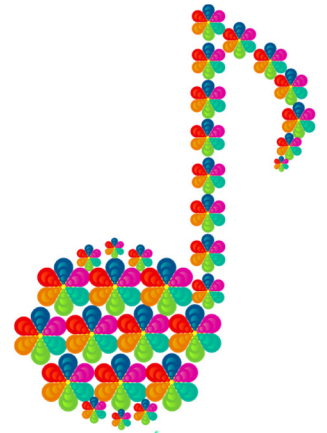
“GET THE SENSATION” By: Lynn
(Sung to the tune of “Deck the Halls”)

Meet at church at **5:00 pm**. Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Folks at home; we’ll try to see them. Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Sing aloud with many voices. Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Eat some snacks of many choices. Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

Join us as we sing together. Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
We will go in any weather. Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Ride along and join the f-un. Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Bringing joy to ev’ry-one. Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

We provide the words and candles. Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Sing the songs that you can handle. Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Share your gift and celebr-ate. Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
D’cember twenty-eth’s the da-ate. Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

Be a part of this sensation. Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
If you need more information. Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Contact Lynn, don’t hesita-ate. Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
749-7578!* Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
(*area code 619, of course)



Meet Our Very Talented Musicians: Bell Choir Director Amy Burrow By Roving Reporter Marcia

This is the third in a series of articles designed to help us get to know our very talented musicians. This month I got to know Amy and now I’m sharing what I learned with you. During this past year, in addition to conducting the hand bell choir, Amy accompanied our singing by playing the flute once and a saxophone another time. She also starred in last year’s Christmas Musical.



When I asked her what instruments she plays besides the flute and saxophone, Amy told me, “I play clarinet also, but I’m not as proficient on it as the other two. Still, I would call myself a woodwind player. I have an undergrad degree in Music Education from the University of Arizona and a Master’s in Educational Counseling. (GO WILD-CATS!!) As a result I also play most other instruments. They make you learn all of them in college so you can teach (or at least help) students on their instruments. I am not “great” at any of them, but can teach any beginner. I do regret never learning guitar! So glad that my daughter Jayna is learning to though!”

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

Continued on Pg. 8

We Grow in Grace & Faith

December Youth Activities

I know that it is difficult to fit everything in for your family over the holidays, and the church has many special events around Christmas to participate in, so I just have a few things to add for our UMYF group. – Dee

Sunday, December 6

- The Children's Choir will be performing in worship, so we will all stay in church to support them and enjoy the show.

Sunday, December 13

- Voices of Praise cantata. Plan to stay in worship.

Friday, December 18 or Saturday, December 19

- Star Wars. Pastor Bob and Dee are talking about the possibility of a group event to see the new movie. Please let Dee know ASAP if you would like to be contacted as the timing of this event is worked out.

Sunday, December 20

- Youth are invited and encouraged to go caroling with others from the church. (See pg. 3 for more information).
- All night bowling. This is a UMYF (Middle School and High School only) event at Parkway Bowl on the night of December 20 and ending on Monday, December 21 at 6:30 am. Dee will make arrangements with individual families regarding pick up in the morning (or kids can come nap at Dee's for later pick-up) when you sign-up. The cost is \$30 for the night which includes dinner, admission, pizza and soda, and some tokens. We will gather at the church to head off on the evening's adventure. The time will be announced based on the schedule for caroling.

Wednesday, December 23

- Youth are invited to come to the church to help pass out gifts to our Wednesday evening guests. Timing is roughly 4:30 - 7:30 pm. See Dee for more details.

Thursday, December 24

- Christmas Eve worship at 5, 7, and 11 pm. Let Dee or Pastor Bob know if you would like to help in some way with a Christmas Eve Service. Pastor Bob is especially looking for readers and musicians for the 5 pm service.

Sunday, December 27

- We will have an activity from 11:45 to 2:00 that day.

Children's Choir

Your PB UMC children's choir has been working hard on our December 6th musical/play: "The Best Place to Celebrate Christmas!" This will be presented both services with the wonderful Leisl co-directing, and the help of numerous others, including parents and those who just pitch in to help. A big thank you to Adam, who volunteered his amazing musical gifts to accompany us.

Rumor has it that the infant sibs of the babes who played baby Jesus a couple years ago, are in those roles this year!

Do not miss this experience, and the opportunity to support our young singers, actors, actresses!

Sunday School News

In thanking our Sunday School teachers in September somehow Brenda's name was left out. Brenda has been a long-standing, dedicated, creative and popular teacher! We regret that her name was missing and thank her whole heartily for her service!!!

As we enter this holiday season I will repeat what I wrote last year: The best gift for any child (or anyone for that matter!) is the gift of TIME! It is great to have holiday traditions, but try to keep big events to a minimum and enjoy relaxed time together as a family or with a few friends.

I thank all of PB UMC for their support of the children and youth of this congregation and wish you all a peaceful season!

-Malea



Bible Study Group "What We Bring to 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 6, The Lord's Day, Exodus 20:8-11, 31:12-16
- December 13, Acceptable Offerings, Leviticus 22:17-25, 31-33
- December 20, Dedication of Firstborn, Exodus 13:13-15; Luke 2:22-32
- December 27, A Generous Gift, Matthew 23:2-12; Mark 12:38-44

We Reach Out to Others

Wednesday Night Ministry Needs

Every year, PB UMC hosts a Christmas Dinner with all of the fixings, for our neighbors in need. We have made it a tradition that no one who comes to dine with us for Christmas, leaves without a present! We focus on the practical; things that our guests truly need and that are helpful. You can help us continue in this proud tradition by donating new socks (white athletic or crew preferred), gloves, and any individually wrapped small toiletry items that you might have (chap stick, sample sizes of toothpaste, soap, shampoo & conditioner, individually wrapped toothbrushes) for us to gift our guests with. Please place your items in the box in the entry area or feel free to drop them off at the church office.

And if we were not blessed enough with volunteer opportunities this month, December is also a "5th" Wednesday month, so that means that the Wednesday Night Meal on December 30th will also be wholly sponsored by PB UMC! We will be hosting a meal only; there will be no medical or dental services that night as UCSD and the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine will be closed. Please consider coming down to help serve our guests dinner, or to sit and socialize with our guests. You may talk to Chef Ben for more details, or simply show up on the 30th between 4:30 and 5pm. This would be a great family tradition!

Christmas Baskets for Families

PB UMC has signed up to provide six Christmas food baskets and four gift cards for low-income families that sign up at Community Christian Service Agency (CCSA). This is your opportunity to share your blessings with others. The gift basket will include food for a holiday meal and a Target or Walmart gift card for perishable items so families, singles, seniors and those with special needs can enjoy a more festive Christmas meal. Don't miss this opportunity to make Christmas special for not only your family as you gather food for your own holiday gathering, but for a CCSA family in need. Sixty-five per cent of children in the San Diego School system are Food insecure. Let's make their Christmas a bit brighter! You can donate cash in the collection plate (write "Christmas baskets" on the envelope) or see Hope about donating groceries or gift cards. We'll assemble the baskets after second service on Sunday, December 13. For more information and a list of recommended groceries, see the [ccsasandiego.org](http://www.ccsasandiego.org/) website. <http://www.ccsasandiego.org/>.



Communion Offering: Persons in Crisis

- A family of four, dad, mom, a toddler, and a baby, walk into the office. Their car has broken down and been towed, a job was lost because of lack of transportation, they were kicked out of the place that they were staying and have been sleeping on the street with their children for days; can we help them for just one night until their family members can reach them?
- A young man and woman have had all of their possessions stolen, bus tickets, wallet, cash, clothing, while they were resting on a nearby beach. Can we help them to get to Los Angeles so they can go home?
- A day laborer has just gotten a job in the north county, but no busses run to his job site. His first check is due in two weeks, but if he can't fill up his car with gasoline, he can't get to his job in-between times. Can we help?
- Long-term illness has caused a financial crisis, and the rent is, in fact, overdue. Is there some way of helping in the short term?

What all of these stories have in common, is our Persons in Crisis fund. This is a small, unbudgeted fund, administered by the Pastor, specifically to help people out one time, who have immediate needs. This fund pays for vouchers, tickets, etc., directly; cash is not disbursed. This offering is only asked for, when all of the funds from the previous offering have been depleted. We ask for your help, to replenish our Persons in Crisis fund, so that we can reach out to those in need, person to person.

Farewell to an Old Friend

Long-time member Charles Hope joined the Saints in Glory on November 8th of this year. Charles was one of the people who was instrumental in bringing the Wednesday Night Ministry into being. Charles will be remembered for his bright smile and his generous nature. He was interred at the Miramar National Cemetery on November 18th

Circle of Support

Record of Generosity as of October 31, 2015

October giving – budget \$21,161	\$19,425
October other sources of income – budget \$11,372	\$14,091
October total available for ministry – budget \$32,533	\$33,516
October expended in ministry – budget \$32,533	\$27,581
October income minus expenses	\$5,935
YtD giving – budget \$211,611	\$212,484
YtD other sources of income – budget \$113,715	\$103,875
YtD total available for ministry – budget \$325,326	\$316,360
YtD expended in ministry – budget \$325,326	\$318,241
YtD income minus expenses	(\$1,881)
Year 2015 budget	\$390,391

Sharing the Grace of God in Worship

November 1 – 206 persons
 November 8 – 173 persons
 November 15 – 175 persons
 November 22 – 164 persons
 Ave. Weekly (2015) – 177 persons

Joined at Christ's Table on Wednesday Nights

October 28 – 128 persons
 November 4 – 134 persons
 November 11 – 89 persons
 November 18 – 158 persons

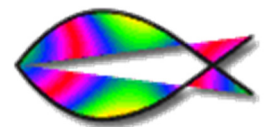
Reflections from the Finance and Stewardship Team

Our year to date income minus expenses looks better than last month, though our financial position is actually about the same. This month, to match advertising expenses, we caught up on recording designated income for advertising from the Prewitt Legacy of Love.

As reported at the Charge Conference on November 15, we are in final stages of budgeting for 2016. You can help by turning in your estimate of giving. Whether a member or not, you help us to know what to expect in the way of income for next year. Additional estimate of giving cards can be found in the Sanctuary or by contacting the church office.

What's Been Happening Around the Church?

The answer to that is A Lot! A new Photo Directory is in the works. Our Annual Church Conference was held. Thanksgiving was celebrated with our Wednesday night guests. Our church Christmas Tree has been trimmed. All in all, our facility has seen a lot of use and will be put to good use throughout the remainder of 2015 as we count down the days until Christmas!



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

Wed, Dec 2 5:30 pm, Wed Nite Ministry
Thurs, Dec 3 5:15 pm, Hand Bell rehearsal
7 pm, Choir rehearsal
Fri, Dec 4 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 5 9 am, Men's Prayer & Share
9 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters



Week 2

Sun, Dec 6 Worship, Communion
Children's Choir sings (pg. 1 & 4)
Tues, Dec 8 6:30 pm, Trustee meeting
6:30 pm, Staff Parish meeting
7:30, Finance Committee
Wed, Dec 9 5:30 pm, Wed Nite Ministry
Thurs, Dec 10 5:15 pm, Hand Bell rehearsal
7: pm, Choir rehearsal
Fri, Dec 11 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 12 9 am, Men's Prayer & Share



Week 3

Sun, Dec 13 Worship, Cantata
Noon, Christmas Basket Assembly (pg. 5)
6 pm, The Heart of Christmas (pg. 1)
Mon, Dec 14 Beach Breeze Deadline
Wed, Dec 16 5:30 pm, Wed Nite Ministry
Thurs, Dec 17 5:15 pm, Hand Bell rehearsal
7 pm, Choir rehearsal
Fri, Dec 18 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 19 9 am, Men's Prayer & Share
9 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters



Week 4

Sun, Dec 20 Worship
5 pm, Christmas Caroling (pg. 3)
UMYF All Night Bowling party (pg. 3)
Wed, Dec 23 Storefront Ministry
5:30 pm, Wed Nite Christmas Dinner
Thurs, Dec 24 5, 7, & 11 pm, Christmas Eve Services
Fri, Dec 25 Christmas Day
7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 26 9 am, Men's Prayer & Share

Week 5

Sun, Dec 27 Worship
11:45 am, Youth activity
Tues, Dec 29 Breeze Folding Party
Wed, Dec 30 5:30 pm, Wed Nite Meal by PB UMC
Thurs, Dec 31 New Year's Eve

Thank you to our Beach Breeze production crew:
Nancy Al
Aimee Marcia
Judi Margaret
Jeanette

We Love and Worship God

Weekly Lectionary

December 6

Children's Choir Concert
Joseph of Bethlehem
Matthew 1:18-24

December 13

Voices of Praise Concert
Mary's Visit to Elizabeth
Luke 1:39-45

December 20

From Nazareth to Bethlehem
Luke 2:1-7

December 24

The Manger
Luke 2:8-20



Pacific Beach United
Methodist Church



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Bell Choir Director Continued:

I asked Amy how she got started directing hand bell choirs. "A church in Tucson, where I was attending (early college), asked if I would join the hand bell choir and I jumped in. I just watched and learned. Then the choir director at First Methodist in Tucson just said, "We want you to direct the bell choir." I took it on and that's how it all started. I stayed there for 13 years. I did move to another church in north Tucson (closer to our home) for 7 years after that. So, for 20 years, hand bell ringing was a big part of my life in Tucson."

When I asked her how she found out about PB UMC and how she became our hand bell choir leader, Amy told me, "My husband and Jim Schock's son, Dave, have been friends for a long time. When we moved here, Jim and Margaret kept saying, "You will love our church, you have to come." We came on the Sunday when the service was outside with our beach chairs and we've never left! Then, thanks to my husband, who really wasn't supposed to say anything, said to Pastor April, "Did you know that Amy has directed bell choirs for twenty years?" (Yes, he got an elbow in the gut). Her response was, "Can you teach a chimes class?" And that's how it started. And thanks to God and me being in the right place at the right time, we have 3 octaves of hand bells, risers, books, and lots of music all obtained in just 3 years' time." Believe me, that Amy was able to obtain all that equipment for our church has been amazing!

I wanted to know what Amy enjoys the most about being our hand bell choir leader: "I can't tell you just one great thing I enjoy about our hand bell choir...there are so many!!! They have come SO far musically! The way that they read a piece of music for the first time is not so frustrating anymore. Their sight-reading is getting so much better, which means their musical skills are improving. We laugh WAY too much...sometimes my cheeks hurt when rehearsal is over. Pretty sure this is a good thing! I look forward to being with these people every week...Thursday is my favorite day!"

Amy and her husband Rodger have 2 daughters, Jayna age 14 and Lauryn age 9. Both girls are named after their parents' relatives. The whole family is very involved in PB UMC activities.

Where have you lived besides San Diego? "I lived in Arizona all my life, but my husband, who I met there, grew up here in Pacific Beach. He lived in Tucson for 30 years and always wanted to move home. That's what we did 3 and 1/2 years ago! We couldn't be happier!"

And Amy, we couldn't be happier either. We love all that you contribute to our church. You are truly a talented musician!