Make Something Happen

Well, football season is in full swing but this year Bay Area fans don’t have much to cheer about. I guess we have to go nostalgic and remember past glories. Or, at least some fun stories. I remember hearing about a very unusual Cotton Bowl game in 1954. The University of Alabama was playing Rice University. It was Rice all the way. The partisan Texas crowd was cheering wildly. The Alabama team and the fans who made it to Texas for the Cotton Bowl were pretty glum. Alabama half-back Tommy Lewis was terribly frustrated as he sat there on the bench watching Rice roll up one touchdown after another. Then something happened that made the Cotton Bowl of 1954 a memorable event.

A Rice All-American half-back took the ball on his own 5-yard line and headed down the sideline toward the Crimson Tide goal line. When he reached Alabama’s 38 yard line – directly in front of Lewis – the Alabama back could no longer contain himself. He leaped from the sideline and tackled the ball carrier. They gave Rice the touchdown! (It’s on YouTube).

I’ve often wondered what happened to that young half-back who cared so much that he could not contain himself. His judgment may have been poor, but you can redirect that kind of zest for living – and make it constructive and creative.

Coach Bear Bryant had a sign in the locker room for all his players to see. It read. ‘Make Something Happen.’ It is the responsibility of all of us to make something happen. It would be misleading for me to suggest to you that all of our days will be exciting and happy. Many of them will be just regular days. Life is not designed for us to live in a constant state of excited happiness. I have seen a few people who are like that 24/7, but most of them were in the mental hospital – or on their way. Being able to accept our share of dull days and still keep our lives from drifting into cynicism or depression is a symptom of emotional maturity.

When life is dull, and we are not particularly happy about the state of things, it is unrealistic to expect God, the government, or family and friends to do something about it. You can do it yourself. Let’s decide to take charge of our life and our circumstances. As they say, we aren’t getting any younger.

Make Something Happen!

Bailey Barfield Joins Youth Team

With an education history firmly rooted in chilly Eastern and Midwestern States, Bailey Barfield, Piedmont Church’s newest Youth Intern, is admittedly a California girl at heart.

Bailey was home schooled in Alameda County before moving east to attend high school in Pennsylvania, and college at North Park University in Chicago.

“I love Chicago,” Bailey said. “If it were further south, I would never leave. It’s hard to take Chicago winters.”

Jeremy Kaetzel, the church’s male Youth Intern, introduced Bailey to an open position at Piedmont Church the day following her recent return to the East Bay in September. The two have known each other since high school.

Pageant Brings Nativity To Life

Our annual Children’s Christmas Pageant will take place Sunday, December 16 at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary. Our children will sing Christmas carols and perform in Radio Station Y-U-L-E, a Christmas play about the Nativity arranged by Wayne Guidici.

The Salvation Army Band will be joining us for the 48th year. The pageant is followed by the Advent Dinner.

This is a fun event for everyone. Please come and bring your friends and family. This is a great way to enjoy the Christmas season. Contact Leslie

See ‘BAILEY’, Page 3
Our NEW online service makes it easy to pledge, set up automatic payments and monitor your account.

Visit PiedmontChurch.org/pledge

Our 2019 pledge campaign titled, Because of You, has begun and will run through November 12.

This campaign recognizes that the many ministries and missions of Piedmont Community Church are possible only through your financial support.

Our pledge is a reflection of God’s blessings to us. By returning a percentage of our income for His work, we express gratitude.

We ask that you prayerfully consider your gift and return your pledge card, or pledge online, before November 12.

If you did not receive a card by mail, they are available in the narthex. You can also fill out a card online or set up pledge payments at PiedmontChurch.org/pledge

"The miracles people pray for are delivered by us." - Paul Schroeder

Watch Paul’s message to the congregation at PiedmontChurch.org/pledge
Pulpit Exchange Brings Imani’s Rev. Ronné To Piedmont Pulpit

On November 18, Rev. Ronné Wingate Sims, Executive Minister of Imani Community Church in Oakland, will preach at our 9 and 10:30 am services.

Rev. Ronné has spent many years sowing into the lives of children, youth and young adults in non-profit and church settings. She studied at Howard University and completed a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology at California State University, East Bay.

Licensed as a Minister of the Gospel in 2011, she earned a Master of Divinity degree with an emphasis on Youth, Family and Culture from Fuller Theological Seminary in 2015. While in seminary she was chosen as a Fellow at the Black Theology and Leadership Institute at Princeton Theological Seminary. She was ordained by the American Baptist Churches USA in 2016.

Rev. Ronné is currently a Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright, Jr. Scholar in the Doctor of Ministry program at McCormick Theological Seminary.

Alternative Gift Market Celebrates Special Anniversary

For 15 years, our church has hosted its annual Alternative Gift Market (AGM). In that time, we’ve raised over $300,000 for charitable organizations from the East Bay to around the world. When you purchase an “alternative gift,” you honor a loved one, a friend or a colleague and at the same time you give tangible help to some people in desperate need. What could be a better way to celebrate the birth of Jesus? This year, the AGM takes place at Piedmont Church on Sunday, December 9, 16 and 23. You can expect to receive a full catalog of gifts soon after Thanksgiving and you can participate online as well. Contact Dr. Don Ashburn for more information at Don@PiedmontChurch.org.
Operation Christmas Child, November 4

Sunday School is participating in the Operation Christmas Child shoebox program Sunday, November 4 after the 10:30 am service.

Simple gifts are shipped outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S.

Help by bringing items including small toys, toothbrushes and school supplies to the CE building on Sundays or drop off in the church office.

You can fill a shoebox and we will deliver it. We can no longer include toothpaste, candy or liquid items.

Donations by check should be made payable to Piedmont Church (write ‘Christmas Child’ in the memo field).

Notes from the Choir
Warming Up For Christmas

BY SCOTT FITZGERRELL

This month, the Chancel Choir will apply its energies to preparing for Advent and the Christmas season. As a result, we choristers get a bit of Sunday time off—but, no worries: there will be music aplenty. Here’s the deal, along with some dates to put in your calendar right now.

Communion Sunday, November 4, we will reprise the lovely Communion anthem Now to praise the name of Jesus, by composer and organist Michael Bedford. TCU graduate Bedford is a widely published Episcopal church musician who leads choir, handbell, and organ workshops throughout the United States. Garrison Keillor once described the Episcopal denomination as “like Catholicism, without the guilt,” i.e., characterized by a certain formal elegance from which all darkness has apparently been banished. This sunny hymn, with its richly harmonized melody, yields its own revelation: the true communal spirit of Holy Communion (very appropriate at Piedmont Church), and touches only lightly on its darker import. I’ll bet Garrison can live with that.

Sunday, November 11, the new Piedmont Church confirmands will take over the service. Be there to welcome them.

Sunday, November 18, is Thanksgiving Sunday, and we will be joined by the choir from Imani Community Church for a rousing celebration.

Sunday, November 25, is Handbell Sunday. Under the guidance of Steve Main, our handbell choir has truly blossomed, and the sophistication of their repertoire is only matched by their execution. Don’t miss this special, all-too-rare, service.

And now those dates: December 2 will bring our first ever Americana Christmas service to Piedmont Church. Join us for folk-oriented material presented by our fine section leaders and a crackerjack string band!

Finally, Saturday and Sunday, December 8 and 9 we will present this year’s Christmas choir-and-orchestra concert and gourmet reception: ‘Welcome Home - An Overture to Christmas.’

See you there!

November Brings ‘Stormy Ladies’ To Guild Hall

BY SUZANNE LATHAM

Come see Stormy Ladies, a project of Encore Actors under the direction of Michael French. It is a funny and thought-provoking play about a group of women left behind during serious flooding in a retirement home in Britain.

Michael has directed widely in the Bay Area, including producing plays with Theatre Aluminous, Ubuntu Theatre Project and Piedmont Center Theatre.

Performances are Thursday and Friday, November 8 and 9, at 7 pm will take place in Guild Hall. Performances are sponsored by the church’s theater shared interest group. There is no admission charge, but seats may be reserved by emailing suzlatham3@gmail.com
Parents of middle and high school students meet in a private home for fellowship.

Youth Ministry Updates

BY REV. SCOTT KAIL

Middle & High School Parents Fellowship
Our re-launch last month was fantastic. More than 25 attended our first pot-luck event and enjoyed great fellowship and commiserating conversation. I hope you will be able to join us for our next installment on Friday November 2, at 6:30 pm. If you would be willing to host, please contact Scott Kail at Scott@PiedmontChurch.org or (510) 547-5700

Fall Mexico Rock is coming
If your student has interest in attending the Mexico trip this spring they need to join us on Sunday, November 4, 5 - 6 pm in Guild Hall. We hold this event each fall to gather and start the preparation for our trip in April and give info on the application process that starts right after Thanksgiving.

Thou Shalt Laugh

Q. Why didn’t Noah go fishing?
A. He only had two worms.

Q: Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?
A: Pharaoh’s daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

New Community Prayer Boxes

We have installed prayer boxes at the main entrance and in the breezeway.

Our congregation, and the wider Piedmont community, is invited to write down their joys and concerns, so that members of the staff and our Prayer Circle can pray for them.

All prayer requests can be either anonymous or not, and they are confidential. If you’d like a member of the clergy to reach out to you, please indicate that on the card.

PARISH REGISTER

Deaths
Carolyn B. Renton died September 30. Her service will be held at Piedmont Community Church on Monday, November 12 at 2pm.

Baptisms
Grady Christopher Garner, son of Gretchen and Chris Garner and grandson of Linda Bjork, baptized October 7.

Iona Irene McLaughlin, daughter of Shannon Peloquin and Mark

‘Just Breathe’ Classes In Chapel

BY SARA HIRSCH

No dogma or agenda and open to everyone in this sweet room in the heart of Piedmont. Find the silence between the noise in this class designed to guide you through silent meditation.

Each class will start with gentle stretches for 15 minutes followed by breathing exercises.

Prepared to meditate, either sitting in a chair or on the floor, the next 20 minutes will be silent.

Bring a sticky mat if you plan to be on the floor (there is carpet in the chapel) and a pillow if you plan to sit on a chair. Tuesdays at 5:30 pm.
Worship Video, Audio Online

Our full worship services, including music, sermons and congregational singing, are now available as videos at PiedmontChurch.org

Our worship videos are viewed nearly 1,000 times each week on our website and social media, providing access to our music and message to a wider audience.

Christmas Caroling Unites Community

BY JUDY FOREMAN

Everyone is invited to Guild Hall Wednesday, December 5 at 7:30 pm for an evening of old-fashioned Christmas caroling, hot cider and wonderful treats.

We will gather around a roaring fire after the tree lighting in Piedmont Park and sing along with the Chancel Choir under the direction of Steve Main. Don’t miss this wonderful Piedmont Community Church tradition. Fun for the entire family.

Tiny Time Commitments

Many of our volunteer activities take minimal time and effort.

**USHER OR GREET** at the 10:30 am service (simple training sessions available). Check your calendar and sign up after church.

**PROVIDE A MEAL** through our Food Angels for a member going through a difficult time. Contact Linda Rice at ljrice@sbcglobal.net

**HELP IN THE KITCHEN** with our volunteer cooking crew, Loaves and Fishes. Contact Steve Wuebbens at sawuebbens@gmail.com
MONTH OF SUNDAYS

Each Sunday, we gather to celebrate our faith and our friendships during worship at 9 and 10:30 am.

November 4
Dr. William McNabb, preaching
Going Against The Grain – Real Life Teachings From The Sermon On The Mount
Part 8 – Rock Solid Living In Slippery Times

November 11
Confirmation Sunday
Rev. Scott Kail, preaching

November 18
Imani Sunday
Rev. Ronné Wingate Sims, Executive Minister of Imani Community Church in Oakland, preaching

November 25
Dr. William McNabb, preaching

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our November Digging into Discipleship lessons:

November 4 - An Idol Bows to God’s Ark (1 Samuel 5:1-5), “God is real, so we believe he’s the one true God.”

November 11 - David Values Saul’s Life (1 Samuel 24; 26), “God values people, so we value people.”

November 18 - David Celebrates (2 Samuel 6), “God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him.”

November 25 - David Is Kind to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9), “God is kind, we can be kind to others.”

Contact Leslie Quantz with questions at Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org or (510) 547-5700 ext.109)

NOVEMBER 2018

Piedmont Community Church
Media Ministry

Thanks to those who have volunteered to help build our new Media Ministry Team. We can use a few more hands to help with audio recording, video recording and (soon) video live streaming worship services.

No experience necessary, but you should enjoy playing with gadgets. Contact Michael Barber at Michael@PiedmontChurch.org, or see him in the back of the sanctuary after worship.

Sermon Discussion
With Dr. William McNabb

Dr. William McNabb will host a brief sermon discussion following worship on Sunday, November 25. Last month, a dozen people gathered to discuss the day’s topic. Don’t miss this opportunity to dig a little deeper with your friends at Piedmont Church.

Photo by Michael Barber

1 Corinthians 13:12 - We don’t yet see things clearly. We’re squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won’t be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us! - The Message
Saturday, November 3 – Volunteer to Serve Lunch with CityTeam (ages 12 and over), 11 am – 2 pm, 722 Washington St., Oakland

Saturday, November 3 – Volunteer to Serve Dinner with CityTeam (ages 14 and over), 5 pm – 7 pm, 722 Washington St., Oakland

Sunday, November 4 – Communion Sunday
   Operation Christmas Child

Monday, November 5 – Board of Deacons, 7 pm, Guild Parlor

Wednesday, November 7 – Coffee and Conversation for Seniors, 9:30 am – 11:30 am, Guild Parlor

Friday, November 9 – KIDZ Club, 3:30 pm, Youth Room

Sunday, November 11 – Confirmation Sunday

Monday, November 12 – Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, 2-4 pm, Guild Parlor

Monday, November 12 – Board of Trustees, 7 pm, Guild Parlor

Sunday, November 18 – Imani worships at Piedmont Community Church, reception following 10:30 am service

Monday, November 19 – MAT, 7 pm, Staff Workroom

Wednesday, November 21 – Coffee and Conversation for Seniors, 9:30 am – 11:30 am, Guild Parlor

Thursday, November 22 – Thanksgiving Day, office closed

Monday, November 26 – Board of Christian Education, 6:45 pm, Guild Parlor

Sundays
   Children’s Sunday School, 10:30 am, Christian Education Building
   Journey (High School Sunday School), 10:30 am, Youth Room
   Confirmation, 11:30 am, Youth Room
   Rock, 5 pm, Youth Room

Mondays
   Piedmont Gardens Bible Study, 10 am, Piedmont Gardens
   Spiritual Formation Group, 4:30 pm, Guild Parlor

Tuesdays
   Rock Pizza Lunch, Youth Room
   Just Breathe, 5:30 pm, Chapel
   Handbells, 6:30 pm, Clara Barton Room
   Small Group Bible Study, 7 pm, home of Bob and Judy Wright
   - Call Judy Wright (510) 325-3083 or Dottie Hutch (203) 500-9097

Wednesdays
   LiveWire, 2:15 – 3:30 pm, Youth Room
   Chancel Choir, 7:30 pm, Lindamood Choir Room

Thursdays
   Women’s Bible Study, 10 am Guild Parlor
   Walking Together, 7 pm, Guild Parlor

Saturdays
   Men’s Bible Study, 7:30 am, Founders Room