

# PCBA Notes

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## **“Why Worship Matters” - Spring Conference Theme** ***First Baptist Alameda Hosts May 12 Gathering***

The place of worship in church and personal life will be viewed from multiple perspectives at PCBA's Annual Spring Conference, to be held at the First Baptist Church of Alameda on Saturday, May 12. Jennifer Davidson, Assistant Professor of Worship and Theology at the American Baptist Seminary of the West, will be keynote speaker addressing the conference theme, “Why Worship Matters.” Dr. Davidson holds the Ph.D. degree from the Graduate Theological Union and serves on the Commission for Baptist Worship and Spirituality for the Baptist World Alliance and chairs the Task Force for Emerging Theologians for the denomination.

A panel presentation on intercultural worship is planned and five workshops will be offered: Building Media Ministry, Liturgical Art Brightens Worship, How Hymns Add to Worship, Negro Spirituals Add to Worship, and Congregational Care Relates to Worship. The closing worship service will conclude at 3:30.

### ***Go Green!***

***A paper copy of PCBA Notes costs 64½ cents when mailed to your home. Aid our budget (and save paper too) by getting yours by email.***

***Advise us at  
edmondsons62@att.net.***

Conference details and registration information is given on the back page of *PCBA Notes*. Conference registration is \$30, with an “early bird” rate of \$25 until May 3. A coffee gathering time at the conference begins at 8:30.

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### **ABSW Commencement to be Saturday, May 19**

Commencement for American Baptist Seminary of the West will be held at Allen Temple Baptist Church on Saturday, May 19 at 2:00. Alumna Lauran Bethell will be commencement speaker. Dr. Bethell, recognized for her work with the New Life Center for women in Thailand, is now an international consultant concerning women in sex slavery.

## **Where do ministers come from?**

Comments by the Editor

*It was clear to Baptist leaders in the newly-developing state of California that provision needed to be made for the training of ministers on the west coast if congregations were to be adequately served. As early as 1871, just 42 years after the gold rush, a seminary was founded which was to become American Baptist Seminary of the West.*

*Members of the Pacific Coast Baptist Association will be interested to know of the role played by people from congregations within our embrace. The seed for the idea of a Baptist seminary was planted by Charles Hobart, then pastor of the First Baptist Church of Oakland, and it was there in 1890 that the first seminary classes were held. Oakland's First Baptist Church also contributed the seminary's first president, Edgar Harkness Gray.*

*Moving the seminary to Berkeley was encouraged by President Benjamin Ide Wheeler of the University of California, an active deacon in the first Baptist church of Berkeley. After re-locating, the seminary called on the leadership of Claiborne Milton Hill as its president. Dr. Hill was then Pastor of Tenth Avenue Baptist Church, an antecedent congregation of Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church. During Dr. Hill's tenure, another Baptist institution, California College, merged with the seminary, resulting in a name change to Berkeley Baptist Divinity School. The present name of the seminary came decades later from a merger with the California Baptist Theological Seminary in Covina.*

*Theological and pastoral education has remained the centerpiece of academic preparation for ministry. The gift of leadership in changing times and the inter-relation of the schools of the Graduate Theological Union and with the University of California have led to preparation that is ecumenical and inter-racial in nature and open to dialog with the historic faiths of others in our world.*

*Has the need for such education ever been greater? It is a sad and retrograde step that some, fearful of where such education may lead, contend against formal theological training, arguing instead for an "apprentice-type" preparation within the confines of a non-denominational congregation cut adrift from centuries of shaping tradition. People "pastored" by the products of such preparation are in danger of being shortchanged and spiritually mal-nourished in a way that cannot sustain them.*

*Where do ministers come from? Out of the call of God, certainly. Out of a caring experience and nurturing fellowship with others of faith, to be sure. But—in our time perhaps more than ever—out of a responsible, inclusive, faith-expanding seminary.*

**PCBA'S Philippine Book Project  
to be Coordinated by  
the Onwubuariris**

Marie and Franklin Onwubuariri will be the new coordinators of PCBA's Philippine Book Project, through which, over the years, 6,000-8,000 theological and pastoral books have been sent to the Philippines. Marie and Franklin can be reached at mariecpo@gmail.com or 510-435-2377.

**Lakeshore Proposes Unique  
HighSchool-College Partnership**

A approach to help Oakland Technical High School raise its graduation rate and lower the achievement gap is being proposed by the local organizing committee of Lakeshore Church, expressing its commitment to social justice and the belief that education is a civil right. The plan calls for a partnership between the high school, Holy Names University and the church. It anticipates a multi-discipline approach, using student mentors, majors in social work and psychology as assistant case managers and course counselors. Jesus Portillo of Lakeshore says this model can "make a difference in the lives of our students."

**BLT Speakers Announced**  
*Wednesday Luncheons at 12:00*  
*Grand Lake Gardens*  
*401 Santa Clara Ave., Oakland*

**June 13 - Harold Davis**  
***"Living in Two Worlds:  
Church and Community"***  
*For 27 years, head of the  
Oakland Housing Authority  
Former president of ABC-USA  
and National Board of YMCA.  
Present Chair of Children's  
Hospital of Oakland.  
Member, McGee Ave Church*

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**Sept. 19 - Robert Wilkins**  
*Executive Director of the  
East Bay YMCA  
Former Trustee, Board of ABSW*

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**Oct. 17 - A Panel: Gay Clergy**  
Jim Hopkins, Moderator  
Esther Hargis, Wally Bryen,  
and Rick Mixon

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*Reservations by Monday:  
Joan Thatcher, 510-350-7008*

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**Save the Date - Sat., Oct. 6!**  
**Shoreline Stroll**

*Annual 5K Walk for  
Seafarers Ministry of the  
Golden Gate*

Registration 9:30 / Stroll - 10:00, Lunch

## People and Churches

*Compiled by Joan Thatcher*

**The First Baptist Church of Berkeley** will begin worshiping on the ABSW campus in June. For decades they have used the chapel at the First Congregational Church, where they had had a history of a shared education ministry and a covenant relationship. **Pastor Nancy Hall** invites former members and others related to the church to join them at one of their last services in the Congregational chapel. This year First Baptist celebrates its 123<sup>rd</sup> year of ministry.

On June 30, **Everett Curry** will complete four years as *volunteer* Director of Development for ABSW. A resident of Hillsboro, OR, he is a 1967 graduate of ABSW. Prior to his volunteer position, he represented the American Baptist Foundation in planned giving. Our thanks to Everett for his vital work! . . . At the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference of the Alliance of Baptists held in Austin in April, **Cecil White** was elected to the Alliance Board. He retired recently as librarian at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park.

Lakeshore Church has recognized **James Hopkins'** 23 years as senior pastor by granting him a second sabbatical leave from mid-April to mid-July. He will be concentrating on personal renewal. Allison Tanner, Minister of Christian Development, is leading the congregation during this time. . . **Shell Ridge Church** in Walnut Creek is sponsoring its 11<sup>th</sup> Mexico Mission Trip from June 16-22. . . Sponsored by the **Asian Caucus**, **John Sundquist** was guest speaker at a luncheon on April 28 at Lakeshore Church. Dr. Sundquist is the former Executive Secretary of American Baptist International Ministries. Having returned recently from Asia, he spoke on what he had learned there.

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### Registration Form - PCBA Spring Conference - May 12 (8:30-3:30)

*First Baptist Church, 1515 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda*

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address & Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop Preference: List "1" and "2" (See list on front page.)

Media\_\_\_ Art\_\_\_ Hymns\_\_\_ Spirituals\_\_\_ Care\_\_\_

Mail to Registrar Wally Bryen, 3807 38<sup>th</sup> Ave., Oakland 94619 or email information to [wbryen@comcast.net](mailto:wbryen@comcast.net). Checks to PCBA: \$25 Early Bird / \$30 After May 3