



Pacific Beach
United Methodist Church

BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

February 2020

Volunteers Needed for Interfaith Shelter Program at PB UMC

by Kenneth B.

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church, as part of its ministry to the homeless community, has served as a host congregation for the Interfaith Shelter Network (IFSN) for over 30 years. This ministry is successful because of the many volunteers and supporters who donate their time, talents, and service. In continuing this tradition of service to the community, PB UMC will be hosting the shelter program March 21 to April 4, 2020. We need volunteers. Our community of faith may be smaller than past years, but our spirit of service has never diminished, because we are children of God called to serve. There are a variety of areas where help is needed.

Early on Saturday morning March 21st, there are set up opportunities. We transport shelter guests' belongings from the previous host church to ours, set up cots, and get beds ready. Prior to the arrival of our shelter guests, we need volunteers to contribute breakfast food items and other items on our needs list. During their two-week stay here at the church, our guests eat breakfasts, have prepared lunch sacks, and return in the evening to enjoy a nice prepared dinner. Therefore, we need individuals or groups to serve as lunch and dinner hosts. Lunch sacks are prepared the evening before assigned date and are dropped off at the church around 6:00 pm. Dinner hosts prepare meals and serve the guests around 6:15 pm. The church's kitchen is available for use for all meal preparations.

IFSN coordinators are willing to work around your schedules, so if you need to drop off lunches earlier, no problem. If you want to arrive at the church early to prepare your gourmet meal, no worries. After our guests finish their meal, they help clean the kitchen and then settle in for the evening. Each evening, an overnight supervisor is there: another area where you can participate as a volunteer. Overnight supervisors get to eat dinner with our shelter guests.

On April 4th, the shelter program comes to an end for the season, so we need volunteers to help with the breakdown of the cots, collecting used linens for laundry, and packing up our shelter supplies.

The last, final area where volunteer help is needed consists of washing the used bed linens and blankets and returning them to the church clean and folded for storage.

So where do you begin? By looking for the many open volunteer opportunities on the sign-up sheets located in the church lobby during worship services. If you have any questions, just ask any of the coordinators (Betty, Ray, or Ken). We are grateful for your continued support and service to this vital ministry to the community.

Pastor Bob's Printed Blog

Dear Friends . . .

Early this year, United Methodists were rocked with the news that a group of 16 leaders from around the denomination had been meeting for months, and were releasing a “protocol” outlining a split in The United Methodist Church (UMC). The leaders who participated, including Central Conference Bishops, Wesley Covenant Association, Institute on Religion and Democracy, UMNest, Mainstream UMC, Reconciling Ministries Network, and the United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus, represented a variety of perspectives in the denomination related to human sexuality.

Moderating the group was Ken Feinberg, a nationally known mediator who has a national reputation for bringing disparate groups to resolution. Mr. Feinberg’s experience includes having served as special master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, TARP Executive Compensation, and the Agent Orange Victim Compensation Program.

According to the document (<http://bit.ly/2Rf8xRz>) released on January 3rd—and its accompanying FAQ—the “Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation” calls for a departure of traditionalist churches from the UMC to form a new denomination that would be expected to retain its ban on LGBTQ clergy and same-gender marriages. To follow would be a restructuring of the post-separation UMC into regions, allowing U.S. churches the freedom to remove the harmful and exclusive language in the Book of Discipline. This would allow Bishops and Annual Conferences to ordain LGBTQ clergy and would allow churches and pastors to host and perform same-gender wedding ceremonies.

The Protocol sets aside \$25 million for the new traditionalist denomination over four years, and churches leaving for the new denomination would be able to retain their properties and other assets. An additional \$2 million would be set aside for progressive congregations that would still want to leave the post-separation UMC.

Annual Conferences (regional bodies of the current denomination) would have the opportunity to decide if they want to leave the UMC, and local churches could also hold votes to depart should they disagree with the theological stance of their Annual Conference. For example, an Annual Conference in a theologically conservative region could elect to leave the UMC, but an inclusive congregation within that region could elect to stay. However, no local church or Annual Conference would be required to hold a vote. If a regional body declines to vote, it would remain in the UMC; if a local church declines to

vote, it would remain in the denomination with which its Annual Conference affiliates.

This news is both significant and surprising. A livestreamed Q&A with the mediation participants (<http://bit.ly/36dPQC2>) shows both the difficulty of the mediated dialogue as well as the sense of hope shared by the participants. I was interviewed by the San Diego Union-Tribune for an article (<http://bit.ly/3a5IYe2>) published on Sunday, January 12th, and this was just one of countless articles around the country, including national news outlets like the New York Times and others.

It is important to note that this protocol is not authoritative. There is still much work to be done. The protocol outlines a process that must be refined into legislation that will be presented at the General Conference in May of this year, and will only be enacted if passed by that legislative body. In the meantime, much conversation is underway and many questions are still to be answered. I found a helpful analysis (<http://bit.ly/2MTKzc7>) written by my friend and colleague, Rev. Jeremy Smith.

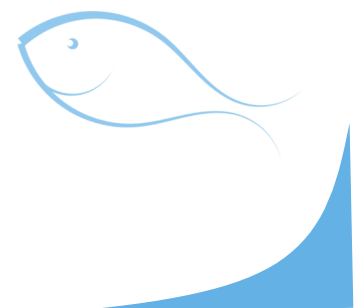
As I understand this protocol, I find it to be an imperfect compromise. I am unhappy that \$25 million will be used as seed money for a new denomination that—in my view—will continue to do harm to our LGBTQ siblings. On the other hand, I’m grateful that this could be the end of a battle that has been going on my entire life. Leaders across the theological spectrum seem to share the view that this compromise is imperfect, yet most also seem to share a sense of hope that the protocol can pass at General Conference.

As we await these historic decisions, we will continue to worship, we will continue to study and grow in our faith, we will continue to serve our vulnerable neighbors, we will continue to proclaim that God’s love is for *all* God’s children, and we will continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In peace and in hope...



Pastor Bob



We Care for One Another

Member News

by Betty J.

Joined the Saints in Glory

Al Hermann joined the saints in glory on December 18, 2019. A celebration of life was held after worship on January 26, 2020.

Al had been a member of PB UMC since 1955. He worked on many church committees and projects, including Shalom Council, Board of Trustees, Finance Team, Nominating and Leadership Development Team, Administrative Council, and VUE (Visioning Uniting Expanding). He led the Guatemala Project for PB UMC. He went to Guatemala to work on the project 12 different summers, and encouraged others to go.

His presence will be missed by all who knew Al and worked with him over the years.

Newsletter Folding Team



Thank you to the loyal team who fold our monthly *Beach Breeze* newsletter, affix stickers to the edge of the pages according to post office requirements, attach mailing labels prepared by our Office Administrator, and assemble the trays to be delivered to the bulk mail post office on Midway Drive. This lively, fun-loving group, at the direction of Denny H., normally meets in the Lanai at 9:00 am for about an hour the last Tuesday of the month. Regular volunteers are Marcia M., Margaret S., Vicki T., and Toni W.

At times, these volunteers have schedule conflicts. If you would like to offer to be a regular or “temp” member of the team, notify our Office Administrator, Ivey Merrill, admin@pbumc.org, or Denny H.

New Photo Directory

Leaders are seeking participants to help guide our congregation in producing a new PB UMC Photo Directory. If you would like to be part of the production team, please contact Marcia M. or the church office.

The production team will determine the format and content of the new directory, arrange for a photographer, schedule and assist at appointments, and arrange for the final printing of the directory.

An initial production team meeting will take place between services Sunday, February 9th at 10 am.

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

New Church Governance

During our annual Church Conference this past November, members of PB UMC approved a structural change to our leadership committees with the intent of simplifying the leadership structure of the church. This will reduce the number of volunteer leaders required, and enable those leaders to be more efficient and effective.

The new Church Council consists of ten voting members: three with an emphasis on what has traditionally been Trustees' work, three with an emphasis on Finance, three with an emphasis on Staff Parish Relations (SPRC), and the Lay Leader. If the Treasurer and/or Bookkeeper are not elected as Council members, they are considered non-voting, ex-officio members. The Financial Secretary may also attend meetings or provide information as needed.

The Church Council will have the authority to set its own schedule, and the first meeting is set for Tuesday, February 11th at 6:30 pm. While we expect meetings to last 1.5-2 hours, this is a new committee that will find its rhythm as they begin working together. Like previous Boards of Trustees, the Church Council will elect its own Chairperson. Members for this inaugural Church Council were selected from the previous Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, and SPRC.

If you have any questions about the new Church Council, please ask Pastor Bob or attend a meeting!



New Look for Youth Ministries Director Erich Schmitt

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.

I'm sure all of you have seen our Youth Ministries Director Erich Schmitt with long hair. Some of you probably have even seen him since he got it cut.



I asked him why he grew it, and how long it took for him to get such long hair. He told me, "My hair grows pretty fast, I would say that it took about a year and half. I got it cut on December 31st. I felt like 'New Year, New Me!' I am still looking for a company to sell it to. The hair is still sitting on my coffee table. I'm taking my time researching companies who don't profit, are local, and cater to children and youth. It brings me joy that something so simple (such as growing hair) can make the biggest difference in another person's life. If you have that opportunity, you should go for it."



We Reach Out to Others



Sunday School News

by Malea Sandstrom

Iwould like to say a big THANK YOU to Wayne S. and acknowledge his 30+ years as a Sunday School teacher at PB UMC! When I first started coordinating the Sunday School in 2000, he and Jeannine W. were teaching every Sunday. What a commitment! We are sorry to lose you as a teacher, Wayne, but wish you and Florence all the best!

CCSA Baskets

by Pam R.



Thanks to the generous contributions of our congregation, we were able to help Community Christian Services Association (CCSA) with their holiday food/gift drive by donating seven food baskets, complete with gift cards, plus one extra gift card to be used with an incomplete basket. We received several lovely thank you cards with hand written messages. Just a few comments:

“Thank you so much for everything you and your families do for my family. God bless you.”

“Muchas gracias ala a alas personas que me regalaron todo estoy que Dios les de mas Feliz Navidad.”

“Thank you so much for your generosity. My best wishes for all your family.”

Lenten Small Group

by Adam M.-L.

This year during Lent, we will be coordinating an exciting study series by Diana Butler Bass. In these videos, Bass explores how God repeatedly calls us to gratitude, and how that practice calls us to live as Christians. Licensing permits us to make these videos available digitally for congregants to watch individually, but we intend to make space for deeper conversation via in-person and online discussion groups.

Sign up on the sheet in the narthex or by emailing AdamM@pbumc.org. You can find more information at pbumc.org/groups, and register for updates at flocknote.com/pbumc or by texting PB UMC to 84576.

Watch the 6-minute teaser trailer at <http://bit.ly/2RGwChv>. We hope you can join us!

Circle of Support

December 2019 Record of Generosity

	Budget	Actual
December giving	\$21,456	\$35,263
December other sources of income	\$18,045	\$18,648
December total available for ministry	\$39,501	\$53,910
December expended in ministry	\$33,791	\$45,655
December income minus expenses	\$5,710	\$8,255
YTD giving	\$257,471	\$225,865
YTD other sources of income	\$152,509	\$137,152
YTD total available for ministry	\$409,980	\$363,017
YTD expended in ministry	\$415,890	\$403,145
YTD income minus expenses	(\$5,910)	(\$40,128)
Year 2019 budget	\$415,890	

Sharing the Grace of God in Worship

Dec 22—84 persons
Dec 24—187 persons (3 Services)
Dec 29—102 persons
Jan 5—102 persons
Jan 12—113 persons
Jan 19—111 persons

Reflections From the Finance Team

Your finance team has been hard at work cleaning up the accounting records in the aftermath of fraud. As a result, the Record of Generosity is still in draft form, but we are getting closer to a final number for our year-to-date income minus expenses. December activity looks high in part because a lot of income and expenses were posted in December to catch up with previous months. Insurance will cover most of our fraud losses, as well as lost rental income and repair expenses due to the fire at our rental house on Reed Avenue.

The church has endowments, and we are not running out of money, but we are very concerned about the continuing trend of net losses for most recent years. The numbers reflect decreasing giving income, in spite of instances of great generosity. And we have kept our expenses under budget. Please keep us in your prayers as Church Council prepares to set a budget for 2020.

Joined at Christ's Table on Wednesday Nights

Dec. 25—130 persons
(Christmas Day)
Jan 1—100 persons
Jan 8—163 persons
Jan 15—185 persons
Jan 22—190 persons

February Communion Offering: Project Grace

Our February communion offering will benefit our weekly Project Grace ministry here at PB UMC. Project Grace not only serves a healthy meal to hundreds of our neighbors each week, but also includes a wide range of services to help members of our community avoid or escape homelessness. Services include medical and dental care, social work, public health vaccinations, sign-ups for MediCAL and Cal-Fresh, and more!

CHURCH STAFF:

Lead Pastor: The Rev Bob Rhodes
Sojourning Pastor: The Rev Christopher Carter, PhD
Office Administrator: Ivey Merrill

Music Director: Ron Jessee
Sunday School Coordinator: Malea Sandstrom
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Erich Schmitt

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's Choir



Week 1

Sat, Feb 1 9:00 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters

Week 2

Sun, Feb 2 Worship and Communion
10:00 am, Children's Choir Rehearsal
Mon, Feb 3 6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Wed, Feb 5 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Feb 6 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Fri, Feb 7 7:30 pm, Narc Anon



Week 3

Sun, Feb 9 Worship
10:00 am, Children's Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am, Photo Directory Meeting
Mon, Feb 10 5:30 pm, Scripture & Sermon Study
6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Feb 11 6:30 pm, Church Council Meeting
Wed, Feb 12 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Feb 13 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Fri, Feb 14 Happy Valentine's Day
7:30 pm, Narc Anon
Sat, Feb 15 9:00 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters



Week 4

Sun, Feb 16 Worship
10:00 am, Children's Choir Rehearsal
Mon, Feb 17 President's Day Holiday
(Office Closed)
March *Beach Breeze* Deadline
6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Wed, Feb 19 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
Thurs, Feb 20 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Fri, Feb 21 7:30 pm, Narc Anon

Week 5

Sun, Feb 23 Worship
10:00 am, Children's Choir Rehearsal
Mon, Feb 24 5:30 pm, Scripture & Sermon Study
6:00 pm, Al-Anon
Tues, Feb 25 9:00 am, *Beach Breeze* Folding Party
Wed, Feb 26 Ash Wednesday
11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries
Thurs, Feb 27 8:00 am, Interfaith Prayer Breakfast
7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Fri, Feb 28 7:30 pm, Narc Anon

We Love and Worship God

February Scriptures

Series: "Somos del Señor"

Feb 2, 2020

"Consider Your Call" 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Feb 9, 2020

"With a Demonstration" 1 Corinthians 2:1-12
(13-16)

Feb 16, 2020

"God Gives the Growth" 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Feb 23, 2020

"Listen to Him" Matthew 17 1-9

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church



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Meet Mavi B.

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.

I recently learned a lot about Mavi B. She told me, "I started attending PB UMC about 2 years ago but my journey with this church goes back to high school when I participated in Ron Jessee's show choir at Monte Vista High School. We had performances at PB UMC. In 2010 I came back for Easter and other holidays. Again, it was Ron's music that attracted me. Recently, my little brother died, and Ron, offering a place of healing and spiritual reconnection, suggested I come back. It was God, through Ron, that brought me back and showed me the magic that happens at PB UMC."

Recently Mavi provided us two sermons when Pastor Bob was on travel. She told me, "Both times it was a positive experience for me. I believe God brings us what we need, and at that time I needed to let go of the pain and harmful doctrine I had experienced when I was younger. Being able to connect with the church in this capacity helped me to do that. I've found so much support which I am so grateful for." We are grateful to her for the messages she has provided, and are especially happy to know these experiences helped her grow.

When I asked about her experience in our choir, she told me, "The music program at PB UMC has been a Godsend for me. I needed to grieve some massive losses. It was through the choir that I was able to regain my connection to my feelings, cry, laugh, and feel again. I thank God every day for the opportunity to serve in the choir."

I asked what other things she has been doing at PB UMC. "It came into my heart that I wanted to be added into the rotation to be a worship leader. I've enjoyed that so much. I also love helping with communion. I get to connect with God and the community in a super sacred way. It's one ritual that has always been incredibly meaningful to me."

She told me about why she recently left us, "In August, I unexpectedly lost my job. As the family's primary supporter, I was faced with the reality that in San Diego many people are just one unexpected life-changing event from being homeless. Thankfully, I was hired just 3 days later by a company in Las Vegas. I am a marketing strategist and digital communications director."

I definitely miss Mavi and look forward to the periodic visits to PB UMC from her and her family. For more information Mavi shared with me, please check out our website, www.pbumc.org.

