

PCBA Notes

Published by Pacific Coast Baptist Association

Fall, 2014

Vol. 4, No.3

PCBA Joins in Sponsoring YouthQuake—Sep. 12 & 13

The Pacific Coast Baptist Association, working with a consortium of American Baptist congregations, is sponsoring YouthQuake, an annual event for youth of all denominations, helping them “to serve God through urban missions.” Beginning Friday evening at Portola Baptist Church, 225 Pioche Street in San Francisco, the two-day event will include speakers well-regarded by young people, bands, worship, and participating in mission projects.

Registration is \$35 (\$40 at the door). One may register and secure additional schedule information at: www.youthquake.us.

Seafarers Ministry Plans “Virtual Stroll”

The annual Shoreline Stroll of the Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate takes a new shape this year in the form of what Board Chair Nancy Smith calls a “Virtual Stroll.” She explains that instead walking along the shoreline at the Seafarers Center, as has been done in the past, “strollers” are invited to choose their own route, perhaps in their neighborhood or at some special location, and then secure sponsors to underwrite their personal, or “virtual,” stroll.

The funds raised will continue to support the mission of hospitality and caring to seafarers. The resulting contributions may be sent to Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate, Berth 40, 4001 Seventh Street, Oakland 94607.

BLT Programs

(“Baptists Lunching Together”)

Wednesday Luncheons (\$8.00)

*Grand Lake Gardens - 12:00 Noon
401 Santa Clara Ave., Oakland*

Sep. 17

Roger Bauer

Chaplain, Seafarers Ministry
of the Golden Gate

Oct. 15

Paul Martin

President, ABSW

Victor Vanloo

Development Director, ABSW

Nov. 19

Evelyn Hanneman

Burma and the Baptist Peace
Fellowship of North America

Reservations by Monday:

Joan Thatcher, 510-350-7008

Being a Story-Formed Community: A Case for the Christian Year
Remarks by the Editor

Who we are is shaped by the stories we live by. John Westerhoff III calls the Christian Church a "story-formed community." He says our identity is dependent on having a story that tells us who we are and that our understanding of life's meaning and purpose is dependent on having a story that tells us what the world is like and where we're going.

The church is a community formed by the story of God's presence and action in the world—one that finds its focus in the story of Jesus Christ. Our individual stories are important, too, and we bring them with us into that community. There we re-live and re-enact the community stories so that God's stories and our stories become one.

A powerful way the church has done this is by celebrating the Christian Year. It's a Year shaped by Jesus' story moving through several "seasons." Growing up, I had not heard of the Christian Year. (I knew of Christmas and Easter—but "Lent" was a "Catholic" thing requiring giving things up.) Only later did I learn that the church had developed the Christian Year over the centuries as a guide for its worship and life.

*The Christian Year follows the story of Jesus: It begins with **Advent**, a season of Mary's, and our anticipation, a pregnant time with the possibility of new life. At **Christmas**, God came to us and comes to us, entering our lives and our world. **Epiphany**, with a star that makes Christ's coming known to the world, bids us join Jesus in baptism and his first followers in discipleship. **Lent** is a time for us to face up to the hard realities about ourselves and our world, a season that leads us through our own wilderness to Holy Week, Jesus' last meal and his cross and the suffering in our own lives and world. **Easter** celebrates the reality in which our faith and that of the first disciples is based—that, despite death and hate and evil, our Lord lives and is with us, bringing victory out of defeat. **Pentecost** celebrates the coming of God's Spirit and the empowering of the church to become a redemptive people. In **Ordinary Time** we acknowledge we do not live only in "high" moments, but that in ordinary, mundane life Jesus' teaching about his Realm and our calling can guide us. In time, however, we become empty and we're ready once again to enter a new year.*

In the Christian Year, our worship re-lives God's story so that it touches and transforms our story and shapes our lives to serve God. Our life is a journey—a journey through time. How we use our time shows what we hold to be important.

Baptist worship, which some take pride in describing as "non-liturgical," could be enriched by letting our Lord's story guide it, season to season. It could protect the church from becoming "a Rotary Club with religious language." It could help us more and more live in God's story and serve God day by day.

Christmas at Sea Packing Days

Two thousand five hundred “Ditty Bags” filled with Christmas gifts and a greeting for seafarers who come through the Port of Oakland are to be distributed through the International Maritime Center this fall. For many seafarers, this will be the only Christmas gift they receive.

Prepared by women’s organizations in local congregations, the bags will be packed for distribution on Tuesday, October 28 and Saturday, November 1, starting at 9:00 AM at the Center, 4001 Seventh Street. Volunteers are invited to help at one of the packing days. Lunch will be provided. *(The Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate is a sponsored ministry of PCBA.)*

Evergreen Meeting - Oct. 10-11

The Annual Meeting of the Evergreen Baptist Association will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 10 and 11 at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, Kent, Washington.

The Annual Meeting will feature the business and caucus meetings on Friday afternoon, with worship following dinner, and workshops and conversations on Saturday. Denominational President Don Ng will be the preacher. Registration may be made through member congregations. A pre-meeting “Sacred Conversation” on justice will take place on October 9.

Palo Alto Opens Search for Associate Pastor

The First Baptist Church of Palo Alto has announced a search for an Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Family Life. This full-time position will be responsible for work with children, youth, young adults, and families. Half of the minister’s time will be devoted to the development and maintenance of ministries of outreach and the other half to present programs. Applications and full job description may be secured from Rick Mixon, Pastor, First Baptist Church, 305 North California Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301 or at rrmixon@aol.com.

PCBA Board Holds Retreat

A partial-day retreat, led by PCBA President, Dayle Scott, was held in August reviewing programs of the past year and thinking together about directions for the coming year. The Pacific Coast Baptist Association was formed in 1997 and functions under a Board of Directors. With the death of board member and former president, Richard Ice, Doug Davidson has been appointed to that vacancy.

Go Green!

Get PCBA Notes by email
Send requests to
edmondsons62@comcast.net

Milestones for Baptist Friends

by Joan Thatcher

Four important anniversaries happened recently. **Berkeley FBC**, where **Nancy Hall** is Pastor, celebrated 125 years of ministry. . . **Grace Baptist** in San Jose, now led by **Daryl Lavway**, celebrated its centennial in June. . . **Redlands First** recognized **Joe Deroulhac** for 25 years as pastor there as did **Lakeshore Baptist** for **Jim Hopkins'** 25 years in Oakland.

Tripp Hudgins is the gifted new Director of Admissions at ABSW. A Ph.D. student at the GTU in Berkeley, he was recently the associate pastor at FBC in Palo Alto. He speaks of church music as "a symbol of God's presence," and in 2013 he presented a paper on this subject at Oxford University.

Laurie Bethell, an ABC Global Missionary and ABSW alumna, put together a conference on human trafficking held in May at Green Lake, attended by persons from 50 nations! . . . **Allison Tanner** of Lakeshore, Ministers Council senator and new president for this area, took part in the national Ministers Council gathering at Green Lake in August. . . **Douglas Siden** of Alameda has been elected for his 6th term on the East Bay Regional Park Board.

As national ABC President, **Don Ng** will be the featured speaker at the Evergreen Association's 11th Annual Meeting, October 9-11 in Kent, WA. . . 2014 marks the 40th anniversary of ordination services for **Esther Hargis** in Kentucky and **Joan Thatcher** at Lakeshore. . . After leading the renewal of Calvary Baptist in Washington, DC, **Amy Butler** has been called as the first woman senior pastor at **Riverside Church** in New York City. . . Bay Area Congresswoman **Barbara Lee** received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from ABSW in May.

Max Vines, PCBA's first paid staff person, recently concluded an around-the-world trip with three weeks in the Bay Area. He has lived in his native Australia since 2004. . . In July **Tyler Ichien** became the Executive Director at Grand Lake Gardens, after 15 years at the ABHOW residence in Los Gatos. (Grand Lake Gardens has hosted BLT luncheons since 1996.)

We mourn the death of **Maxwell Powers** on June 10. Nearly 97, he was a visionary professor at Berkeley Baptist Divinity School, a beloved veterinarian and lifelong peace activist, who, along with his late wife **Mary Dot Powers**, were parents of four sons and longtime members of Oakland FBC.

The Pacific Coast Baptist Association is a group of American Baptist congregations, clergy, and laity in fellowship since 1997 and emphasizing historic Baptist principles.

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

Editor, Dale Edmondson, edmondsons62@comcast.net, 510.483.6836.
