

PCBA Notes

Published by Pacific Coast Baptist Association

Winterl, 2018

Vol. 8, No.1

Three Bay Area ABC Churches Serving Homeless and Hungry

CrossWalk Community Church of Napa, Grace Baptist Church of San Jose, and Shell Ridge Community Church of Walnut Creek are engaged in special ministries to homeless and hungry people.

For the Napa congregation, it has been the need of the suddenly displaced persons from the Northern California wildfires. On the first night of the fires, CrossWalk, which already was a Red Cross evacuation site, sheltered people who had lost their jobs, their homes and the businesses in which they worked. Hosting up to 300 individuals nightly, they replaced the pews in their sanctuary with cots. Those sheltered included people without means as well as affluent community members and tourists. They continue to provide meals from their kitchen for the displaced.

The San Jose congregation for many years has offered bus passes to the needy, a community meal every Sunday after worship, a welcoming attitude toward the homeless, free showers and laundry room service, and a winter emergency shelter for those who sleep on the streets. They are now responding to the crisis created by the city's closing of an encampment of homeless people. Forming an interfaith organization, they temporarily housed up to 50 people a night, and subsequently set up a program which included mandatory classes and individual coaching on self-understanding, goal-setting, and empowerment leading to transitional housing,

The basic food needs of children have led the Walnut Creek congregation to join in an interfaith endeavor called "Feed the Kids." Sixteen Shell Ridge volunteers have helped provide food for children of 277 families from nine schools as well as other critical family needs during the Winter Break.

PCBA has supported the ministries of these churches.

Stories about the congregations may be read at

www.pcba.org

(Click: "PCBA News.")

ANNUAL SWEDISH PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Seafarers Ministry
of the Golden Gate

Saturday, March 17

10:00 Breakfast Served

11:30 Program

\$10.00 Donation

International Maritime Center
4001 Seventh Street
Portview Park, Port of Oakland

Open Letter to Scott Pruitt

By the Editor, Dale Edmondson

Dear Mr. Pruitt,

I'm writing to you about my grandchildren and the environment I wish to bequeath to them. You've been entrusted, as the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, with the care and protection of the natural environment of our nation. Because I know you profess the Christian Faith (and like me stand in the Baptist tradition), you will understand that our world is God's world and you are accountable ultimately to the God of Creation.

When Mr. Nixon signed the bill creating your agency in 1970, with overwhelming bipartisan support, to "set and enforce standards for air and water quality and for individual pollutants," he said in doing so we "by conscious choice, transform our land into what we want it to become." I want that land to be a land—indeed a world—of fresh air and clear skies and clean water and healthy forests and verdant valleys and wide prairies. I want it to be a land in which my grandchildren's children can drink tap water without fear of lead poisoning, where they can run relays without polluted air damaging their lungs or causing asthma, where they can surf along our beaches without petroleum clinging to their skin, where they can marvel at glaciers, and plan their lives and build their homes without fear of cataclysmic storms.

Unfortunately, many of your actions run counter to the purpose of the EPA and indeed are destructive of the environment. You have removed or diluted environmental regulations involving methane emissions, pesticide use, clean air and clean water standards; replaced half of the Board of Scientific Counselors with non-scientists who are industry representatives; and lobbied the President to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord despite the overwhelming consensus of the world's scientists about the human influence on climate change. You've removed from EPA's website previous statements by EPA scientists about climate change and awarded EPA grants to universities and non-profits on the basis of political, rather than scientific, concerns.

*Any objective analysis will make clear that the short-term interests of the fossil fuel, chemical, and related industries are served by your actions. I acknowledge that our national economy is heavily dependent of the production of oil and that your policies may be of **short-term** economic benefit. But what is the **long-range** consequence? I share the concern of your agency's first Administrator, William Ruckelshaus, who served under Presidents Nixon and Reagan. He has said, "We've spent 40 years putting together an apparatus to protect public health and the environment from a lot of different pollutants. [Mr. Pruitt] is pulling that whole apparatus down."*

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Brief Notes

Oakland's Ceasefire Program, hosted by Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church was credited in the January 9 *Mercury News* for the city's reduction in violent crime (murders lowest in seventeen years).

Copies of the Inaugural Sermon by ABSW President James Brenneman are available from the seminary at www.absw.edu or 510.841.1905.

Save the Date for Seafarers Ministry's Ice Cream Social on Saturday, May 20 at 3:00 PM at the International Maritime Center, 4001 Seventh Street, Port of Oakland.

The Baptist Peace Fellowship Summer Conference will be held July 2-7 at Keuka College, Keuka Park, NY with the theme, Decentering Power and Privilege: Becoming the Stranger."

Resource material on the themes of peace and justice has been prepared by the Baptist Peace Fellowship for personal of church use is available free at www.bpfna.org.

Christmas at Sea gifts were distributed by The Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate to the crews of 46 different ships before Christmas. These included 945 "Ditty Bags," among which were hand-knitted scarves and hats from local churches. The program has been headed by retiring Board member, Alodia Corpuz.

For individuals wishing to send books to Central Philippine University's College of Theology, PCBA provides assistance, although the Association no longer makes these shipments itself. Under the new plan, a new shipment of theological and basic educational books was made in February. For information: Newsletter@pcba.org Or 510.483.6836.

Becoming a Sanctuary Church, Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church has voted to undertake steps of advocacy for undocumented residents.

Douglas Avilesbernal, new Executive Minister of Evergreen Baptist Assn, introduces himself in "The Paradox of Beginnings," at www.evergreen-abc.org.

Open Letter (Continued from Previous Page)

I understand you have yet to look forward to grandchildren. When you do, I know you'll find them a precious gift. I pray that your stewardship of the environment will ensure them, and all of our grandchildren, a place of beauty and wellbeing.

People

The lives of three leaders in the life of American Baptists in Northern California were celebrated in memorial services in January: **Lynn Hunwick**, former missionary to India and active member of First Baptist, Palo Alto, on January 13 . . . **Don Sheppard**, long-time, faithful member of the PCBA Board and Grace Baptist, San Jose on January 20 . . . **David Bartlett**, former Pastor of Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, professor of New Testament at ABSW and later Dean of Yale Divinity School on January 27.

Congratulations are extended to **Sydney Webster** on her ordination, December 16 at Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church. She is a hospice chaplain and Minister in Residence at Lakeshore. . . **Michael Burch** has been called as Interim Pastor of Shell Ridge Community Church, Walnut Creek. He is also Visiting Professor of New Testament at ABSW. . . **Jim Hopkins** participated in the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC in February . . **Allison Tanner** has been engaged to prepare study guides for the American Baptist Home Mission Society's forthcoming mission project in New Orleans.

An Exploration Event

The History of American Baptist in Northern California

Saturday, April 7 - 2:00 to 4:00

A significant part of the life of American Baptists in the Bay Area can be traced to the ministry of the historic First Baptist Church of Oakland, founded in 1855, only a little more than a decade after the first congregation of Baptists was organized in San Francisco. On Saturday, April 7, there will be an opportunity to explore this history through a visit to the impressive history room of that church and enjoy a tour of the building including its sanctuary designed by the noted architect, Julia Morgan. The church is located at 534 Twenty Second Street, at Telegraph Avenue.

The event, arranged in cooperation with the First Chinese Baptist Church of San Francisco, will be hosted by Steve Reimer and Phil Meads, long-time members of the Oakland church. It is planned to be an occasion for fellowship as well as an educational venture. Refreshments are being served by the Semanon Fellowship of First Chinese.

Reservations will assist the planners in their work. These may be made at blessler@gmail.com or with the First Chinese Baptist Church, 415-362-4139.

The History of American Baptists in Northern California

through the experience of the congregation at the First Baptist Church of Oakland
our hosts: Dr. Phil Meads and the Rev. Steve Reimer



First Baptist Church, Cor. Jones & Telegraph Ave., Oakland, Cal.



Many of us in the Bay Area have been to Oakland First Baptist Church without realizing its significance in American Baptist history.

This is an opportunity to fellowship with American Baptists from all over the Bay Area, excited for the Lord and curious about how this building and its congregation contributed to the growth of American Baptist Churches in Northern California. Make it a fun Saturday with friends!

Saturday, April 7, 2018
2:00 - 4:00 PM
First Baptist Church
534 22nd Street, Oakland

RSVP to the
First Chinese Baptist Church,
SF, at blessler@gmail.com

Phil Meads and Steve Reimer are long-time members of the First Baptist Church of Oakland. Phil is the tour leader for this topic through the City of Oakland; Steve is the reason there is a priceless History Room collection in the church basement. We will begin with a history of the church and the changing neighborhood, followed by tours of the church and History Room collection.

In the spirit of fellowship, light refreshments will be served, sponsored by the Semanon Fellowship of the First Chinese Baptist Church, San Francisco. Groups may RSVP with a contact person and group size.