

# **April 2010 Shared Life of Old First Presbyterian Church**

## Holy Week and Easter

**Thursday, April 1, Maundy Thursday** – 6:30 p.m. - Service of Worship with communion.

**Friday, April 2, Good Friday** – 8:00 p.m. – Tenebrae, a Service of Shadows and Stones, with Scripture readings, prayer, silence, and choral music.

**Saturday April 3** —5:00 p.m., Easter Vigil Service for families with young children at Grace Episcopal Cathedral; 9:00 p.m., The Great Vigil of Easter, Grace Episcopal Cathedral.

**Easter Sunday, April 4** - 9:00-10:30 am – Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall; suggested donation, \$4.00 11:00 am – Worship Service of Resurrection and communion, with the Old First Choir and brass.

**April 4 – Name Tag Sunday** Please make an extra effort to wear your name tag and to greet guests and members alike.

**April 11 – Officer Installation and Hymn Sing**

## ***Shared Life Deadlines*** -- e-mail articles to [molberg@earthlink.net](mailto:molberg@earthlink.net)

**4** May issue —Sunday, April 18

**4** June issue —Sunday, May 26

*If your email address has changed, or if you no longer access email, please send the correct and/or discontinued one to Cheryl at [cheryl@oldfirst.com](mailto:cheryl@oldfirst.com). Mac users please be sure your Preference option doesn't exclude Old First mailings.*

### Seminar with Rev. Sue Singer

This spring and summer, Rev. Sue Singer will lead a series of one-day seminars culminating in a major summer session on the Gospels. Old First members will remember Sue Singer as the leader of our last all church retreat. Please visit the following websites for more information or check with Pastor Maggi.

[www.guildsf.org/Program/Following](http://www.guildsf.org/Program/Following) and [www.guildsf.org/Program/Become](http://www.guildsf.org/Program/Become)

THANKS TO YOU! Your gifts made a difference. \$630.00 was collected for the Joy Gift Offering at Christmas and \$540.00 was sent for Haiti Relief.

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### New Members /Inquirers Class

Thinking about joining Old First? Pastor Maggi will lead a class for Inquirers and potential New Members of Old First, in two sessions:

Sunday, April 18, 9 – 10:30 a.m

Sunday, April 25, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

It's a chance to share your faith story, learn about core beliefs of the Presbyterian Church, explore your questions, and learn more about Old First's mission and ministry. We would love to have you with us! Yes, there'll be a light breakfast. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Maggi or elders Pam Byers or Bob Hermann.

*Maggi's musings*

Dear Congregation,

When you were in Church in February you may have heard the exciting news that Old First will have a seminary intern, Arlo Jones, from Columbia Theological Seminary (CTS) in Decatur, GA working with us this summer. Arlo is just completing her first year at seminary. She is a native Californian and is a member at Christ Presbyterian Church in San Diego. She graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a B.A. in theatre. Arlo has been a lead counselor at Calvin Crest Presbyterian Conference Center, a worship team member and guest preacher at her home church. During her first year at CTS she volunteered at Stand Up for Kids, a non-profit organization in Atlanta that works with homeless teens. Arlo enjoys theatre, being involved in the community, swimming, reading and working on issues of human rights. Rev. Kim Clayton, the placement person at CTS says Arlo is "energetic, fun, earnest and very engaged in the issue issues of justice."

A summer internship, lasting for 10 weeks, is an opportunity for a contextual education. Rev. Clayton says "we want to help our students to gain practical experience, but these days we also want them to learn to be resilient and imaginative as they work with lay people in leading the church into a new and changed and changing landscape." Internships are a way for a student to see what it is like to do actual ministry day and day out in the church.

My own summer internship took place over 26 years ago in a small town called Buena Vista, Virginia nestled in the in the Shenandoah Mountains. There I preached, taught, visited in homes and hospitals, sat in on meetings, took on projects, led worship, worked with children, youth and adults, and began to grow into my call to ministry. The church's gift of time and a place to "try on" ministry began to shape me into a pastor. Their willingness to have an intern witness their commitment to the future of the church was inspiring. Arlo will be doing much of the same things I did all those years ago. She will also work with ministries and programs within the city to help her understand the special ways of part of an urban ministry. She may provide assistance to some of our members, and support Vacation Bible School at Presbyterian Church in the Mission. She will also bring to us her own unique gifts, vision and leadership.

What can you do to help? We will need team of lay people to work with the Arlo by providing feedback and engaging in theological reflection about the life and practices of the ministry within our congregation. If you would like to be part of this team please contact me at [maggi@oldfirst.org](mailto:maggi@oldfirst.org). Pray now for Arlo Jones, for her spring semester at CTS and that God will bring her safely here in June. Pray for the church, that we will be a place of welcome and learning as we do ministry together with Arlo this summer.

Peace, Maggi

P.S. The pastor has a new I Phone. Is there anyone who would be willing to spend some time teaching Maggi how to use the phone to its fullest capacity? Please contact me at [maggi@oldfirst.org](mailto:maggi@oldfirst.org).

Reflections on Palm Sunday

“What would Jesus buy?” asked one church on purchasing their Palm Sunday palms. “Eco-palms” answered a member. Eco palms started a few years ago to get palms that were fair trade, were sustainably harvested, and gave the local worker a fair wage. We already support fair trade coffee, chocolate, and other projects so fair trade palms seems to be natural progression. Just like composting and recycling, this lowers the church’s carbon footprint.

Eco palms work ensures workers get a higher wage for picking only the highest-quality fronds from palm trees growing wild in the rainforests of northern Guatemala and southern Mexico's Chiapas state, a practice that allows the plants to continue growing. Organizers believe that the poor villagers who harvest the fronds -- many of whom live on less than \$2 a day -- would otherwise cut down the rainforest to establish farms. And communities also benefit through an annual rebate. The program last year, for example, sent about \$32,000 to 10 communities in Guatemala. Money in the past has been used for scholarships for girls and to supplement teacher salaries.

Old First’s commitment to the stewardship of all God’s creation is shown when we purchase through this program. Check out more about their work at [www.ecopalm.org](http://www.ecopalm.org)

Beth Drews, 1955-2010.

Former member of Old First church, Beth Drews, passed away February 15, 2010. She and husband Don were members of Old First in the early ‘90s when Beth served as an Elder, and Don as a Deacon. This information is adapted from her obituary in the Chicago Tribune:

Beth Drews, 1955-2010, former marketing exec for Chicago Botanic Garden, died Monday, February 15, in the Rainbow Hospice Ark facility in Park Ridge after a six-month struggle with pancreatic cancer. She is survived by husband, Don, son Tom, daughter Ellen, her parents, James and Merle Fair, and two brothers, Jim Fair and Richard Fair. A memorial visitation was held at First United Church in Oak Park. A second memorial service, and burial, was held on March 6 in Minneapolis officiated by Tim Hart-Andersen, a former Pastor of Old First.

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Adult Education Classes – Sundays in April

We are trying something a little different in April. A three week series led By Dr. Erwin Barron will take place after church, 12:30-1:30 p.m., on April 18<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup>. See below for more information on the content. On those Sundays, the 9:30 a.m. session will not be held. The intent of this change is to provide an opportunity for CE for those who cannot get to the 9:30 sessions.

On April 25<sup>th</sup> Diane Molberg will continue her popular 9:30 a.m. series on Literature and Spirituality, with a discussion of “The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World,” a short-short story by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Diane will provide a PDF copy sent to your email address for those unable to find the story in an anthology or on-line.

Schedule for April

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|----------|--|
| April 4  | Easter No class  |
| April 11 | Hymnody: 9:30: Jean Olson  |
| April 18 | Jesus Film Festival: 12:30: Erwin Barron                                   |
| April 25 | “The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World”: Discussion: 9:30: Diane Molberg |
| May 2    | Jesus Film Festival: 12:30: Erwin Barron                                   |
| May 9    | Jesus Film Festival 12:30 Erwin Barron                                     |

Adult Education, con't.Jesus Film Festival

Have you ever read a Bible story and wondered what it might look like in real life? Well, film directors have always had that problem. They must struggle with how to adapt a sometimes-sketchy description from the Bible into a detailed, movie set and script. We will spend some time over these few weeks having a Jesus film festival. We will read stories about Jesus in the Bible and then look at several film versions to see which ones we think best represent the biblical vision.

On April 18, we will look at the crucifixion and Easter stories as portrayed by Mel Gibson, Franco Zeffirelli, and even Monty Python. Later we will look at the birth stories, some of the healing stories, and other events from Jesus' life as depicted in four different Jesus films recently produced. We hope you will join us for some good film and interesting Bible study.

The Book NookWhat's that You're Reading?

The first two books are from the Wish List for the Children's Library.

Rechenka's Eggs.Reviewed by Joshua Cheng

I really enjoyed Rechenka's Eggs by Patricia Polacco because Patricia Polacco is one of my favorite authors. In the story, Babushka rescues a goose shot by hunters. Babushka names the goose Rechenka. Babushka cares for and loves Rechenka. This miraculous goose lays beautifully-colored eggs which Babushka will bring to the spring festival. One day, Babushka frees Rechenka. Although Babushka feels really sad, Rechenka left a special gift – a baby gosling! *Joshua Cheng*

Esther's StoryReviewed by Anne Cheng

In the interesting book, Esther's Story by Diane Wolkstein, a brave and beautiful Jewish girl named Esther helped to save the Jewish people from the evil Haman. The Jewish people celebrated Purim. Also, the illustrations by Juan Wijngaard helped to tell the story by putting great details to make the story more interesting and very much more exciting and realistic. I also liked how Esther tricked the king and Haman into having parties until she told the king that she was Jewish, and how Esther saved a lot of people by killing Haman and being brave enough to do it, and how Esther thought so hard about saving her people and did it. *Annie Cheng*

I'm reading The Girl Who Played With Fire by Stieg Larsson, and enjoying Larsson's second novel. The first, The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo, is like the second--about the sex trade and child abuse. Both subjects are handled very well in his writing, but can be hard to read. *Genie Kinney*

The Children's book, by A. S. Byatt, imagines twenty-five complicated years--from the late Victorian period to the end of the First World War--in the lives of a group of writers, artists, aesthetes, Fabians, suffragettes, and anarchists interrelated by blood and love. The story is compelling; I read all 675 pages straight through, all day and all night. As in Byatt's other fiction, at least one sexual secret is revealed, and there is a fair amount of what some may consider pedantry, as she introduces literary-historical commentary and sometimes poetry or prose purportedly written by her characters. I like all of that; not everyone would. *Tracy*

What Paul Meant, by Pulitzer Prize winner Garry Wills, made me reassess my understanding of Paul. Scholarly consensus accepts only seven of the 13 letters that the New Testament attributes to Paul as definitely his. These letters pre-date the Gospels by 25-50 years, so they are decades closer to the time of Jesus than *any* Gospel. Looking closely at these seven letters, Wills contends that Luke's account of Paul's conversion experience, the stoning of Stephen, and more, are theological fiction. Wills also points out that Paul never claimed to be a Roman citizen. Paul is fortunate to have an advocate as skilled as Wills to explain and defend him. I can't wait to read what Wills says in his chapter on "Paul and Women." *Bill Campbell*

### **New Books of Interest**

Inspired by the mysteries that have long surrounded the last days of the Romanov family, Susanne Dunlap's new novel, Anastasia's Secret is a haunting vision of the life and love story of Russia's last princess. This is her second novel for young adult readers.

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### **We Say Farewell To George Weaver**

George Weaver was honored at a Farewell Celebration in the OFPC Social Hall on March 10. After living many years in San Francisco, George is moving to Dothan, Alabama to live with one of his sons. He will also be within a few hundred miles of the three other sons and his grandchildren. George told us Dothan is said to have been named after the Dothan which is cited Genesis 37:17. The OFPC usher team sponsored the celebration and theme focused on George's favorite hobby – Fishing, complete with eats including smoked salmon, and a cake decorated with gummy fish which made a hit with the kids of OFPC as well as George. The tables were decorated with fish net and George had a display of photos of his family to assure us that he will be in great company.

George tells us there is good fishing for trout and bass in the Alabama waters. Chris McEwen, a knowledgeable fisherman himself, suggested that George would need some new fishing gear for those waters. As a farewell gift, Chris picked out a new tackle box, containing the kind of lures that will help George continue his great catches and fish stories too!

OFPC will miss the great smile, the twinkle in George's eye, his competence and kindness, and most of all his friendship. He will always live in our hearts and prayers and we wish him well. Those who wish to correspond with George, may contact your Deacon or Cheryl King in the OFPC office at 776- 5552 ext 301. Farewell George and may God bless you and your family! Many thanks to Emmy Clausing, Hsiao-Chen and Horng-Sheng Tu, and Chris McEwen for their help.

Lectionary

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|----------|---|
| April 1  | Maundy Thursday<br>Exod.12:1-4 (5-10),11-14; Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19; 1Cor.11-23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35  |
| April 2  | Good Friday<br>Isa.52:13-53: 12; Ps. 22; Heb.10:16-25 <i>or</i> Heb.4:14-16,5:7-9; John 18: 1-19:42   |
| April 3  | Great Vigil of Easter<br>Gen.1:1-2:4a; Ps.136:1-9, 23-26; Gen. 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13; Ps.46; Gen.22:1-18; Ps.16;<br>Exod. 14:10-31, 15:20-21; Exod.15: 1b-13, 17-18; Isa. 55:1-11; Isa. 12:2-6; Prov. 8:1-8, 19-21, 9:4B-6; Ps.19; Ezek.36:24-28; Ps. 42 and 43; Ezek.3:1-14; Ps. 143; Zeph.3:14-20; Ps.98;<br>Rom. 6:3-11; Ps.114; Luke 24:1-12 |
| April 4  | Easter<br>Acts 10:-43; <i>or</i> Isa.65:17-25; Ps.118:1-2, 24; 1 Cor.15:19-26 <i>or</i> Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18;<br>Luke 24:1-12; Isa.25:6-9; Ps. 114; 1 Cor.5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49  |
| April 11 | Acts 5:27-32; Ps.118-14-29 <i>or</i> Ps.150; Rev. 1:4-8; John 20:19-31  |
| April 18 | Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Ps.30; Rev. 5:11-14, John 21: 1-19   |
| April 25 | Acts 9:36-43; Ps.23; Rev. 7:9-17;John 10:22-39  |

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**The Doris Krauss Senior Center at Old First** continues to be a happy, active place led by our Welcoming Director, The Rev. Genie Kinney! Every Monday, at least 60 appreciative seniors from the neighborhood and farther afield, and 9-12 volunteers make it all happen. Our three volunteer chefs, Rafael Ahedo, Mathew Whelan, and Board Member Cynthia Kang, prepare delicious hot meals every week including corned beef and cabbage for St. Patrick's Day, to a delicious stir fry with shrimp and pork and every delicious vegetable imaginable served over rice with fortune cookies and ice cream for Chinese New Year. Matt's deliciously concocted fresh-from the oven deserts are always a treat. Bonnie Thomas' wonderful art classes continue for three more Mondays, with a field trip to the deYoung Museum on May 23 to view the King Tut exhibit. The seniors are grateful that Sarah Taber has resumed the chair massages on Mondays. (and very glad her hand is healed!), The knitting group, mah jong group, arts & crafts folks and singing group meet every week, and beginning conversations are underway for a new Tai Chi teacher. Now, if we could only find a computer specialist to help some of our seniors with use of the computer and to be able to retrieve their e-mails!

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**Managing the challenges of teaching adult ESL students.** Linda Reyder

Let's see: no money, coming to school after a day of work (or before a night shift), or coming to class without time for dinner or a shower after work. Usually each class has one student who needs glasses but cannot afford them. (Sometimes we need to make referrals to community services.) Even when I teach the health unit each term, most students don't get checkups or go to the dentist. Many encounter difficulties with daily activities due to poor language skills and sometimes hostility or ridicule from peers and/or family.

The classroom has always been such a hopeful place the 14 years I've been teaching. Students actively work for a better life so it's very encouraging to help them reach their goals: jobs, citizenship, helping their children with homework, reading the Bible.

We have a positive nurturing environment where students help each other. They range in age from 16 to 73, from various countries but mostly Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, China, Vietnam, Russia, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Bulgaria. Often, a husband and wife study together, or brothers and

cousins. This term, there is a father -daughter pair that adds to a family feeling in the classroom. But these pairs can also be a teaching challenge as often one of the pair should really be in a higher level class but it is more important for family and cultural reasons that they stay together. Yet, it always seems to work out fine.

This term everyone has new challenges to face as the school district has cut education deeply. The students are aware of this and many wrote e-mails to the school board or spoke at the board meetings, in English, to explain how much their education means to them. Meanwhile they still come to class and work hard and laugh (we have fun while learning). At my level (literacy) someone always learns something new every night. So it's always exciting.

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*India Journal - Jeanne Tate Phoy*

Jeanne shares journal notes on she and Buddy's experiences last month, traveling in India.

Sunday January 17th to Tuesday January 19th –

Check-in with Emirates Air made it abundantly clear this was definitely not United! We finished in five minutes awash in courteous manners and soft pleasant voices. Our free Dubai hotel and food vouchers were ready with our names on them. Thanks to previous information, we knew to schedule a stay-over on the airlines.

An empty cup waiting to be filled. I enter a space of between. My hopes for this trip are that I will find not only a space between East and West, but a space between intellect and embodied spirituality, between individual and community, between tradition and change.

Once aboard, we enter another world greeted by steward in pillbox hats and veils. We are handed warm face cloths, travel kits, pillows and blankets, great food, chilled utensils, free drinks and a gazillion movies to choose from – from the latest American to the latest bollywood. I feel like I am living somewhere between 1001 Arabian nights and U.S. flights in the 1960s.

Fifteen hours later, we debark in Dubai and are thrust into the future. The Dubai airport is for one airline only—Emirates. The airport outshines the grandest Las Vegas hotel and is probably flashier. We are like country bumpkins or newly arrived immigrants staring at the splendor and technology. So here's a question...if Dubai (along with India and China) are the third world—or as currently named the two-thirds world—surely we can no longer call ourselves the first world. Does that make America the second world?

The men working behind the counter are garbed head to toe in white; the women are covered head to toe in black. They are all very courteous. It takes us all of twenty minutes to get through customs and onto the hotel shuttle. Getting a hotel room – even if just for four hours– was definitely a great idea It is midnight here, and noon in the U.S. Very disorienting.

Returning to the airport at 1:30 a.m., the shuttle driver first takes his girlfriend—or some woman he is definitely flirting with, home. He drives us around a bit to show us the flashing lights on the tallest building in the world that is totally unimpressive in the dark and far away. Security is pretty lax – no need to take off shoes or jackets or pull laptops out of bags. I breeze right through, though Buddy has a harder time. The guy can't seem to match Buddy to his old passport photo and has to get a supervisor's approval. The ease of passage has been just great and we hope it is the same on our return to the U.S. As far as improving U.S. security, I don't even want to go there.



**Thank you II from Mary Lou Wilson**

A huge thank you to all my Old First Family for the calls-cards-comfort-contributions-prayers-and hugs I have received regarding James' passing. I won't mention any names as I'm sure to forget someone but you know who you are. The Memorial Service was touching and the bountiful buffet led to the hilarious reminiscences that sent everyone home on an upbeat feeling. Many visitors commented on our beautiful sanctuary and the friendliness of our members. You all did Old First proud! Put a ribbon around your wonderful memories of James.



Hello, Old First, and greetings from New Mexico, where I am fairly well settled in my new place. I had my granddaughter's second birthday party here at the end of January. Late in February I went to Tennessee to join the celebration when my aunt reached the age of 100. Even as I was spending time with nearly all my relatives, I was grieving with you over the loss of Jim Wilson. I have received my certification as a labyrinth facilitator! As soon as weather permits, I plan to construct a small labyrinth in the back yard and plant some flowers to enjoy this summer. Blessings to you all, **Rosemary Bledsoe** (Note Rosemary's new email: [rosemarybledsoe@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarybledsoe@gmail.com))

Also, please note Bill Wunsch's new address.

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**OLD FIRST CONCERTS**, \$17 General, \$14 Seniors (65 or older) and \$14 full time students with a valid I.D. Children under 12 are free. [www.oldfirstconcerts.org](http://www.oldfirstconcerts.org)

**Sunday, April 11 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Sarn Oliver**, *violin*; **June Choi Oh**, *piano*

Works by Schubert, Oliver, and Schumann

**Friday, April 16 at 8:00 pm**

**Natalya Feygina**, *piano*; **Olga Rakitchenkov**, *harp*; **Sergey Raktchenkov**, *viola*.

Works by W. F. Bach, J. S. Bach, Benda, Glinka and Bruch.

**Sunday, April 18 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Sarah Cahill**, *piano*

West Coast premiere of Annie Gosfield's *Five Characters Walk Into a Bar* and new works by Marshall, Polansky, and Beglarian.

**Sunday, April 25 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Esther Landau**, flute and kaval; **Solon Gordon**, piano; **Poppea Dorsam**, 'cello

Works by J. S. Bach, Martinu, Premiere of Bonacich's *Rumpelstiltskin*.

**Friday, April 30 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Picasso Quartet**

**Alisa Rose**, *violin*; **Natasha Makhijani**, *violin*; **Alexa Beattie**, *viola*; **Michelle Kwon**, 'cello

**Ann Moss**, *soprano*

Works by Shostakovich; Liam Wade, and Mozart



**Rediscovering Faith through Fiction-Diane R. Molberg : The Future of Books-II.**  
**Walter Benjamin at the Dairy Queen: Reflections at Sixty and Beyond.** Larry McMurtry  
*I liked to enter what Walter Benjamin called the aura of reading.*

Archer, Texas. A no-where kind of town in the dusty plains of the Texas Panhandle. The epitome, some would say, of Texas itself where a dry wind rolls tumbleweed across the plains, windmills twirl in Don Quixote like visions, and four open horizons offer the world to a young boy's imagination. And somewhere, near the outskirts of town, sits a lone Dairy Queen on the side of the road where customers can order a lime Dr. Pepper, or a "perfect piece of pie," and where that young boy, as an adult and the consummate writer of the Great American West, Larry McMurtry, reads the essays and reflections of a late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century German philosopher, Walter Benjamin.

Throughout this lucid, startling work of non-fiction, McMurtry lays bare his passion for literature, for the novel, and perhaps his strongest passion of all, for books. From the beginning, he writes, he "sought to acquire books" to such an extent that he never took out a library loan card. He was drawn to the look and feel of books, to the mental preparation of "savoring the experience ahead." He discovered this anticipation was best served by building a personal library. More on that later.

His passion for books began when he was six and a cousin gave him "the nineteen boys' books" — common boys' books of the twenties and thirties. The next big event in his reading life was the arrival of paperback books on a rack in the local drugstore. He records the names of publishers as if he were listing the names of best friends: Pocket Books, Bantam, Avon, Dell, Popular Library, and the authors' names splashed across the small cover: Hemingway, Faulkner, Pound. Thus began his drugstore education.

Books became his wide open spaces. Savoring a book, became a worthy life-long occupation to be approached leisurely and with seriousness. Eventually he became a "book scout" and like all "scouts" he scoured the world for shops and stalls in search of undervalued books, unsung authors. He haunted the great bookstores: Seven Gables, Scribner's Carnegie Bookshop, and Gotham Book Mart. These sometimes dusty, always huge, places felt sacred to him.

Mornings, he went to Acres of Books when they opened and left at night when they closed. He felt pain seeing yards and yards of books, of authors who had had some hope their efforts would be read, but whose books now languished in dust. It was "the graveyard of literature." Of the two hundred thousand volumes of fiction, only a few hundred would be opened by a human hand.

So he built his own bookstore. In Archer, Texas, where real estate is cheap and land is plentiful. He built a kind of "anthology" of bookshops past including the paperbacks once found in squeaky racks in the corner drugstore, to antiquated books from stalls on the banks of the Seine. He built a bookstore that holds one hundred thousand books. Tourists visit Archer, Texas to see McMurtry's bookstore. "Leaving a million or so books in Archer City," he says, "is as good a legacy as I can think of for that region and for the West."

I envy McMurtry. Here is a man living his aesthetic, honoring the best in the human spirit in a way that is solemn and filled with grace. And it includes books.

Imagine, if you can, a huge building filled with one hundred thousand gleaming, plastic Kindles or E-Readers. Then take your best friend (or yourself) and visit an independent bookstore; those treasured places of warmth and sacredness that are disappearing. Teach that friend, or yourself, to breathe deeply, run your fingers over the spines of books, hold them. There is value in that.

Larry McMurtry has written over 35 books, including Lonesome Dove, and The Last Picture Show. The Walter Benjamin referred to is Illuminations: Essays and Reflections

## The Officers of Old First Church

*Deacons* - Nina Berg, Tracy Clagett, Mary Culp, Pam Free, Dan Joraanstad, Craig Kehne, Diane Lewis, Heather Losee, Dianne Middleton, Dana Nojima, Oliver Spencer, Priscilla Yu

*Elders* - George Becker, Michael Berg, Rosemary Bledsoe, Christopher Burt, Pam Byers, Jeanne Choy Tate, Barry Clagett, Bob Hermann, Kristi Hoerauf, Jeanne Kirkwood, Charles Olson, Jean Olson, Mary Russell, John Sebastian, George Yu