



# BEACH BREEZE

A Monthly Newsletter From Pacific Beach United Methodist Church

October 2019

## Stewardship

### We Give

To belong to our congregation is to be a steward. Some may say that “stewardship” is just a polite way of referring to financial giving to the church. But it’s far more than that.

One character in some of Jesus’ parables is the steward — the servant charged by the master to care for the master’s property. It is the master, not the steward, who owns the property, but the steward is responsible for it and is accountable to the master. So it is, said Jesus, between God and us. As God’s stewards we have three responsibilities:

- **Receiving:** We receive with joyful thanksgiving the many gifts that God showers upon us — time, talent, treasure, our bodies, our friendships, natural resources, and the beauty around us.
- **Managing:** We take good care of what we have received. We manage these resources wisely — for our own good and the good of others.
- **Giving:** Out of our gratitude in receiving so abundantly, we want to share with others. Let’s look at four kinds of gifts that we receive, manage, and share:

### Our time

We did nothing to earn the hours, the days, the weeks of our lives. Time is a gift of God. How we choose to use it is a matter of stewardship. Some people lead lives of frenetic activity, always over-extending themselves to the point of exhaustion, while others sit around in apathetic boredom. Some spend all their hours serving the needs of others at the expense of their own, while others live only for themselves.

As Christian stewards we try to manage time wisely and in a balanced way. And we give our time gladly to family and friends, to strangers, to the community, the church, and to ourselves.

### Our abilities

Do you remember Jesus’ parable of the three servants who received different amounts of money to manage while the master was away? We’ve each received from God distinctive gifts and talents. How we develop and use these talents is a matter of stewardship. Like two of the servants in Jesus’ story, we can invest them wisely — or like the third, out of fear we can hide them (Matthew 25:14-30).

As stewards, we acknowledge the gifts we have without apology. We develop them further, practicing new skills and putting our talents to work in ministry.

### Our resources

We may think that our financial resources are our own. But when we recall that the time, the energy, the good health, and the opportunities for employment behind these dollars are all gifts from God, we see that the funds belong to God too. We are the stewards; God is the owner. So questions about what we earn, how we earn it, how we save, spend, and give it away, are all questions of Christian stewardship.

One vital aspect of our stewardship is our giving to Christ’s work in the world. We’ve learned that giving is most effective when we commit ourselves to give a definite proportion of our income through the church.

For many, this proportion is one-tenth, or a tithe. Whatever the amount, we have discovered the joy in giving to God the “first fruits,” an amount “off the top” of our income, not what’s left over at the end of the month.

# Pastor Bob's Printed Blog

Dear Friends . . .

As we move from the summer months into the fall, we have many moving parts that remain in flux even as we work to discern how God is calling us to be the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We have endured quite a bit of staff change with the addition of Lynn Nguyen as our new Office Administrator, and as we have said a tearful farewell to Dee Baraw. Please remember to thank our PB UMC members who faithfully serve on our Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), who have borne much of this work.

We have continued to build positive relationships with our neighbors in Pacific Beach. Members may recall that we have worked hard to balance the needs of our hungry and/or unsheltered neighbors alongside those of our neighbors who want to feel safe in their communities. We continue to work with local faith leaders and other local community leaders to do so. We were recently visited by Dr. Jennifer Campbell, our own City Councilwoman, who praised the work done here on a regular basis. We have also enjoyed the management and staff of our local U.S. Bank branch, who came as part of their #communitypossible initiative, to volunteer with our Project Grace meal.

Even with this progress, we are wisely concerned with the cost of providing this meal and hosting the various clinics here each week. It is good and right that we ask hard questions and seek creative solutions about this! Several members of PB UMC as well as our capable Finance team are working to address these concerns as well. In doing so, we continue to form community connections, and have begun conversation with a well-respected member of PB who can help us in both relationship-building and in fund-raising. In addition, we are actively seeking support from other congregations who are either seeking ways to broaden their missions impact, or who have available grants. Please take a moment to thank our capable Finance team as well as those who regularly volunteer as part of our Project Grace team.



Pastor Bob, Dr. Jennifer Campbell (SD City Council), Dr. Sunny Smith (UCSD)

We have achieved a major milestone with our Labor of Love project that addresses

important maintenance and improvements in our Sanctuary. A more detailed update on the Labor of Love project can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. We are eager to begin this vital project! Please be sure to connect with a member of our Labor of Love team for more details about the project and to know more about what work has been taking place.

We recently gathered together with leaders of this congregation to begin a process of discerning how God is calling us forward into continued ministry in Pacific Beach. Led by Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth, we experienced both laughter and challenging conversation. And yet in authenticity and grace, we were able to:

- recognize ministries with positive energy/momentum;
- state where our congregation is struggling and/or concerned;
- develop important questions we should be asking of ourselves.

This has been made possible through the leadership of our VUE (Visioning, Uniting, Expanding) team, who have contracted with Rev. Dr. Bridgeforth to continue to guide us in this process. We will prayerfully continue to discern God's vision for this congregation's ministry in Pacific Beach.

Finally, we have experimented during our summer months with a new worship format, and our Growing in Faith team has elected to continue this new modern worship experience. This has not been an easy decision, and we continue to receive feedback from members of the congregation. Some very strongly prefer the more traditional format, and others are ecstatic about the new format and the conversation times. Our team continues to wrestle with these differing views, and some changes based on feedback have already taken place. We are grateful for the ongoing ways that we discern how to create worship environments that will feed the spiritual needs of our community. Please take a moment to connect with a member of this faithful team and to thank them for their spirit-filled work.

So many people are bringing energy and light to the ministries of this faithful congregation. Truly, we are a village, caring for God's community and connected in the Spirit of God's love. May God continue to guide and strengthen us...

Pastor Bob

# ***We Care for One Another***



**T**he Labor of Love project has made dramatic progress in the latter half of this year, and we are excited to share that we are fully funded and prepared to move into the construction phase as soon as our partners at Southern Cross have completed drawings and secured permits. Through the incredible generosity of PB UMC members and a remarkable memorial gift, we have reached our fundraising goal! In celebration of this success, we will plan a kick-off event to begin construction, and conclude the project with a celebration.

In the following months, we will organize a comprehensive capital campaign to build on this important project in order to fund maintenance and ministries into the future. The generosity shown to make the Labor of Love project possible inspires us to build on what God continues to do here at Pacific Beach United Methodist Church.

## **Donations for Project Grace**

**O**ne of the ministries we try to include on Wednesday evenings is to provide guests with some basic personal care items. Currently our cupboard is bare. We need travel size items of shampoo, conditioner, soap, and hand sanitizer. We can also use lip balm, nail clippers and files, razors, brushes, combs, feminine hygiene products (liners and tampons preferred), and new socks.

We would like to have one or two people who are willing to help make sure these items are stocked and ready to distribute on Wednesdays. Stocking the drawers can happen at any time during the week. You do not have to be available on Wednesday. Please contact Beth R for more details.



## **About Our Members**

by Betty J.

✚ Aimee Kay, our church office administrator for nearly 16 years, died suddenly on June 10, 2019. A Celebration of Life was held in August.

✚ Richard Dreisbach, long time member, died on July 11, 2019, after an extended illness.

✚ Gayle Ver Steeg, a member for 53 years, and former PB UMC office administrator, died after a brief illness in early September.

The *Beach Breeze* is a monthly publication of the Pacific Beach United Methodist Church. Please visit our website at [www.myPBchurch.org](http://www.myPBchurch.org).

# ***We Grow in Grace & Faith***

## **Sunday School News**

**I**'m sure you all are very tired of reading or hearing that we need Sunday School teachers!

I want to explain why you keep seeing that announcement. We provide Sunday School for the older preschool/younger elementary children at both services. Ideally, the teachers work in teams of two and each team teaches once a month at one of the services. That means we need a total of 16 teachers.

Right now we have 8 teachers. That doesn't work! It seems logical that we should probably go to Sunday School at just one service, though I know there will be disappointed families at whichever service we don't have Sunday School.

One solution may be to have upgraded activity bags at the other service? Provide childcare? Other ideas? Families and other interested parties, let me know what you think. I would love to hear your feedback and ideas!

Malea Sandstrom  
maleas@pbumc.org  
Sunday School Coordinator



## **A Note From Dee**

**T**hank you so much to those who helped organize the potluck to honor my ministry at PB UMC on Sunday, Sept. 22. I appreciate all those who helped set up, clean up, and brought food to share.

I was touched by the memories shared and the feelings expressed by those who spoke at the luncheon! Thank you also to those who have sent me notes to express what my ministry has meant to them.

I have many fond memories of my own from the last fourteen years. Deetours, teaching classes (and being taught in return), road trips, camps, just spending time with and sharing lives with all of you. Please know that I will continue to hold PB UMC and each of you in my heart and in my prayers.

Thank you for allowing me to be in ministry with you!

Love, Dee Baraw



## **Worshippers Targeted by Gift Card Scam**

**T**he Consumer Education Department of the FTC reports they are seeing a new spin on gift card scams. Scammers are pretending to be a pastor, rabbi, priest, imam, or bishop. They're asking worshippers for gift card contributions for a worthy cause. Appeals are often made by email, but people are also getting texts and phone calls.

The bogus emails often include the name of the local pastor and a legitimate looking email address. But a closer look should raise some red flags. For example, the email address isn't the one normally used by the church, and the service provider is different, too. The message may begin with a simple "Hi," but doesn't include a recipients' name. There also may be spelling errors, including the pastor's name.

The imposter asks you to buy a popular gift card such as iTunes, Google Play, or Amazon, then asks for the gift card number and PIN on the back of the card. Those numbers let the scammer immediately get the money you loaded onto the card. Once that's done, the scammer and your money are gone, usually without a trace.

If you or someone you know paid a scammer with a gift card, report it as soon as possible. Call the card company and tell them the gift card was used in a scam.

## ***We Reach Out to Others***

### **Second Sunday Lunch Bunch**

**T**he PB UMC Lunch Bunch is going to celebrate Second Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, with our lunch at a local Italian restaurant. We will meet at Mamma Mia Italian Restaurant at noon.

Mamma Mia has healthy and tasty food in a fun atmosphere. They have exceptional pizzas, with special prices on Sunday. The special price for a 12-inch pizza with tomato sauce and cheese is only \$9.95. You may have up to three additional toppings at \$1.00 each.



Mamma Mia's is located at 1532 Balboa Ave (where Balboa merges with Grand Avenue, near the Grand Ave/Lamont Street intersection). Note: parking near Mamma Mia is very limited, so we recommend car pools from the church.

All folks at PB UMC, including children, are invited to join us. If you plan to attend, please contact Hope A. or Marcia M.

### **Trick or Treat for UMCOR**

**Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**

**B**etween services, and after the 10:30 service, buckets will be provided for the children to collect change from attendees on Sunday, October 27. This money will be given to United Methodist Committee on Relief.

From their website: "The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by war, conflict or natural disaster. UMCOR provides humanitarian relief and disaster response to people in more than 80 countries, including the United States."

All donations go directly to help others (not to administration costs).

Children- Wear your costumes! (Either service.)

Adults- Bring your change!



### **Save the Date!**

**The November Second Sunday Concert is Coming**

Seaside Quartet, led by PB UMC pianist Brenda Martin, returns for our Second Sunday Concert on Sunday, November 10, 2019, at 2:00 pm in the PB UMC Sanctuary.

Seaside Quartet, received rave reviews when it performed last year.

Watch for more news via video announcements, bulletins, and the November issue of Beach Breeze.

# Circle of Support

## August 2019 Record of Generosity

	Budget	Actual
August giving	\$21,456	\$15,752
August other sources of income	\$9,755	\$12,720
August total available for ministry	\$31,211	\$28,472
August expended in ministry	\$34,291	\$33,081
August income minus expenses	(\$3,080)	(\$4,609)
YTD giving	\$171,647	\$147,763
YTD other sources of income	\$97,910	\$96,637
YTD total available for ministry	\$269,557	\$244,400
YTD expended in ministry	\$280,726	\$271,734
YTD income minus expenses	(\$11,169)	(\$27,334)
Year 2019 budget	\$415,890	

## Reflections From the Finance & Stewardship Team

We are holding expenses well below budget as we continue to struggle with declining giving, which seems to parallel declining worship attendance. The visioning event held at church on September 21 is a major step towards addressing this and other church issues. Please pray for the financial health of the church. On a happy note, our bookkeeper Bruce has started a new job, which gives him a great reason for closing the books a little late this month. As a result, the numbers in our Record of Generosity table are estimated.



## October Communion Offering: World Communion Sunday

For ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college, or for those people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible, the road toward education has often been unwieldy. On World Communion Sunday your giving helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students to whom God has given the gifts to learn and to serve.

### CHURCH STAFF:

Lead Pastor: The Rev Bob Rhodes  
Sojourning Pastor: The Rev Christopher Carter, PhD  
Office Administrator: Lynn Nguyen

Music Director: Ron Jessee  
Sunday School Coordinator: Malea Sandstrom

# Calendar of Events

Worship Times:

9:00 am, **Worship Celebration**

10:30 am, **Worship Celebration**

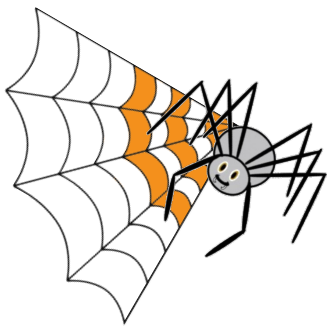
Sunday Music Rehearsals:  
8 am, **Voices of Praise**  
(Adults & Youth)  
10 am, **Grace Notes**

## Week 1

Tues, Oct 1 9:00 am, *Beach Breeze* Folding Party  
Wed, Oct 2 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Oct 3 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal  
Fri, Oct 4 7:30 pm, Narc Anon  
Sat, Oct 5 9:00 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters

## Week 2

Sun, Oct 6 Worship and Communion  
Mon, Oct 7 6:00 pm, AI-Anon  
Tues, Oct 8 6:00 pm, Staff - Parish meeting  
6:30 pm, Trustee meeting  
Wed, Oct 9 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Oct 10 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal  
Fri, Oct 11 7:30 pm, Narc Anon  
Sat, Oct 12 Conference Young Adult Retreat (p.7)



## Conference Young Adult Retreat

"Identity" I am who you say I am

October 12-14, 2019, Lazy W Ranch  
Cost \$85

This year, we will be exploring the theme of Identity. Who do you say you are, who does God say you are, and how do we live this life authentically and with integrity?

The purpose of this event is to deepen faith, encounter God in nature, and make connections with other young adults.

The weekend will include small group time, worship, keynote speakers, and opportunities to connect with other young adults.

Questions? Give us a call at (949)728-0141 or email [eschoettger@calpacumc.org](mailto:eschoettger@calpacumc.org).

## Week 3

Sun, Oct 13 Worship  
Noon, Second Sunday Lunch (p.5)  
Mon, Oct 14 Columbus Day—Office Closed  
5:30 pm, Scripture & Sermon Study  
6:00 pm, AI-Anon  
6:30 pm, Finance Committee  
Wed, Oct 16 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Oct 17 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal  
Fri, Oct 18 7:30 pm, Narc Anon  
Sat, Oct 19 9:00 am, Prayers & Squares Quilters

## Week 4

Sun, Oct 20 Worship  
Mon, Oct 21 November *Beach Breeze* Deadline  
6:00 pm, AI-Anon  
Wed, Oct 23 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace  
5:30 pm, Storefront Ministries  
Thurs, Oct 24 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal  
Fri, Oct 25 7:30 pm, Narc Anon

## Week 5

Sun, Oct 27 Worship  
Trick or Treat for UMCOR (p.5)  
5:00 pm, District Youth Dance (p.7)  
Mon, Oct 28 5:30 pm, Scripture & Sermon Study  
6:00 pm, AI-Anon  
Tues, Oct 29 9:00 am, *Beach Breeze* Folding Party  
Wed, Oct 30 11:30 am, Scripture & Sermon Study  
5:30 pm, SD Project Grace  
Thurs, Oct 31 Halloween  
7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal



## Information for Youth District Youth Halloween Dance

Date: Sunday, October 27, 2019

Time: 5:00-8:00 pm

Cost: \$5.00 per person

(Each group should bring a side dish to share.)

Location: San Dieguito UMC

# ***We Love and Worship God***

## **October Scriptures**

Series: "Stewardship: Generous Living"

**Oct 6, 2019**

"A Little Is Enough" Mark 6:30-44

**Oct 13, 2019**

"The Gift of Giving" 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

**Oct 20, 2019**

"The Blessing of Giving" Acts 20:32-38

**Oct 27, 2019**

"Great Power and Great Grace"  
Acts 4:32-37

**Pacific Beach  
United Methodist Church**



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## **Meet One of Our Voices of Praise: Cambria Metzinger**

by Roving Reporter Marcia M.

**N**ot long ago, I noticed we had a new member in our Voices of Praise. Her name is Cambria M. and she has been a Voice of Praise choir member since she started attending PB UMC in May. I was excited to get to know her.

I asked Cambria how she found out about PB UMC, and what made her join. She told me, "I was looking for a church to get involved in as a member of a choir. I posted my interest on Facebook. PB UMC pianist and choir accompanist Laura Williams answered, letting me know about PB UMC. She sent me a flyer about the church with a description of the music. I came to PB UMC soon after that and sat in on a choir rehearsal. I got a wonderful sense of community in the choir. We held hands and said a prayer after the rehearsal was finished. I wanted to be part of this community. Everyone made me feel so welcome." I asked if she was involved with any activity besides the choir, and she said, "The choir is an amazing experience for me. Later, I may participate in other church activities."

I have been amazed at Cambria since her first Sunday at PB UMC. Almost every Sunday she sang at least a small solo. When the rest of the choir was on summer break, Cambria sang several solos during the services. She is a junior at San Diego State with a major in Vocal Performance, which is all classical music. When she graduates, she plans on getting a masters in Vocal Performance. She told me, "After I get my masters, I would love to be a professional opera singer, and still have performance expertise so I can teach. My big dream is to have a voice studio."

I asked her if she had anything else to share with us and she answered, "My boyfriend Diego L. works at Our Lady of Grace Church, but he did join us singing in our choir one Sunday recently." Anything else? "I am so grateful to be here. Ron and Louis are so wonderful. They are real inspirations. I am so grateful for all the leaders at PB UMC. It's a gem."

