



Beaumont Presbyterian Church

December 2018

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

Worship Services

Sunday 8:30 AM

and

10:00 AM

*Children's
Sunday School*

10:00 AM

Nursery

10:00 AM

Korean Church

12:00 PM

Fellowship Hour

9:30 AM and

11:00 AM

In the Social Hall

STAR

in the Sky

THERE'S A SONG IN THE AIR!

THERE'S A STAR IN THE SKY!

THERE'S A MOTHER'S DEEP PRAYER

AND A BABY'S LOW CRY!

AND THE STAR RAINS ITS FIRE

WHILE THE BEAUTIFUL SING,

FOR THE MANGER OF

BETHLEHEM CRADLES A KING!



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Beaumont Presbyterian Church

Our Mission

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:

*There's a tumult of joy,
o'er the wonderful birth,
for the Virgin's sweet Boy
is the Lord of the earth!*

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All correspondence should be sent to:

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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
dawnsings9@aol.com

NOTE: JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
December 17, 2018

Birthday or anniversary information: Call the church office: (951) 845-1506
Office hours: Monday thru Thursday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

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A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Many things are not as good as they once were. Gone are the days of letting children wander all around the neighborhood unsupervised and trusting they are safe. Gone are the days of saying to children "Come home when the street lights come on."

As I shared recently, our daughter's sorority big sister lost her two grandparents in the Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh. And another sorority sister lost a lifelong close friend in the shooting in Thousand Oaks. It is a sad state of affairs that we need to be ever mindful of our personal safety while keeping a close eye on our possessions when they are not under lock and key.

But you all have done several things to bring light and life and love to this hurting world. We can't tell a paraplegic to "Stand and walk!" as Jesus did. But we can tell someone who doesn't have use of their legs to "Rise and ride!" For them and for their families, that is truly a life changing miracle. **So, we recently raised the funds for over 185 children and adults around the world to rise and ride! And like the loaves and the fishes, your gifts opened up matching funds that multiplied our gifts times 2 and changed some 371 lives!!! I cannot tell you how much joy this brings to our heavenly Father!**

While you were at it, we made a generous donation to our favorite V.A. Hospital Chaplain to provide gift cards for veterans and their families for a host of needs.

You also provided many gifts for local school children in need as part of Winter Wish.

Many of you helped serve about 380 turkey dinners last Wednesday. Some 75 volunteers came to share with our precious guests. I particularly enjoyed talking to our beloved Shirley Ellis' daughter who came to serve in her mother's memory. Long ago Shirley's daughter Amy changed our daughter's diapers. And last Wednesday, Amy was advising our daughter on career paths. Where did the time go?!

Last Sunday many of you wrote notes to our active duty military personnel. My grandfather wrote in a letter while in the Navy in 1945 "There is nothing anyone wants here more than mail!" Many soldiers will be touched to have been remembered. A number of children from Sunday school, fourth and fifth graders from a local school and teenagers who practice dance at our church all got into the act when they heard about the notes you wrote. **When you wrote Christmas cards for our soldiers, it released a multiplication of those cards by children and youth because you took the time to be faithful and set the example!**

Still, we are not done. At our 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service our offering will go entirely to provide animals for needy families around the world. This improves their nutrition and income. The organization we send the animals through is in Kansas City, Missouri, and the president of the organization is joining us one Sunday in December as we have been a faithful partner these many years!

We are bearing the light of Christ into our world! And it is exciting!

Yours in Christ,
Scott



A NOTE FROM YOUR ELDERS

In December we will be preparing Annual Reports and saying farewell to the Elders that finish their term as your Session Representative. We appreciate the service these members provided in guiding and caring for our congregation. We want to thank Owen Dean, Sheila James, Bette Rader, and Dick Williams for their selfless contributions and hard work that shaped our Session accomplishments. Two other Elders will be leaving and will also be missed. Appreciation and thank you go to Carolyn Moreno and Linda McNabb for their service.

This Christmas season of celebration and worship will be enhanced with decorations and a tree put up by the Worship committee and helpers. The Fellowship committee has arranged a pre-Christmas dinner with carol singing. The Mission committee plans to help our congregation reach out to others during the month of December with Outreach International, a Presbyterian mission that we support.

Beverly Webster
Clerk of Session

HOLY HUMOR



IMPORTANT DATES



Beginning of Advent:
Sunday, December 2nd



Pre-Christmas Dinner: (must have ticket)
Sunday, December 2nd, 5:00 PM



Deacons Meeting:
Tuesday, December 4th, 4:00 PM



New Elders Orientation:
Tuesday, December 18th, 3:00 PM

Session Meeting:
Tuesday, December 18th, 4:00 PM



Christmas Eve Service:
Monday, December 24th, 5:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Join us on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24th at 5:00 PM. We will remember the beautiful story of the birth of Jesus, the incredible gift of God becoming man. We will sing Christmas carols, the choir will sing lovely choral arrangements and we will all be lost in wonder, love and praise!

The offering taken on Christmas Eve will be used to buy farm animals for needy families in 3rd world countries to provide them with food and/or a livelihood. This is a long running tradition here at Beaumont Presbyterian, some years helping to provide fresh water wells, other years providing animals and more.

Be sure to come early to get a good seat. This service is very popular and will fill up quickly.



WINTER WISH

Each year our church has been an ardent supporter of Winter Wish, both by making a generous financial donation and by members taking personalized 'wish' tags for children or making a personal donation. Here is a little background about this program that you all have helped make so successful.

Twenty-nine years ago, a local principal approached the Beaumont Soroptimist Club after its meeting. She had just learned that one of her students was living with his family in their car and asked for any help that the members might be able to give. The next year eleven families were identified. Thus began the partnership that started with one family and grew to more than 150 families and 520 children this year!

The program starts in September with teacher recommendations of students whose families might need just a little extra help. Volunteers call each family and determine if they wish to participate. Some pass the opportunity on to others, some are appreciative for assistance. Parents tell about each child living in their home and their special wishes, sizes, and needs. First-time participating families are also given blankets and towels, as funds allow.

Tags are made and distributed throughout the community in November, wrapped gifts are turned in at the beginning of December, food donations are augmented with food purchases and volunteer shoppers shop for tags that may not have been chosen. All of this is stored in a sea van until Distribution Day, which this year is December 15th. Parents pick up wrapped gifts and two or three bags of food at the gymnasium of a local school.

As you can see, although Winter Wish is still under the financial umbrella of Soroptimist, the program remains successful because of help from our schools, civic groups, many churches, businesses, and hundreds of community members who lovingly select a tag and shop for a child.

Thank you all for your outreach to our local children!

Donna Lester



Volunteers organize food for the children's families



Bags of food and gifts awaiting distribution



CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAYS



1	Jane Sinner	11	Tom Howell	25	Jan George
3	Marge Shearer	12	Norman Gibbs	26	Stan Martin
3	Suzy Kim	12	Lyn Reynolds-Johnson	28	Doris Frevert
4	Art Welch	15	Betty Rightmer	28	Jack Schoonover
5	Linda Adams	18	Dean McKernan	28	Peggy Gates
5	Loren Aranda	18	Elsa Rice	28	Rene Moreno
7	Carolyn Moreno	20	Betty Gibbs	29	Shirley Webb
7	Judy Kelts	25	Carol Kreckow	30	Dave Knight



ANNIVERSARIES

18	John & Cheryl St George
19	Herb & Connie Presson
22	Bobby (Asghar) & Jane Benjamin
26	Art & Jodie Welch



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We look forward to seeing all of you for our Christmas Gathering on Friday, December 14, 2018 when our program will be Jaci Davis, our church pianist. Lunch will be a potato bar/salad bar with Cherry Crisp for 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 2:45 p.m. each day prior to the Gatherings to help her; and to those who help clean up after each Gathering.

During October and November, we collected \$429.00 for the Thank Offering. All the churches in Riverside Presbytery send their Thank Offering collection to the Treasurer of the Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii in December. She then sends the offering on to Presbyterian Women (USA) for distribution.

Also, in October we donated \$200 to the Wheelchair mission.

In December, we will disburse checks to:

- H.E.L.P. for the money collected from our four Gatherings plus an additional \$100.00 budgeted.
- \$200 to Table of Plenty
- Least Coin donations from our circles.
- \$200 to PC USA Mission Pledge.

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

Our calendar sales were a huge success. We sold all 75 in three weeks even with our increase of price to \$10 each. Thank you to all who purchased calendars. Perhaps next year we'll increase the number to 100.

BPWCT will meet January 2, 2019.

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

Blessings,

Cathy Calhoun, Moderator

BIBLE STUDIES

Bible Studies continue weekly:

Thursday, 10 a.m., contact Liz Linden 951-845-9908.

On break from mid-December thru the first of the year.

Friday, 9:30 a.m., contact Betty Mann 951-845-3800.

On break from mid-November thru the first of the year.

Friday, 10:30 a.m., contact Sally Burse's 951-769-5980

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

Esther/Lydia every 3rd Wed., 1 p.m., Rm. 1 of the Church. Contact:

Marge Shearer 951-922-6679

Ruth Circle every 3rd Thurs., 1 p.m., Rm. 1 of the Church. Contact:

Jerry Schneider 951-845-1014

TABLE OF PLenty

We've had a fun time at Table of Plenty. Halloween actually fell on Wednesday so we wore colorful costumes instead of our regular shirts. Each guest was given a trick or treat bag of candy as they left. Our Thanksgiving feast was a delicious, festive day. We always have many extra helpers made up of family, friends and community members. Thanks to church members who donated turkeys and to dedicated volunteers who cooked 23! The kitchen staff spent the morning before prepping and chopping. It made the operation on Wednesday run smoothly.

Some of you have been concerned about the homeless woman I wrote about. Through an advocate for the VA she is now in contact with HUD for permanent housing. She spent a week in a local motel with the thought she would then move into her own place. Unfortunately that hit a snag so she's back on the street, as I write, but she is pretty sure that she will soon be warm and safe.

Jodie

A WORD FROM YOUR CHOIR DIRECTOR

Life isn't always easy. The older we get, the more difficult it can be. Our bodies are at war against us: stiff, achy joints; poor eyesight; faulty memory; lagging energy. It's a challenge.

Another problem is that as we age, so do our friends and family. With every passing year we lose more of the people we love. Well, "lose" isn't really the right word. They move on to the "Church Eternal" while we are left here without them. That's the hard part - we miss them. It's not fun. It doesn't feel fair. How do we handle all of this?

This is my first Christmas after losing both my parents. Dad died over 15 years ago, and mom left in February this year. Losing dad was truly heart-breaking, but as long as I still had mom - I was able to move on. That changed as mom grew more and more ill and finally let go and moved on to Heaven, to be reunited with dad.

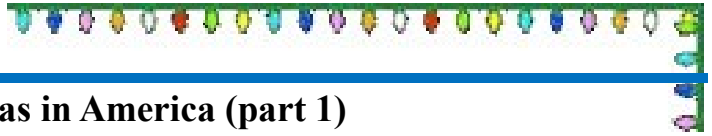
Part of me feels like I didn't truly become an adult until I needed to step up and help mom through these last difficult years. And now that she is gone, the process is complete. I'm supposed to be a fully functioning grown up. The truth of that reality weighs heavily on me. I don't feel ready. It's pretty scary.

The great thing is, God knows all of this. He understands. He cares. I know that, especially now, He wants me to lean on Him. He is my Father! I might not be able to speak to my mom and dad now, face to face, but I can speak to God at any time, day or night.

While it can be very hard for many of us, especially at this time of year, I pray that all of us know that God shed His immortality and came to us in the form of a tiny, human baby. He did this to bridge the gap between us, so that He could be as close to us as possible.

As we sing the beautiful music of Christmas, I am reminded over and over again that the gift God gave us will carry us through even the most trying of times. He will bring us comfort and peace, not only through the Holy Spirit, but also through the family of God who are all around us. I am eternally grateful for my choir family and for all of you here at Beaumont Presbyterian Church. We are a beautiful example of all that the body of Christ should be!

May you have a truly Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



The History of Christmas in America (part 1)

There are so many Christmas traditions in America, but where did they all come from? America is often called a "*melting pot*" and its Christmas traditions can be seen in the same way. We're a country of immigrants from all over the world who have each brought their unique traditions to America. The Christmas celebrations typical in Europe first made their way to America in the southern colonies, where one could find feasting, gift-giving, hospitality, dancing and fireworks. The French in Louisiana, English in New York, and German in Pennsylvania each brought with them their own Christmas traditions. Most settlers arriving in their new land welcomed Christmas as a day of respite from the routines of work and hardship. However, not everyone in the new American colonies shared a love for the day. The Puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony didn't observe Christmas at all, with Governor John Winthrop even attempting to suppress it. The Puritans showed their disdain, for what they called a pagan festival, by planning hard work for that day and passing a law forbidding the celebration of Christmas.

In the early 19th century Christmas was a very different kind of holiday. People didn't have a set way of celebrating and Christmas wasn't a national holiday yet. So, communities around the country honored the day in different ways. Some observed Christmas as an important Christian religious day honoring the birth of Jesus, even though historians don't know the actual date of Jesus' birth. Others celebrated the day with parties, music, drinking and eating and some communities didn't celebrate the day at all. But in the early 1800s Americans began to reinvent the holiday. They started combining ancient Christmas traditions with modern American influences. In 1819, the popular American writer Washington Irving wrote a series of five essays published in a book called "*The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon.*" The essays describe a wealthy British landowner who invites his farm workers into his home to celebrate Christmas. The landowner recreates a traditional Christmas as it would have been celebrated in the distant past. Irving praised this looking back to ancient traditions and liked the idea of different levels of society coming together to enjoy a festive and peaceful holiday. Irving seemed to be expressing concern about the lack of such unifying Christmas traditions in modern America. Penne Restad wrote the book "*Christmas in America: A History.*" It showed how Americans began to slowly shape Christmas into a unifying national holiday during the first half of the 19th century. She describes how Christmas had different meanings for Americans who came from different cultural and religious backgrounds and they brought these Christmas traditions from their home country.

Religion played a big role in how an American might celebrate the holiday. Calvinist Christians banned the celebration of Christmas. But groups such as Episcopalians and Moravians honored the day with religious services and seasonal decorations. By mid-century, Christian groups began to ignore their religious differences over the meaning of Christmas and honored the day in special ways. Christmas became an important time for families to celebrate at home. More and more Christian Americans began to follow the European traditions of Christmas trees and giving gifts. They believed that the tree represented Jesus and was also a sign of new beginnings. German immigrants brought their tradition of putting lights, sweets and toys on the branches of evergreen trees placed in their homes. This tradition of setting up a Christmas tree soon spread to many American homes and so did the practice of giving presents. As these traditions increased in popularity, the modern commercialization of Christmas also started to grow.

Have a very Merry Christmas, Marty Mangan



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ELDER NOTES

I received an email from a friend whose son, a Navy veteran, gave a talk to my former church on Veteran's Day. She sent me a copy of his presentation and I wanted to include a few paragraphs from it.

“Those of you who were alive prior to 1954 may recall when November 11th was Armistice Day, the day our country commemorated the ceasefire in 1918 that ended the “Great War”, the first world war. One hundred years ago on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, soldiers in trenches and underground bunkers waited for the hands on the watch to finally reach 11 o'clock – the agreed upon ceasefire. The Last American soldier killed in combat died at 10:59 that day.

While America's part was relatively brief, those 17 months overseas would cost 53,000 American lives in combat. Nearly half of those fatalities, 26,000 had resulted from the bloody six week long Meuse-Argonne campaign which ultimately hastened the surrender of Germany and her allies. A distant relative of mine, was an infantryman in the battle of the Meuse-Argonne. He brought back this Prussian Army belt buckle as a war souvenir. The motto on the buckle reads: *Gott mit Uns...* “God with us, Emmanuel.

You see, all of the countries that fought in the Great War believed that their struggle was divine, that God sanctioned their efforts and would ultimately grant them victory over the opponent.

Let's place our hope, in Fathers words
which fashion peace instead of swords.
Before we march to render Hell,
let's choose instead Emmanuel.”



On November 25 the Youth and Congregation are writing cards to military personnel overseas to express our appreciation for their service and send warm greetings for the Christmas



Beaumont Presbyterian Church

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Beaumont Presbyterian Newsletter

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The Rev. Scott Mason, Senior Pastor