



Pacific Beach
United Methodist Church

BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

December 2017

Advent and Christmas at PB UMC



"Coming Home"

This year's Advent and Christmas series, "Coming Home," embraces the metaphor of homecoming to wrap the challenging biblical texts the season gives us. Each week's service will invite us to "unwrap" something that leads us toward making our hearts, our lives, our families, our communities, and our world more like the home Christ's ultimate homecoming will make it to be. Don't miss our Advent and Christmas celebrations!

#1 Advent Kick-Off

Pacific Beach UMC will host our third annual Advent Kick-off on Sunday, December 3, 2017, beginning at 4:00 pm. We will have special Advent craft activities for participants to take home and enjoy. If you would prefer simply to connect with our faith community over a meal, join in at 5:00 pm. Bring your favorite potluck dish, or show off your best thanksgiving leftover creation (a side dish or a dessert), and we will provide some beverages. After dinner, we will have a program and gather outside around the tree in the courtyard to light it!

#3 Christmas Caroling

What's the Christmas Season without Caroling? Get ready to indulge in your Fa La La La Lah's on December 17th beginning at 5:00 pm. Meet at the parsonage (Contact the office for directions.) to ride together as we bring cheer to our community!

#5 Christmas Eve Morning Worship

We will join together for a fun and informal worship service on Christmas Eve morning at 10:00 am. *This is a change from our regular 9:00 am and 10:30 am services!* Come for a casual worship service with your church family as we explore the song of a mother-to-be before celebrating birth that evening!

#2 "Christmas Festival"

PB UMC has a long tradition of presenting musical and dramatic arts to celebrate the Christmas Season. This year's presentation includes multigenerational involvement well-suited for our "Coming Home" focus this season. Come to laugh, to celebrate Christmas, to be moved by music, and to prepare for the coming of the Christ child on December 10th at both morning services, or at 6:00 pm.

#4 Wed. Night Christmas Dinner

Our Wednesday Night Christmas Dinner – a special offering of our regular SD Project Grace – will be held on December 20th. Chef Ben will prepare a traditional ham dinner with all of the fixings. After our guests dine, they will be invited to choose from 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 family to help bring Christmas to our neighbors in need, by volunteering to help serve the meal or simply sitting and chatting with our guests.

#6 Christmas Eve Worship

We will present three services on Christmas Eve (December 24th), at 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, and 11:00 pm. Christmas Eve is a time for the entire family to worship together, so while a family-friendly service will be presented at 5:00 pm, plan on the entire family being together for every service.

Plan on an Advent and Christmas season filled with joy and tradition and familiarity, and *come home* to joy and the family of Christ.

Pastor Bob's Printed Blog

Dear Friends . . .

When I was a kid, we would spend summers traveling to be with family. It seemed to work as a rough rotation, alternating most summers between my dad's side of the family in Colorado and my mom's side of the family in Missouri. And no matter where we went, it was always home.

In Colorado, we would stay in my grandparent's mobile home with aunts, uncles, and cousins sprawled in various rooms and sofa beds. Going anywhere always included my grandfather's enormous yellow station wagon (nicknamed "Ol' Yeller"), and the home almost always smelled of my grandmother's cookies. Evenings were spent around the dining room table playing our own unique version of Canasta. It felt like home.

In Missouri, summers started at my grandmother's suburban home and inevitably transitioned to her cabin on a large lake. Days were spent fishing off the dock, or poor attempts at water skiing. Evenings included my grandmother's amazing southern-inspired cooking, and nights were spent with all the cousins sleeping on the screened-in porch. And when our visit covered the July 4th holiday, my crazy uncles would put together incredible fireworks displays that – in hindsight – should never have been legal. This, too, was home.

Neither of these locations were home in-and-of-themselves. They were home because of the people who were there. We had history, we had traditions, we had ridiculous inside jokes, we had connection. We were united in love and compassion and familiarity. We were – are – family.

As I think about these times, I realize how lucky I am to have a number of micro-communities that I can think of in this same way. We have history and traditions and ridiculous inside jokes and connection. We are family.

This time of year is often considered a time to be with family and friends. Some of us will travel, and some of us will host family and friends who travel here. It is a time of homecoming, a time of connection, a time of celebration. While not everyone looks at the Christmas season as a time of joy – indeed for some it is a period of grief – we might all see this as a time of connection and hope.

During this month, we will focus on the idea of "Coming Home." Our worship services and sermons will focus in this way, and we will offer particular ways to connect with our faith family in fun ways:

December 3, 2017

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9

Activity: make an Advent or Christmas craft.

(Bonus: the Advent Kick-off is this night!)



December 10, 2017

Scripture: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Activity: wear your favorite (or ugliest) Christmas sweater to church!

December 17, 2017

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Activity: sing Christmas carols.

(Bonus: the church Christmas caroling group is this night!)

December 24, 2017

Morning Scripture: Luke 1: 46-55

Activity: with family or a friend, talk through or even act out Mary & Joseph arriving at the Inn when they were turned away; then do it again, imagining that they're allowed in!

Evening Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

December 31, 2017

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Activity: whether you celebrate the new year quietly or exuberantly, take time in prayer (alone or with others) to renew your covenant with God.

It is my hope, dear friends, that these Advent and Christmas celebrations renew the light of Christ for us all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob" with a stylized flourish underneath.

Pastor Bob

We Care for One Another



Join us December 9 at 6:00 pm for dinner at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 275 5th Ave in the Gaslamp District. After dinner, consider going to the Gay Men's Chorus Holiday show at 8:00 pm at the Balboa Theater. Get your tickets early for the concert; this one will likely sell out!

RSVP to Dart R., dartr@pbumc.org, or downstairs in the nursery on Sundays. Suggestions for future Ladies' events are welcome.

ALICE Response to a Violent Intruder

Just as response to an airplane hijacking was updated after 9/11, so the response to an intruder is no longer just to lockdown in place. Dee B., Ken B., and Hope A. attended an ALICE Training Institute workshop sponsored by Philadelphia Insurance Companies. We learned the latest advice about responding to a violent intruder. We saw a vivid demonstration of the difference between huddling in a corner of the room, and actively moving to evacuate through all exits in a room.

The acronym ALICE helps us remember the actions one should take: not in sequential order, but as applies best in the moment to stay safe and reduce potential injuries. These tips are straight from the reference cards given out at training:

ALERT - Initial alert may be gunshot, PA announcement, etc. Avoid code words. [Use plain English. For example, say, "shooter in entry area." Not "code silver" as they sometimes have done in hospitals.]

LOCKDOWN - If *Evacuation* is not a safe option, barricade entry points. Prepare to *Evacuate* or *Counter* if needed.

INFORM - Communicate real time information on shooter location. Use clear and direct language, using any communication means possible. [Remember the nursery and Sunday school in Hughes Hall.]

COUNTER - As a last resort, distract shooter's ability to shoot accurately. Move toward exits while making noise, throwing objects [at shooter's *face*]. Adults may swarm shooter.

EVACUATE - when safe to do so, run from danger using non-traditional exits. Break windows at corners, if necessary. Rallying points should be predetermined [e.g., US Bank parking lot].

Expect an evacuation drill sometime soon at the conclusion of worship services. Though we hope never to confront a violent intruder, we can all benefit from knowing all exits to use in cases of fire or other emergency.



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 Ministry Activities

Please contact DeeB@pbumc.org if you have questions about any of these activities or our Youth Ministries Program.

Sunday, December 3

- 4:00 pm- 6:30 pm, Advent Kick-Off. Bring a dish or dessert to share for a potluck supper. We will provide beverages. Activities will include some craft options, information on Advent with activities you can use at home, possibly singing some carols, and enjoying our Christmas tree. This PB UMC event will not be the same without you. If you can let Dee B. know you are coming, it will help us prepare. (See p.1.)

Sunday, December 10

- Plan to attend the church musical presentation. Don't forget to RSVP for Bowling Overnight on December 28.

Sunday, December 17

- 5:00 pm-8:00 pm, Join in the Christmas caroling fun.

Sunday, December 24

- Christmas Eve Services: 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, and 11:00 pm

Thursday, December 28-Friday, December 29

- District Youth Bowling Overnight at Parkway. Contact Dee for details and to RSVP.

Christmas Baskets for Families

There's still time to share in CCSA Christmas Basket giving. You can donate cash in the collection plate (Note "Christmas Baskets" on the envelope.), or online, or see Hope A. about donating groceries or gift cards. We'll assemble the baskets after second service on Sunday, December 10. For more information and a list of recommended groceries, see <http://www.ccsasandiego.org>.



Celebration

Everyone is invited to the baptism of Erik and Noah S. (grandsons of Malea S., and great-grandsons of Harrell H.) Sunday, December 3rd, 1:00 pm in the sanctuary.

A light lunch will be available in Hughes Hall after the 10:30 service for those that would like to stay for the ceremony. RSVP for lunch with Malea (maleas@pbumc.org, 858-274-1082).

Bible Study Group *"Faith in Action"*

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 Early Church Proclaims Faith in Christ.

The readings for December are:

- December 3, Faith in Jesus, Acts 3:11-21
- December 10, Faith to Discern, Acts 13:1-12
- December 17, Faith to Persevere, Acts 14:8-11, 19-23
- December 24, Faithful Seekers of the King, Matthew 2:1-12
- December 31, Faith to Unite, Ephesians 4:1-16

We Reach Out to Others

PB UMC Christmas Music Festival

Our Voices of Praise will bring us another spectacular Christmas presentation of music on Sunday, December 10, at both worship services (9:00 am and 10:30 am), then again at 6:00 pm. Bring family and friends to enjoy a joyful, inspiring presentation of popular numbers from past Christmas shows. Don't miss this wonderful gift from our talented musicians!



November Concert in Review: Welcome to Road Trip

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.

The November 2nd Sunday Concert was one of the most fun ones we've had. Performing for us was the talented Pacific Coast Chorale, a community choir that presents a wide variety of musical genres.

The Chorale took us on a road trip across the United State by singing songs featuring at least one US city. After they finished each song, the director asked us to raise our hands if we were originally from one of the cities in that song. Usually someone had lived near, if not in, at least one. It was a totally fun road trip.

After the concert, I chatted with other members of the audience. Here are feelings shared with me.

When I asked Tim A. what he thought, he got a big smile on his face and told me, "I really had fun today. They had some really good soloists, and of course, it was great to see our old friend Rodney at the piano!"

Steve F. smiled while telling me: "What a great afternoon the 2nd Sunday concerts make. This was my first, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I am still humming 'Oklahoma.' I hope to attend another one soon."

I then chatted with Lea Ann and Patrick W. I asked if it was as much fun being part of the Chorale as it was to sit there and listen to them. Lea Ann could barely control her enthusiasm as she responded. She raved about things the Chorale has done in the past and some really exciting things they are doing in the future. It sounded like the Chorale was having as much fun performing for us, as we had listening to them.

This was the last 2nd Sunday Concert this year. Be sure to watch the *Beach Breeze* for information about next year's 2nd Sunday Concerts.

Circle of Support

October 2017 Record of Generosity

	Budget	Actual
October giving	\$23,549	\$21,213
October other sources of income	\$10,101	\$7,484
October total available for ministry	\$33,650	\$28,697
October expended in ministry	\$33,650	\$36,583
October income minus expenses	\$0	(\$7,886)
YTD giving	\$235,498	\$205,438
YTD other sources of income	\$101,022	\$103,416
YTD total available for ministry	\$336,520	\$308,854
YTD expended in ministry	\$336,520	\$330,025
YTD income minus expenses	\$0	(\$21,171)
Year 2017 budget	\$403,818	

Sharing the Grace of God in Worship

November 5 – 157 persons
November 12 – 145 persons
November 19 – 155 persons

Avg. Weekly (2017) – 158 persons

Joined at Christ's Table on Wednesday Nights

November 1 – 138 persons
November 8 – 122 persons
November 15 – 142 persons

Reflections From the Finance & Stewardship Team

At this writing we are preparing a preliminary budget to be presented at the charge conference. Budgeting is a challenge, because we have more ministry work that we'd like to do than we have resources. Our initial budget is short by over \$20,000. We are committed to producing a balanced budget by January. The team is looking at pending grants to help fund Project Grace (aka Wednesday Night) and some promising ways to reduce expenses, but they are not yet concrete enough to put in the budget. We also have preliminary totals for pledges. If you have not yet turned in a pledge and are able to do so, you can fill out a card or simply email your commitment to finsec@pbumc.org.

December Communion Offering: United Methodist Student Day

United Methodist Student Day is one of six church wide Special Sundays. United Methodist Student Day calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. The special offering provides scholarships for qualified United Methodist applicants. When you contribute to United Methodist Student Day, you make it possible for more students to serve the world God loves. What no one person or congregation can do alone, we're doing together.

The Church office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, December 26 to January 1, and will re-open on Tuesday, January 2.



The phones and email will be monitored during that time so if you have any pastoral needs, please do communicate through the office.

CHURCH STAFF:

Lead Pastor: The Rev Bob Rhodes
Sojourning Pastor: The Rev Christopher Carter, PhD
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, Grace Notes

Week 1

Fri, Dec 1 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 2 9:00 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters
10:00 am, Scripture & Sermon Study at
PB UMC Lanai



Week 4

Sun, Dec 17 Worship
5:00 pm, Christmas Caroling (p. 1)
Mon, Dec 18 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
January *Beach Breeze* Deadline
Wed, Dec 20 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace Christmas
Dinner (p. 1)
6:00 pm, Scripture & Sermon Study
Fri, Dec 22 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 23 10:00 am, Scripture & Sermon Study at
PB UMC Lanai



Week 2

Sun, Dec 3 Worship & Communion
with Bishop Hagiya
1:00 pm, Sandstrom Baptism (p.4)
4:00 pm, Advent Kick-Off (p.1)
Mon, Dec 4 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Dec 5 7:30 pm, VUE Meeting
Wed, Dec 6 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
5:00 pm, Books, Movie, and Writing Club
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
6:00 pm, Scripture & Sermon Study
Thurs, Dec 7 7:00 pm, Choir rehearsal
Fri, Dec 8 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 9 10:00 am, Scripture & Sermon Study at
PB UMC Lanai
6:00 pm, Ladies' Dinner (p.3)



Week 5

Sun, Dec 24 10:00 am Worship -- One Service - (p. 1)
5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, and 11:00 pm
Christmas Eve Worship (p.1)
Mon, Dec 25 Christmas Day -- Church office closed for
Christmas break until January 2, 2018. (p.6)
6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Dec 26 9:00 am, January *Beach Breeze* printed
Wed, Dec 27 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministry
Thurs, Dec 28 District Youth Bowling Overnight (p. 4)
Fri, Dec 29 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 30 10:00 am, Scripture & Sermon Study at
PB UMC Lanai

Week 3

Sun, Dec 10 Worship: The Christmas Show (p. 1,5)
6:00 pm, The Christmas Show (p.1,5)
Mon, Dec 11 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Dec 12 6:00 pm, Staff Parish meeting
6:30 pm, Trustee meeting
7:30 pm, Finance Committee
Wed, Dec 13 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
6:00 pm, Scripture & Sermon Study
Thurs, Dec 14 7:00 pm, Choir rehearsal
Fri, Dec 15 7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Dec 16 9:00 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters
10:00 am, Scripture & Sermon Study at
PB UMC Lanai

Week 6

Sun, Dec 31 Worship—5th Sunday
New Year's Eve

Planning Ahead

Our Interfaith Shelter guests are to arrive for their two week stay at PB UMC on Saturday, January 13, 2018. Volunteers to make our visitors welcome are needed. Contact Ken B. for details: KenB@pbumc.org.

We Love and Worship God

December Scriptures

Dec 3, Isaiah 64:1-9
Bishop Hagiya preaching

Dec 10, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Christmas Musical

Dec 17, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Dec 24, Morning: Luke 1:46-55
Evening: Luke 2:1-20

Dec 31, Luke 2:22-40

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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Meet Our Wesley Intern: Rebecca M.

by Roving Reporter M.

I recently got together with Rebecca M., our Wesley Foundation Intern. She told me the Wesley Foundation, a UMC campus ministry, has been around for a long time. In the past, they had folks work on college campuses, but recently they've done a revival to get young adults involved in church. As an example, Rebecca is one of 3 Wesley Foundation interns in San Diego

Rebecca met Pastor Bob at church camp. She told me, "Bob and I share the need for community outreach and to be the best neighbors we can be. He recommended I apply for an internship so I could work with my feelings about community outreach. My application was accepted, and I was assigned to PB UMC. Bob does not direct my activities, but we get together once a week to discuss my goals."

Rebecca wants to explore how PB UMC can be a great neighbor, bridging the secular/sacred community gaps. "I am trying to create projects to reach out to the community and show our love. My first goal is to start a garden on church property to grow food for our Wednesday Project Grace community dinners. I hope dinner attendees will tend the garden. I also am working with Pastor Bob for community classes to reach outside the church."

Rebecca, a freshman at Point Loma Nazarene University (a private Christian College), is majoring in social work. "I want to be a social worker after graduation. I want work with kids, specifically in child protective services. I love kids. Put a baby in my arms and I am happy. I also hope to work with people with special needs." Rebecca lives in Point Loma, where she has lived all her life with her family. It is only two miles from school.

I enjoyed getting to know Rebecca, and became fascinated with what she is doing at PB UMC. I wish her the best of luck, and look forward to seeing the results of her projects.

