

PALOS VERDES BAPTIST CHURCH

# YOUTH MINISTRY

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

## MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER

### Upcoming Events

**March 4:** FNF @ 7:00 PM

**March 6, 13, 20:** “See and Believe” Movie Fellowship @ 10:45 AM (after church)!

**March 11:** Beach Bonfire at Dockweiler State Beach. Carpool Leaves @ 5:30 PM!

**March 18:** FNF @ 7:00 PM

**March 25:** FNF @ 7:00 PM

**March 27:** Easter Sunday Service @ 9:00 AM



### Pressing On To Know God...

// **This past month**, we had our **Youth Winter Retreat** at San Marcos Christian Camp in Santa Barbara, from **February 12-15**. The theme for the year was Eternity and how the fact that we are “made for forever”



impacts everything about how we live now. Many were greatly moved by the messages and by our speaker, Adrian Garcia. Retreat was also a great time to grow closer to one other through meals, team-building time, relaxing, ping-pong, and even paintball! A huge thank you goes out to all who served as cabin leaders and worship leaders as well.

Above all, we were incredibly encouraged to see many youth taking all they learned home with them after retreat, and *pressing on* to know God through

### 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

## (Cont'd from page 1)

Bible study, prayer, and even evangelism. We now give the fruits of retreat into God's hand that "he who *began* a good work in us will carry it on to completion" (Phil. 1:6).

In the two weeks since retreat, we also started a new series at FNF called "**All The Good News**". The aim of this series is to delve deeper into the Gospel by examining all of its implications and benefits. If "forgiveness of sins"—incredible news in its own right—is the "skeleton" of the Gospel, then we are adding layer upon layer of "skin" in this series! We will continue this series and move into a new series later this month.

For fellowship this month, not this Friday, but next Friday, **March 11**, we will have our second "**Beach Bonfire**" at **Dockweiler State Beach** in Playa Del Rey. It will be a great chance to worship God in a beautiful natural setting and also just to unwind and enjoy being together. We will have dinner provided, as well as games, music, and S'Mores! This is definitely a good chance to reach out and invite your friends!

Moving into next month, make sure to mark your calendars for our **Baptism** service (**April 17**) as well as our trip to the **Planet Wisdom Conference** in Santa Ana (more info coming soon) from Friday, **April 22 thru Saturday April 23**.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 11: "Beach Bonfire" – Dockweiler State Beach.** Come and bring friends for fellowship, fun, dinner, S'mores, glow-in-the-dark games, and music on the beach! We will leave from PVBC (back church parking lot) at **5:30 PM** to carpool over to Dockweiler, or you can meet us at the beach (but let Ben know). We will end around 9:30 PM to return home. See you there!
- **March 6, 13, 20 @ 10:45 AM: "See and Believe":** After church, for three Sundays in March, we have an exciting opportunity to watch a movie with a spiritual theme and have a discussion around it. Paul S. will host, and the movie for the month will be *War Room*, which illustrates vividly the power of prayer. Come, be encouraged, and be inspired! The meeting place will be Room 5/6.
- **Fridays @ FNF, 7:00 PM: March 4, 18, 25: "All The Good News":** At FNF this March, we will continue our series, "All The Good News." Following up on Winter Retreat, we are delving into the depths of all the good news (bad title—we can never search out *all* the good news!) God has for us in the Gospel. Come examine God's grace from every angle!

# “Children of God – By Adoption (Only)”



Stephanie and I have a baby due on May 20. As we prepare to make ourselves and our home ready for our son, it's just hitting me how much there is to do to prepare! From becoming fluent in a new set of baby brands, to preparing the nursery, the to-do list always seems to grow. In addition to the physical preparation, we have tried to prepare our son spiritually, through prayer, praying that he would grow up to love God, to love others, and to be courageous. Despite all of our prayers for him, however, this one fact remains: *he will not be born a child of God.*

It may sound surprising. Both of his parents will be Christians, we've prayed for him, and he has literally been to church since he was in his mother's womb. Surely he, if anybody, will be born a “child of God”! But the Bible tells a different story. According to the Bible, the great privilege of becoming a child of God is neither hereditary, nor merited.

In Jesus' day, there were many who would have instinctually called themselves “children of God.” The Pharisees did this (John 8:31-47) and Jesus corrected them. Because of the effects of sin in the world, we're all born separated from God—not as members of his

family. Becoming a child of God is a glorious, grace-given privilege we receive when we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior. This is likened to God's *adopting* us...he takes us *from* being spiritually father-less, and brings us *into* his very own family, making us his children!

**Galatians 4:4-5** tells us, “God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, *that we might receive adoption to sonship*” and **John 1:12** affirms that “to all who did receive (Jesus), to those who *believed* in his name, *he gave the right to become children of God.*”

What is the impact of this for us? *It depends.* For some, it may humble us, and shake us out of complacency. Have we been assuming that we—or our children—are children of God because they were born in the church? If this is you, I plead with you to heed the words of Paul: “*Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith*” (2 Cor. 13:5). But don't be discouraged—God's gracious front door is always wide open and the offer to believe in his Son still stands!

Maybe you're somebody, however, who feels new to or far from the whole “church thing”. Surely you, or your parent, or your child, you may think, could never be “a child of God”. If this is you, know that your Heavenly Father is ready and willing to adopt you! He has already made a way for it to happen! There are no hoops to jump through, no “church lingo” to learn. All you have to do is believe. Nobody is *born* a child of God, but he is ready—indeed anxious—to adopt all who call on him!

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

This March, please join us in prayer:

- 1) For God to bring tangible **spiritual awakening** to our ministry this year.
- 2) For God to give us all a **greater hunger** for his word.
- 3) For God to bring **three new youth** to FNF this month.