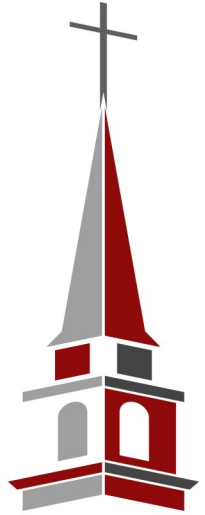


Spire

DECEMBER
2016
Vol. 25
No. 11

Point Loma
Community
Presbyterian
Church



Sunday Classic Worship
8:30 and 10:15 am
Sanctuary

Café Service
10:15 am
Chapel

Rev. Ed Girod
Interim Senior Pastor
Rev. Karla Shaw
Associate Pastor

www.pointlomachurch.org

A Note from Pastor Ed



As my three children reached age 8 or 9, they began asking, “*Is Santa Claus real?*” They were troubled by the multiple Santas in malls, the logistics of one man in a sleigh and a team of reindeer circling the globe in 24 hours and providing toys for every boy and girl on the planet, and just how a big, hefty man dressed in red could fit through most chimneys to find his way into your home. And what about those homes without fireplaces?

We tried the usual explanations of Santa’s helpers in different malls, the magic of Christmas which allows Santa to do amazing things in milliseconds, and the wonder that Santa is really an elf who has the capacity to look big one minute and shrink to his true size another. These worked for a while until the maturing intelligence of late childhood could not accept these excuses for reality any longer.

When we told our children the “truth” about Santa Claus, we told them the “real” story about St. Nicholas, a Christian leader who lived 1600 years ago. Nicholas was the pastor of a church in Asia Minor, near the Mediterranean Sea. Later, he became the Bishop of Myra, and wore the traditional color of red—the color of a bishop. His parents died when he was young, leaving him independently wealthy. He chose to use his fortune in the service of God and for the welfare of others.

Tradition tells us that one time three poor girls had no dowry—a gift unmarried women once gave their husbands on their wedding day. Without a dowry, they could not marry. Nicholas heard about their problem. So one day he came by their place and threw a bag of gold coins in the window for the oldest girl to be married. But no one knew where the money came from. The next day he came by again and threw another bag of gold coins in the window—this time for the middle girl. The third day he did the same—throwing a bag of gold coins into the window for the youngest daughter. But this time, the girl had been looking out the window all day and saw Nicholas as he rode away with his red cape flying in the wind.

From that time on, the legend has grown about St. Nicholas leaving gifts secretly. He (and his friends) give gifts to others with (*continued on page 6*)

a concert for the community

Sunday, December 4, 5 p.m. & 7 p.m.



New Covenant Choir
CHILDREN’S CHOIRS
BRICK SINGERS, Ringers ReJOYce!

Alicia McMillan, Organist

Bryan Verhoye, Pianist

Don Brenneman, Director

members of the San Diego Symphony

Tickets available in church office.

suggested donation

\$15. per person

or \$30.per family

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LOOKING AHEAD

Dec 3	MOM’s Toy Drive
Dec 4	Senior Christmas Dinner
Dec 4	Christmas Concerts: 5 & 7 pm
Dec 11	Red Brick Family Christmas
Dec 14	Lunch and Learn
Dec 24	Christmas Eve: 5, 7, 9 pm
Dec 25	Christmas Day: 1 Service, 10 am
Dec 26 and 30:	Church Office Closed
Jan 1	New Year’s Day: 1 Service, 10 am
Jan 2	Church Office Closed



The Tree of Life

The Tree of Life in the Family Life Center provides an opportunity for an enduring record of persons and events in the life of our church, its families and friends. Since Beverly Smith's design and the crafting by John L. Spafford in 1990, the two trees of the display have sprouted hundreds of leaves documenting the rich history of our community.

To request a leaf, please complete the form in the church office.

THE SESSION OF PLCPC *Denotes Chair

Rev. Ed Girod, Interim Senior Pastor (619) 223-1633 x202
pastored@pointlomachurch.org

Rev. Karla Shaw, Associate Pastor (619) 223-1633 x204
karla@pointlomachurch.org

Paul Diller, Clerk (619) 373-0060; pdiller50@gmail.com

Elder Class of 2016	Phone	E-Mail
Gresham Bayne <i>Student Ministries*</i>	619-517-3000	greshb@gmail.com
Debbie Fountain <i>Personnel, Nominating</i>	619-871-0460	pfountain@cox.net
Bob Giesick <i>Media Ministry*</i>	619-838-7689	thegiesicks@cox.net
Dianne Grafton <i>Finance & Budget*</i>	619-255-7076	degrafton@aol.com
Charlie Mac Vean <i>Personnel*</i>	619-508-4401	crmacvean@msn.com
Joel Miller <i>Co-Chair Annual Stewardship</i>	619-370-8633	sdrejoel@gmail.com
Alex Raugust <i>Building & Grounds</i>	619-261-3796	tinnitus007@cox.net
Sunny Richley <i>Worship & Music</i>	858-208-7705	srichley@yahoo.com
Elder Class of 2017	Phone	E-Mail
Larry Blenis <i>Children's Ministries, Presbytery Rep.</i>	619-223-5950	larryblenis@netscape.net
Allen Hobbs <i>Worship & Music*</i>	619-701-0485	allenmhobbs@msn.com
Bruce Kunkel <i>Building & Grounds*</i>	619-564-4282 619-849-2571	bkunkel@pointloma.edu
Mark Olcott <i>Mission Beyond*</i>	619-795-0102	olcott@cox.net
Bob Simoneau <i>Evangelism & Church Growth*</i>	619-223-6248	grs55@cox.net
Ryan Spradling <i>Men's Ministry</i>	619-518-7580	ryan.spradling@cushwake.com
Kathy Wright <i>Nominating*</i>	619-275-0335	kwright6@outlook.com
Beth Zedaker <i>Adult Ministries*</i>	619-602-6910	beth@bethzedaker.com
Elder Class of 2018	Phone	E-Mail
Greg Cuddeback <i>Family Life Integrator</i>	858-274-9213	greg.cuddeback@yahoo.com
Julie Gadzala <i>Children's Ministries*</i>	619-742-9734	yegadz@cox.net
Jerry Heidt <i>Building & Grounds</i>	619-523-0866	gheidt@ghhco.com
Sam Laub <i>Mission Beyond, Endowment</i>	408-313-4233	selaub@aol.com
John Morrison <i>Student Ministries</i>	619-972-3925	mail4jdm@gmail.com
Steve Smith <i>Finance & Budget, Co-Chair Annual Stewardship</i>	619-602-5950	ssmith@cwsl.edu
Barbett Wood <i>Preschool</i>	619-226-1644	makoakani@gmail.com

Church Ministry Program and
Support Staff - (619) 223-1633

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 9 am to 5 pm

Friday— 9 am to 1 pm

The Rev. Ed Girod

Interim Senior Pastor—Ext. 202
pastored@pointlomachurch.org

The Rev. Karla Shaw, Associate Pastor
karla@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 204

Ann Simoneau, Administrative Assistant—Ext. 203
ann@pointlomachurch.org

Donald L. Brenneman

Minister of Music/Business Administrator—Ext. 211
don@pointlomachurch.org

Evelyn Lambino, Financial Secretary—Ext. 206
evelyn@pointlomachurch.org

Melissa Mullins, Communications Coordinator—Ext. 209
melissa@pointlomachurch.org

Bob Giesick, Director of Media Ministry
r.e.giesick@gmail.com

R. O. Smith, Director of Youth Ministry/Café Worship Leader
ro@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 216

Elaine Burrell, Director of Senior Adult Ministry
elaine@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 210

Nicole Hage, Preschool and TLC Director
preschool@pointlomachurch.org (619) 223-3327

Joette Correia, Director of Toddler Learning Center
joette@pointlomachurch.org—(619) 677-3762

Karen Connor, Director of Children's Ministry
karen@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 215

Cynthia Hernandez, Child Care Coordinator/
Children's Ministry Assistant—Ext. 212
cynthia@pointlomachurch.org

Sarah Butterfield, MOPS Coordinator—Ext. 212
sarahbutterfield@gmail.com

Bryan Verhoye, Pianist/Music Associate
mravgguy@aol.com

Alicia McMillan, Organist/
Director of Children's Choirs
aliciaorganist@gmail.com

Church Office / Front Desk—Ext. 201
frontdesk@pointlomachurch.org



November 5, 2016
About 130 served at 14 sites in the Logan Heights area building and improving homes and playgrounds, planting trees, and feeding the workers.



January New Member Class
Find out what membership is all about and meet new friends!
Pastor Ed will lead the class, with Deacons and Elders assisting.

Sundays, January 8 and 22
from 11:30 am to 1:15 pm in the Library.
Light lunch and free child care provided.

Please RSVP to
ann@pointlomachurch.org
(619) 223-1633 x203



Melissa Mullins
melissa@pointlomachurch.org
(619) 223-1633 ext. 209

This month we welcome Melissa Mullins our new Communications Coordinator. She replaces Heather Holiday whom we will greatly miss. Melissa comes to us after serving as the Creative Director and Communications Director of the renowned Willow Creek Church in Chicago.

Children's Ministries

Karen Connor, Director (619) 223-1633 x215 karen@pointlomachurch.org



Sunday School at 8:30 and 10:15 am

Come and learn God's Word!

Ages 4 yrs-Kindergarten—Room 2

Grades 1-3—Room 8

Grade 3—Bible Memory Class in Room 5 (8:30 only); Grade 4-6 in Room 6
Childcare, ages 6 mo.-3 yrs—Nursery



Kids Club meets on Thursdays in Dec. from 4:55-5:45 **ONLY** for 4 yrs.-1st grade. Family Life Center:

Dec. 1—Snowman Clothespins
Dec. 8—Santa Stick Puppets
Dec. 15—Christmas Craft Surprise
*Kid's Club resumes on January 12



Route 56 on Mondays

5 to 7 pm, Family Life Center.
Dinner included (\$5 donation)
Friends are **always** welcome!

Dec. 4—(Sunday) Serve the seniors at their Christmas Dinner. 2:30-5 pm, Family Life Center
Dec. 5—Rt. 56 Christmas, Family Life Center
Dec. 11—Red Brick Christmas: A church-wide family event in the Family Life Center 2:00-4:00.



Red Brick Family Christmas Sunday, December 11

2 to 4 pm in the Family Life Center.
Gingerbread houses, crafts, Santa, and more! Bring a dozen cookies to share with neighbors.
Join the family fun!



Bible Memory Course

Join 3rd & 4th Graders in a special Sunday School class for the 2016-2017 school year. **8:30am in Classroom 5.** Sept-Dec will be a quick overview of the Bible. Jan-May kids will be memorizing and learning how Bible verses pertain to their daily lives. Those completing the work will be awarded a personalized Bible on Mother's Day, May 14.

Children's Choirs on Thursdays

All children are welcome.
4-year olds through Grade 6
Rehearsals resume January 12.

Choirs will present a Christmas musical at the Christmas Eve Family Service at 5 pm.

Choirs also will sing during Sunday worship on December 18.

The older group will sing at the Christmas Concerts on December 4.



Brick Singers

All students Grades 7-high school welcome!



Meets selected Sundays
11:30-1:30 (w/snacks)
Performances: 12/4, 12/17, 12/24.
Rehearsals resume January 8.

Contact aliciaorganist@gmail.com



Meetings in church Library, 9:30-11:30 unless otherwise noted.

Dec. 3 Mom's Night Out, Soda & Swine

Dec. 6 Mom's Morning Out, Offsite

Dec. 13 Christmas party

Dec. 15 Book Club, Living Room Café

Info: www.meetup.com/playgroup-754

sarahbutterfield@gmail.com

BRICK

Y O U T H G R O U P

December 15—Forest Home Registration Opens for High School

BRICK Christmas Party

December 14 for High School

December 15 for Middle School

NO BRICK Midweek Dates:

December 21 & 22

December 28 & 29

January 4 & 5

**BRICK Midweek Returns January 11 (HS) & 12 (MS)

Christmas Eve Services – 5pm, 7pm, & 9pm

NO Café Service – December 25 & January 1
contact RO Smith at ro@pointlomachurch.org

Senior Adult Ministry

Elaine Burrell, Director (619) 223-1633-x210 elaine@pointlomachurch.org

Red Brick Senior Center—**DECEMBER**—Family Life Center

10 to 11 am Senior Center opens for snacks and coffee

Blood Pressure Screening on 3rd Tuesdays

11 to 12 noon Musical Performance 12 to 1 pm Lunch

12/6 Cowboy Jack: Live Country Show.

Lunch—Soup, salad, baguette, and dessert

12/13 Joe Gandelman & Friends, Ventriloquist; Pre-K Performance (10:45)

Lunch—Turkey pot pie, wedge salad, and fruit cup

12/20 Point Loma Brownie Troup & Christmas Karaoke.

Lunch—Ham, potatoes, broccoli casserole, salad, Christmas cake

Reservations are required by the previous Friday. Lunches are \$6.00.

Contact: Elaine at (619) 223-1633 Ext. 210

LUNCH & LEARN

December 14, 12:00

Feats, Fears & Faith

with

Capt. Charles Mac Vean, USN, (Ret.)

Join us for a special afternoon to hear about his many aspects of life on a nuclear submarine, including the importance of and examples of

faith in some of those times “at depth.” He will cover aspects of the Cold War and his experiences as a Commanding Officer of a nuclear submarine during that time.

Bring your questions, along with a sack lunch.

Light refreshments provided.

Please RSVP to Elaine.



Joy to the World!

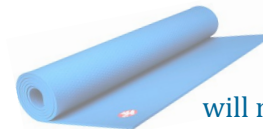
December 4, 3:00 pm—Christmas Dinner

Family Life Center—\$10/pp

RSVP to Elaine Burrell

December 4, 5:00 and 7:00 pm—Christmas Concert

Sanctuary—Freewill Offering \$15/pp suggested



Ageless Fitness

will resume in January with a new format.

Please stay tuned.



I'm excited to let you all know that we are increasing security at PLCC Preschool and TLC. We have hired Silverstrand Technologies and Bear Fencing to add a new 6-foot fence around the perimeter of our campus. There will be one entrance for all traffic into the preschool. To enter you must have a key fob or ring the doorbell for assistance. We will also have 6 cameras around the facility to observe traffic areas. There will be 4 exits that can be used in case of an emergency; however, all traffic will enter through the one access control gate. This entrance will be in the hallway between room 5 and the library.

The safety of the children is our top priority and this new system will control who can come into the Preschool facility. The project began in November and should be completed by early December.

Nicole Hage, Director
preschool@pointlomachurch.org

Adult Studies and Groups

Sunday Scripture Group—10 to 11 am, Parlor. December brings us back to Ken Bailey and two of his popular and timely series: “What Jesus said about Who He Is,” and “A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus.” Please join us for our DVD time with Dr. Bailey followed by stimulating discussion. Contact: Bob Simoneau grs55@cox.net.

Moms’ Bible Study—Mondays, 9:15-10:30 am, Parlor. For moms of kids elementary age and younger. Pastor Karla is leading us in a study on the Book of Acts. Christmas Brunch on December 12. No study on 12/19, 26, or 1/2. Free childcare provided by contacting cynthia@pointlomachurch.org.

Rachel Circle—3rd Mondays, 9:30 am, Library. For our meeting on **December 19**, own Judy White will enlighten us with the history of Presbyterian Women. Come join us at 9:30 and bring a friend. For questions, contact Judy at (858) 565-6375.

Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study—9:00 am in the Parlor for women of all ages. This month Pastor Karla will complete an Advent study on December 9. Our Christmas Brunch on the 13th will be at the home of Martha Schreiner Lorch. No Bible Study on December 20 and 27. Beginning January 10, we’ll study the book of Acts. For questions contact: Clara Blenis (619) 223-5950.

Men@Work—Wednesdays at 8:30 am in the Library. Following coffee and camaraderie, Pastor Ben Lindstrom and Em Cummins lead our study of Philippians. We then take on fix-it projects around the campus. All abilities welcome. Contact: is Don Griffith at don-pete@cox.net.

Wednesday Men’s Bible Study—We meet at 5:00 pm in the Parlor. Bill Creasy continues to lead our study on the gospel of Matthew, followed by discussion, sharing and prayer. Contact: Gerry Heidt at gheioldt@ghhco.com.

The Bridge will meet on Friday, December 2 and 16, from 6:30 to 8 pm in the Parlor. The Bridge, a casual study group for 20s-40s, meets every other Friday. Child care is available for a small fee. This fall we are reading *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Contact: Julia Roller at juliaroller@yahoo.com for more info, or to RSVP.

A Note from Pastor Ed (continued from front page) no thought of recognition and no expectation of appreciation. Those who give gifts in the spirit of St. Nicholas do so, I believe, because of the one great gift God gave to us the first Christmas: the gift of his Son, Jesus. God gave with no thought of recognition and no expectation of appreciation. God simply gave us his Son out of the abundance of his heart. And so, we give each other gifts at Christmas in that same spirit.

Yes, children, St. Nicholas **is real** for those who believe in him—for those who believe in the charm of beautiful stories long remembered, for those who believe in goodness and kindness, for those who believe in selfless love.

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Ed



LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found shelf in the church office is overflowing with jackets for both adults and children. There are sun glasses and other things, too. Please check the shelf for your possibly lost items.



Would you be willing to drive a neighborhood church member to worship on a Sunday morning? If so, please contact Deacon Meredith Larsen at (619) 222-5301.



On November 17, Adult Discipleship Ministries sponsored "Cultivating the Garden of your Soul," led by Lynn Ziegenfuss, our Spiritual Formation Director. This contemplative event took place at the beautiful San Diego Botanical Gardens in Encinitas.

Pastor Nominating Committee

PNC DECEMBER SPIRE UPDATE

The PNC continues to be diligently working this fall season. We have now reviewed 140 applications and engaged in-depth conversations, interviews, and developed relationships with several pastors. We have come to understand that it is only through this in depth process that we can truly discern whom God is calling to be our new pastor.

As we do our work, God is doing His work as well. We have been on an adventure like no other. We have grown in our faith and in our awareness and appreciation for so many Spirit-filled ministers around the nation who are also seeking to discern if God is calling them to serve our church.

Advent is a time of waiting, expectation, and silence. As we enter into this season, in anticipation of the joy and celebration of Jesus in our hearts, we ask you to stop, be silent, and pray for these pastors and our church as we anticipate the arrival of our new shepherd.

Carol Leimbach, Chair (619) 920-9551



TALK RACE



CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

Race relations make the news every day, yet most of us feel powerless to change anything. Powerful, positive conversations on race took place in the FLC on four Wednesday nights in October, attracting over 150 people, including nearly a dozen local pastors. Pastor Karla, long a student of African-American culture and theology, opened each meeting with a brief informative lecture. Her October Refresh course from 3 years ago led to the formation of Continuing the Conversation (CTC), a San Diego interracial group pledged to "end racism in San Diego." CTC organized these dynamic meetings, which included small group dialogue and relationship-building, as well as group discussion and plans to move forward.

As Pastor Shaw points out, "Black people are the only group that was brought here to become slaves, plucked out of their own identity, their own families and communities." This broken origin created broken families and other unique challenges that echo through to this day. As a Christian, Shaw adds, "Diversity is part of God's plan for us. Until blacks and whites can live freely together, we're not experiencing the full power of God in our culture."

As a follow-up from this series, CTC is planning additional workshops and outreach. Among the pastors who participated were our own Pastor Ed Girod, Pastor Nathan Byrd of Christ United, Pastor Deb Mitchell of Westminster, Pastor Emanuel Whipple of Calvary Baptist, and Pastor Gerald Brown of the United African-American Ministerial Action Council. Visit www.talkrace.org for more information and videos of Pastor Karla's presentations.

Each Christmas our Sanctuary is decorated with poinsettias, greens and candles to enhance the Advent Season. You are invited to share in providing the Christmas decorations in one of three categories—special occasion, thank you, or memorials. If you wish to participate, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by **Monday, December 12, at noon**. Names of those remembered will be listed in the Christmas Sunday bulletin.

SANCTUARY DECORATIONS

Please check the appropriate category:

Special Occasion Thank You Memorial

Person Honored: _____
PLEASE PRINT

Donor: _____
PLEASE PRINT

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to PLCPC noted
"Christmas Decorations"
Return to church office by 12/12/16

MOMs Christmas Toy Drive

November is the month when we donate toys for the children of E-5 and below military families that are part of **Military Outreach Ministries**. The toys are for children ages **newborns to 12 years**.

Please bring **unwrapped** toys to the MOM's table on the Plaza every Sunday in November, or leave them in the MOM's toy box in the church office during the week.

For non-shoppers, donations of cash or checks (made out to PLCPC) are very welcome to help purchase **bicycles**, in particular, and other toys.

On December 3, the MOM's Toy Store will be in the Family Life Center all set up and ready for the military families to "shop" for their children.

If you would like to help with the set-up, please sign up on the Plaza on Sundays. For more information please contact Ed Lynds at (619) 223-1472 or elynds@cox.net.



*Joy
TO
THE
World*

a concert for the community

New Covenant Choir, Ringers ReJOYce!
Children's Choirs, Brick Singers, Worship Band
members of the San Diego Symphony
Bryan Verhoye, piano/Alicia McMillan organ
Don Brenneman, director

Sunday, Dec. 4, 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Freewill offering

(suggested donation: \$15. per person; \$30. per family)
tickets available in the church office

Boy Scout Troop 24

Wreaths and centerpieces
will be available for sale or
pick-up from a pre-order on the
Plaza the first 2 Sundays in December.

Please consider supporting our
Boy Scouts this season with a
holiday decoration purchase.