



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WITH PBPC

AUGUST 18, 2024

Sunday Night Ministry (SNM)

- SNM has grown considerably; doubling its size from the start of the year, and continuing to grow. Some weeks are even larger than the Sunday morning congregation!
- SNM heavily encourages folks to get involved! Not just is it a blessing to those we serve, but it's a blessing to participate in actively sharing God's love with our neighbors. Many of our guests have expressed that our dinner is the most "restful" hour and a half they get each week - and how much they love an opportunity to sit and talk, feel safe, not feel rushed... and be greeted by name. Come on a Sunday night - serve a meal, wash a dish, pour someone a cup of water. Whatever it is you do, you will see the love of God and you will be better for it.
- If you are interested in donating or serving, you can talk to Irene or message her at SundayNightMinistry@PBpres.org. Even one day a month is a huge blessing! There are things people of all ages can assist with.

Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (IPNC)

- The IPNC shared that all interim candidates have been interviewed, and none yielded a viable candidate within the church's budget. Thus, the Presbytery has asked us to "cast a wider net" by submitting a job posting on a national Presbyterian job site. This would require us to pay the moving expenses of any candidates - if one is found at all. Presbytery has made clear that there aren't many candidates since COVID, and that the search could take longer than we expect.
- Tony, of the IPNC, discovered an opportunity to help our church find a pastor: elevating an elder of our church into a "Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)." This would allow an elder to fulfill many of the roles of a pastor, as they pursue ordination. They would be commissioned for a three-year period, after which they can either be recommissioned, replaced, or promoted into a traditional head pastor if they meet all the requirements. Grant Kay has expressed interest and believes that God is calling him to this role, if PBPC would have him. Further, Grant has his Masters of Divinity, demonstrated aptitude while covering for Bill, and is just missing some Presbyterian specific classwork needed to be traditionally ordained. In traditional Presbyterian fashion, there are quite a few steps to be finished before Grant could start, but those present expressed nearly unanimous support to continue pursuing this potential option.
- Emily McColl (who preached on 8/11) has expressed interest in serving as a "consistent pulpit supply", to help provide us some support and regularity while we continue to find pastoral leadership for the church. This is still being considered, and is not official yet.



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Testimony re: Linda Vista Presbyterian's closure

- Deacon Chris Waters talked about her previous congregation, Linda Vista Pres., shrinking as the years went on, until only about 10 people remained - pastor and worship team included. Before it formally disbanded, a new church moved into their building and began making changes that Linda Vista Pres had not previously considered or made, which has led to the community experiencing revitalization at that location. Chris encouraged PB Pres that change was possible, and that before it's too late, we can see the same revitalization here if we're willing to adapt.
- If you're wondering what those changes are, you're already starting the work of helping the church adapt to our community and move into the future! The next step is to pray, dream, and share what God's telling you with the rest of the church!

Decor, Landscaping, and General Church Building Enhancements

- Our organist, Anne Bay, expressed a desire to enhance the sanctuary by bringing back color and fresher elements. Many expressed that they agree! One particular sticking point was that the creme/gray curtain behind the cross was not appealing, and gives our church a "boring" and "dated" appearance, and that we ought to change it back to something more vibrant. Eric Pettersen expressed that we ought to further adorn the sanctuary with the banners more frequently to give the church a "living" and "seasonal" feeling. Have any ideas? Don't hesitate to pass them along to Tammy McEuen!
- The landscaping of the church was talked about, comparing our church facade to the front of the preschool, a pretty jarring difference can be seen. Many congregants expressed a desire to enhance our landscaping, and that investing in beautifying the campus was something we felt was valuable. It was also pointed out that this should not be purely a "buildings and grounds" issue and that beautifying the church was a conversation that the whole church should be engaging in! Have any ideas? Don't hesitate to pass them along to Steve Awe!
- One idea that garnered some traction was adopting the bus stop on the corner of Garnet and Jewel as a gift and blessing to our neighbors and community. What would that mean? On the most basic level, committing to keep it clean and looked after, but it could also be so much more! We could add a garden, or a mural, or prayer benches... or whatever we want! If this idea excites you, help us brainstorm what this would look like!



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Community Outreach and We See You (WSY) San Diego

- Steve Ritz, our Elder responsible for Outreach & Mission, talked about the value of being “visibly serving.” This means that when we serve (which our church does a lot of! Pat yourself on the back!), we do so by wearing our church t-shirts (if you need one let us know!), and we design our outreach to be public so that everyone can know about the awesome stuff happening here! Steve pointed out that due to WSY’s public events, one preschool family, and a couple community members have committed to participating and becoming a regular part of the serve team. Praise God!
- Steve also talked about WSY as a huge success. Presently, they’re serving 140 people... which is their capacity! That’s good news for us, but it’s great news for our unhoused neighbors who are getting to be loved at PBPC. WSY provides food, clothes, and hygiene supplies each week! If you haven’t yet, come check them out on Tuesday!
- Mac McEuen, our Clerk of Session, shared about the legacy of service and outreach at PBPC. It was an inspiring reminder, and a great call to keep the great work going. We echo Mac’s call for hope and persistence. Great things are coming for Pacific Beach Presbyterian Church so long as we remain united and collaborative!
- On the subject of community outreach, Deacon Jan Miner asked about utilizing the Bell Tower to provide music to the community again! After some discourse, one thing that was clear was the congregation's desire to see it returned. The possibility of this is being explored, but it sounds like by leaning on the talents present within our congregation, it is feasible and something that can be restored before the end of the year!

Endowment Use and Financial State of the Church

- Pat Hom, our bookkeeper as well as Elder of Finance, walked us through the state of our investments; namely, that we’ve been able to maintain our budget through church investments and our endowment. However, with the current state of giving, it seems that this isn’t feasible without significant changes to our context. She further shared that though the money within the endowment is “locked up” by our bylaws, the congregation has the power to change that if we decide to be strategic with those funds to grow the church.
 - Pat's message was clear however: We’re in a tight spot with our funds, but we’re not past the point of no return. There’s money we can use to turn things around, but we have to be strategic and open to some “out of the box” thinking. Have any questions, ideas, or concerns? Reach out to Pat Hom for a deeper discussion!



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Closing Thoughts:

This congregational conversation was a massive blessing to our church. It left many, myself not withstanding, inspired and hopeful that PBPC has a big role to play in God's ministry to Pacific Beach and San Diego as a whole. However - it will all be for naught if the conversations start and end between us. Let's keep this momentum moving into our prayer life as well! The most important action item from this meeting? Seek the will of God. Ask what PB Pres ought to do. Discern what YOUR role is in all of this. PBPC is lucky to have you, and I am excited to grow our church alongside you all. Thanks for being a part of our church family!