



FOCUS!

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2015

FOCUS MEETING

Sunday, Jan 31


7pm Great Room

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Look for the blue and green flags within this issue of *Focus!* that indicate opportunities for you to give and serve. Scan the QR code with your phone to learn more.



Join us on our next mission trip.

SERVE



Senior Pastor

If you only listened to the rhetoric and opining of the collective American voice throughout the past year, no one could accuse you of foolishness if you concluded that society must be crashing and burning right in front of our eyes. We seem to peddle in doomsday prophecies, worst-case scenarios, cumulative outrage, and drawing up verbal battle lines with those whose positions differ from our own in the smallest of ways. But as we sail on into 2016, I'm reminded that the Church is called to be salt and light in the world, and that these two characteristics can be more prevalent and powerful in tense and tumultuous times.

For much of the Fall semester, the letter to the Hebrews was our primary biblical text for worship. As I think back on its message, I'm encouraged that the God who brought so much of his plan to fruition in the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, will surely do the same through his people and the Church, in our current age, and ultimately through Jesus again whenever the end finally comes.

It very well may be that the process of living out our Christian calling develops some new challenges that are unique to our ever-changing world, but that really isn't any different from most of our Christian brothers and sisters that have gone before us. I am again reminded of the words of Hebrews:

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:15-16

So for all of the challenges and victories that 2016 may bring, both to us as a church and to each of us individually, let us trust that the God who has fulfilled his plan of salvation in Jesus is also able to sustain us and bless us as we seek to follow him more faithfully every day.

Dr. Steve Laufer
SENIOR PASTOR

Executive Director

We were blessed to visit our kids in the Middle East this Christmas season. They have lived there for five years and have delivered both of their children in the local hospital. Our grandchildren will not have a U.S. birth certificate. They have a “Born Abroad” birth certificate. No issue in the least, other than just another realization they are not in the U.S.

There are plenty of other reminders they are not here. Salsa, peanut M&Ms, pecans, chocolate chips and Christian books for the grandkids are always packed in an extra bag when we visit. Stop signs as a suggestion, perilous traffic circles, unmarked speed bumps and the continual symphony of horns provide ample reasons for them to be homesick.

Paul might have been a little homesick himself when the Holy Spirit inspired him to pen the words to the Philippians, “our citizenship is in heaven.” Though our passport is not from this world, we can easily get accustomed to its culture. The last time our son was home, he ran through the stop sign in our neighborhood. I had to remind him he was in a different culture. Sometimes we need to do the same in our spiritual journey.

As you read through the Focus Report, I hope you see the stories and examples of those who have recognized we are only here on a work visa. We may be “born abroad,” but thankfully the Kingdom of God is always with us, around us, and in us. Our citizenship in the Kingdom doesn’t mean we should expect comforts from this culture and society. On the contrary, it actually required an incredible sacrifice to be made available to us this side of eternity and calls for the same from us.

So celebrate with us what the Lord is doing in this place that is not our home.

Be strong and courageous,

David Mobley
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Facilities Update

New Learning Center Chiller

We were blessed with sufficient cash flow from last year's budget to replace the 130-ton AC chiller for the Learning Center. The \$110,000 project went smoothly and did not require us to access reserves.



Mission Training Center

Long sought after and much awaited, we have received approval from Clear Lake Water Authority to complete the parking lot for the Mission Training Center. To compensate for the building and the parking lot, we are required to construct a detention area at the back of the property. The detention area will collect rain water, allowing it to be slowly released into the storm drains but will otherwise be dry.

To lower costs and to add a great feature to the Pavilion, the excavated dirt is being used to create a berm on the west side of the pavilion. It will provide an opportunity for future event viewing as well as great play space for our kids (and adults who act like kids).

The additional generosity of the donor is allowing us to complete the outside of the Mission Center and activate the storage area for our disaster relief and construction equipment. The training rooms, restrooms and additional storage will be completed when we are resolved with the architect's estate.

Pavilion

To prevent any loss of our investment, we have completed several aspects of the Pavilion. We will continue with additional improvements (sidewalks, stamped concrete, utilities) within the current funding. Completion of the roof, restrooms, food serving area and multimedia equipment will be completed when we are resolved with the architect's estate.

NOTE: We have updated our procedures for our Capital Projects with the lessons learned from the untimely passing of our architect and general contractor.

Children's Area Renovations

Our largest area of growth in attendance is in our preschool and children's ministries. We moved our children to the second floor of the Learning Center with the plans to renovate the space.

The Children's Area Remodel Steering Team has met with a new architect and contractor and is updating the remodel plans for the Children's Ministry area. Final plans and **updated projected costs** will be available in January 2016. We have raised \$280,000 toward the remodel.

JOIN THE JOURNEY

THE VISION

There is great value in creating a safe, fun and welcoming environment for our children—a place where kids love coming to church and can't wait to come back.

When we reach children, we reach families. And through families, we impact the future of our church and God's Kingdom.



Our plan is to renovate the children's space and renew the Children's Ministry identity by becoming **UBC Kids in FLIGHT** (Kids Faithfully Living In God's Holy Truth).

As we create this new Children's Ministry area, we are asking you to "join the journey," inviting children to join in the spiritual journey of belonging, preparing and serving, helping them envision how they can serve in their community and around the world and inspiring them to reach their full potential in Christ.

THE NEW SPACE

When people step into the Children's Ministry area, they will know that kids are important at UBC! The welcome area will be open, fun and inviting. Parents will feel confident that their children will be safe and well cared for during their time with us.

As they walk to the classrooms, they will see the values of UBC. One hallway will be transformed to remind kids of the important faith skills that are part of their journey in Children's Ministry: learning to navigate the Bible, memorizing scripture, praying, sharing their faith and worshipping God with their life.

The other hallway will encourage kids to find their place of service by highlighting the mission opportunities at UBC.

The Great Room will be an exciting and fun place for large group worship and activities.

The new space will be ideal for all the Children's Ministry activities: WBS, Bible Blast, Bible Drill, Children's Choir, GAs and RAs. And, it will allow us to continue to reach out to the community to provide a meeting place for organizations such as Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Reach Co-op.

THE PLAN

Planned Improvements:

- Update and enlarge the check-in area to provide a welcoming experience for members and guests
- Reconfigure bathrooms moving the entrance out of the "public traffic" area to improve safety
- Install new signage to direct parents to rooms
- Modify rooms to maximize space
- Paint hallways to inspire kids in the areas of belonging, preparing, serving
- Update lighting and sound in the Great Room to accommodate children's large group worship time and activities

THE PROPOSAL

Updating funding requirements will be available with the completion of the design with the new architect.

The improvements will be completed in three planned phases (as funding is available):

Phase 1: Remodel bathrooms and welcome area

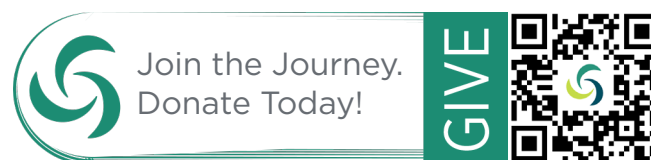
Phase 2: Modify classrooms and hallways

Phase 3: Update Great Room

THE RESPONSE

The need is now, so we ask you to prayerfully consider supporting the effort to transform the children's area. We are asking the Lord to provide enough one-time gifts to immediately start the project and enough monthly gifts to complete the project within four months.

To participate, write "Capital Improvements" in the memo of your check or online gift.



Missions Ministries

Articles by Aaron Glenn

PASTOR OF SERVING MINISTRIES

Making a Difference in Thailand

In collaboration with several other individuals from greater Houston, a team from UBC took the trek of a lifetime to Thailand for several weeks in October. They engaged with people in many different ways and in many different parts of Thailand. Their primary focus was to bring joy and increased quality of life to orphans through education programs, fun activities and health screenings.

The trip brought team members face-to-face with the very difficult issue of global poverty, especially on the day that was spent ministering to people who literally live in a dump on the outskirts of town. Additionally, the team was blessed to meet church leaders from among the Karen refugee population residing in Thailand.



Giving Help a Helping Hand

Houston is the fourth largest city in the country and it also ranks high in instances of human trafficking. Survivors of sex trafficking, in particular, often struggle as they attempt to reintegrate into society and into the work force after having experienced abuse and trauma.

To show respect for the efforts of survivors to start a new life in the face of challenges, and for those that help them, UBC honored Redeemed Ministries (www.redeemedministries.org), a Houston area non-profit organization offering social services and other support that responds to the needs of women who have been trafficked for sex.

Redeemed operates a 4-bed safe house that is designed as a long-term care facility providing the initial care needed to begin restoration and rehabilitation toward a life of wholeness and independence. They have designed a yearlong program to provide holistic healing, addressing spiritual, physical, emotional and relational needs for women. They also provide therapy that is trauma informed, case management, life skills training, job skills training and also enrichment programs and recreational activities. These things are all necessary in order to help victims become survivors, but these things are also expensive.

The fundraising coalition from UBC responded to the overwhelming needs by inviting people from the community to a celebration luncheon and fundraiser for Redeemed Ministries. They were able to show respect and support for the work of founders Dennis and Bobbie Mark, for the Redeemed staff and for the survivors themselves. Over 150 people attended the event and heard stories about the programs and positive outcomes of Redeemed Ministries. At the end of the event, over \$80,000 in pledges were received in order to help the ongoing work of Redeemed Ministries.





When a Basket is So Much More...

The global violence we see in the news has real impact in our city of Houston as we welcome refugees from around the world. As many as sixty million people are displaced in the world as refugees, and they are migrating anywhere they can to escape violence and oppression.

As a community of faith dedicated to being the presence of Christ among all nations, some UBCers decided to do something meaningful to welcome refugees who have recently relocated to Houston.

In partnership with Interfaith Ministries Refugee Services of Houston, UBC families and individuals teamed up to provide welcome baskets to local refugees. Laundry baskets were filled with staple food items such as rice, canned goods, dried beans, fresh fruit and gift cards from local grocery stores.

After a brief training on cultural sensitivity, the UBC volunteers were paired with each other and, on November 22, went out to deliver the goods to expectant refugee families from the Congo, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Burma, Bhutan and Eritrea.

Although the baskets of food items were only a small gesture of support, it is our hope that they helped refugee families feel like they are a welcomed part of the diverse Houston community. We respect all of them for enduring such hardship, suffering and while still maintaining the hope for relief.

Creating Space and Breaking Bread

In December, UBC Serving Ministries began a new partnership with The Mercy Tree, a local, non-profit organization that assists and feeds homeless individuals (www.themercytree.org). Our intent is to literally “create space” for fifteen to twenty Mercy Tree clients each week by sharing our building with them.

Each Thursday, UBCers will have the opportunity to interact and have table fellowship in the Chapel with people who are living the “Clear Lake experience” from a very different vantage point.

In supporting The Mercy Tree, UBC indirectly partners with several other Christian churches in the area. (Clear Lake Church of Christ, Southeast Church of Christ, Ecclesia Clear Lake, and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church all host Mercy Tree clients for daily lunches each week.) This opens the way to even further collaboration with these churches that want to make a positive difference in the lives of homeless people in our city.

If you work nearby or are otherwise available at lunchtime on Thursdays (any time between 11:30 am–1:30 pm), you are wholeheartedly invited to stop by and share space at the Lord’s Table with us as we break bread together.

First Residents Arrive at UBC’s New Townhome

In mid-December, UBC welcomed the first missionary family to reside in our church townhouse, located at Space Center and Bay Area. The family will be in residence through July 2016, and they will have several opportunities to talk at UBC about their experiences living in Southern Asia and insights related to culture and religion in that part of the world.

Thanks to the decorating team, led by Kala and Chelette Baker (along with other volunteers), who worked for many days to acquire furniture for the missionary residence and to decorate it to welcome the family on their arrival.

Serving Ministries

For adults who are seeking a place to serve at UBC

Your Serve Ministry Launches

After several months of intensive background work by our UBC staff and many volunteers, we are ready and excited to launch one of our newest ministries, *Your Serve*. The primary purpose of this wonderful ministry will be to enlist a greater number of UBC members to serve in the various UBC ministries.

The project began several months ago when UBC ministry leaders, both paid and volunteer, submitted ministry service opportunities that currently exist at UBC. We were amazed to discover that there are almost three hundred different ways to serve the Lord via the ministries of University Baptist Church!

These ministries were collected in a database and correlated with the IOLAS questionnaire, based on the interests and ministry serving values assigned to each ministry service opportunity. The database was reviewed by the UBC staff and beta tested with UBC staff members and several UBC volunteers.

Beginning in January 2016, every adult church member who joins UBC will be given an opportunity to complete a short ten-minute online questionnaire, which will be emailed to the church member by one of our **UBC Connection Team Member** volunteers.

After the new member completes the questionnaire, a **Connection Team Member** will contact the new member and arrange a time to visit with him or her, either by phone or in person, and to discuss the results of the questionnaire.

During the visit:

- The new member will select one or more ministry service opportunities and discuss these service opportunities with the **Connection Team Member**.
- Once the new member has chosen one or more UBC ministry service opportunities to further investigate, the **Connection Team Member** will give the new member the contact information of the **UBC Ministry Leader** responsible for overseeing the ministry choices of the new member.
- The **Connection Team Member** will also contact the appropriate **UBC Ministry Leader**, providing the contact information of the new UBC member and informing the **UBC Ministry Leader** to expect a call from the member.
- The new member will contact the appropriate **UBC Ministry Leader** to arrange a time to discuss serving in the respective ministry.



Number One

Take the online questionnaire



Number Two

Meet with a Connection Team Member



Number Three

Connection Team finds appropriate Ministry Leader



Number Four

Connection Team connects you for your "perfect fit"



The beauty of this simple process is based on the fact that:

- 1) Each new member is given an opportunity to prayerfully select a ministry that matches their interests and God-given serving values from a customized database of almost three hundred serving opportunities.
- 2) Each new member will have a personal conversation with a **Connection Team Member**, who will help guide him or her to a ministry, as well as to a corresponding **UBC Ministry Leader**.
- 3) Each new member will have an opportunity to investigate a ministry service opportunity by having a conversation with the **UBC Ministry Leader** who oversees the corresponding ministry.

The *Your Serve* ministry will also be made available to existing UBC members who would like to discover a ministry service opportunity at UBC.

Randy Cox

DIRECTOR OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Lighthouse of Hope

On December 3, UBC hosted its 17th Lighthouse of Hope Christmas celebration with clients from several local partner organizations. Three hundred-sixty parents and children associated with Destiny Village, Beltway 8 Crisis Pregnancy Center, The Bridge, Buckner, Sarah's House and Bay Area Turning Point participated in the program and were treated to warm smiles, great food, a Christmas service, and many wonderful gifts. Thanks to those who coordinated this huge event and to the approximately 100 UBC volunteers who participated as table hosts, bus captains, grocery packers, food service workers, song leaders, presenters, decorators and cleaning crew!



Be a part of
Serving Ministries.

SERVE





Senior Adult Ministries

Dr. Milton Redeker

DIRECTOR OF SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES

Each month, the Primetimers enjoy friendship and fellowship through events such as entertaining dinners and fun, educational trips. In the last few months, their delicious dinners have included world-renowned pianist/soloist Beverly Terrell of Second Baptist Church of Houston, singing group Men of Praise, gifted vocalist Lisa Pierre and special guest and UBCer Pamm Muzsly.

Throughout the year, the Primetimers held seven exciting trips, which have included places like Shangri La Botanical Gardens, Hemi Hideout, the Texas Hill Country, Lanier Library and Stone Chapel, the Holocaust Museum and a concert at Sagemont Church.

Most recently, Friday, November 6, a group of eighteen Primetimers spent the day visiting three interesting places in Houston. The first was the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Deacon Gabriel Gadah explained the beautiful icons and paintings in the Cathedral and gave an overview of the fundamental beliefs of the Greek Orthodox faith. The group had lunch at Cleburne's Cafeteria and went on to enjoy art pieces at the Menil Collection. They saw works from such artists as Picasso, Matisse, Pollock, Warhol and Salvador Dali. A two-block walk led them to the Rothko Chapel, a non-denominational chapel also founded by John and Dominique de Menil, where the group had a few minutes of quiet reflection in the chapel.

A future Primetimer trip is planned for the George W. Bush Library in Dallas (April 11-12, 2016), where 40-45 people are expected to attend. They look forward to visiting the Galleria mall there, Cotton Bowl Stadium, and finding bluebonnets and other wildflowers in bloom on the trip home.

Martha Monroe

Senior Adult Revival

During the month of September, a three-day senior adult revival was held in the Chapel. Centered around the theme of Stuart Hamblin's hymn, "Until Then," attendees enjoyed worship with speaker Dr. John Bisagno, a retired pastor of the 22,000-member First Baptist Church of Houston, Texas and author, including the best seller, *"The Power of Positive Praying."* Special musical guests were George and Darline Archer.

Darline and I want to express again what a blessing it was for us to be a part of your Senior Adult Revival. What a special time that was for us! Seeing so many that we have not seen in a very long time was very refreshing. Each of you brings so many memories to us, and our time we had together. Your participation in the services was such an encouragement. What a joy it was to work with Dr. Bisagno again.

We also want you to know that your support of our ministry through your generous Love Offering was much appreciated. We are always willing to go, but having the financial support that makes it possible has come from those who are obedient and generous in their giving. You demonstrated that in a huge way. We pray God's richest blessing on you, UBC, and your pastor and staff.

You always remain in our prayers and we urge you to pray for us daily as we continue to serve Him each day of our lives.

YOURS IN CHRIST,

George and Darline Archer



Young Adult Ministries

Beach Retreat

The Young Adult Beach Retreat in Galveston is a fabulous weekend away to “retreat” and refocus on God—away from all the craziness that we call “life.” During this mid-October weekend retreat, we had 25-30 young adults engaging in fellowship, eating and Bible study time. On Saturday night, we had a night of worship on the beach led by Ben Sandstrom and Sound of Light. Bob and Lora Doremus did the teaching. They taught us about love, loving each other within the group of believers, and then loving the people around us. They also taught us how to love particularly those that we work with on a regular basis, and to be “difference makers” in the world around us. It gave us a time to regroup as a body of believers, and to also grow closer as a family of Christians.

Brittany Shradar



Student Ministries

Engage Retreat 2015

We call our fall retreat weekend “Engage” for a reason. The goal for the weekend is to allow our students (grades 6–12) to truly escape from the schedules, stress and pressure that comes along with school and a plethora of extracurricular activities, and slow down as best they can.

This year, after a last-minute surge of student registrations (causing us to add another bus and convince the retreat center to give us a few more spaces), we finished the plans and took 152 teenagers and adults to Forest Glen Camp & Retreat Center in Huntsville, Texas, right inside the National Forest. With such a perfect setting, we gave our students the freedom to slow down and invest their time in friendships and focus on their relationship with Christ.

We invited our good friend and fabulous communicator, Mike Satterfield, to share with our students for the weekend. Through great humor and strong, straightforward biblical truth, Mike spent the weekend challenging our students to connect with God, with others and with the body of Christ. The students also connected through worship with praise music performed by Logan Walters of Austin Stone Community Church.

God always does great things when our students slow down and spend time intentionally focusing on him, and Engage Retreat 2015 was no different. Thank you UBC for your amazing investment in our students and for enabling us to make such weekends happen.

Kyle Wilson

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF
STUDENT MINISTRIES



Children's Ministries

Turkey Shoot

"To work with others in sharing Christ" is a key focus in Royal Ambassadors (RAs). Toward the end of October this year, the RAs did just that as they partnered with the Clear Lake Food Pantry and the Lighthouse of Hope ministry through the UBC Royal Ambassador Turkey Shoot.

The "entry fee" for each Turkey Shoot participant was three canned goods per target. The activity served as a fun way for both boys and girls to donate canned goods while learning about gun safety and practicing their target shooting. The activity saw good participation this year with twenty-four boys and girls, including four young ladies from a local Girl Scout troop. About 270 food items were donated, which was about one and a half times last year's donations.

Beth Graves



Look Who Just Checked In (JOINT CHOIR CONCERT)

On Sunday evening, December 6 in the Worship Center, the UBC Kids and Student Ministries performed "Look Who Just Checked In" for the UBC family and community guests.

UBC Chorus Kids, Shout Choir, Highlight Alleluia Ringers, Carillon Ringers, Jubilation Handbells and Celebration Handbells all presented their annual Christmas musical numbers. A large crowd enjoyed the musical presentation with a small drama tying the music together. A special thanks goes to these directors, accompanists and coordinators who made it all possible!

Thank you to:

Janna Warner, Children's Choir Coordinator
Nancy Martin, Bruce Blazine, Jade Blakey and
Audra Smith, Children's Choir Directors
David Henry, Angie Reeves, Accompanists
Amy Titus, Shout Choir Director and Colette
Whitlock, Accompanist
Matt Marsh, Highlight Choir Director and Wilder
Titus, Accompanist
Debbie Stacey, Celebration Handbell Director
Sarah Hale, Rejoicing Handbell Director
Kay Carpenter, Carillon Handbell Director
Lou Ann Bussey, Alleluia Handbell Director

Bethlehem Inn Guests:

Front Desk Manager, Gunnar Carlson
Bellman, Lendon Dutton
Mary, Rebecca Wang
Joseph, Caleb Heuiser
Shepherds, Emily Simmons, Brad
Tressler, Dash Chapa
Three Kings, Samuel Jafari-Rouhani,
Hannah Foster, Abby Murphy
Narrator, Jaden Schneider



Preschool Ministries

Articles by Terri Greer

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF PRESCHOOL MINISTRIES

Praise Kids Christmas 2015

On December 6, Preschool Ministry's Praise Kids choir presented the Christmas concert, *My Best-est Friend*. Entering with birthday horns, the children proclaimed and celebrated the birth of Jesus. Through song and fun items like rhythm sticks, scarves and glow sticks, the choir discovered that Jesus came to earth to be their friend—a friend who will love them no matter what—and is their best-est friend.

The previous evening, the choir presented the concert to residents of Brookdale Senior Living. Residents sang along with familiar songs of "Away in a Manger" and "Silent Night." After visiting with the residents, Praise Kids' families joined together for dinner and a time of fellowship.

Praise Kids choir is under the direction of Shannah Murphy. Rotation leaders are Wendy Knowles, Eric Patenaude and Michelle Tressler. Volunteers are Melanie Cureton, Jessica Jafari-Rouhani, Ryan Martinets, Christi Ortiz, Deani Quick, Kelly Wilson, and student volunteer, Allison Blackwell. We also appreciate the parents who stepped in when extra help was needed!

Right At Home Moms

Right at Home Moms (RAHM), a family ministry of UBC, is designed to support mothers of infants, toddlers and preschoolers and who are modifying their work schedule or leaving the workplace to stay home and raise their children. Our goal is to help new moms find practical Bible study, genuine encouragement, time to refresh their spirit, and a network of godly friends in a similar phase of life.

Laura Wardlaw led our fall study, *House or Home, God's Blueprint for a Great Marriage* by Chip Ingram. The women, along with their husbands, were able to view online videos together in their own homes and share personal insight on each chapter. During our weekly large group meetings, we reviewed chapter subjects of God's design for marriage and the roles of husband and wife. Our small groups entailed further questions and prayer time. We were also blessed to have a panel of wives give us godly wisdom and practical advice for marriage and raising our children.

RAHM believes that motherhood is the hardest but most fulfilling work you'll ever find! We meet on Wednesday mornings, 9:30-11:45 am on the third floor. We also have social events outside of UBC where we gather together for play dates, Moms' Night Out and family activities. If you'd like more information about RAHM, please contact RAHM Director Laura Wardlaw or Terri Greer, Associate Pastor of Preschool Ministries.



Weekday Ministries

Articles by Laura Davis

Dental Hygienists Day

UBC Weekday Ministries was blessed to have two dental hygienists from Dr. David Gordon's office come visit our four-year-old classes! They talked about dental health, and they gave the children opportunities to explore the tools and equipment they might find in a dental office. What a treat!

Donuts for Dads

On Thursday, October 22, Donuts for Dads was such a great success! We welcomed dads, grandfathers, uncles and older brothers to share in a sweet time with us. Our Chapel and our hearts were full!



First Responders Day

UBC Weekday Ministries celebrated First Responders on Thursday, October 1 during their chapel time in the Worship Center. All of the First Responders who attended and honored were family members of children in our program, and the children decorated a banner with stars to show their appreciation.

We are so thankful for the service and sacrifice of all law enforcement, firefighters and emergency medical personnel.



Firefighter Visit

This fall, our four-year-olds had the opportunity to visit with a firefighter, who also happens to be a dad in our program! He shared a book with them, then gave them the opportunity to try on his bunker gear, helmet and boots. He also talked to the children about what firefighters look like when wearing all of their gear so the children would feel comfortable around firefighters if they are ever in an emergency situation. What a wonderful opportunity for our children!

Operation Christmas Child

For November's mission, Weekday Ministries chose Operation Christmas Child, a mission-based effort organized by Samaritan's Purse—a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world.

Students start with an average-size cardboard or plastic shoebox, determine the recipient's age (from 2 through 14 years) and gender. They add a "wow" toy (like a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal), then add other fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies. Most importantly, the children are asked to pray for the recipients and to include a personal note or photo.

These boxes, that were filled with treasures to be shipped all over the world, were gathered in the Chapel and the children of Weekday Ministries prayed over each child who would receive one. We have such giving students!



Worship Ministries

Articles by Matt Marsh

PASTOR OF WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Service of Lessons & Carols

On a brisk Sunday evening, December 13, UBC's congregation and Bay Area guests gathered in anticipation to experience UBC's Worship Ministries' annual Christmastime service—an adaptation of a liturgical work that has been celebrated around the world for almost a century. Originating at the King's College in Cambridge, *A Service of Lessons and Carols* traditionally features nine Scripture lessons with accompanying carols, and UBC's annual adaptation is a Christmastime favorite enjoyed by many.

Through beautiful music and the spoken Word, the sounds of Christmas emanated throughout the Worship Center, which was draped in the warmth of greenery and the glow of white lights. The timbre from each reader's voice brought Old and New Testament scriptures about the prophecies and birth of Jesus to life. UBC's Chamber singers, orchestra, and adult bells and choirs graciously shared their talents as they performed melodious Christmas carols, anthems and instrumental pieces. At the end, a festive reception was held in the Fellowship Hall. It was truly another heartwarming and spirit-filling performance.

Saviour: A Modern Oratorio

In two services on Sunday morning, December 20, over 1,600 UBC congregants and Bay Area guests settled into the Worship Center for a multi-sensory experience.

Through twelve captivating works of music and dance, *Saviour: A Modern Oratorio* was told through the talents of UBC's choir, orchestra, soloists, media team, and special musical and dance guests, conveying the story of God pursuing His people, from creation through resurrection.

Images of Jesus' life and beautiful landscapes were projected across the back walls, and paired beautifully with Ad Deum, a Houston-based professional modern/contemporary dance company that performs interpretive works of dance. Attendees enjoyed the active live dance scenes, which included tempting snakes in the Garden of Eden, a king's struggle for power without God, and a flowing, red-scarf performance symbolizing the ultimate sacrifice of Christ.



As the orchestra played their ambitious scores, the choir rang out, pairing poetic, free verse vocals with thought-provoking lyrics. Christian-recording artist and special guest Adam Paul Williams graciously performed as an orotund tenor, and complimented the other male and female soloists.

A UBCer wrote of her experience with *Saviour*:



I wanted to let you know how much I loved our *Saviour* performance. It had a couple of special meanings. For starters, my daughter attended. (I didn't know my husband was letting her stay in the Sanctuary, and I only saw her after we filed into the choir loft.)

She accepted Christ earlier this year, but [this] was the first time she had seen photos of the Crucifixion (other than what is in children's Bibles). The videos and photos were stunning. She spent time during the performance quizzing my mom, whom she was sitting beside, about the crown of thorns and the three crosses, etc. What a beautiful way to continue conversations with her regarding her salvation and what Jesus did for us. I was able to follow up with her after church and answer more questions.

The next day, after my mom returned home, she drove an acquaintance to work. She was telling her passenger about the *Saviour* performance. Mom summarized the whole production as well as her conversation with my daughter after seeing the images of the Crucifixion. The lady began to cry. As they were driving, they passed a house in the country with a sign that her friend read out loud: "Do you know where you would go if you died today?" My mom asked her if she had an answer to that question. She said, "No." My mom asked if she wanted to have an answer and she replied, "Yes!" Mom pulled off the side of the road, prayed with her, and led the lady to Christ!

I just wanted to say thanks again for all your hard work. It is a beautiful thing to see the fruits, know how God was glorified, and how others were encouraged in their faith as a result of this effort.



Saviour: A Modern Oratorio is a unique Christmastime service that is enjoyed annually at UBC. We hope you and your guests will join us for the next performance in December 2016.



Christmas Eve Services

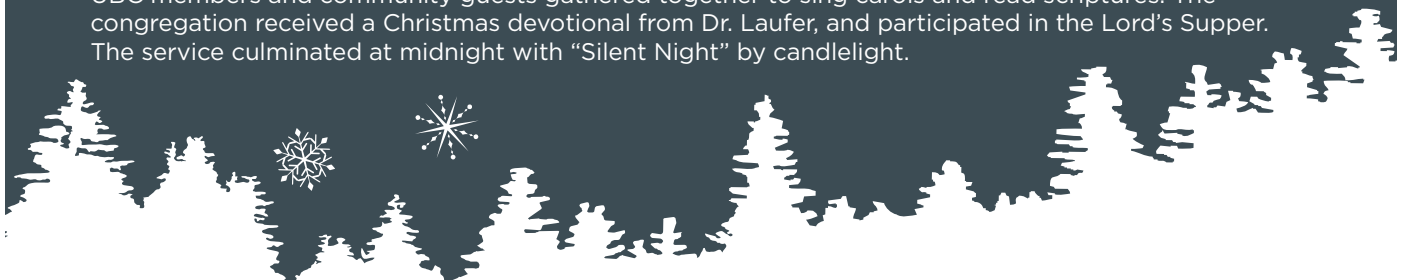


UBC celebrated the birth of Christ this year through two very distinct and enjoyable Christmas Eve services.

Children were everywhere as a family-friendly service took place at UBC at half past five on Christmas Eve. The celebration included the Holy family, a manger, shepherds and even live animals—all of which greeted the Bay Area community as they entered for worship. The Worship Center was filled to capacity as the community guests sang carols led by our 11 o'clock praise band. The families witnessed baptism, heard the Christmas story, and listened to Senior Pastor Dr. Steve Laufer as he presented a short Christmas devotional. The service ended with the congregation singing "Silent Night" by "candlelight" (glow stick light).



At 11 o'clock that evening, a service of contemplation was held in a more traditional setting. The UBC members and community guests gathered together to sing carols and read scriptures. The congregation received a Christmas devotional from Dr. Laufer, and participated in the Lord's Supper. The service culminated at midnight with "Silent Night" by candlelight.



Attendance Report

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (4 YRS)					WBS ATTENDANCE (4 YRS)				
WEEKS	2012	2013	2014	2015	WEEKS	2012	2013	2014	2015
Week 1 Sept	835	965	986	902	Week 1 Sept	849	760	973	874
Week 2 Sept	990	1089	954	969	Week 2 Sept	1054	1138	899	951
Week 3 Sept	950	958	1001	1019	Week 3 Sept	954	903	864	788
Week 4 Sept	989	992	883	892	Week 4 Sept	990	1015	844	875
Week 5 Sept	1025	1008	N/A	N/A	Week 5 Sept	1007	1057	N/A	N/A
Week 1 Oct	1019	1005	862	965	Week 1 Oct	911	973	787	849
Week 2 Oct	915	950	921	898	Week 2 Oct	920	995	809	836
Week 3 Oct	979	911	1001	923	Week 3 Oct	856	905	879	850
Week 4 Oct	961	910	901	773	Week 4 Oct	830	882	832	714
Week 5 Oct	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Week 5 Oct	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Week 1 Nov	934	1003	963	994	Week 1 Nov	928	957	896	906
Week 2 Nov	1022	914	927	930	Week 2 Nov	936	922	837	910
Week 3 Nov	786	956	873	923	Week 3 Nov	830	937	829	853
Week 4 Nov	794	876	898	858	Week 4 Nov	746	656	781	757
Week 5 Nov	N/A	N/A	869	948	Week 5 Nov	N/A	N/A	705	775
Week 1 Dec	1005	896	893	924	Week 1 Dec	959	723	871	943
Week 2 Dec	1002	942	1811	901	Week 2 Dec	957	894	673	783
Week 3 Dec	1351	1625	1002	1681	Week 3 Dec	793	713	587	680
Week 4 Dec	1037	961	618	748	Week 4 Dec	N/A	341	N/A	N/A
Week 5 Dec	833	893	N/A	N/A	Week 5 Dec	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

WORSHIP AVERAGES			
	9:30	11:00	Totals
Sept-Dec 2014	625	338	963
Sept-Dec 2015	608	347	955

WEEKEND BIBLE STUDY AVERAGES					
Sept-Dec 2015	ENROLLED	ATTENDED	Sept-Dec 2014	ENROLLED	ATTENDED
ADULTS	848	363	ADULTS	785	355
CHILDREN	377	145	CHILDREN	396	150
PRESCHOOL	405	185	PRESCHOOL	484	181
STUDENTS	313	142	STUDENTS	316	131
TOTALS	1943	835	TOTALS	1981	817

OTHER ORGANIZATION AVERAGES SEPT-DEC 2015					
Children	AVG ATTENDED	Preschool	AVG ATTENDED	Students	AVG ATTENDED
Bible Blast	38	Jesus Birthday Party	150*	Crave (IS)	40
Children Choir	58	Mission Friends	12	Merge (HS)	22
Children's Handbells	21	Praise Kids	32	Youth Choir	54
GA's	31	Praise Kids Concert	180*	Youth Handbells	26
RA's	31	RAHM Fall	24	Children/Student Choir Concert	425*
		Fall Festival	Cancelled*		

*One-time event

Financial Report

University Baptist Church 12 Months October 2014 to September 2015 (100.0%)

	Revenue and Expenditures (a)	Actual (b)	Annual Budget	Remaining	% of Annual Budget
General Contributions	\$3,683,267.85	\$3,683,267.85	\$3,925,000.00	\$241,732.15	93.84%
Budget Contributions	56,895.77				
Other Income	\$27,990.32	\$27,990.32			
Total Revenue	\$3,768,153.94	\$3,711,258.17	\$3,925,000.00	\$213,741.83	94.55%
Missions Ministry	\$374,328.72	\$374,328.72	\$410,500.00	\$36,171.28	91.19%
Communications Ministry	\$113,319.45	\$113,279.45	\$122,500.00	\$9,220.55	92.47%
Externally Focused Ministries	\$19,041.25	\$19,041.25	\$30,000.00	\$10,958.75	63.47%
Music & Worship Ministry	\$70,884.97	\$61,263.97	\$62,100.00	\$836.03	98.65%
Pastoral Care Ministry	\$13,994.36	\$13,934.36	\$30,000.00	\$16,065.64	46.45%
Adult Ministry	\$70,940.61	\$59,185.53	\$92,000.00	\$32,814.47	64.33%
Student Ministry	\$88,689.74	\$61,079.73	\$61,100.00	\$20.27	99.97%
Children Ministry	\$50,799.45	\$44,479.04	\$49,500.00	\$5,020.96	89.86%
Preschool Ministry	\$23,315.34	\$22,972.34	\$26,550.00	\$3,577.66	86.52%
Total Ministry	\$825,313.89	\$769,564.39	\$884,250.00	\$114,685.61	87.03%
Administration	\$201,293.53	\$200,793.53	\$228,850.00	\$28,056.47	87.74%
Personnel	\$2,063,938.39	\$2,063,938.39	\$2,232,000.00	\$168,061.61	92.47%
Total Administration	\$2,265,231.92	\$2,264,731.92	\$2,460,850.00	\$196,118.08	92.03%
Facility	\$531,066.10	\$530,419.83	\$579,900.00	\$49,480.17	91.47%
Capital Improvements	\$31,935.50	\$31,935.50	\$0.00	(\$31,935.50)	
Total Facility & CP & Funding	\$563,001.60	\$562,355.33	\$579,900.00	\$17,544.67	96.97%
Total Expenditures	\$3,653,547.41	\$3,596,651.64	\$3,925,000.00	\$328,348.36	91.63%
Net Income	\$114,606.53	\$114,606.53			
	Begin	Activity	End		
Designated Funds (c)	\$1,470,006.29	(\$520,818.13)	\$949,188.16		
Budget Designated Funds	\$40,843.07	\$0.00	\$40,843.07		
Reserve Funds	\$500,000.00	\$0.00	\$500,000.00		
Unrestricted Funds			\$258,608.54		
Total Cash & Investments			\$1,748,639.77		
Current Other Assets (d)			\$26,036.10		
Current Liabilities			\$132,825.69		
Mortgage			\$0.00		

Kathryn C. King, Treasurer

Footnotes:

a) "Revenues and Expenditures" lists ministry specific budget contributions made through the year under Revenues and shows actual gross expenditures for each ministry area.

b) "Actual" includes ministry specific contributions included in their respective ministry. These contributions off-set ministry area expenses. "Actual" column figures are used to compute "% of annual budget."

c) Designated Funds "Activity" includes expenses for remodel, Mission Training Center and the Pavilion.

d) Current Other Assets is Weekday Ministry Receivable.

Financial Report

University Baptist Church 2 Months October 2015 to November 2015 (16.7%)

	Revenue and Expenditures (a)	Actual (b)	Annual Budget	Remaining	% of Annual Budget
General Contributions	\$556,525.05	\$556,525.05	\$4,000,000.00	\$3,443,474.95	13.91%
Budget Contributions	\$4,746.15				
Other Income	\$51.83	\$51.83			
Total Revenue	\$561,323.03	\$556,576.88	\$4,000,000.00	\$3,443,423.12	13.91%
Missions Ministry	\$55,652.51	\$55,652.51	\$418,000.00	\$362,347.49	13.31%
Communications Ministry	\$7,923.90	\$7,923.90	\$122,500.00	\$114,576.10	6.47%
Externally Focused Ministries	\$4,149.72	\$4,149.72	\$30,000.00	\$25,850.28	13.83%
Music & Worship Ministry	\$6,481.96	\$5,001.96	\$62,100.00	\$57,098.04	8.05%
Pastoral Care Ministry	\$3,566.81	\$3,566.81	\$30,000.00	\$26,433.19	11.89%
Adult Ministry	\$15,440.81	\$15,440.81	\$100,000.00	\$84,559.19	15.44%
Student Ministry	\$17,339.03	\$14,139.03	\$61,100.00	\$46,960.97	23.14%
Children Ministry	\$1,140.23	\$1,084.08	\$49,500.00	\$48,415.92	2.19%
Preschool Ministry	\$1,735.41	\$1,725.41	\$26,550.00	\$24,824.59	6.50%
Total Ministry	\$113,430.38	\$108,684.23	\$899,750.00	\$791,065.77	12.08%
Administration	\$22,153.03	\$22,153.03	\$228,850.00	\$206,696.97	9.68%
Personnel	\$393,627.52	\$393,627.52	\$2,287,500.00	\$1,893,872.48	17.21%
Total Administration	\$415,780.55	\$415,780.55	\$2,516,350.00	\$2,100,569.45	16.52%
Facility	\$46,965.84	\$46,965.84	\$583,900.00	\$536,934.16	8.04%
Capital Improvements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Fiscal Year Funding	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Facility & CP & Funding	\$46,965.84	\$46,965.84	\$583,900.00	\$536,934.16	8.04%
Total Expenditures	\$576,176.77	\$571,430.62	\$4,000,000.00	\$3,428,569.38	14.29%
Net Income	(\$14,853.74)	(\$14,853.74)			
	Begin	Activity	End		
Designated Funds (c)	\$949,188.16	\$32,540.95	\$981,729.11		
Budget Designated Funds	\$26,605.03	\$0.00	\$26,605.03		
Reserve Funds	\$500,000.00	\$0.00	\$500,000.00		
Unrestricted Funds			\$85,328.14		
Total Cash & Investments			\$1,593,662.28		
Current Other Assets (d)			(\$230.41)		
Current Liabilities			\$88,965.56		
Mortgage			\$0.00		

Kathryn C. King, Treasurer

Footnotes:

- a) "Revenues and Expenditures" lists ministry specific budget contributions made through the year under Revenues and shows actual gross expenditures for each ministry area.
- b) "Actual" includes ministry specific contributions included in their respective ministry. These contributions off-set ministry area expenses. "Actual" column figures are used to compute "% of annual budget."
- c) Designated Funds "Activity" includes expenses for remodel, Mission Training Center and the Pavilion.
- d) Current Other Assets is Weekday Ministry Receivable.

Membership Report

UBC Membership Additions September-December 2015

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY BAPTISM

- Evan Albright
- Candace Griffithe
- William Griffithe
- Shaye Harold
- Carley Hayes
- Samantha King
- Amy McNicoll
- Devin Myers
- Noah Myers
- Seth Myers
- Evan Page
- Courtney Peters
- Jessica Quinn
- Erin Reeves
- Andrew Stiles
- Addyson Sumner
- Haley Teutsch
- Gabriella Wheeler
- Devon Willis

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY LETTER

- Denton Davies
- Lesley Davies
- Bob Greer
- Jeanette Hollis
- Mark Hollis
- Duane Robbins
- Janice Robbins

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY STATEMENT

- Gary Bennett
- Mark Griffithe
- Jim Miller
- Kym Miller
- Kathy Reinschmidt
- Mike Reinschmidt
- Amanda Smith
- Rick Styron
- Susan Styron
- Julie Willis
- Stephen Willis

UBC Membership Deletions September-December 2015

By Letter

- Barbara Gibson
- Nathan Pair
- Christina Pair
- Dale St. Dennis
- Mary Ellen St. Dennis
- Delana Stewart
- James Stewart
- Kim Tyree
- Warren Tyree

By Erasure

- Richard Coblentz

By Death

- Doris Hamilton
- Gene Harris
- Bill Shallberg
- Diane Williams

Administrative Report

Focus Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2015

The Focus Meeting was held in the Great Room at University Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 27, 2015. Dr. Steven Laufer, Senior Pastor, called the meeting to order and led the group in prayer. There were 87 people in attendance.

The Sr. Pastor’s Report is on page 4 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2015.

The Executive Director’s Report is on page 5 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2015.

The UBC Missions Report is on pages 6–9 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2015.

The Facility Updates Report is on pages 10–11 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2015. A recommendation from the Executive Council is that we use the year-end funds from FY2014 in the amount of \$40,843.07 towards the design and construction of the detention area for the Mission Training Center. No motion was needed but Steve Ebell seconded the recommendation. The recommendation was approved by voice vote.

The Student Ministries Report is on pages 12–15 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2015.

The Children’s Ministries Report is on pages 16–23 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2015.

The Preschool Ministries Report is on pages 24–26 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2015.

The Weekday Ministries Report is on page 27 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2015.

The Worship Ministries Report is on page 28 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2015.

The Financial Report is on page 30 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2015.

A full report of the membership changes during the period May–August 2015 is on page 31 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2015. During that period, 11 were received by baptism; 23 by letter; and 10 by statement. On page 29 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2015, you will find the attendance report for Weekend Bible Study and Worship.

Requests for letters

- Kelly Davidson
- Ed Greene
- Robin Greene
- Jeff Pearce
- Jennifer Pearce
- Dr. Harlan Wichelhaus

By Erasure

- Lance Halgren
- Susan Halgren

By Death

- Clarke Covington
- Eileen Johnson
- Jo Anne Ridge
- John Stovall

The changes in membership were reviewed and the requests for letters were approved by voice vote after a motion by Karol Peters and a second by Kim Waggett. A prayer was offered for those leaving, that they would be productive in their new churches, and for new members who had recently joined UBC.

The minutes of the June 7, 2015 Focus Meeting is on page 32 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2015. The minutes were approved as written by voice vote after a motion was made by Jimmy Hayes and a second by Wayne Hale.

The Nominating Committee recommended the following people to fill positions on UBC's committees beginning in January 2016:

Trustees:	Greg Allan, Zach Bartel and Ann Hammond
Executive Council:	Chris Carlson and Delynn Halloran
Nominating Committee:	Jason Bodie
Deacon Nominating Committee:	Travis Grindstaff
UBC Foundation:	David Yeary and Paul Glenn
Assistant Treasurer:	Lee Anne Ward

No motion is required for a recommendation but Cory Thompson approved the recommendation.

The recommendation was approved by voice vote.

The Deacon Nominating Committee recommended the following 12 candidates be added to the Deacons of University Baptist Church:

Doug Triplett, Mark Kuhlman, Mike Muzslay, John Cave, Jeff Doi, Robert King, Megan Murphey, David Ward, Paul Glenn, Sabra Barnett, Kelly Yeary and David Pedersen.

Pat Garrett represented the committee in the recommendation and Dale Figgins seconded the recommendation. The recommendation was approved by voice vote.

The Faithful Service Report is on page 37 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2015.

The proposed 2016 Budget recommended by the Executive Council was approved by voice vote. The 2016 proposed Budget is on page 38 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2015.

The UBC Foundation Report is on page 39 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2015.

Dr. Steven Laufer asked for motions to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by John Cave and a second by Glenn Doerksen. An Amen response was given.

Virginia Thomas
CHURCH SECRETARY

Trustee Committee


Articles by Leo Peters

The Trustee Committee ended the year by completing the scheduled audits of the standard operating procedures. Thank you to the church members and staff that helped us complete our task. We welcomed the new incoming members during a December meeting and bid adieu to those Trustee members whose terms have come to an end.

Faithful Service

There is a group of leaders at UBC that you will rarely see published. They do their work behind the scenes in a quiet yet effective manner. Their very calling creates a little tension about listing them on our Faithful Service page. But it may be helpful for you to see the list of our active Deacons.

Sabra Barnett	Kirk Heuiser	Mike Muzslay
Robert Bradbury	Larry Higgs	Mark Parks
Libby Brown	Ron Hill	David Pedersen
John Cave	Sonne Hooper	Butch Peters
M. C. Coody	Skip Inbody	Karol Peters
Phil Covington	Ron Janca	Brady Pyle
Glenn Doerksen	Jim Johnson	Charles Roberson
Jeffrey Doi	Scott Killingsworth	Stuart Skeeter
Bob Doremus	Robert King	Rusty Stewart
Steve Ebell	John Kinsey	John Sweitzer
Dale Figgins	Mark Kuhlman	Randy Targhetta
Pat Garrett	Pat Lavergne	Jill Tatum
Paul Glenn	John Lilly	David Traylor
Russell Graves	Tommie Lohse	Joan Traylor
Jim Hackett	Wally Long	Doug Triplett
Wayne Hale	Todd Lowery	Diane Vicary
Sean Halloran	Lawrence Maher	Bob Voss
Jimmy Haynes	Jim McLeroy	David Ward
Gary Hegler	Brad Miller	Lee Whitlock
Dennis Hehir	Steve Murff	Kelly Yeary
Jared Henderson	Megan Murphey	



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