

GOOD TIDINGS

... BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF
GREAT JOY – LUKE 2:10

Christmas in Reverse

The annual children's Christmas musical is a wonderful tradition at Pioneer Bible Church, and a fun, engaging way to share the gospel story with friends and family! This season, the children performed the musical *Christmas in Reverse*, which began with a manger scene, and worked back through scripture to explain the meaning behind the manger.

"A great big 'Thank You' to the amazing team of people involved in this year's musical. We appreciate everyone's part to contribute their time and talents to make 'Christmas in Reverse' a wonderful opportunity to share the Christmas message through the lives of our children and youth!" said directors Kate Bila and WillieJune Eggert. "Thanks to all the cast for their long hours of practice, and to all the parents for your support and encouragement."

The musical team:

-Staging, Props & Backdrops: John Hines, Clay Fitzpatrick, Joni Reichman, Jordan Thompson, and Pastor Jim Eggert.

-Cast Dinner & Snacks: Esther Dawson

-Costuming: Joy Vierra

-Program & Publicity: Laurie Miser, Cindy Dean

-Stage Co-ordinators & PowerPoint: Cindy Dean, Laurie Thompson, Patti Mercer, Mellanie McCreary

-Sound/Media: Mike Hanson, Jane Fraim, Buddy Saddler

The message of the musical reminded us that God's plan to redeem us has always been in motion. Jesus came as a baby in the manger to live, die, and rise again that man might be saved. Accepting that plan of redemption is the question left to each of us. When that question is answered with, "Yes Lord, I accept your forgiveness," then we can proclaim with every aspect of our lives the words of the last song, "Shout out, Immanuel, shout out the name Immanuel, He is with us now!"

We are so grateful for the opportunity to work with each of the students involved in the musical and grateful for God's faithfulness always!"



ANGELS

Above: The angels prepare backstage for their dramatic entrance



END OF AN ERA: PAT MANN MOVES ON

Pioneer Bible Church has been blessed to have had Pat Mann, wife of Bob Mann and mother of four daughters, as secretary since September, 1989. She has guided the church office through an era of rapid changes, and been a steadying and comforting presence for the church's members. She retired officially at the end of December, 2012, although she remains an active member of our church body. During her final days on the job, she shared some of her thoughts on her career:

HOW HAS YOUR JOB CHANGED AS PBC HAS GROWN?

In 1989 Pastor Rob & I started my job by purchasing a desk, a phone, a typewriter, a filing cabinet, 2 office chairs and all the desk supplies. My job was to answer the phone, issue checks, create Sunday bulletins and monthly financial reports. Now, 23 years later, I manage the office wing, generate computerized financial reports, checks, and Sunday bulletins with fliers, keep ministry leaders aware of their finances and facility usage, help co-ordinate ministry events, extend a friendly welcome to all who come into the church, direct repairmen to problems, provide assistance to our two pastors, avail myself for counseling when needed and assist in the Benevolence Ministry.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES OF BEING A CHURCH SECRETARY?

My favorite aspect of this job has been enabling our church's ministries to thrive. It is exciting to watch the endeavors of the various outreach ministries in addition to the growing discipleship groups. Not only has our facility grown but our impact on our community is evident.

The hardest aspect of this job is feeling the pain that the individuals within the congregation and the community have. In my job I am aware of marital, financial, and personal estrangements as they occur. I also watch the pastors agonize with these hurting individuals. Some attempt to solve his/her problem by leaving the church. Others expect the pastors to "miraculously" solve his/her problem for them. Keeping topics confidential does not prevent me from feeling the anguish many are enduring.

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Above: Pat Mann
Below: Mellanie McCreary



DID YOU KNOW?
Pioneer Bible Church has two new employees: Mellanie McCreary will be filling the vacancy left when Pat Mann retired as church secretary, and Brian Kotelnicki has joined the PBC staff as head of maintenance.

MELISSA'S INSPIRING STORY

On December 9th, 2012, PBC member Mellissa Berschens won the title of Champion Western Open at this year's El Dorado County Fair Horse Show Winter Series. She received an engraved silver belt buckle made by Gist Silversmiths. She also won 3rd place in Region 3 (Sacramento and El Dorado and Stockton area) for California State Horseman's Association and received an embroidered garment bag with her name on it.



Melissa tells us how it all happened:

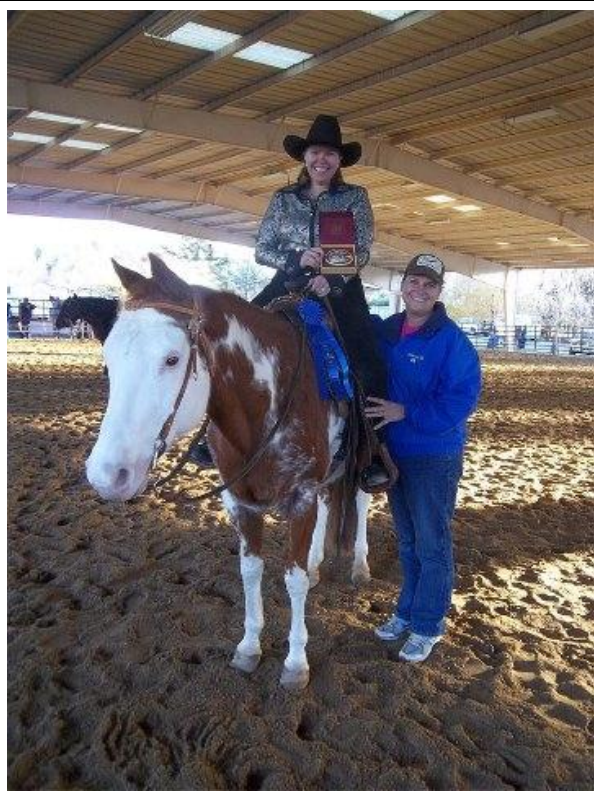
"After having foot surgery last fall, this time last year, I could hardly walk. I was immobile for 3 months so atrophy set in my legs and I was very weak. Slowly, I began to try to ride again, in January of this year on my palomino show horse Tucker. Shortly after, he started having a lot of issues and vets have not been able to determine what is wrong with him, so I wasn't able to show him this season. God had another plan....

With a lot of hard work, prayers, and (my trainer) Julie Keller's help, I not only was able to ride again, but I won the Champion Western Open buckle on my horse Patty. It was an experience I will never forget and I am very grateful for. I thank God every day for my horses and the joy they give me. I try to view these stumbling blocks in my life, like I had with Tucker, as new opportunities which God has in store for me that I wouldn't have seen otherwise. God's plan is always better than our plans!"

("End of an Era" continued from page 2)

WHAT WILL YOU DO IN THE FUTURE?

Once I am retired I will be able to share the business which Bob has created at our farm. I too, love growing and harvesting and selling the produce at Farmer's Markets. I hope to expand our number of markets and the variety of products available. We hope to be able to attend some of the many seminars held throughout the state designed to facilitate Farmer's Markets' success. Bob & I are homebodies. We enjoy a few days at Lake Topaz or Virginia City but we have no great desire to travel extensively. Visiting our children and their families gives us great contentment. I still plan to be involved in our church's benevolence ministry, our church's Christmas & Easter Choir and Adult Sunday School Class. Hopefully, when I retire, I can spend more time with Bob and our extended families.



"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment to start making the world a better place!"
-Anne Frank



DID YOU KNOW?

Our own Hannah Langford has been in Mozambique for more than a year, serving with the Peace Corp. You can read her blog at:

hylse.25.blogspot.com

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POSTAGE

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