

ABC+CPC



The Central Pacific Coast Baptist

American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast . . .
resourcing, empowering and equipping congregations to discover and fulfill
their unique mission in their neighborhood . . . and around the world.

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Collaboration

By Rev. John Nichols

President, American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

- 1 Corinthians 3:5-9, NRSV

A word that I love to use is "collaboration." It comes from a Latin word meaning "working together." Collaboration is essential to be a growing group of believers. The Church in Corinth was a divided group. They had priorities, but each group had their own set of priorities, and, I think, they tried to compete with each other to establish their own agenda as THE agenda. This is not the place to do Bible Study, but I want to say this: The American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast desires to work together as God's servants to share the Gospel in our broken world, to bring health and growth to struggling congregations, and to build a sense of unity and cooperation.



Collaboration requires an attitude that sees each person and each church as an integral voice and partner in the task of building the Kingdom of God. We are a diverse group of churches. Our region represents many ethnic groups, theological perspectives, political differences, age differences, and sizes. Not one church or one group has the absolute "pure" perspective. No, we are all in this together. And, our common focus is on cultivating God's field and building a glorious "temple" that reflects and shines the glory of God in our world.

Collaboration requires servanthood. Servanthood is having a heart that loves to serve. The Lord has assigned a role to each person and we fulfill that role in an attitude of servanthood. I am blown away when I consider the wonderful servants we have in our regional family. Without naming names, we are blessed with folks, some seen, and some unseen, that work tirelessly to do mission together, foster fellowship, and strive for excellence in our life together. In the ABCCPC family, I see pastors and laypersons working side by side as servants of the living God.

Collaboration requires work. That is, rolling up our sleeves and working side by side to do what God has called us to do. In the text above, each person did their task which was assigned to them by God. There is sweat involved. Being a vibrant voice for the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all of its manifold ways requires is to be committed to the task at hand.

As we move forward, I invite you to join your voice and your work with us as we seek to grow God's Kingdom as part of the ABCCPC family. As opportunities come up, or as God leads you to step forward with an idea – let's truly be "co-laborers"/collaborators with God and one another in the Name of the One who washed our feet as the Servant of all!

Spring Break means Missions Road Trip for Two Oregon Youth Groups

This Spring Break (March 20-28) twelve students and adults from Calvary Baptist Church in Salem and First Baptist Church in Springfield made a road trip to Deborah's House in Tijuana, Mexico.



Building on relationships forged through the ministries at Camp Arrah Wanna and hoping to strengthen the ministries of the local churches as well as that of missionaries Ray & Adalia Schellinger-Gutierrez, it is hoped that this spring break mission trip continues to be a new tradition that will help our region's youth ministries and connections thrive.

While travelling together we were able to unite as a team through the long drive, sharing meals and rooms together, visiting the Sundial Bridge in Redding and other common road trip

games and misadventures. By the time we reached Deborah's House in the wee a.m. we were a team ready to work. While we dug trenches for sewage lines, did some indoor plumbing, cut and lay brick, did lots of weeding and landscaping, tore down pallets and started making furniture, we were also able to spend lots of time with the women and children. We brought along some games,

drumming lessons, and scarf-making kits as well. It was a week full of a variety of opportunities to serve. We were able to use our gifts and challenge ourselves in all sorts of new ways and we are especially proud of how hard-working and sacrificially serving

the young people of our region have proven themselves to be.

Connecting with the women and children, seeing the amazing things that are happening at Deborah's House,

praying at the border wall, enjoying Life Changing Tacos, all made for tearful goodbyes when it came time to leave. Ray and Adalia and their team are

wonderful hosts and are doing an excellent work; if you have a chance to visit and serve alongside take it! Also stay tuned for information on next year's trip to Rainbow Acres!

- Tod Scheler, Calvary Baptist Church of Salem
- Corey Hughes, First Baptist Church of Springfield



Save the Dates!! YOUTHQUAKE 2015

In the natural realm, a 'quake' is a powerful movement of the earth's surface. In the spiritual realm, this movement may sometimes be viewed as both initiated by, and used for, the glory of God.

September 18-19, 2015

**First Baptist Church
Alameda, California**

**Featuring Guest Speaker
Rev. Gregg Sneller
International Ministries**

See the website for details . . .
www.youthquake.us



American Baptist Women's Ministries

By Diane Weidkamp, Co-President, ABWM of Oregon

It is with joy that I continue to serve the AB family of women. We are sisters in Christ and to have a national support group is truly wonderful.

We have had a couple of great events already this spring:

April 11- Spring Event at FBC Gresham. Our speaker was Tonia Hunt, CEO of Children First. The theme was "Transformed by the Spirit". It was a good time to connect with other women who care about empowering each other through God's Word. Many thanks to the Gresham Women for hosting.

April 24-26- Joint State Leadership Conference for women ages 18-50 in Richland, Washington. We were able to put this conference together with a grant from the national ABWM office. Mylinda Baits was our instructor.

Our upcoming events are as follows:

Woman's Day this year is going to be on June 26th in Overland, Kansas in conjunction with the ABC-USA Biennial. To get more information and to register visit the website for ABW Ministries (www.abwministries.org). I will be attending the national board conference June 25-29, 2015. As spring arrives, think of it as a joyful time to develop new friendships in order to let Christ's light spread throughout your world.

October 2-4- Fall Retreat at Arrah Wanna. The retreat is still in the planning stage but ideas are always welcome. Send your input to dianew67@comcast.net. It is my hope that we may have good representation from many of our churches.

We have scholarships available for women who want to attend seminary. Call me at 503 524 5593 if you want to receive a scholarship to attend seminary so that I can guide you to the committee who attend to this.

THE POWER OF CAMP

by Rev. Larry Rice, new Redwood Glen Executive Director

One of my first experiences at camp (now over 50 years ago) was after the 4th grade. I went to a week-long camp with my friend, Brent, who lived across the street. His family attended a Disciples of Christ church and my parents allowed me to go along with them.

Things did not start off too well. There was no counselor for my cabin. We had an old guy (who was probably younger than what I am now, but was old to me then) who spent the nights with us, but had to go to work during the day. Brent thought it was cool not to have to worry about getting caught or in trouble. But I got major home sickness real bad. I remember talking to the camp pastor on the second day saying I wanted to go home. He made a deal with me. That if I'd stick it out through to the end of the week and if by the time it came for me to go home and I still wanted to go home, he'd buy me a candy bar.

I do have to admit I lost that bet. By the third day our bedtime counselor got the rest of the week off of work and became our full-time counselor and I was not so lonely anymore. I made a lot of friends. I spent every moment of free time in the swimming pool (yes, every moment) and I remember asking why I needed to shower since swimming sorta cleaned me off anyway. I heard about Jesus. I even witnessed my first baptism by immersion (I was raised in a Presbyterian Church) and I remember my folks trying to explain the differences that denominations have regarding baptisms.

So at the end of the week when the camp pastor came by with the candy bar in hand, I remember telling him, "I don't get the candy bar because you're right; I don't want to go home. I want to stay another week." I got the candy bar anyway as a congratulations for making it through the week.

Remember now, this was over 50 years ago and it is still vividly etched in my memory.

Statistics show that camp is the best evangelistic tool there is. More kids (children and youth) become Christians at a camp setting than any other place, including their home or church. Statistics also show that the age group that has the highest percentage of those making a first time commitment to Christ is in the 10-18 year old age group. This makes the camp experience all the more important.

If you feel your child or grandchild needs to make that commitment to Jesus, deepen their relationship with Jesus, make new friends, have some fun, (or just to get them out of the house for a week), send them to camp. It is a life changing experience.

And if you're not sure, send them anyway. I'll even bet you a candy bar they won't want to go home at the end of the week. Well, that's where I am right now . . . at least until I learn and grow just a little bit more.



For more information: www.redwoodglen.com/summer program@redwoodglen.com

All camps now
just \$229!

Discovery Camp
June 14-19, 2015
completing grades 2-5

**Children's Music
and Drama Camp**
June 22-27, 2015
completing grades 2-5

**Middle School
Encounter Camp**
June 22-27, 2015
completing grades 6-8

**Jr. Adventure
Camp**
July 6-11, 2015
completing grades 4-6

**Youth Music and
Drama Camp**
July 6-11, 2015
completing grades 6-12

REDWOOD
GLEN
CAMP, CALIF.



**Senior High
Camp**
July 12-17, 2015
completing grades 9-12

CAMP ARRAH WANNA NEWS

Summer 2015

High School Summer Camp
July 6 - 10 (Mon-Fri)

Middle School Summer Camp
July 20 - 24 (Mon-Fri)

Primary Summer Camp
July 24 - 26 (Fri-Sun)

Elementary Summer Camp
July 27 - 31 (Mon-Fri)

Adult & Family Camp
September 4 - 7 (Fri-Mon)
Labor Day Weekend

Camp Reunion & Open House
Sunday, September 7
10:00 am - 4:00 pm



Don't Stop Believin'

2015 Theme

This summer we will be looking at the life of Job - someone in the bible who worked hard at living a righteous life and still had lots of bad things happen to him. Everyone faces hardships, and it's important for us to understand that God is faithfully loving us through all circumstances - good and bad. We may not be able to control what happens to us, but we can always choose how we respond. Believing and trusting in God's promise to love, comfort and provide during times of struggle is a foundational part of a strong faith. Come to summer camp and explore with us what it looks like to "Don't Stop Believin'!"

DETAILED INFO & FORMS @ WWW.CAMPARRAHWANNA.ORG/PROGRAMS

Success In Fund-Raising for CAW...

In the fall of 2014 we shared about the "momentous fiscal challenge" that might jeopardize the future of Camp Arrah Wanna. I'm happy to report that many people responded to our plea, donating over \$80,000 in NEW gifts since September! THANK YOU! These gifts were generated from our November newsletter plea, December Phone-A-Thon, and other strategic efforts by our staff, board and volunteers. Your gifts made it possible for CAW to end 2014 in the black and start 2015 off strong. That was the first hurdle in our current race, and your support has given us a refreshed vision of what God is doing in His ministry here at Camp.



... but the journey is not over

While the first financial emergency has been resolved, we still need your help in achieving long-term stability. We are \$80,000 away from reaching our \$160,000 goal. In addition, we are working hard to secure 1000 monthly donors (and/or \$10,000 in monthly gifts). At the moment, 37 people have pledged to give on a monthly/quarterly basis, sending between \$10-\$500 each, for a total of \$3,907 - that means we still need to secure another \$6,093 per month.

Can you help us reach that goal by sending just \$10 a month?

Want to read the full CAW Newsletter? Send us your contact info in order to see more about what's happening throughout the year!

Instead of spending \$10-\$20 a month on...

MAGAZINES
MUSIC OR GAME DOWNLOADS
MOVIE RENTALS
ONE LUNCH OUT

BUYING 8-DAY CARDS
BRAND NAME PRODUCTS
FANCY COFFEE

BOTTLED DRINKS
LOTTERY TICKETS
APPETIZER @ DINNER
MANI/PEDI

IMPULSE PURCHASES
EXPEDITED SHIPPING
DRIVE-IN CAR WASH

... could you send it to CAW?

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We're on Facebook Too!

Work at West Union Baptist Church

By Shirley Geisler, Administrative Officer, American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast

As was reported last quarter, the old West Union Baptist Church in Hillsboro, Oregon is a major historical structure. The church, the oldest Baptist Church west of the Rockies, is located in a beautiful country setting to the west of Portland.



In early winter, Duncan Gates, a young man earning his Eagle Scout designation, took on the project of restoring and making level some of the old headstones in the cemetery located on the church property. Duncan worked alongside our own Wayne Bridges who serves as Executor of the church property and cemetery. To the left is a picture of Duncan holding the signed certificate of completion.

Currently another young man, JD Hewitt, is on his way to earn his Eagle Scout by completing work on the exterior of the building. He gathered together a team of people and secured the financing to completely pressure wash the outside of the building and paint it. JD also got a crew and equipment out

to the church and the huge branches from a nearby tree, that were threatening not only the roof but the entire building, were removed. I'll have a picture of the work completed by JD in our next newsletter.

Wayne Bridges and I met a couple of months ago at the church and discussed other needs of the property and building. On the list is yard work (weeding, trimming bushes) and cleaning inside the small attached annex; all work that could be project for one of your church ministries to tackle. There's also a more complicated task (pictured at right) for someone with the know-how, equipment and ability. Think about joining a work party out at the site the last week of July. Email me for more information (t.family9@gmail.com). It would be a fun time gathering together and working side by side as our Baptist ancestors did over a hundred years ago.



Keep Looking Up!

Redwood Glen Water Update

by Larry Rice, Executive Director, Redwood Glen

Because of the drought in California, Pescadero Creek has become unstable in providing water for the ministry of Redwood Glen Camp. And despite all the water conservation measures placed into action, to provide water for its visitors, Redwood Glen has been purchasing water deliveries at a cost that is not sustainable.



Redwood Glen Executive Director Rev. Larry Rice (left) and Redwood Glen Board of Directors member and chief "Water Czar," Wyman Chin, pose at the spot where the well is to be drilled.

To become independent of outside water sources, the Redwood Glen Board of Directors has placed an application with the San Mateo County and the California Water board to dig a well and build a filtration system to provide adequate drinking water. The cost for the entire process is estimated to be at \$100,000. That makes this 50 foot well price tag to be \$2,000 per foot, or about \$167 per inch. Any donations can be mailed to Redwood Glen 100 Wright Drive, Loma Mar, CA 94021. Online giving can be found at www.redwoodglen.com.

Do you make these Five Mistakes when Communicating about Money at Church?

By Margaret J. Marcuson

I don't have to tell you that communication is a big challenge for church leaders. "I didn't know about..." "No one ever told us..." You may have shared the message for weeks, and people still didn't get it. This is often hardest when it concerns money.

Here are five mistakes church leaders often make when communicating about money:

1. They share only numbers. Budgets and financial statements are important, but they won't communicate to most people. And they will not motivate people to give. Stories of lives touched will do far more than a sheet of numbers. Using pictures will help even more.
2. They don't consider the role of anxiety. Anxiety is like static, and it makes it harder for people to receive information in any form. If anxiety about money is high, you need to communicate more often and through more avenues. Expect that people won't hear, or won't hear correctly, and put extra effort into the message. Then don't be frustrated when they come back asking for more information. Simply give it again, neutrally.
3. They report giving on an evenly-divided twelve month calendar. No church receives giving evenly throughout the year. If you report giving in this way, in most churches you will be giving bad news every year until December. An alternative: Based on a three year average, calculate what you can expect to receive in each month. That way you can report a realistic expectation for July, not one-twelfth of the annual expected giving.
4. They use only one means of communication. Many churches still send out one stewardship letter. See if you can find five different ways to ask people to give. Here are a few ideas: a letter, an e-mail, a request from the pastor, an invitation from a lay leader in worship, a personal invitation to new members.
5. They don't communicate their thanks, only their requests. Thank people for their pledges and their giving. Do this individually, not just with a blanket thank you from the platform or in the newsletter. People like to be thanked, and it helps motivate them to continue to give.

Margaret Marcuson helps clergy and churches energize their ministry and fund their vision. She is the author of "111 Tips to Survive Church Finance for Pastors", and "Money and Your Ministry: Balancing the Books While Keeping Your Balance." She lives in Portland with her husband, Karl. Learn more at www.margaretmarcuson.com.

Esperanza Church Transitions!

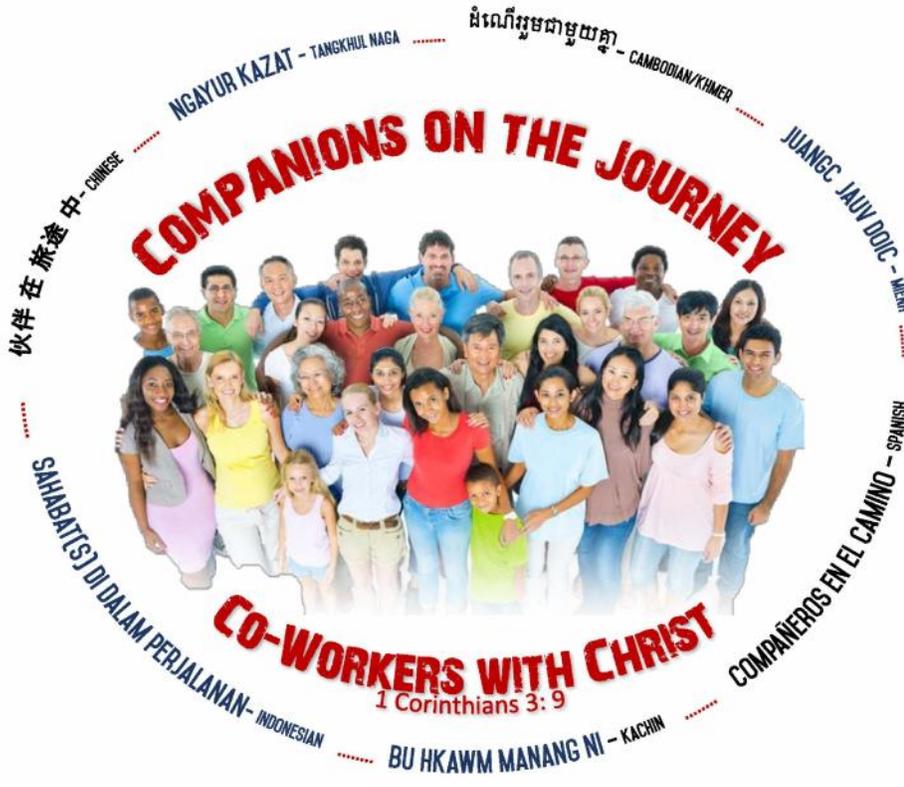
Esperanza Church, the first bilingual American Baptist Church in Portland, relocated to a new house of worship. Esperanza Church is now holding their worship services on Sundays at 4:00pm at Woodland Park Baptist Church (11375 NE Halsey Street). The new location will allow for Esperanza to continue reaching the Latino community in Portland. This is a wonderful opportunity for two sister churches to build community and strengthen the spreading of the Gospel in Northeast Portland!

Additionally, approximately five years after founding Esperanza, Rev. Miriam Mendez stepped down as their pastor. Pastor Miriam moved back to the east coast to be closer to her extended family. She has also concluded her work as Associate Executive Minister of ABC of the Central Pacific Coast.

The congregation is excited to welcome Pastor Max Christian as their Pastor. Max is no stranger to Esperanza. He has come as a guest preacher and has joined Esperanza on numerous events. "Max is a great fit for Esperanza Church and his leadership will help to strengthen the church as they embark on this new journey," said Miriam Mendez.

Max is a native Portlander. He has been active with the region for many years. He has served with the ABMen of Oregon and is currently a member of Woodland Park Baptist Church. Max lived in Mexico where he served as a pastor for many years. He and his wife Alicia will be blessed as well as a blessing in their ministry at Esperanza.





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