

# Good Tidings

December 2013

## Upcoming Events

**12.8**

guest speaker: Ray Thomlinson

**12.14 & 12.15**

youth musical performances

**12.22**

choir performance

**12.24**

Christmas Eve service

**12.31**

New Year's Eve party

## Thanksgiving Baskets an Annual Tradition at PBC

On Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, people from all over south county came to PBC for help with their Thanksgiving meal. It's a yearly tradition that has been carried on at our church for nearly a decade.

For Bailey Berschens, who volunteered at the event for the first time this year, it's an opportunity to reach out to others. "I wanted to do this because no other church was doing it, and I wanted people to have a wonderful Thanksgiving."

The meal is free to anyone in our area who signs up. A typical basket consists of: a turkey or chicken, eggs, canned pumpkin, evaporated milk, rolls, margarine, stuffing, broth, green beans, celery, a can of yams, gravy, a box of mashed potatoes, a can of cream-of-mushroom soup, a can of cranberry sauce, and an onion. The recipient picks up the ingredients for their meal and prepares it at home, with family.

Local resident Chuck Savoca commented, "I'm on Social Security, and I'm kind of fixed for money right now."

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At Left: Devin & Rose Langan at the Harvest Faire

# Harvest Faire 2013

The Harvest Faire is an annual event at Pioneer Bible Church, and is always held on October 31<sup>st</sup> to provide area families with a safe and fun alternative to trick-or-treating. The new parking lot was the site of our trunk-or-treat, which had a variety of interesting games. From deer hunting, to a clothespin drop, to an r/c truck obstacle course, there was something for every member of the family. At each game, plenty of candy was passed out for participating.



**Pastor Jim & Clay Fitzpatrick**

David McCreary popped 8 pounds of popcorn, Rich and Trisha Lepera cooked up 140 corn dogs, and candy was handed out generously.

For more pictures, see the church's Facebook page!

For many kids, the best part of the faire is the bounce house: this year, the bounce house was in the shape of a large grey elephant. Next to the bounce house, the "food court" offered free snacks to everyone: Steve Kammerer operated the soft-serve machine,



## Did You Know...

...that 73 boxes packed at PBC were sent to Operation Christmas Child (29 were packed by our Awana kids, and 44 more packed by the congregation);

... that 125 Thanksgiving baskets were provided to hungry families in the south county area;

...that \$320 dollars was raised by the Somerset Lions to help provide eyeglasses to the needy, and 6,670 pounds of trash was kept out of landfills, at the e-waste recycling event held at PBC in October!



Angels for Angel Tree; ready to be picked up

*..behold, I bring you  
good tidings of great joy.  
-Luke 2:10*

## THANKSGIVING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I need this for Thanksgiving. I really appreciate it!"

"The hardest part is anticipating how many people are going to show up who haven't registered," says Pat Mann, who is in charge of the program. "But you do what you can." No one is ever turned away, although people who haven't signed up ahead of time may not get a full basket.



VOLUNTEER JEREMY BRIGGS  
DISTRIBUTES TURKEYS

Trisha Lepera, who has assisted at the event for three years, explains that building relationships is what it's all about. She says, "I like to see the people. I've developed relationships with the people who come on Fridays [to Food Bank.]"



ASHLEY HASPER & PEG CAMPBELL  
PUT OUT STUFFING MIX

# Crater Lake

By Cassidy Walker

This summer, I volunteered with a non-profit organization called A Christian Ministry in the National Parks. ACMNP ([www.acmnp.com](http://www.acmnp.com)) places volunteers in national parks across the country to lead church services for park visitors and employees. In order to be able to live in the national park, volunteers are employed by the park's concessionaire and work full-time.

I was placed in Crater Lake National Park ([www.nps.gov/crla](http://www.nps.gov/crla)) located in southern Oregon. The lake itself is the deepest lake in the United States and is famous for its remarkable color; the water is some of the clearest in the world. At first, I worked in the Rim Café, making and selling grab-and-go sandwiches. Later on in the season I was transferred to the Crater Lake Lodge to work as a hostess in the dining room.

Although I spent June through September interacting with hundreds of thousands of visitors and leading church services, I learned the most about what it means to be a disciple of Christ from living in a dorm with other co-workers. From the day I

moved in, I was automatically labeled the "Christian girl," and because I didn't join in on the constant drinking, partying or cohabitating I was judged and isolated. You don't truly learn what it means to live in the world but not conform to it until you live with a target on your back.

I hiked every trail in the park and became intimate with God's most glorious untouched creation in ways most people never get the chance to. With that being said, I do not plan on returning to Crater Lake, or any other national park. I'm currently a sophomore at Seattle Pacific University studying psychology; please pray that I finish the quarter strongly with diligence and determination.



This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ. – Frank McKibben

## Joanne Wilson's Chopped Hot Dogs

December is a month associated with elaborate dishes prepared for lavish holiday meals. But families are also busy this time of year, so instead of a recipe intended for your Christmas table, we offer you a quick, easy way to get something warm into your kid's\* stomach before you rush out the door to your next seasonal event!

6 hot dogs  
1 cup grated cheddar cheese  
4 teaspoons prepared mustard  
4 tablespoons ketchup  
4 tablespoons sweet pickle relish  
(squeezed almost dry)  
½ cup mayonnaise  
6 hot dog buns

Cut hot dogs into ¼" coins. Blend all other ingredients. Spoon mixture into split buns. Wrap in foil and heat at 375 degrees for 8-10 minutes. Alternately, wrap in paper towels and microwave. Makes 6 servings.

\*appropriate for kids of any age!

## Child Sponsorship Update: Meet Blanca Garcia

Blanca is a lovely 10 year old girl from the mountains of Oaxaca, Mexico. She is sponsored, through Compassion International, by a member of PBC. The pastor of her church writes:

*Greetings and blessings from the Monte de los Olivos Baptist Church of San Cristobal Amatlan... where we minister to your Compassion-sponsored child. I am Pastor Jesus Lazara Santiago Martinez and I thank you for every contribution you make.*

*The community of San Cristobal Amatlan is the biggest town of the south range of Oaxaca, and it has about 8,000 inhabitants. Here, 100% of the people speak a native language known as Zapoteco. In the rainy season, we sow corn and beans. However, when the raining season is over, many people also look for a job somewhere else. Due to this situation, alcoholism and drug addiction are common problems among the young people and adults in our community. Thanks to your support, we help 138 children, who represent more than 100 families of the community. The children who come to the center are not Christians. However, we share the gospel with them and their families, which encourages us to keep working hard, and we hope to see results in the future.*

*The vision of the church and center is to help the children to develop their skills so they can have a better job opportunity in the future. That's why, besides their Bible lessons and recreational activities, we also have workshops that help them to develop their skills. It's important that you know that all our classes are given in Zapoteco, since many of the kids don't speak Spanish. We strive to improve our facilities. We built eight classrooms to serve our children... also, the kids have a soccer field where we have a great time the days we have an activity.*

*At the child development center we teach the children to be thankful for the blessings they receive from God. Sponsors are a huge blessing for the children. Every time a child receives a letter or a picture... they feel glad to have news from their sponsor. Moreover, knowing that their sponsor only writes to them makes them feel very happy and special, and this motivates them to keep coming to the center."*

**Blanca's picture and letters can be viewed all month on the sponsorship bulletin board across the hall from the library.**

