



*Beaumont
Presbyterian
Church*

DECEMBER 2021

*The stone church. . .
. . . with the caring heart*

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY 8:30 AM
AND 10:00 AM

CHILDREN'S
SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP HOUR
9:30 AM AND
11:00 AM
SOCIAL HALL

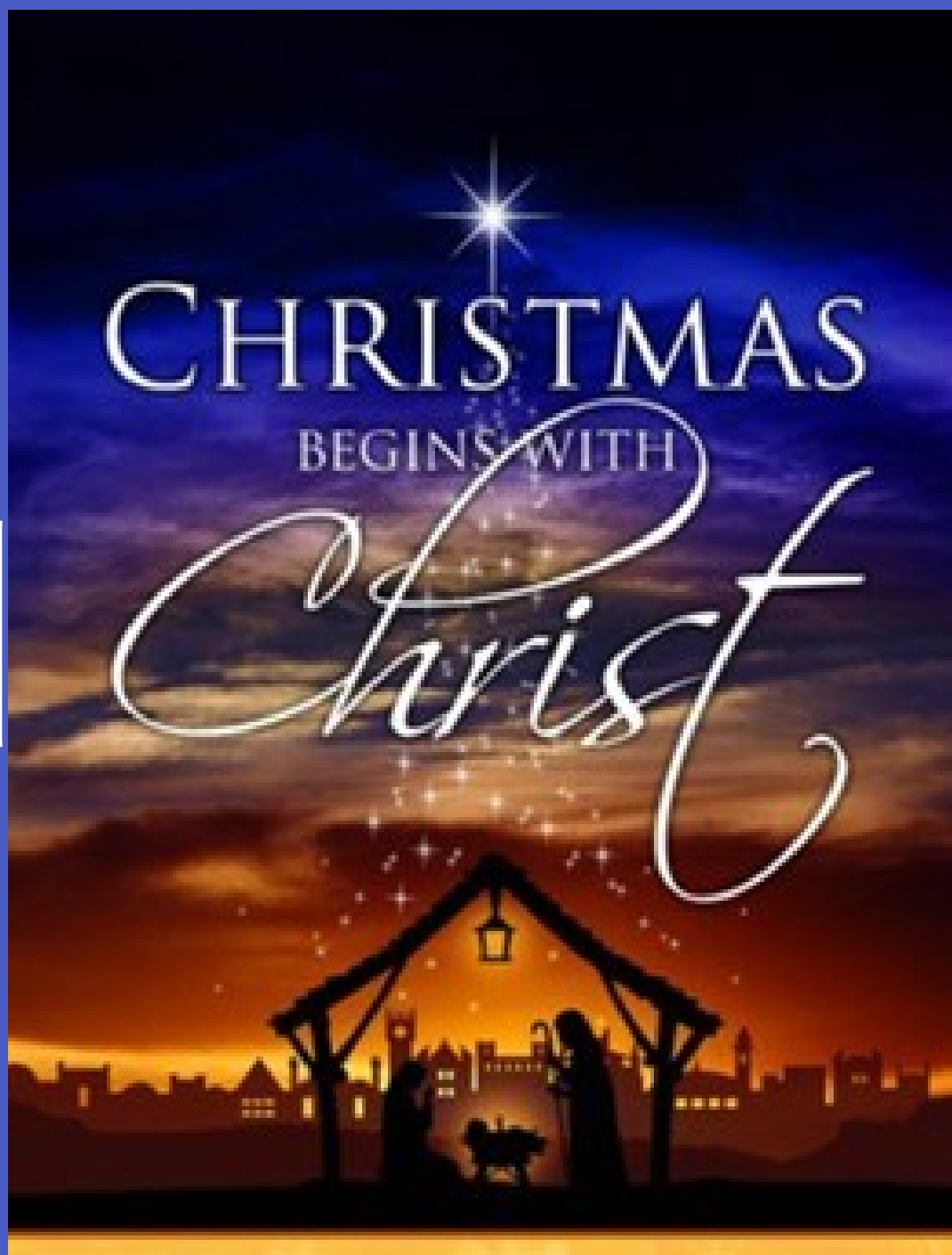


TABLE OF CONTENTS



Beaumont Presbyterian Church

A Christ-centered family of God's people, growing in faith, caring for each other, bringing others to Christ, and ministering to the needs of our changing community and world.

On the cover:

Jesus is who, what
and why we celebrate.
The real story, the full story,
begins with a manger and a birth,
and ends with the cross
and a resurrection.
Without the cradle,
there can be no cross.

Inside This Month

- 2 Table of Contents
- 2 Mission Statement
- 3 A Word from our Pastor
- 4 Notes from our Session
- 4 Stewardship Note
- 5 From the Outreach Committee
- 6 Table of Plenty
- 6 Photo Gallery
- 7 Celebrations
- 7 Important Dates
- 8 Writer's Corner - "The Gift"
- 9 Presbyterian Women
- 10 Christian Education
- 11 Christian Education continued
- 11 A Word from our Choir Director

All correspondence should be sent to:

**Beaumont Presbyterian Church
PO Box 368
Beaumont, CA 92223**

(Mail sent to the physical address is
sometimes delayed or returned.)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

DAWN KEHRET

Submit all articles, announcements, etc. to her at

EditorDawnBPC@gmail.com (NEW!)

NOTE: JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

December 15, 2021

Birthday or anniversary information: Call the church office: (951) 845-1506

Office hours: Monday thru Thursday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

This Newsletter is published ten times each year by Beaumont Presbyterian Church,
P.O. Box 368, 702 Euclid Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223. Phone: (951) 845-1506.

Website: beaumontpresbyterianchurch.com—Email: OurChurchEmail@gmail.com

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear Friends,

For those unable or not yet ready to join us live we continue with our **online services** found at www.beaumontpresbyterianchurch.com, and on our Facebook page or YouTube channel.

This is our **pledge drive** season. We encourage all members and friends of the church to prayerfully consider turning in a pledge card for 2022. This helps with our budgeting. Pledge cards can be found in the pew racks or in the church office. They can be placed in the offering plate, dropped off at the office in the morning on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday or mailed to the church at PO Box 368.

Speaking of giving, I was overjoyed by how we exceeded all expectations by raising \$20,000 to send **208 wheelchairs** for children and youth to 94 countries in Jesus' name! Those gifts were matched by anonymous donors from "Free Wheelchair Mission" meaning a miracle of mobility for 416 of Jesus' children. I can't begin to express how encouraged and joyful I feel about your response to this important work.

Our sanctuary has been blessed with the recent addition of **Jim Miller's wood carving of "Jesus and the Children"**. This work of art and faith will be an expression of our Savior's love for all who enter our sanctuary. I will have much to say about it when we resume our "Art and Stained-Glass Window Tours" of the church campus.

I just received the brochures for the **trip to the Holy Land** I am hosting July 5, 2022, through July 14, 2022. Please let me know if you have any questions. I am very excited about the group of people who have already expressed an interest in participating. Our last church trip to the Holy Land in 2012 was wonderful. It is such a joy to walk where Jesus walked.

Our church fellowship dinners are always so much fun. Our **Italian Christmas Dinner** is on Sunday, December 5th at 4:00 pm. Where else can you enjoy Lasagna, dessert, door prizes, fellowship, and entertainment for \$10?

Our Presbyterian Women will have a **P.W. luncheon** on Friday, December 10th at noon with the great musical entertainment of Dawn Kehret and Jaci Davis!

It has been many years since we have put on a **Christmas Pageant / Cantata** and everyone who come out on Sunday, December 19th will have a great time. Doors open at 2:30 pm with refreshments. The program will start at 3:00 pm.

For those not comfortable driving at night or being among a large group, we will have a smaller **afternoon Christmas Eve celebration** on Friday, December 24th at 1:00 pm in the sanctuary. This will be more informal but no less meaningful.

And, at 5:00 pm on Friday, December 24th we will have our **traditional Christmas Eve celebration** of lessons, carols, choir, and candles. Our 2019 Christmas Eve service was one of our all-time best celebrations in my humble opinion.

Whether in person or online, I look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior with you this Christmas. There are countless areas of concern in our world but the coming of a child 2,000 years ago brought a light into the world that shatters all darkness. Our Savior has come, and that is all we need to know, because that makes all the difference!

Jesus and the Children



Yours in Christ,
Scott

NOTES FROM YOUR SESSION

Session is glad to share discussion face to face as we consider decisions for our church. The November meeting was very productive with the following items capturing our attention:

- The church front entry doors will be refinished
- Decorate Sanctuary at 10 am on Dec. 2nd
- A Fellowship dinner on Dec. 5th at 4 pm
- Beaumont Presbyterian Women Gathering, Dec. 10th
- Approved a new members class
- Early results for stewardship pledge cards are positive
- A Christmas Play offered December 19th
- A replacement piano for the Sanctuary approved
- Requested estimates to paint fellowship hall & ceiling

Our Elders have worked faithfully for all of us and we want to express our gratitude and appreciation to them. We especially want to thank Lynn Rodgers and Pat Whalen as they prepare to end their term with Session. It has been a pleasure to have them in our midst. Please thank them when you see them on Sunday. Our faithful Deacons have cared for their flock and continue to be there for us. We thank them for their efforts and concern for our congregation. Please thank them when you see them on Sunday. Now that covid restrictions are easing we will look forward next year to a special occasion to “Meet Your Deacons” in fellowship hall.

We wish Christmas Blessing to all,

Clerk of Session
Beverly Webster

Elders & Committees Responsibilities

Treasurer
Della Condon

Finance & Endowment
Pat Whalen

Bldg. and Grounds
Rick Pippenger

Fellowship
Lori Hazelton

Christian Education
Marty Mangan
Kathy Stow

Mission & Outreach
Lynn Rodgers

Membership
Bev Webster

Worship
Mary Cox
Cathy Calhoun

Stewardship
Judy Strahan

Nominations
Lynn Rodgers

Clerk of Session
Beverly Webster

STEWARDSHIP NOTE

MAY EACH OF YOU HAVE A SAFE, HEALTHY, & BLESSED CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SEASON



THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

PLEASE CONSIDER BEAUMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WHEN YOU PRAYERFULLY PREPARE YOUR 2022 PLEDGE CARDS

A WORD FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

GIFT OF \$1000 TO WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL BY THE BEAUMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OUTREACH COMMITTEE

World Vision International has many programs that donations can be made to. All are worthy. We have spoken with a representative and have these suggestions. Several of the programs have matching funds available for as much as 6 times the amount. Others have no match but are very much needed.

We suggest the following:

\$500 to the World Vision Fund which has 13 international projects which all receive matching funds. We have reviewed all 13 and find it impossible to choose. We want to give the entire \$500 to that program and let them decide how best to allocate the funds.

\$500 to the Self Help Fund that provides farm animals to families so that they can raise their own food and develop self-sustaining herds.

\$25.00 buys a flock of ducks.

\$35.00 buys two goats (one pregnant)

\$13.00 buys 2 dozen fertilized chicken eggs,

\$50.00 - \$100 buys a milk cow.

There are many more. All come with instructions and a small amount of food. World Vision workers visit the families and help them with the husbandry.

This is indeed doing God's work.

Presented by Roy & Jean Brownie



TABLE OF PLENTY

We were so sorry to say goodbye to Dowling's Orchard. They have provided us with fresh fruits and vegetables for 15 years. We wish the family good luck in their future.

We were the beneficiaries of a canned food drive by Coldwell Banker in Beaumont. They collected food for 2 weeks and divided it with us and the Boys and Girls Club of the Pass. People were very generous as we were able to share most of it with our guests in time for their Thanksgiving meals. Some went into our bins for later when we need to give some more help for those who can cook.

At our annual Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday, November 24th, we served 200 guests! A great time was had by all!

Jodie Welch



Two happy volunteers



Colorful Centerpieces



Thanksgiving meals with plenty of pie!



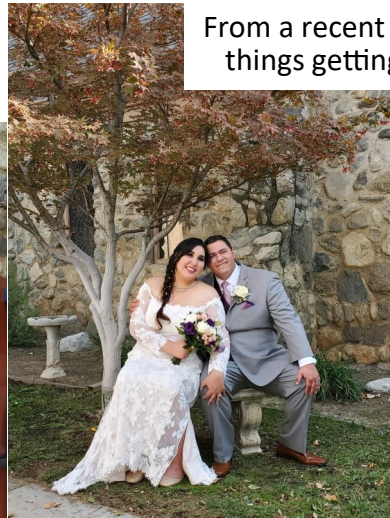
PHOTO GALLERY



Pastor Leon Fikse preaching



Bagpiper Forrest Cormany
On Reformation Sunday



From a recent wedding - a sign of things getting back to normal!

Marilyn Speed
with military items
from her husband
Capt. Dan Speed.



CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Betty Warren | 7 Carolyn Moreno | 19 Joyce Reed |
| 1 Jane Sinner | 7 Judy Kelts | 25 Carol Kreckow |
| 3 Marge Shearer | 9 Neil Torrence | 28 Jack Schoonover |
| 3 Suzy Kim | 12 Lyn Reynolds -Johnson | 28 Peggy Gates |
| 4 Art Welch | 13 Connie Ring | 28 Rene Moreno |
| 5 Linda Adams | 14 Philip Michelsen | 29 Shirley Webb |
| 5 Bonnie Green | 18 Dean McKernan | 30 Dave Knight |
| | 18 Elsa Rice | |



Anniversaries

- 19 Herb & Connie Presson
- 22 Bobby (Asghar) & Jane Benjamin
- 26 Art & Jodie Welch
- 31 Toni and Tom Picton

IMPORTANT DATES

BPW COORDINATING TEAM MEETING	Wednesday, Dec. 1st at 1:00pm in Room #1
DECORATE SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS	Thursday, December. 2nd at 10:00am
PRESBYTERY TEA	Sat., Dec. 4th, 1:00pm-Fellowship Hall, \$7 donation
ITALIAN DINNER	Sun., Dec. 5th, 4:00pm-Social Hall, Lasagna, Dessert, Entertainment, Door prizes, \$10 tickets on sale
DEACONS MEETING	Tuesday, Dec. 7th at 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall
BPC WOMEN CHRISTMAS GATHERING	Fri. Dec. 10th, 12:00pm - Luncheon program with Jaci Davis and Dawn Kehret, \$10 tickets on sale
FINANCE COMMITTEE	Tuesday, Dec. 14th, 10:00am in Fellowship Hall
SESSION MEETING	Tues. Dec. 14th (1 week early), 2:00pm at Bev Webster's home
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT/CANTATA	Sun., Dec. 19th, 3:00pm (doors open at 2:30pm) in the Social Hall: Christmas Carols, children's choir, angels, shepherds, Magi, Scripture readings & poetry
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	Fri., Dec. 24th, 5:00pm in the Sanctuary Christmas Carols, Choir Anthems and Scripture readings



THE GIFT by Sarah Austin

*It was the night before Christmas and all through the town,
not a room was vacant - not one to be found.*

*Mary spoke to Joseph with a soulful plea,
"Please find a place for baby and me".*

*"Have faith my dearest", Joseph did reply.
"God is with us and He will provide."*

*Stars smiled on Mary throughout her plight,
in fulfilling God's promise, that very night.*

*Angels spoke to shepherds not far away,
and told them their Savior was here now - this very day.*

*He will lie in a manger for God has bid
that His Son will begin life with all glory hid.*

*Until such a time he can reveal what man needs to know,
and offer God's promise to a world filled with woe.*

*The shepherds, they rushed to be at His side,
and gave thanks for the blessing of seeing our Savior and guide.*

*Others came to know Him and then they believed
in the man called Jesus who fulfilled God's promise indeed!*

*Evil rose against Him and they took him down,
but He overcame and now wears a crown!*

*He continues to lead us and is never out of sight,
for His spirit lives in us and makes us all right.*

*Jesus loves us dearly and one day we will be
with Him for all eternity!*

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We look forward to seeing all of you for our Christmas Gathering on Friday, December 10, 2021 when our program will be Dawn Kehret, our choir director and Jaci Davis, our church pianist. Lunch will be warm chicken with potato, macaroni and green salad bar with dessert. Cost is \$10. A special thanks goes to Connie Presson for our decorations at each Gathering, as well as to those who show up at 10:30 a.m. the morning of the Gatherings to help her; and to those who help clean up after each Gathering.

We are still selling calendars and Christmas cards as fund raiser for the Women's activities. We will continue to sell until they are gone. They are only \$7 each. Thank you to all who've already purchased these items.

In October we donated \$300 to the Wheelchair mission.

In December, we will disburse checks to:

\$100 to H.E.L.P. and \$200 to Table of Plenty
\$100 of Least Coin donations from our circles
\$400 to PC USA Mission Pledge
\$400 for Thank Offering and \$100 for Birthday Offering

A big **thank you** goes out to all who donate to these charitable activities.

Bible Studies continue weekly:

Friday, 9:30 a.m. On break from mid-November thru the first of the year.
Friday, 10:00 a.m., contact Betty Friedberg 951-845-4536

Circles meet once a month: (September through May):

Esther/Lydia every 3rd Wed., 1 p.m., Rm. 1 of the Church.
Contact: Jean Brownie 951-922-6649
Ruth Circle every 3rd Thurs., 10 a.m., Rm. 5 of the Church.
Contact: Jerry Schneider 951-845-7850

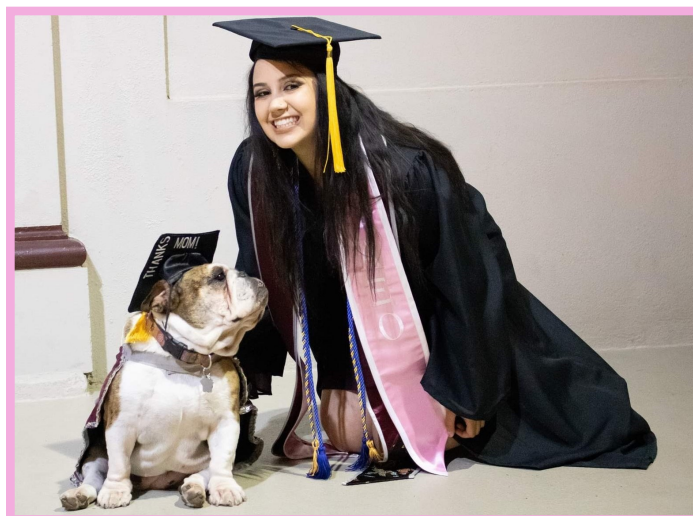
BPWCT will meet January 5, 2022.

Advent starts December 1 and the Christmas season follows, with all the beauty of the season, beginning with the Christmas Eve service. I wish all of you a Merry Christmas filled with the love of Christ.

Blessings,
Cathy Calhoun, Moderator

A BELATED CELEBRATION

Because of all the Covid-19 restrictions, the University of Redlands wasn't able to hold an "official" graduation ceremony when Pastor Scott's daughter, Kavya Mason, was due to cross the stage for her diploma. At this year's Homecoming, she was able to don her cap and gown and make it "official". This picture was taken just as she'd completed her walk across the stage. She was able to pose with the school Mascot, Addie - who obviously adores her (and who doesn't?).



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Matthew and Luke Narratives of the Birth of Jesus

The narrative of Jesus' birth is covered in only two of the four gospels, Matthew and the great ancient historian Luke. In the evangelist Luke's birth accounts it's depicted through Mary's eyes, where Matthew's account gives details from Joseph's point of view. And, there's no attempt to bring them into line with each other. Theologian NT Wright says, *"The central fact [of the birth narrative] is the same, but instead of Luke's picture of an excited Galilean girl who has just learned that she is to give birth to God's Messiah, Matthew shows us the more sober Joseph discovering that his fiancé is pregnant."* Matthew and Luke agree that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, where King David's heir was expected to be born (see Micah 5:1). Both evangelists agree that Jesus grew up in Nazareth, an insignificant small town in northern Galilee, where no Jew expected the Messiah to grow up. Though these two gospels have these similarities, they otherwise differ. In Luke's gospel, Mary was given the news of Jesus' future birth by the angel Gabriel, where Matthew writes that Joseph received his news from an unnamed angel in a dream. Regarding the timeline of the birth, Luke reports that it was after King Herod's death, where Matthew says Jesus was born during the latter days of Herod's rule. Historians believe Herod died in 4 BC, although some argue for 5 or even 1 BC. The date of Jesus' birth isn't stated in the gospels or in any secular text, but most scholars date his birth between 6 BC and 4 BC. So why do historians date Jesus' birth 4 to 6 years before the turn of the millennium? The idea of counting years from the birth of Jesus was proposed in 525 by Dionysius Exiguus, a Christian monk. It was standardized under the Julian and Gregorian calendars, and the system spread throughout Europe and the Christian world during the centuries that followed. AD stands for *Anno Domini*, Latin for *"in the year of the Lord,"* while BC means *"before Christ."* So the good monk was off a few years in establishing AD 1 as the time of Jesus' birth.

Continuing with the birth narrative differences between Luke and Matthew, Luke has Jesus born in a stable, while Matthew has his birth in a house. Technically, both evangelists are right based on the housing most people lived in during Jesus' time. The structures had living quarters above an animal shelter or stable. The lower stable area was what was available to the young couple, because according to Luke, there was ***"no room for them in the inn"***. Luke also writes that angels announced the news of the birth to shepherds and shepherds visited the child. Luke further reports that Jesus was circumcised eight days after his birth and given the named Jesus, which means, *"the Lord is salvation."* Later Luke has the holy family traveling a few miles from Bethlehem to the Jerusalem temple to offer a sacrifice and their encounter with the elderly Simeon and Anna. Finally, Luke has them returning to Galilee to live in the city of Nazareth. Matthew covers quite different events. He writes about the visit of the mysterious men from the east, known as the Magi. Unlike the beloved hymn, the Magi (Wise Men) weren't from the Orient but were most likely from Persia. They were also not kings, but astrologer/astronomers. They had followed a star which ultimately led them to Bethlehem. At the time, the holy family was residing in a house. After the Magi's adoration of Jesus and the presentation of the three gifts, the Wise Men disappeared from history leaving many questions in their wake. Later Joseph, having been warned in a dream about Herod, took Mary and Jesus and escaped to Egypt. Matthew writes that Herod unsuccessfully tried to kill the infant Jesus by slaughtering all the male children two years and younger in Bethlehem. Historian Paul Maier provides insight about Matthew's account of the incident. *"So incredibly brutal was the slaughter of the innocents that many scholars have serious doubts to the accuracy of Matthew's account suggesting that nothing of a kind ever happened."*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CONT.)

But Maier disagrees, “*Such a crime was very much in character of the old paranoid king in his last years when illness and court intrigue nearly deranged the man.*” The family remained in Egypt and only returned to live in Nazareth after the death of Herod. Matthew then quotes the Old Testament, “***This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt have I called my son’***” (Hosea 11:1). The context of his verse speaks of the relationship that God had with the nation of Israel.

“Have yourself a merry little Christmas”

Marty Mangan, Christian Education

A WORD FROM YOUR CHOIR DIRECTOR

As we enter Advent, I am truly looking forward to all the wonderful music of the season. There are so many beautiful carols that we all love to sing. There are also some really inspiring choral anthems for Christmas.

This month I will have a number of opportunities to perform this music, as well as leading the congregation in singing Christmas Carols. In fact, I’m going to be pretty busy these next few weeks. In addition to leading the choir each Sunday morning, I’ll be singing a couple of songs at the Italian Dinner on December 5th, performing with Jaci Davis at the Presbyterian Women’s Gathering on December 10th, and leading all of you in more carols during the Christmas Pageant Play on December 19th.

While I feel a bit overwhelmed, I’m not nearly as busy as our wonderful pianist, Jaci Davis. I can’t even begin to enumerate the many activities she is involved in over and above all she does for us here at Beaumont Pres. She accompanied the Sun Lakes Chorale for their concerts in November; she’s taken on the role of the Mother Abbess in “The Sound of Music” at the Palm Canyon Theatre in Palm Springs; and so much more!

Recently, Jaci and Mary Cox ventured out to find a new piano for our sanctuary. Tina Williams has generously donated to the church so that we could replace our current instrument. It’s being given in memory of and to honor Tina’s husband, Dick. The piano we have is older than it looks; it was built in 1974. It was used when we bought it and has a number of mechanical issues that have made it more difficult to play.

Our new piano will be delivered within the next week and at some point soon we will dedicate it. In the weeks to come many more details about all of its features will be shared. For now, I’ll just say that it is made of rosewood and is absolutely beautiful. It is a “Grotrian” (German made) and has apparently been very gently used. I can’t think of a sweeter Christmas present for us here at Beaumont Presbyterian Church.





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A Monthly Publication of
Beaumont Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Scott Mason, Senior Pastor