

Welcome

Welcome to PBCC. We are glad you have joined us today.

We gather in worship to remind ourselves who God is, what he has done in Christ, and what he is doing through his Spirit.

We gather in worship to praise God and receive afresh his Spirit in us, to affirm that we are family, reconciled one to another, and to be empowered to reach out to the world.



If you are new, please fill out an information card, found in the pew racks, and drop it in the offering plate so we can contact you. Our ushers, greeters and hosts in the Information Booth are available to answer any questions.

If you are a regular attender, please also use an information card to update your contact information, or to submit a prayer request to be shared with pastors, elders, a confidential prayer team and printed in our worship guide.

A prayer team is available at the front left of the auditorium after each service.

Sunday Classes

Body Life in Mandarin, led by Joseph Chou & Teng Moh at 10:30am in room 205, on-going.

ReFrame: Connecting Faith & Life: led by Andy Drake; 10:30am-11:35am in Fellowship Hall, now - December 20th. *No class today due to the Men's Retreat.*

Monday Classes

Our Story of Origins: Genesis 1-11. Bernard Bell. 7-9pm Mondays, started September 21st in Fellowship Hall.

For information about Sunday events and regular weekly activities, please see our website, weekly e-bulletin, or ask at the Information Booth.

Service Times: 8:30, 10:30 am Sundays

Peninsula Bible Church Cupertino, 10601 N Blaney Ave, Cupertino CA 95014
tel 408.366.6690 • www.pbcc.org • info@pbcc.org • wifi pw: c6pd7Buk

Upcoming Events

Next Sunday: Shawn Reese will be teaching.

Tour of Turkey: May 14-28, 2016, led by Bernard Bell. Questions: bernard@pbcc.org.

VisionTrust Craft Faire: Friday, November 13th from 11am-7pm & Saturday, November 14th from 10am-4pm. Proceeds support the VisionTrust ministry in Liberia.

Card Making Workshop: Next Sunday, November 15th, 1-4pm. Register **Today** on the patio or at pbcc.org – Serving at PBCC - VAM.

New Art Exhibit coming next Sunday – Artists Reception will be **Next Saturday, 12:30-2:30pm** (During the Arts & Craft Faire).

Dear PBCC Body:
PBCC's Staff will be undergoing some changes in 2016. Namely, PBCC's bookkeeper Liz Horn and business administrator David Jones will be retiring in the spring and summer of 2016, respectively. If you know of anyone who would be a good fit for either position, please contact one of the elders. Additionally, the elders would appreciate your prayers for wisdom in selecting their replacements and managing the transition.



Prayer Requests

Praise God for...

1. reviving my business and for allowing me to have opportunity to see His grace and help me to practice His ways.
2. reconnecting me with my mom and time together to enjoy her as she is now frail and weak.
3. the prayer on Sunday.

Please pray for...

1. Sergey. He is a young man that is gay. He is lost. Please pray that God would bring a fellow believer alongside him who can show him the love of Jesus.
2. the Lord's healing and peace upon Michael. Also pray for wisdom and strength for us to support Michael.

Financial Report

September 2015	received	disbursed	gain/(loss)
General Fund	\$ 152,218	\$189,733	(\$37,514)
Gen. Fund 12 mo. average	\$179,578	\$179,527	\$51
Need Fund	\$2,854	\$2,890	
Missions Fund	\$10,684	\$10,814	

Peninsula Bible Church Cupertino

When Life is Taken

Acts 6:7-8:4



Rembrandt - *The Stoning of Stephen*, 1625
Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon

“Behold, I see the heavens opened,
and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”
Acts 7:56 (ESV)

Sunday, November 8, 2015

Music: Sue Bell & Team
Host: Sharon Coleman
Message: Brian Morgan

Call to Worship: Isaiah 26:1-4

In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah:

“We have a strong city;
he sets up salvation
as walls and bulwarks.
Open the gates,
that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in.
You keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on you,
because he trusts in you.
Trust in the Lord forever,
for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.” (ESV)

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:17,18; 4:7-11

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹ For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. (ESV)

Songs

- Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven (J. Goss)
- Almighty God (L. Jordan, D. Leonard, S. McCracken)
- Great is Thy Faithfulness (Words: T. Chisholm; Music: W. Runyan)
- Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (H. Lemmel; Music: William M. Runyan)
- Christ Is Enough (R. Morgan, J. Myrin)
- Hast Thou Heard Him Seen Him (Words: O. Rowan - alt. K. Twit; Music: J. Littlepage)
- By Faith (K. Getty, K. Getty, S. Townend)

Outline and Summary

I. Stephen Becomes a Target (6:8-15)

Stephen is charged with undermining everything Israel considered sacred— the Temple, the law, the land and God's holiness.

“his face was like the face of an angel” – “He seems to have a vision... there was a kind of light, illuminating Stephen from the inside. A kind of serenity, humble and unostentatious, but confident and assured... he sees the heavenly court, suddenly superimposed upon the earthly one.”¹

II. Retelling the Story with a New Lens (7:1-53)

What do we learn from the *“way”* Stephen makes his defense and the “power” of story?

A. Abraham's story (1-8)

God is a pilgrim God

B. Joseph's story (9-16)

Rejected by his brothers, then exalted by God in Egypt, then recognized as deliverer.

C. Moses' story (17-36)

Rejected by his brothers, chosen by God, appears a second time with signs and wonders, and delivers his people from Egypt. Moses prophesied that a new and greater Moses would come.

D. Israel's response (37-43)

Rejected Moses' leadership for manmade idols; God gave them over to perpetual idolatry.

E. Manmade shrines (44-50)

Israel turned the temple into an idol to be manipulated.

F. The sermon applied (7:51-53)

From Stephen's retelling of the story, who is guilty of desecrating the holy place and blasphemy?

III. The Life is in the Blood (7:54-60)

“Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” (v. 56)

“The point of being a ‘martyr’, then, a ‘witness’, is not just giving one's life to death provides striking confirmation of one's faith. It may be much more: that the point at which a person stands at the very threshold of heaven and earth, still in earth but called to give up their life for the faith, is the point where they may for a moment be in a position where they can as it were, see both dimensions of reality, and speak about the normally hidden one to the people who cannot yet see it for themselves.”²

IV. A New Perspective?

- A. Where are you in the story?
- B. How does Stephen's witness give you a new perspective on dying?
- C. How does Acts 4-7 give you a new perspective on living (2 Cor 4:7-11)?

1. N. T. Wright, *Acts for Everyone: Part One*, Chapters 1-12 (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008), 106, 121-122.
2. *Ibid.*, 122.

Attack	Source	Response	Result
Acts 4 Intimidation	External	Refusal, prayer and praise	Boldness, unity growth
Acts 5:1-16 Hypocrisy	Internal	Judgment	Miracles, fear, growth
Acts 5:17-42 Threats & beatings	External	Refusal, joy in suffering	Ceaseless teaching growth
Acts 6:1-7	Internal	Delegation	Word of God increased, many priests believe
Acts 6:7-8:4 DEATH	Eternal	Acts 7:55-56, 60	Acts 8:1-4