

# YOUTH MINISTRY

WORSHIP HIM COMPLETELY.  
WALK WITH HIM CONSISTENTLY.  
WITNESS FOR HIM COMPASSIONATELY.

## JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

### Upcoming Events

**January 1:** NO FNF (Happy New Year!)

**January 8:** FNF @ 7:00 PM

**January 15:** FNF @ 7:00 PM

**January 22:** FNF @ 7:00 PM  
Extended Fellowship Time after

**January 29:** TBA

**January 30:** Compton Initiative @ 7:00 AM!

**February 12-15:** Winter Retreat 2016! San Marcos Christian Camp



### Fresh Year, Fresh Start

//With the New Year right around the corner, the air is fresh with promise. December was a great month for youth ministry, though we are sending this out about a week early, and in the midst of two weeks off from FNF. We focused on Christ's coming this Christmas, with a Christmas message at FNF on Friday, **December 4**.



At our Christmas Party on **December 11**, we had our **Servant Leadership Team** members prepare a devotional on Luke 2:8-21 and God's desire to lead us to Christ. Though our Operation Christmas Child service event cancelled the day before (they finished packing the boxes early!) we also held an impromptu Christmas youth service on **December 18**. Additionally, some of

### QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS?

Feel free to e-mail Ben at [benfriedman@pvbc.com](mailto:benfriedman@pvbc.com), call/text (310)-703-2065, or contact any one of our awesome Youth Advisors!



Worship Him completely



Walk with Him consistently



Witness for Him compassionately

# January 2016

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our youth families served with **Love In The Name of Christ**, preparing and delivering Christmas gifts to families around the South Bay.

This January, Friday Night Fellowship will begin again on **January 8**. Having finished our year of exploring the grand story of the Bible, we will turn now to a more "zoomed in" look at how the critical issues in our lives are affected by the Gospel.

We will serve again with **Compton Initiative** on **January 30**. If you've never made it out to

Compton Initiative, I highly encourage you to come out and serve. Not only will you minister to tangible physical needs, by painting and cleaning, but these outreaches are an excellent opportunity to meet spiritual needs as well, through sharing the Gospel.

Our **Youth Winter Retreat** will again be over Presidents' Day weekend, **February 12-15, 2016**, at **San Marcos Christian Camp** in Santa Barbara. If you've never been to a Winter Retreat before, it is an opportunity to draw closer, both to God and to each other, that you absolutely won't want to miss.

I hope that the New Year will bring fresh commitment to pray as well. Parents, if you are interested in joining our **Youth Ministry Prayer Team**, please let me know! Together, we will earnestly pray for God's favor to rest on our ministry all throughout the year.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January 8: FNF 2016 Kickoff @ 7:00 PM:** After a two week break, Friday Night Fellowship will kick off again on Friday, January 8, the Friday of the week that you all return to school. Come, and bring friends for food, fellowship, fun, and a new Christ-centered message series & small group times! We're excited to get back into it...see you there!
- **January 30: 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Compton Initiative:** This will be our fourth time serving with Compton Initiative, and we can't stop coming back! Youth and families are both encouraged to serve. We'll leave PVBC at 6:30 to get to Compton by 7:00. Talk to **Ben** or **Stephanie** to sign up. The work is mostly manual labor, so bring clothes you don't mind getting dirty in! Breakfast and lunch are both provided.
- **February 12-15, 2016. Winter Retreat 2016! San Marcos Christian Camp, Santa Barbara, CA.** You won't want to miss our Youth Winter Retreat over Presidents' Day Weekend, 2016! Pick up a registration form on a Friday or Sunday: Don't miss the regular registration deadline of **Friday, January 15!** Invite your friends, for a weekend of fellowship, preaching, worship, games, and, of course, s'mores!

# “He Is Doing a New Thing”



**Every year on January 1**, gym memberships skyrocket as people decide it's time to shake off the effects of the holiday season and re-dedicate themselves to healthy living. Theoretically, of course, there is nothing to stop us from beginning our training regime in late December or even mid-year, but there is something about January 1 that just *feels* fresh. The slate is clean and our resolve is high. January 1 is the date for pursuing “new things.”

Many times, God himself wants to do a *new thing*. In **Isaiah 43:19**, God says to his people through his prophet, Isaiah, “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” In their time, this “new thing” that God was doing was that he was “making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland” (43:19)—he was making a way for his wayward people to return to him. God also wants to do new things in *our* lives, and in *our* ministry, *today*, in 2016. These new things are not new in that they are different from what we already know about God's character, from his word, but they are new in that they are intended to bring new freshness

and new vitality to our devotion, our ministry, and to his relationship with us—like “streams in the wasteland.”

Unlike us, God's new things are enduring and strong. Unlike us, he does not stop doing his new things by January 15, or when he gets tired—because he doesn't. “I am the Lord,” he says, “Is anything too hard for me?” (Jeremiah 32:27). “God does not grow faint or weary!” (Isaiah 40:28).

The question for us, then, is whether we *recognize* what God is doing—“Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” When we recognize the new things that God is doing, we can jump in behind him and partner with him in it, asking him to keep doing it!

In our youth ministry, God is doing a new thing. He is bringing many new youth and families, bringing a great desire for his word, and raising up youth servant leaders, among other “new things.” Often times, change can be uncomfortable. At least for me it is. It is comfortable to “settle in”. Sometimes, perceiving God's “new things” can feel like being woken up, right after you've finally found that “comfortable spot” on your bed, and let your eyelids close, but his new things are always best for us.

In 2016, let's partner with God in the “new things” he is doing.

## Prayer Points: How to be a “Persistent Widow” in January (Luke 18:1-8)

This January, please join us in prayer:

- 1) For God to bring tangible **spiritual awakening** to our ministry this year.
- 2) For God to stir us up to make **Christ-centered New Years Resolutions**.
- 3) For God to bring **three new youth** to FNF.