

November 2014

Good Tidings

Monthly Newsletter of Pioneer Bible Church

Harvest Faire: Fun for the Whole Community!

There are few events on the church calendar as much fun as the annual Harvest Faire. This year, the event was changed from an outdoor “trunk-or-treat” to an indoor carnival, complete with games of all kinds, a costume contest, balloon animals, and a pie eating contest.

Everything at the event is free to the public, including the food. The church served up 112 corndogs, 5 pounds of tortilla chips, a vast amount of soft-serve ice cream, and popped 8 pounds of popcorn kernels. The most popular item, of course, was candy! Thanks to generous contributions from the whole church, 135 pounds of it was passed out that night. Attendance was high, and our

church youth did a terrific job organizing and setting up an outreach to the community that the whole church can be proud of.

Please see the church’s Facebook page for more pictures.



Loving Jesus. Serving people.

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Worship Devotional

By Sandie Hanson

On any given Sunday morning, if I have anything to do with it, you'll find the Hanson family sitting in a different location than the week before. Sometimes we'll be in Eggert/Harris territory. Other times we'll sit near Michelle, Ruth, Nancy, Joni... another day we might be in the row behind William & Ashley or the newly vacated section Jason and Rene once occupied. I like to think I'm ministering to my family. After all, we are given an opportunity to dedicate twenty minutes each Sunday to say out loud, "How Great Thou Art!" to the King of the Universe; an opportunity for which many believers in other countries long. However, I find I have a powerful enemy on Sunday mornings who goes by the name of "Distraction." Maybe I haven't seen the person sitting next to me in ages and I feel a need to catch up--- NOW! Or I randomly remember something to add to my to-do list. Being the Queen of Multi-Taskers, I can make notes for later and worship, right? Or maybe, on this particular day I do not feel like "being glad and rejoicing in it," so I decide to check out this week's events in the bulletin. But it's occurred to me that giving in to distraction may not be a good idea. I've been going through the Bible chronologically this year, and have just finished up with the Old Testament. If there is one theme that jumped out at me, it is "Pay attention to me." God says it over and over again. In fact, He took the Hebrews' lack of attention so seriously that he finally allowed them to experience some harsh consequences, "So that they would know that He is the Lord their God." I think it is really important to Him that His people frequently stop what they're doing and acknowledge Him: His goodness, His faithfulness, His power, His authority, His glory... and we are blessed to have a time dedicated, each week, to do just this.

Sometimes during Praise and Worship time, I imagine that the voices, minds, and hearts of PBC are rising up, as incense, and mingling with the angel voices before the throne of God. How cool is that? I realize that not everyone is fond of singing—or perhaps you think the person sitting next to you may not be fond of your singing—but I don't think singing is the crux of our worship time. Just reading the words of the songs, as if there are a prayer, can be a time of worship. If I don't know the song I may just read along and soak in the meaning of the words, or close my eyes and meditate on the voices surrounding me. Some mornings I can't honestly say to the Lord, "I will follow you," because I know that in just the short time I've been awake, I've chosen NOT to do things His way, so I will change the words to "Help me to follow you." Admittedly, it's not as easy to do this with a microphone in my face, but if you listen closely, you might just hear me whisper "Help me," (rather than "I will,") "worship You with all of my heart..."

However you feel led to do it, consider how you make the first twenty minutes of our Sunday service a time where you—an indispensable member of the PBC Body—take part in lifting up, glorifying, and paying attention to the God of Creation.

November Anniversaries- 20 Years or More

Jess & Priscilla Jeuchter- 31 years

Bob & Peg Campbell- 28 years

David & Carolyn Holmes- 27 years

Bill & Sharon Jensen- 27 years

Al & Carol Eberhart- 25 years

Mike & Sandie Hanson- 24 years



At Right: Bill & Sharon Jensen, November 1, 1987

Upcoming Events

November 4- Election Day & 4H Meeting
November 6- Senior Luncheon
November 7-9- Fishing Trip to Bodega Bay
and Fall Youth Retreat at Forward Bible Camp
November 9- Persecuted Church Sunday
November 9- Angel Tree Ministry Begins
November 11- Office Closed in Observance of
Veteran's Day

November 14- Clothes Closet & Food Bank
November 16- Collection Day for OCC
Shoeboxes
November 23- Youth Group 5S Event
November 24- Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway
November 27 & 28- Office Closed in
Observance of Thanksgiving
November 28- Food Bank Distribution

Missionaries You Support

By MaryEsther Penner of WorldVenture in Japan

On November 1, ViBi will be holding their 21st anniversary celebration. (More details on that at another time. This bulletin is about cookies.)

My job (Mary Esther): the refreshments. Before and after the program, fruit, nuts, and cookies, and tea & coffee for the approximately 60 people who are expected to attend.

Nothing complicated really, pretty easy, I thought. Except I was sweating the cookies. A trip to Costco for a tub of their cookies would not work--store bought is too impersonal. The cookies I make are said to be too sweet, too big, and too ugly. Japanese homemade cookies are about the size of an after-dinner mint, have a gentle, delicate flavor, and much attention goes into the creation of each. The foreigners who have big ovens who I could ask also make big (and sweet and ugly) cookies. But I couldn't think of any Japanese friends who have an oven, and who bake and who I could ask a favor of for help in this.

Now go back with me to a few weeks ago when I attended a local church retreat where a Wheelchairs of Hope volunteer was baptized. The church was kind enough to invite me to stay with them after the baptism, at a hot-spring resort, full of history. The room(s) I was assigned to was a 150 years old, spacious and magnificent. There were 4 of us in the room(s.) Two of the ladies were old friends; one was new to me.

The new lady was delightful and we connected well. I learned she was a baker. That's right, she bakes breads and cookies, and in fact, the perfectly tasty beautiful cookies served that weekend were her creations.

After that weekend I asked one of the friends who stayed in the room to ask the baker lady if she would consider helping with the 140 cookies. She did, the baker lady was delighted, and when the answer got back to me I was thrilled. Yesterday we 3 met and talked. It's set. On October 29 we'll meet at her house to bake the cookies.



Next time you eat a cookie, please rejoice with me that God directs our steps, even when it comes to making cookies.



A “credit card” which everybody enjoyed cutting up!

Financial Peace University A Big Success!

42 people enrolled in nine weeks of financial education from Dave Ramsey during September & October. At the end of that time, the class participants combined paid off \$20,219 in non-mortgage debt, and added a whopping \$50,475 to their savings!

“It was my privilege to help facilitate FPU along with Rob, and Jim & Linda Owens. We had taken the class last winter and profited greatly from the 9-week study. We were pleasantly surprised at the number of participants for our first class, and look forward to hearing how God has used this material in their lives,” says Shara Langford.

Sponsorship Matters: Burkina Faso

Many people who have attended PBC for some time will remember that several years ago our pastors went with Compassion to visit the African nation of Burkina Faso. It was a life changing experience for both of them!

Pastor Rob Langford & his wife Shara now sponsor a child in Burkina Faso themselves, through Compassion International. Burkina Faso, one of the poorest nations on earth, has a name which translates to “Land of Upright People.” The 12 million individuals who live there are known as “Burkinabe.” 80% of the Burkinabe live in rural areas, mostly in circular huts made of mud in a pyramidal shape and roofed with straw. The urban region & capital city Ouagadougou is primarily in the center of the country, where people live in modern homes or even drive cars, although Urban areas face additional problems related to sanitation and pollution.

Sagabo, a paste made from millet or corn flour, is the staple food of the country. It is served with baobab leaves and okra or sorrel sauce.

Rice is also a common food, but due to its higher price, is rare in rural villages. Eighty percent of the population are subsistence farmers, and therefore subject to climate uncertainties which lead to chronic food instability in the countryside. Malaria epidemics frequently make victims of children, and AIDS has orphaned many more. In 2014, only 29% of eligible children attended school.

As bleak as these statistics sound, there is hope. Partnering with local churches, Compassion International has constructed child development centers to serve needy communities. **Djamilia Catherine Diarra**, age 9, is one of the lucky ones. She attends

center #257 near Bobo Dioulasso, in the southwestern part of the country.

Thanks to her sponsors, Rob & Shara, Djamilia receives a nutritious breakfast of milk, bread and porridge. She will have the opportunity to attend school if her family wishes, and will receive Bible teaching. The children at Center 257 go on field trips to museums and national parks, and have the opportunity to participate in community service projects, such as planting trees and neighborhood clean up. Adolescents receive vocational training in fields such as auto mechanics, hair dressing, sewing, soap making, gardening, and animal husbandry. Classes are also offered to the families of the children, covering important topics such as malaria prevention, hygiene, reproductive health, nutrition, and financial management.

Pictures of Djamilia are on display on the Sponsorship Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall. Learn more about her culture and see her drawings and letters the entire month of November.

South County residents: do you get the PVFA Turnout community newsletter? Enjoy PBC's new regular column in each issue!

Church- 1-530-620-4859

Prayer Chain:

pbcpayerchain@inbox.com

Facebook: Pioneer Bible Church