

Deeds and Opportunities

Brentwood Community United Methodist Church

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January 2015



LOVE BASKETS

*Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself."
The Congregational Care Network (CCN) assembled
"love baskets" and distributed them to several members
of our congregation during the holidays.*

◆ *Pastor's Letter* ◆

Dear Beloved Family of BCUMC

Happy New Year! May God bless all of you with love and peace and guide you every day with wisdom and courage that you all may make a fruitful life in the New Year!

December was filled with celebration of the birth of our Savior. HOPE was born as we all celebrated the ministry of H.O.P.E. HOUSE in the four Sundays of Advent. We are so thankful and full of expectation with the birth of HOPE in our community and among the congregation.

And we ask, "THEN WHAT?"
(the sermon title of Julius Lukacs, the lay preacher on the last Sunday of 2014)

We begin our new year with Epiphany Sunday and six more Sundays after the Epiphany. Epiphany means to show or manifest who Jesus is. Jesus' true identity was revealed first by the three wise men, by the baptism, by his followers and then by His own acts (Proclamation, Nurturing and Healing)

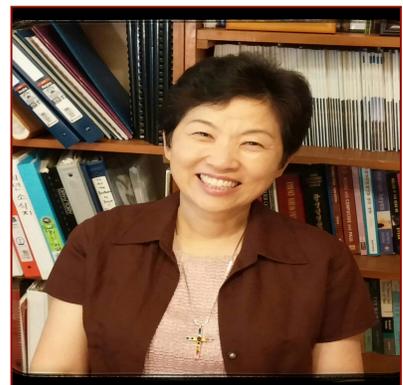
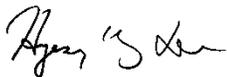
Revealing of Jesus' true identity is a great joy to us. But it is also at the same time a call to follow Him as His disciples. So we will reflect upon what it means to follow Jesus through lectionary sermons and also through various worship acts like renewal of baptism and recognition of ministries and ministers among us (Please see the Worship and Preaching Schedule for January in this newsletter).

During the Christmas week our Congregational Care Network team of angels had made LOVE-BASKETS and delivered them to our members and neighbors. That was such a joyous time to share the blessing of God's love. VISITATION is one of Jesus' ministries that we must follow. In Korea, there is one good tradition that Koreans usually practice with joyful hearts in January. That is to visit the houses of each one's teachers and parents. It is a way to express their appreciation and respect.

January is a month that follows after big celebrations. So it could be the most quiet or even lonely month. Let us think of some people who would appreciate one friendly phone call or a pleasant visit. Let us continue to share our blessings with our members and neighbors!

See you all in 2015,

Your Pastor, Hyesung





TRIVIA, TREATS and TREASURES

Saturday - January 10 - 7-9 pm

A fundraiser to support the UMWEvening Circle's pledge to raise \$5,000 to help support having a full time pastor.

TRIVIA teams will be made up of 4 players – form your own team or meet up with others to form a team that night. Cost for **Trivia** is \$10 each player (\$40 per team). Prizes; 1st place team (\$100) and 2nd place team (\$600).



TREATS- will be available for purchase, to energize your brain for the trivia questions.

TREASURE-A variety of raffle baskets will be available along with a raffle for an Ipad mini and a summer weekend at Lake Tahoe. Free childcare will be available.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

by Mel Strong

The 9am book discussion group resumed its discussion of *The Making of the New Testament Canon* on December 28th. We are viewing a Great Course's DVD. We watch a 30-minute lecture by Professor Bart Ehrman and discuss his lectures. Following is the schedule of the remaining five lectures in the course:

- 1/4/15 Apocalypticism and the Apocalypse of John (our Book of Revelation)
- 1/7/15 The Copyist who gave us Scripture
- 1/18/15 Authority in the Early Church
- 1/25/15 The importance of interpretation
- 2/1/15 When did the Canon (of our New Testament) get finalized?

Professor Bart Ehrman is from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His lectures are outstanding and we would encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity for fellowship and Christian Education. If you have ever wondered what the Book of Revelation is all about, (who among us hasn't) you want to be in the youth room next Sunday at 9am for his lecture. It is very enlightening. Hope you will be joining us for the remaining lectures.

Mel



JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

January 4	Charlene Dobson
January 11	Joe Kick
January 18	Jan Schults
January 25	Polly Gallagher

RECONCILING CONGREGATION

by Martin Tucker

The Methodist Reconciling Congregation movement began in 1983 when a church in New York and one in Fresno declared themselves to be open to all worshipers regardless of their sexual orientation. Information in Wikipedia (undated) indicates that there are 268 Reconciling Congregations, 34 Campus Ministries, 75 Reconciling Communities and 22,000 individuals who have made a statement regarding being open and accepting of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender, as church members, allowing them to participate in all activities of the church.

However, the total Methodist Church has not changed its social creed that declares gays and lesbians as worthy individuals under God but does not allow for them to be ordained. Ordained ministers are not allowed to perform same sex weddings.

In 1999 Jeanne Barnett and Ellie Charlton had a commitment service in the Conference Center of Sacramento. It was attended by hundreds, including a parade of choir members from various churches (including BCUMC) and 96 Clergy (some from other denominations). I (Martin Tucker) did the floral arrangements. I had met Jeanne and Ellie at a retreat where Jimmy Creech was the guest speaker. He had recently been defrocked for performing a same sex marriage. More recently other ministers have experienced the same trial by the church for the same offense and have also been defrocked.

Because of the official stand of the total United Methodist Church, there are still some feelings of caution among LGBT members and potential members. There is a great division of feeling about LGBT people among Methodists in various parts of the world. While the western areas of the United States are generally liberally inclined, the same is not true of other areas. At times this appears to be leading to a split in the world wide UMC. Attempts in the past to change the stand of the church have failed so, until such a change happens, it is necessary for those churches that want to distinguish themselves as "accepting" to make a declaration on their own.



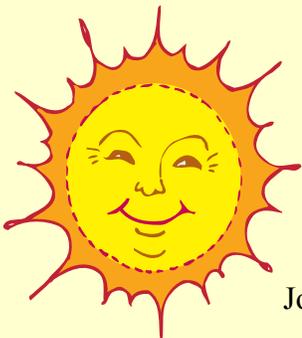
CHEERFUL FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

I am Cheerfully reporting that the Administrative Council approved the 2015 BCUMC Budget that the Finance Committee submitted last Sunday. The Budget was unanimously previously approved at our December Finance Committee Meeting. At this writing we do not have the final 2014 year-end numbers but several individuals have cheerfully brought their pledges current, which is much appreciated.

Our 2015 projected Operations Income of \$217,286 includes pledges of \$142,267 and projected carry forwards of \$26,749. Our projected Total Operations expenses are \$198,711. This budget reflects a continued full-time Pastor and paying our full 10% apportionment.

I want to personally thank Debra, Pastor Hyesung and each member of the Finance Committee for their cheerful hard work and each and every one of you for your cheerful giving.

John D. Moore, Finance Committee Chairman



WINTER DAYS

Sometimes I need to hibernate - in God.
The winter trees have lost their leaves
The days are short - the light is low
Some places in our world have snow.
And when I pray I hear God's gentle voice:
"Take some time for doing less -
Come be with me - I'll give you rest."
Just as nature slows her pace
Showing life is not a race -
While slowing down just might feel odd -
Sometimes it helps to hibernate - in God.

© Joe Kick - 2014



H.O.P.E. (Hope, Opportunity, Prayer, Encouragement)

The holidays are behind us and, as we move forward into 2015, Hope House needs volunteers. Saturday, December 27th, the White Pony Express brought their mobile unit along with five of their volunteers to pass out assorted food items. It was a big hit with our clients and we hope this will become a regular event. For those of you that aren't familiar with the White Pony Express, it is an organization of volunteers who go around to different farmers' markets and grocery stores and pick up food items. We get a regular delivery from them every Sunday afternoon.

Also, we had a very nice surprise. Smith Family Farms brought us nine fresh cut Christmas trees to offer folks, along with boxes of acorn squash and butternut squash. We very much appreciated their donation. It's terrific the way the community is embracing our ministry and helping out.

If anyone would like to volunteer at the Hope House, we certainly would welcome you. Now that we have a weekend distribution, this might be of interest to those of you that can't make it during the week. Also, drivers for pickups are very important.

The need is there; the rewards are life changing. We need your help with this amazing ministry. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Robin Vaughan (home 925-634-6409) or cell 650-619-6387. We can accommodate your schedule and hours and your help will leave a lasting impression on you, the community and our ministry.



Let Us Pray for the Following Members and Friends of BCUMC!

This list is provided by our Congregational Care Network of Brentwood Community UMC.

If you want to add names or make any change in this list,
please contact Linda Barnhill at 634-8521 or Michael Ann Honea at 516-9541)

Diane Hutchison,
Norma Hall,

Cliff Fortner,
Diane Lee,

Don & Kim Fraley,
Vernon Noble,
Gerald Peterson

James Collins
Joan Peterson,



In December the Youth Group had a *Chopped* event, where the kids partnered up to make an appetizer, entrée, and dessert, and we also had the annual White Elephant gift exchange.

Starting in January, all 5th graders and up are invited to participate in the youth events. With a flourishing youth program, we are also looking for more chaperones to help out at events. We would love the help, and the youth would love to see you at an event.

A huge thank you for our Flocking Fundraiser. We are still going strong into the new year, so if you would like to flock a neighbor or a friend, please contact one of the youth leaders – Julius Lukacs at julius@brentwoodumc.org or Paul Slay at paul@brentwoodumc.org.



3 Davie Blount
4 Mary Bronzan
5 Craig Bronzan
12 Vickey Barriner
16 Pete Cruz
20 Patti Bartlebaugh
25 Horace Gipson
21 Jackie Hanel
22 Scott Bartlebaugh
23 Jacob Lukacs
27 Audrey Dunn
28 Rachel Simas

Happy Anniversary

16 Edie & Galen Tidrick

MISSION TODAY UNIT - UMW

By Patti Bartlebaugh



In October I was able to attend the Conference and District UMW annual meetings. At both meetings, recognitions were part of the day. UMW Units can be recognized for their Reading Program participation, 5-Star Giving, and Mission Today Units. In November I reviewed the *Reading Program*. Last month I described *5-Star Giving*. Here I will review what it takes to be a *Mission Today Unit*. It is my hope that next year Brentwood UMC UMW will be recognized in all three areas. All women of the church are invited to be a part of UMW.

Our Local unit is doing many of these things already and I hope that we will continue and add them and add some new ones. The purpose of promoting a *Mission Today Unit* is to do three things: Energize United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action; Increase contacts between units and mission personnel and mission projects so the United Methodist Women understand where their money goes; and Encourage the use of mission resources through United Methodist Women. Expand concepts of mission, including social justice as mission. In order to be recognized as a *Mission Today Unit*, UMW groups must complete a minimum of ten of the criteria, including five of those marked with an asterisk (*). Units of fewer than 15 members are asked to complete at least half of the criteria, including 3 starred, to become a *Mission Today Unit*.

- *1. Use the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting to pray for persons in mission and our mission work with women, children and youth.
- *2. The group will make and meet its pledge to mission.

- *3. The group will add at least 2 new members (1) to its roll.
- *4. The group will have at least 2 members (1) subscribing to response.
- *5. The group will use 2 programs (1) from the *Program Book*
- *6. The group or circle will conduct or participate in at least one mission study each year.
- *7. The group will implement the Charter for Racial Justice in at least two ways.
- 8. At least 2 members (1), other than a conference or district officer, will attend the district or conference annual meeting and report back to the group on classes and events they experienced.
- 9. The local group will invite a district or conference officer, other than one of its members, to one of the group meetings or events.
- 10. At least 1 member of the UMW (other than a conference or a district officer) will attend MISSION U (formerly Mission Education Events) and report back on classes and events they experienced
- 11. Members will correspond with five persons listed in the Prayer Calendar.
- 12. The group will have at least 1 person joining the United Methodist Women's Action Network to receive and respond to legislative information at least three (3) times a year.
- 13. At least 2 members (1) other than a district or conference officer will complete one of the Reading Program Plans and report on one of the books read.
- 14. The UMW group will contribute to all five channels of Mission Giving.
- 15. The unit will be responsible for supporting at least one local mission project and participate in one Conference Hands On Mission Project.
- 16. The local UMW will participate in the Campaign for Children in at least 2 ways:
- 17. The UMW group or subgroup meeting will include a "response moment" where an item from response magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story.
- 18. The group will work toward becoming a "green" unit.
- 19. One person of the local UMW will attend a spiritual growth retreat of at least 1 day.
- 20. The group will plan 1 program from the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church 2013-2016.
- 21. Create an article with photo illustrating your group's support of the UMW Purpose. Send it to the Conference Communications Coordinator.

2015 JANUARY WORSHIP & PREACHING SCHEDULE

<i>Liturgical Calendar</i>	<i>Worship Acts</i>	<i>Scripture Text</i>	<i>Sermon Title</i>
January 4 [White] Epiphany Sunday	- Holy Communion - Recognition of Ministries and Ministers	Matthew 2:1-12 (The Visit of the Wise Men)	"Who is Jesus? – Witness of the Wise Men"
January 11 [White] Baptism of the Lord First Sunday after the Epiphany	Renewal of Baptism	Mark 1:4-11 (The Baptism of Jesus)	"Who is Jesus? – Witness of John the Baptist?"
January 18 [Green] Second Sunday after the Epiphany	Recognition of Acolytes/Crucifers and Worship Ministers	John 1:43-51 (Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael)	"Who is Jesus? – Witness of Philip and Nathanael"
January 25 [Green] Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Recognition of Teachers and Choir	Mark 1:14-20 (Jesus Calls His Disciples)	"Who is Jesus? – Proclamation of Jesus"

Statement of Inclusion:

Because we believe that no one is excluded from God's love and that all may come who hear the Shepherd's voice (*John 10:1-18*), so we affirm:

In keeping with the spirit and teachings of Jesus Christ and with United Methodist principles, the Brentwood Community United Methodist Church welcomes all persons into our fellowship.

Resident Bishop: Warner H. Brown, Jr.
El Camino Real District Superintendent: Kristie Olah
Pastor: Hyesung Lee; Lay Leader: Julius Lukacs
Secretary: Debra Urzua

***The Mission of the United Methodist Church
is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

Brentwood Community
United Methodist Church
809 Second Street
Brentwood, CA 94513

TIME DATED MATERIAL

