

PCBA Notes

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Second Overview Series Announced

The Christian Faith for Lay People
Saturdays, Jan. 28, Feb. 11 & 25

The Pacific Coast Baptist Association has announced a lay education series, "The Christian Faith for Lay People," to be presented on Saturdays, January 28, February 11 and 18, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon.

The series has been planned in response to the request of participants in last year's experimental program, "Overview of Bible and Theology for Lay People." The presentations will be led again by James Chuck, Pastor Emeritus of the First Chinese Baptist Church of San Francisco and Professor Emeritus of Theology and Church Ministries at American Baptist Seminary of the West.

The host for the series will be the Allen Temple Leadership Institute, Barbara Bowman, Dean, 8501 International Blvd. in Oakland. The supporting sponsor will be ABSW. Sessions will include:

Jan. 28 - "An Overview of Church History"

Feb. 11 - "An Overview of Christian Faith and World Religions"

Feb. 25 - "An Overview of the Life & Mission of the Local Congregation"

The cost of all three sessions is \$20.00 and single session registration, \$10.00.

To Register

- Send registrations no later than January 22 to Registrar Wally Bryen, 3807 38th Ave., Oakland 94605. Make checks payable to PCBA.
- Or, send an email to wbryen@comcast.net or call 510-531-7298 with the needed information and pay the registration fee when you arrive.
- Or Register with your local church registrar if one has been appointed.

Annual Swedish Pancake Breakfast Planned by Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate

Continuing a popular tradition, the Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate will hold its annual Swedish Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, January 21 at 10:00AM at the Maritime Center at the Port of Oakland, 4001 Seventh Street. The Seafarers Ministry celebrated its 65th anniversary in November at a luncheon at the First Baptist Church of Alameda.

BLT (“Baptists Lunching Together”)

Weds, 12:15, Grand Lake Gardens / Reservations: 510-350-7008

Jan. 18 - Women’s Role in Ministry in 2012
*Katie Choy-Wong, Micky Holmes, Liliana DaValle,
Barbara Bowman*

Feb. 6 (Monday) - Interaction with Roy Medley
General Secretary, ABC/USA

Note: December “Candles and Carols” will not be held.

First Baptist, Berkeley Begins Special Ministry with ABSW Students

Students at American Baptist Seminary of the West will have access to a “reading library” of required texts as part of a special ministry begun by the First Baptist Church of Berkeley thanks to a planning grant received by the church for partnering with the ABSW Student Council. Other aspects of the partnership include assisting with restocking the ABSW food pantry, providing food items for the Student Council’s “evening snack bar,” and hosting a Monday evening community meal and ice cream social. The grant was received from ABC, USA following Pastor Nancy Hall’s participation in a Missional Church Learning Experience.

“Radical Hospitality” Theme at Lakeshore

“Radical Hospitality” was the theme of an emphasis at Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church throughout worship services and forums during the month of October. Attention was given to how people wishing to follow the way of Jesus are called to relate to persons of differing cultural and economic backgrounds, those of other faith traditions, those of different traditions within the Christian church, and those who do not share a belief in God. Among those participating in forum presentations were a Muslim Imam, a Catholic priest, a worker in an inner city ministry, and a secular humanist.

American Baptist Women’s Ministries Sets 2012 Dates

Mar. 2 - Region Board Meeting

Mar. 3 - Region Spring Meeting (*Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church*)

Mar. 24 - East Bay Area Board Meeting (9:30-12:00)

MacArthur Community Baptist Church, San Pablo

For president or representative from each church

Apr. 28 - East Bay Area Spring Rally (9:30-12:00) *Alameda FBC*

For information:

Darby Lockett, 925-689-2401 or darbyloc@yahoo.com

Ex Libris PCBA
Comments by the Editor

It started from seeing how expensive books were in the Philippines. It's grown to where 6,000-8,000 books from the United States are on the shelves of the theology library at Central Philippine University, in the homes of Philippine Baptist pastors, and in the hands of students at the University's College of Theology. The Philippine Book Project was begun ten years ago by PCBA, and I have served as its coordinator. It has provided a way for books from the libraries of retired clergy, professors, and lay people to be sent for use in that country.

The project idea came out of an experience Alice and I had soon after our retirement. We were privileged to teach as volunteer faculty at Central Philippine University, a highly-regarded institution founded by American Baptists in 1905. We found our time there enriching, but something we weren't prepared for was the cost of books! Teachers were photocopying chapters from basic texts for the use of students; young ministers were starting pastorates with only a handful of

books; the fine university library building lacked many standard works in Bible, theology, church history, and general reference.

People who learned of our book project contributed appropriate volumes. The collected books were stored in the Edmondsons' garage and periodically boxed for shipment. A shipping firm, based in the Philippines, provided us with a preferential rate.

The time has come for me to step out of coordinating this endeavor. Many of our objectives have been met, but local pastors still need books, and the library needs to be supplied with some of the new, very expensive works it doesn't have funds to purchase.

I hope that my "retirement" will not be the end of the project but a "passing of the baton" to someone who shares this vision. Do you remember the old children's Sunday School song that asks, "Is that somebody you?" If it IS you, give me a call (510.483.6836) or send me an email (edmondsons@comcast.net) or a letter (14234 Outrigger Drive, San Leandro, CA 94577).

The Pacific Coast Baptist Association is a group of American Baptist congregations, clergy, and laity in fellowship since 1997 and emphasizing Baptist principles: The Priesthood of all Believers, Soul Competency, Biblical Authority, Autonomy of the Local Church, and Separation of Church and State.

PCBA Notes, the Association's news sheet, is published four times a year.
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Sympathy

Paul D. Clasper died Oct. 29 at Pilgrim Place in Claremont. From 1968 to 1975 he was Dean at ABSW and taught at the Graduate Theological Union. He was the only American called to be Dean of St. John's Cathedral in Hong King, 1982-86. . . . **Richard Nance** died Aug. 27 after being pastor for 36 years at First Baptist, Pacific Grove and having served interim pastorates in several churches. . . . **Glenn G. Knight** died in Oakland on Sept. 20 at age 95. Ordained in 1936, he served churches in Nebraska and Central California, including a significant interim pastorate at the First Chinese Baptist Church of Fresno. . . . **Winston E. Neal** died in Oakland on Nov. 10. Ordained in 1948, he was the long-time director of development at ABSW. . . . Memorial services were held Oct. 19 at First Baptist, Fresno for **J. Eugene Wright**, who had been senior pastor there until his retirement.

People and Churches

An unusual pulpit exchange will take place in December and January when **Daryl Lavway** (and his wife **Tatyana**) exchange the pastorate of Grace Baptist in San Jose for one in Kiama, Australia. That pastor, Cameron Eccleston (with his wife and small daughter), will serve Grace Church and do research for his Doctor of Ministry degree. . . . **McGee Avenue Baptist Church** in Berkeley has received a sizable Palmer Grant to initiate a program called FAITH Academy (Fathers Acting in Togetherness and Hope). . . . **James Alfred Smith, Sr.**, is recovering well from recent surgery. . . . Shell Ridge Church of Walnut Creek recognized the 20th anniversary of calling **Gregory Ledbetter** as their pastor. They recently held an Art Sunday featuring murals by a talented member.

Building Bridges

Prof. Norman Gottwald, an Old Testament scholar, is one of the founders of a totally new project, the Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice. It is located at a Presbyterian conference center at Stony Point, NY and opened in October.

The Center and Library connect biblically informed activists and justice-oriented scholars through a research library and educational programs in order to develop an empowering use of the Bible for enacting social justice today.

This pioneering project bridges the needs and interests of those on both side of the present divide between academic biblical study and peace and justice activities.

Compiled by Joan Thatcher