

# PVBC Youth Ministry

*Worship Him completely*

*Walk with Him consistently*

*Witness for Him compassionately*



←  
October 2015

## ← Upcoming Schedule

**October 2:** Hangar 18 night,  
leaving @ 6:00 PM

**October 4:** "Soul Keeping" All-  
Church Series Begins

**October 9:** FNF @ 7:00 PM

**October 16:** FNF @ 7:00 PM

**October 17:** Compton Initiative,  
7:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**October 23:** FNF @ 7:00 PM  
(Extended Fellowship Time)

**October 25:** Baptism Class

**October 30:** Fellowship Event!  
TBA



## God's Heavy Hand of Favor...

It has been a great last month for our youth ministry! First, our youth enjoyed the **Family Retreat** from September 4-7 at Camp Tahquitz Pines. For some, it was their first time ever attending a retreat. It was great to see our youth bonding across all ages, genders, and school districts.

We saw this unity only continue during the first week back home. We kicked off the 2015-2016 school year with our **Kick-Off BBQ** on September 11. Thanks go out to all who came out to set up, prepare food, grill, and serve! Afterwards, and during these past three weeks, we re-started our **"Greatest Story Ever Told"** series and have been looking at the person of Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Luke and how the entire story of the Bible (and our lives) revolve around him.

Last month, we saw God's hand of favor heavy upon youth ministry. I thoroughly believe that God has only continued to pour his favor out on our youth ministry, and

**Have any questions, suggestions, or prayer requests?**

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



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I both ask and encourage you, therefore, to continue praying mightily. I have seen continued evidence of God's favor in **four** main ways: spiritual hunger, attendance, unity, and responsibility.

Youth, more of you than ever before, and certainly more than this time last year, have been hungering to know God more deeply through his word and prayer, and have begun your own personal devotional times. At this time last year, a few of us youth advisors would praise God and pray for you specifically when one of you dabbled in this. Now, we try, but we can't even keep track!

Our attendance has continued to increase, and we thank God for that. I am constantly reminded of **Psalm 127:1**: "*Unless the Lord builds the house, the labor is in vain.*" Additionally, we have seen great unity in our group, with new connections and friendships being formed. Though I was worried, admittedly, that this would end at Family Retreat, it did not end, but *increased* afterwards. Lastly, as our **Servant Leadership Team** has begun their service for the year, it has been highly encouraging to see them take responsibility for much of the direction of our ministry, doing everything to vision casting, to planning, to leading significant portions of our Friday Night Fellowship nights. We are only a few weeks in, but our SLT is really leading the way in planting the seeds of servant-heartedness in our youth ministry as a whole...it always takes only a few committed people to begin to produce growth in a great number. And we have that "few" and more.

We will continue pressing ahead in October, and I am excited for what the month will bring, with our Rock-Climbing trip to **Hangar 18** on Friday, October 2, **Compton Initiative** on Saturday, October 17, and three more FNF's this month! Pray hard, and see you there...



## Upcoming Events

- **October 2: 6:00 PM: Rock Climbing at Hangar 18** We will meet at the church @ 6:00 PM to split into cars, carpool over to Hangar 18, and climb between 7:30-9:30. Come and bring friends! Cost is \$20. Make sure you have RSVP'd to Ben, and have filled out both waivers (PVBC's and Hangar 18's). We will be back by 10:15 PM. We will provide snacks, but you'll want to eat dinner beforehand! See you there!
- **October 17: 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Compton Initiative:** This will be our third time serving with Compton Initiative, and we can't stop coming back! Youth and families are both encouraged to serve. We'll leave the church at 6:30 A.M. to get to Compton by 7:00. Talk to **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.
- **October 9, 16, 23: FNF Fall Series: "Greatest Story Ever Told" Continues (Part II):** We will continue our "Greatest Story Ever Told" series at FNF, transitioning into the New Testament now, as we see all of God's promises to his people, and to us, come to pass in the great hero, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Come hungry for God's word this October, as we dive into the Gospel of Luke and continue our series!

## “Jesus, The King—Even If It Sounds Weird”



**Christians are people who care about words.** *A lot.* God created the world, and upholds it second by second, with his spoken word. **Hebrews 1:3** says that Christ “upholds the universe by the word of his power.”

Some words that Christians use are entirely unique to our faith. Some words we use can be found elsewhere, but our faith gives them new meaning. If Jesus never lived, we would still have the word “resurrection”, but would it be as grand? If the Son of God never died, we would still have the word “crucifixion” (it was an ancient practice) but our minds would not immediately conjure up an image of one, specific, historical person.

The Bible calls Jesus, among other words, a King. He is the “King of Kings and Lord of Lords” (**Revelation 19:6**). This was something it took me a while to get over because the word “King”, to me, just sounds...well...old fashioned. In the United States, for example, we don’t have a King. We have a President, and even the President is in only one of three branches of government. And this is seen as an improvement over the old-fashioned concept of having a king. In a culture that values “progress” and “change”, we Christians can sure

seem (and feel!) outdated with all this talk of “King Jesus.” Have we gone back to the medieval times? Should we also start calling people knights and court jesters?

So, what do we do? Change the word we use? We must not! The reason why that word “King” might not sit well with us is because it’s too *dangerous*. It’s too *dangerous* for one person to have all the power. It’s too *risky* to “put all of our eggs under one basket”.

All of this is true, of course...if your King is anything less than perfect. But we, however, have a perfect King. He never made a mistake, nor ever will. He never has a bad attitude. He never lacks the wisdom needed to make a decision. He never flinches in impatience and lets his flesh get the better of him. He never doubles back on his promises. His motives yesterday were the same as they are today, and are the same as they will be tomorrow. He is 100% fair. And, most importantly, he really *does* have all power in the universe.

What’s the point? The point is that we can *only* worship God, *only* love our neighbors, *only* give generously, *only* take risks, and *only* help those in need if we have a right picture of God. Sometimes, the words we need to get stuck in our mind when we think about God and his Son are ones that we don’t seem to use anymore. Let’s turn the dial way back, then, not 600 years, to the Middle Ages, when Kings ruled the world, but billions of years back, when Christ ruled the universe. Because he did then...and he does now!

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

This October, please join us in prayer:

- 1) For God to move some to **salvation** and **baptism** *this Fall*.
- 2) For God to bring **three new youth** to FNF.
- 3) For God to make us more inclusive towards **newcomers** and those who feel **left out**.