

PCBA Notes

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BERKELEY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY TO CELEBRATE 150 YEARS

Weekend Events for Alumni, Supporters, and Friends Anniversary Banquet Features Noted Theologian

A celebratory weekend, October 20-22, will mark the 150th anniversary of Berkeley School of Theology.

Beginning on Thursday afternoon with campus tours and visits to academic classes, events on Friday will include chapel worship with alumni preachers, a multi-media presentation on BST's impact over the last 150 years, an address by the President, James E. Brennehan, and an afternoon of workshops on critical current issues.

The workshops will focus on the 1619 Project, updates on immigrant churches, innovation in ministry, and class year Alumni/Alumnae reunions.

A featured event, Friday evening, will be the 150th Anniversary Celebration Banquet at Scotts Seafood Restaurant, Jack London Square. The honored guest and speaker will be the internationally respected theologian, Cornel West. Dr. West is the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Chair at Union Theological Seminary. He teaches on the works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, as well as courses in Philosophy of Religion, African American Critical Thought, the classics, philosophy, politics, cultural theory, literature, and music. He is widely recognized as having a passion to communicate to a vast variety of publics in order to keep alive the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.—a legacy of “telling the truth and bearing witness to love and justice.”

Saturday will provide visiting opportunities with continental breakfast, informal updates on class alumni/alumnae, and a BBQ lunch and a student and alumni project Fair.

Registration and reservations the the anniversary events may be made at events@bst.edu.

In this celebration year, Berkeley School of Theology points to its service at the center of Baptist and ecumenical theological education in the far west of the United States throughout the last 150 years. Since its founding, it has been affiliated with American Baptist Churches, USA and was a founding school of the Graduate Theological Union.

BRIEF NOTES

Evergreen Annual Meeting - “Navigating Changing Times: Responding Together” will be the theme of the annual meeting of the Evergreen Association of ABC Churches to be held October 13-15 at the First Baptist Church of Denver. Featured speakers will be Molly Marshall, President United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and Marie Onwubuariri, Director of Intercultural Ministries for American Baptists’ Home Mission Society. Several representatives from Northern California will be delegates. Others may join by live stream or Zoom. Information is available at <https://www.ea-abc.org/annual-meeting-2022.html>.

Ledbetter Family Trust Establishes Seminary Scholarship - A bequest from the Ledbetter Family Trust is to establish the “Faithe C. and James T. Ledbetter Scholarship” to help students attending Berkeley School of Theology and to support the establishment of the Center for Truth, Justice, and Racial Reconciliation. James Ledbetter was for many years a member of the seminary board. Jim and Faithe, were parents of two ABC ministers, Tim and Greg, and a daughter, Karen.

Justice Jam to Help Prepare for Fall Election - The bi-monthly public meetings, Justice Jams, sponsored by Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, will continue Wednesday evening, October 19, 6:30-8:00 at the church. One may also watch by means of Lakeshore's YouTube channel or join through Zoom. (Zoom will require advance registration at <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZclduGsrD0uG901nH41DTpQW93Ek4q85SqJ>.)

Relief for a Re-Traumatized Puerto Rico - In the wake of Hurricane Fiona, our Home Mission Society is managing disaster relief donations for devastated communities. Giving is facilitated through the One Great Hour of Sharing fund. Those wishing to contribute may do so through OGHOS in their local congregations.

Creation Justice - A new endeavor has been launched by the Creation Justice Network of the American Baptist Churches for congregations to undertake eco-justice measures in their churches and ministries of outreach and justice: “ecological care and human justice are one, two sides of the same coin.”

PCBA BOARD

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**A PERSONAL LETTER TO BRIAN MOYNIHAN
PRESIDENT AND CEO, BANK OF AMERICA**

By Dale Edmondson, Editor

Dear Mr. Moynihan,

This letter is very personal. Regretfully, it is painful to write because it involves the prospect of terminating a long-term relationship. Although we've never met, I've been a customer of your bank for 84 years!

The relationship began when Bank of America gave me a small green coin bank to start my saving account. I was a kindergartner. Once a month my mother took me to make my deposit. The teller kept my key so he could unlock my bank. He told me he would take good care of my money. (In one sense, my connection with your bank goes back even further, to 90 years, if you count the months I spent at the bank en utero while my mother was a teller.) She told me of the caring for people expressed by Mr. A.P. Gianni, your founding predecessor, saying "He knew every teller in his bank!"

The thought of removing my accounts and selling my B of A stock is painful because I know of the worthwhile causes your bank has helped finance—the personal needs of many following the earthquake of 1906, helping Walt Disney produce Snow White (my first film) and helping builders construct the Golden Gate Bridge.

Sadly, your bank is now financing an industry which is wreaking grave consequences for our planet. There's no need for me to point out the connection between fossil fuel and the devastation of climate change. As an informed individual, you know this as well as I.

I must tell you this: I cannot in good conscience remain connected with Bank of America if it continues this financing. Healthy alternatives for the production of energy—solar, wind, battery storage, carbon capture, for example—are the wave of the future and need to be the future for my bank. If, by the end of 2022, you have not begun such a change, I will end my relationship with you.

The Catholic Faith, in which you've been raised, has much to say about this issue. Pope Francis has issued an official pronouncement, saying, "Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years." He spoke specifically about the role of fossil fuels, saying, "Reducing greenhouse gases requires honesty, courage and responsibility." But he holds out hope, saying, "Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. . . The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains – everything is, as it were, a caress of God."

I'm not a Catholic, Brian, but I believe his message is for all of us on this fragile, wondrous globe.

People and Churches

Jacqueline Thompson, Senior Pastor at Allen Temple Baptist Church and BST affiliate faculty member has become the first woman Second Vice President of the Progressive National Baptist Convention. She was also the first woman to serve in executive leadership in the 61-year history of PNBC! . . . **Jim Hopkins**, Senior Pastor of Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, has been profiled on the website, Good Faith Media. The published piece cited some of the shaping influences in his life and ministry and some of his interests. . . **Ken Tang-Quan**, Senior Pastor of Palos Verdes Baptist Church is the latest person to send theological books to Central Philippine Baptist University through PCBA's Books for the Philippines Project. This program, begun nearly twenty years ago, has shipped more than 13,000 donated theological and reference books to the institution founded in 1905 by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

Worship in "Unusual" Places: **Paul Schneider**, Evergreen Baptist Association Office Manager and Pastor of Burien Community Church in Washington State, is a longtime science fiction aficionado. At a recent conference of the World Science Fiction Society meeting in Chicago, Paul led an ecumenical Sunday morning service, reporting "Hymns were sung, the Word was preached, Communion was shared, and we were an erstwhile congregation linked by our shared meaning making stories from Scripture and the science fiction and fantasy we enjoy." Paul is a former member of FBC, Berkeley and an alum of BST.

Allison Tanner, Pastor of Public Witness at Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, has returned from a study leave in Mexico, which included language study. Commenting on the experience, she said, "It's hard to put into words the experiences of sacred travel: being immersed in another culture, being dependent on the kindness of strangers, learning from inspiring people you will likely never meet again, and connecting with a much larger world. Mexico is our Southern neighbor, yet so much of its richness was unknown or unexplored to me."

FBC Berkeley's Continuing Legacy

One facet of FBC Berkeley's legacy, as they closed at the end of September, was finding a new home for their Steinway grand piano. Donated to the church in the 1940s, the piano had moved with the congregation a number of times since 1975; most recently to Crouch Classroom at BST, where FBCB worshiped for the past ten years. The piano has now been privately purchased and moved across Dwight Way to First Church of Christ, Scientist, on an extended loan. The hope is that with a worthy piano in place, the magnificent and historic FCCS sanctuary can soon become a performing arts venue for the East Bay.