

**February 2010**

**Shared Life**  
of Old First Presbyterian Church

**February 1 – Name Tag Sunday** *Wear your own name tag and take a look at others’*

**February 14 ☐**– Annual Meeting and Congregational Luncheon

**February 17 – Ash Wednesday**

**February 28 – Al Barrios Children’s Library**

**February 27, 28 – Interspirituality program & presentations: Contact Pastor Jay**

**Wilson@welcomemionistry.org for details.**

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

**4**March issue – Sunday, February 15

**4**April issue — Sunday, March 15

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**Annual Meeting and Congregational Luncheon, Feb. 14 ☐**

**Please Plan to attend the OLD FIRST FAMILY SUNDAY LUNCHEON FEBRUARY 14!**

The annual meeting and congregational lunch is your opportunity, whether you are a member, visitor, or friend of OFPC, to come and learn about the various committee work that has happened during the past year, and enjoy an opportunity to share your favorite dishes and fellowship with others in the OFPC church family.

You can still sign up for our Family Sunday luncheon, to be held following the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 14! Sign up during coffee hour on February 7th, to bring your favorite home-cooked dish to share, or chip in \$6 and join your Old First family on Valentine's Day. ***Surrounded and Guided by God’s Love*** is this year's theme.

We will have a chance to send a valentine to a homebound member and to our mission co-workers around the USA and the world.

Community Building Committee Planning Project Team

**Alberto Barrios Children’s Library**

**New Children’s Books, February 28, 2010**

Come one, come all and view the wonderful new children’s books on display February 28. These books were purchased from the wish lists at the Christmas Market in December 2009. Feast your eyes on these lovely books, but also check them out. It is through your generosity that the Alberto Barrios Children’s Library will grow and be a place where quality books of Christian love and faith are available to children and their families. **Thank all of you for your donations and generous support!**

Priscilla Yu and Lori Yamauchi

**Lectionary**

Isa.6:1-8 (9-13); Ps. 138;1 Cor.15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11  
Exod.34:29-35; Ps 99, 2 Cor.3:12-4:2,Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)  
Deut.26:1-11; Ps.91-1-2;9-16, Rom.10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13  
Gen.15: 1-12; 17-18;Ps.27;Phil.3:17-4:1, Luke 13”31-35

**Ash Wednesday Lectionary**

Joel 2:1-2; 12-17 or Isa. 58:1-2  
Ps. 51:1-17; 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10

Dear All,

After the rush of Advent and Christmas, were you thinking that mid-winter might offer a bit of quiet in the life of the church? Surprisingly, February offers a number of ways to participate and to ponder.

We begin with a congregational meeting on Feb 14th. Every year this church, and all other Presbyterian churches, have an annual congregational meeting. Presbyterians are a participatory and “transparent” organization so anyone is invited to take part in the annual meeting and every member on the active role may have a vote. Each member is encouraged to know what is going on in the life of the church and vote on matters that are essential our life together. On the 14th there will be an election of new Elders and Deacons, and a “*review the adequacy of the compensation of the pastor*” (Book of Order G-7.0301). You will learn about the life of the church from our Deacons and Session committees. These are more than just a report or a record of what was done; it is a time for us to celebrate how we have followed Christ’s vision in our life and work during 2009 and begin to listen for where God will lead us in 2010.

The annual meeting is followed by a congregational meal in the Fellowship Hall. The theme for the annual meeting and the meal will be, “**Surrounded and Guided by God’s Love.**” You will have the opportunity to hear to how the work of the church has answered Christ’s call to “love one another,” and look forward, dream and envision how we are called to show God’s love in 2010. You will have a chance to send a valentine to a homebound member and to our mission co-workers around the USA and the world

On February 17, we move into the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 in the sanctuary. Lent is a “season of spiritual discipline and preparation, beginning with Ash Wednesday, anticipating the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ.” (W-3.2002.) For more information about Ash Wednesday and Lent see the reprint of an article from last year’s Shared Life on the following page of this newsletter. Look for updates in the Website [www.oldfirst.org](http://www.oldfirst.org) and in your e-mail for devotional opportunities.

Peace, Maggi

## Ash Wednesday/Beginning of Lent

Often I am asked the origins of Lent and its meaning for us today. I discovered that the PC (USA) web site, PCUSA.org has good information:

Lent began as a period of preparation for baptism. In the early centuries, adults who felt drawn to the Christian church were welcomed into something like an apprenticeship during which they were mentored in Christian belief, worship, prayer, and practices. The final weeks led directly to baptism, which was celebrated at Easter, the great day of resurrection. Part of the preparation for baptism included the discipline of fasting—for example, doing without meat or abstaining from food for one or more meals. In an act of solidarity, those who were already church members joined those who were fasting. This is probably the origin of the custom of giving up something for Lent. The point was to enter voluntarily into a spiritual exercise intended to deepen one's prayer life and heighten anticipation of the great festival of the resurrection. If "giving up stuff" raises spiritual consciousness and serves as an aid to prayer, to meditation on dying and rising with Christ, and to reclaiming one's baptism, go for it! Fasting, undertaking some other spiritual discipline, or giving up something are simply means toward the end of deepening the spiritual life. If it's just a pain, makes one feel like a martyr, or contributes to a sense of spiritual superiority—then it's better not to do it.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday Feb. 17th. What is Ash Wednesday? Is it really Presbyterian? Although Ash Wednesday has not been very important for many Presbyterians until recent decades, it's as "Presbyterian" as repentance, confession, and pardon. Presbyterians and others have begun to recover Ash Wednesday in recent years, discovering in it powerful symbols that have helped to lead us into the spiritual disciplines of Lent. Traditionally the palms that we waved on Palm Sunday were burned to ashes for use on Ash Wednesday. On that day, a minister or an officer of the church, marks our foreheads with a cross-shaped sign, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return," from Gen. 3:19. The ashes remind us of our mortality, the brevity of life, and our need for confession and pardon. At the same time, because the sign on our foreheads is cross-shaped, it's meant to remind us of our baptism. We who have died to Christ will be raised with him. So the ultimate point of Ash Wednesday is to face up to some hard realities, buoyed by our confident hope in the One who raised Jesus from the dead and who will have the last word over our lives, too.

## Adult Education Classes – Sundays, 9:30 am, Munro Room

Adult Christian Education in February and March

Do you have difficulty sometimes finding the words to say in prayer? Did you know the Bible has many prayers? We will study some Prayers in the Bible the first two weeks in February on Sunday morning at 9:30 AM in the Munro Room.

February 7 Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

February 14 Prayers of Confession and Intercession

## Lenten Study – The Names of Jesus

We will study the many names and titles through which we come to know Jesus. Each week the study will be given on Thursday as a Soup and Study beginning at 6 and ending at 7:30 and then repeated on Sunday morning at 9:30. Each lesson includes a series of daily Bible passages that may be read and studied before or after the lesson as a Lenten discipline. This study will help to reaffirm our knowledge of and belief in Jesus as Lord and Savior. As Paul wrote to the Philippians 2:9–11, "Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every

knee should bend . . . and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

February 18 and 21	Jesus
February 25 and 28	Rabbi, Teacher and Master
March 4 and 7	Bread of Life, Light of the World, Good Shepherd and True Vine
March 11 and 14	Messiah, Christ
March 18 and 21	Son of God, Son of David, Son of Man
March 25 and 28	The resurrection and the life, The way, the truth and the life

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#### *Old First Website- Bob Hermann*

Old First launched a new website effective January 27, 2010. Over the years, a variety of individuals have maintained our website, but we have now contracted with Kathleen Smith, owner and sole proprietor of Wulfwerks Inc., to refresh the site and provide on-going maintenance. Kathleen is an expert in web design and development. She will bring our software code up to date so that our website can be accessed from a variety of users such as Windows PC and Mac. This provides better usability and faster access to information for visitors and members alike. Church directions, office directory, Christian Education, Church calendar, Worship, Community building and many other activities at Old First will be easy to locate.

Many thanks to Maggi and to many church members who provided their input and expertise in the redevelopment of this important aspect in the life of the Old First community.

If you find that a page is “under construction” it means we are waiting for content from the committee chairs in order to enable to informational access. If there are problems with the website, they can be directed to, Kathleen at [kathleen@wulfwerks.com](mailto:kathleen@wulfwerks.com) or to [bobhermann@aol.com](mailto:bobhermann@aol.com).

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#### Preparing a Household First Aid Kit-Heather Losee

Thanks to Heather Losee for these important tips.

##### Supplies/location for Kit

- You can buy all items for your first aid kits at a well-stocked drug store. Ask the pharmacist for help in selecting quality products.
- Put your own kit together by securing a transparent plastic waterproof container with a handle. 6 inches wide by 10 inches long and 6 inches deep is a good size.
- Choose a central place, in plain sight to store it. . Label it FIRST AID KIT in bold letters.
- Be sure everyone in your household knows where your first aid kit is located.

##### A household first aid kit should include these items:

- Adhesive tape – 1 roll
- Anesthetic spray (ex: Bactine) or lotion (Calamine or Campho-Phenique) for itching, rashes and insect bites.
- Two 4" x 4" sterile gauze pads to cover and clean wounds, or use as a soft eye patch
- Ace bandage (One - 3 inch , and one 4 inch) for wrapping sprained or strained joints, gauze over wounds, or wrapping on splints
- Adhesive bandages (Band Aids in a variety of sizes)
- Benadryl\*\* - An oral antihistamine usually 25 to 50 mg. for allergic reactions in ADULTS, to use itching and rashes.

\*\* Note: Consult your pediatrician regarding emergency medication for children.

- Plastic gloves - For infection protection. Make into ice packs if filled with water and frozen
- Polysporin antibiotic ointment. One tube. Apply to simple wounds
- Nonadhesive pads ( Two or three Telfa pads) Use to cover wounds and burns
- Resealable plastic bag - As a container for contaminated articles. Can become an ice pack
- Safety pins (4 large/ 4 small). For splinter removal and for securing triangular bandage sling
- Scissors – (One pair )
- Triangular bandage (One) -to use as a sling, towel, tourniquet
- Tweezers - For splinter or stinger or tick removal

#### **Vital Information/Names & Numbers**

- Keep the names and phone number of your physician, pediatrician, pastor, and family emergency contacts taped in your first aid kit so you don't have to look them up in an emergency.
- Be aware of family members' allergies.
- Be prepared to call 911 if you feel you cannot attend to first aid or don't know what to do next in an emergency.
- Say a prayer asking God be with you and guide you in your first aid efforts.

#### *Old First Impact San Francisco*

The Recession Food Pantry was a great success for its six month run last year. Our efforts had an additional and surprising impact on the overall San Francisco Food Bank.

Last Fall, I encouraged my branch of Wells Fargo Advisors to staff the Recession Food Pantry for a Saturday morning. Early last November, as a way to contemplate the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, about a dozen Wells Fargo personnel spent a few hours handing out bags of food to 250 people, making the difference between a hungry or a happy household for a week.

After distributing the food, we gathered at Bob's Diner for lunch. Pastor Maggi sat with us and expounded on the Food Pantry, the work of Old First in general, and charmed the crowd in her usual style. Kevin Kitchin, manager of the regional complex of brokerage offices for the firm, listened with interest to Maggi's stories and thought about his own personal experience that morning.

And then the unexpected happened: Kevin prompted the larger organization of Wells Fargo to come up with a contribution of \$7500 for the SF Food Pantry. That seed money, in turn, brought in other donations, thus magnifying the monetary impact several times. In addition, all of the offices in the region now include food barrels for contributions and employees have also been encouraged to make monetary gifts. The program at our offices is still running, but the total funds raised are far beyond \$7500 not to mention all of the food donations still being made.

This small example shows the impact Old First has throughout the community. In our history we can proudly point to so many ongoing ways that our efforts at organizing have persisted, and succeeded, through many years. From the Cameron House to the Larkin Street Youth Center to today's efforts with the homeless, our work can affect many lives. Thank you Old First for helping shape our City in many ways.

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Greetings From Rosemary!

Dear Friends at Old First,

Thank you for your lovely farewell to me on December 6 and for all the acts of kindness and good wishes that helped me make the move to Albuquerque with un-Presbyterian speed.

My hope was to be somewhat settled here by Christmas, and that worked out pretty well. I was far from unpacked, but I could at least find the holiday decorations and hide most of the moving boxes. I was able to host a family lunch on Christmas and to enjoy my granddaughter's delight in the day.

A quarter-century of belonging to the Old First family was one of the great joys of my life. A new home in New Mexico among my nearest and dearest relatives is another great joy. It wasn't easy to exchange one for the other – just impossible not to do it.

God bless you all,

Rosemary Bledsoe

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Andy Cheng's Induction, December 3, 2009

Mary Lou Wilson provides details from the Induction of Andy Cheng. Many former members of the Old First family were in attendance. Maggi's invocation was inspiring did us proud with her inspiring invocation. Everyone expected a formal ceremony, and was surprised at a "toast/roast" presentation by the various speakers, that left the audience "in stitches." Andy's father carried Andy's robe for the moving Robing Ceremony, and his mother and Yvonne put the robe on Andy while his father watched. There was a bountiful buffet that was delicious and enjoyed by all. Congratulations again to Andy.

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A Message of Thanks and Gratitude from Jessie

To My Dear Church Family and Friends,

I am writing to express my sincere thanks to all for your prayers, good wishes and the many acts of kindness that I received during my recent illness. I was able to sustain my faith and strength during the long months of my illness knowing that that God's grace is abundant and that your prayers were with me. God's grace and my gratitude to all.

Sincerely, Jessie McFadyen

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Good News from Alex Raborn

Alex Raborn, Robin's nephew, happily says hello to his friends at Old First from his US Army Intelligence advanced training classes at Ft. Huachuca in Arizona: He writes he's top of the class, has put on 15 lbs. of muscle, made lots of good friends, and is on track for a good life. Alex turns 21 on February. He completed basic training at Ft. Jackson in South Carolina in December. Alex treasures the Bible Pastor Maggi gave him last September when he left the Bay Area after spending the summer among us. "It's the perfect size and it repels bullets!" If you want to contact Alex, here is his email: dietcool@gmail.com. He has been told he will ship to Korea in May.

**Clerk's Corner: Wrap-up of 2009 Session Meetings**

Jeanne Kirkwood, Clerk of Session

Besides the normal "church business as usual" activities either required by the *Book of Order* or our traditions, Session took on a number of projects and challenges.

We have been shifting our calendar from a January-to-January orientation to April-to-April. This has allowed us to move activities from the busy Advent–Christmastide season to early in the New Year. The nomination for new officer terms, interviews and ordination/installation of same is one example of an important activity that shouldn't be overshadowed by the holiday season.

The number of Session committees and their activities has been reorganized. Each committee now has a charter outlining the duties, composition and any other specifics required by the *Book of Order*. The goal is to promote more efficient work flow, better communication and presenting opportunities for congregates to contribute their time and skills to projects without necessarily making a long term commitment. For example, each committee has and can form either "Ministry Teams" for continuing and/or long time projects (choir is a ministry team of Worship) or "Project Teams" which will be for specific, finite projects. Our First Annual Baseball Game was a project team of Community Building.

A particularly gratifying project was facilitating a contribution of funds from a bequest to Edgewood Children's Center. Bill Wunsch acted as executor for an estate which contained a directive to donate part of the funds to a religious organization which focused on children. Bill immediately thought of Edgewood. The session officially declared Edgewood as a valid ministry that allowed Bill and Steve Taber to do the legal work to make this contribution a reality.

We drew up and submitted an agreement to the Presbytery of San Francisco that would allow Rev. Erwin Barron to become a Parish Associate at Old First. This matter is still pending.

Our own Terry Stumpf has continued his journey as he was approved at the November Presbytery meeting to be enrolled as a Candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, effective September 2, 2009. Terry has been working at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, but Old First is his home church. Session met with Terry in person as well as by correspondence to help him with his paperwork and presentations.

An updated photo membership directory was produced through Olan Mills by Community Building committee. This committee also spearheaded a clean up of our database and is working on upgrading our website.

Finance and Operation committees continue to take care of our resources, including our beautiful building. We have a new sound system, a repaired security system and completion of re-pointing the bricks to name a few projects. The list never ends for them.

We welcomed guest preacher Andrew Hoeksema, home church First Presbyterian in Berkeley, and gave him the opportunity to preach three times from our pulpit as required by his curriculum at San Francisco Theological Seminary.

One of our most exciting and originally daunting projects was the result of the pervasive economic downturn. The San Francisco Food Bank received a grant that allowed them to set up temporary food distribution stations. The Food Bank contacted our Fearless Leader and she decided to take it on! And now we're glad we did.

With mixed emotions, the Sessions accepted Rosemary Bledsoe's resignation as elder, who announced she's moving to Albuquerque NM in December. The clerk read a statement on behalf of Bob Hermann, chair of Community Building Committee, recognizing Rosemary for her dedicated work throughout her twenty-five years as a member of Old First, and especially her leadership with the CBC. Pam Byers expressed her admiration for Rosemary and all the time they have worked together, and passed a card for all the elders to sign. Rosemary announced that Diane Molberg would take over as editor for *Shared Life*.

Also during November, the session approved the revision of the Personnel Handbook, heard reports from elders who attended the November 2009 Presbytery meeting including information that our own Terry Stumpf has been enrolled as a candidate at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and is still under care of Old First as he will be until he is ordained. It was noted that Lisa Largess underwent the "Trials of Ordination" which involved many more than the usual questions. A narrow vote by commissioners approved her ready for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament.

The Worship Committee proposed that the Lord's Supper be distributed by Intinction starting January 2010. To acknowledge our longstanding Presbyterian tradition, we will distribute by passing the elements four times a year.

December was another busy month for session members. We accepted the letter of transfer so that Johnelle (Johnni) Olds can join First Presbyterian Church in Charleston IL. We wish her well in her new church home. We discussed the annual meeting and luncheon, the Recession Response Food Pantry, the possibility of a summer intern from Columbia Theological Seminary, revision to the Old First Garage lease with Super Parking. We heard the results of the Stewardship campaign to date and set a date for the 2010 Budget Meeting. Best of all, we enjoyed homemade chocolate cake furnished by Pastor Maggi. On to 2010!

### Birthdays — *a month in advance; you can't say you didn't know in time*

March 4 – Mary Lou Wilson  
March 4 – Craig Kehne  
March 12 – Jessie McFadyen  
March 13 – John Sebastian  
March 15 - Dan Joraanstad  
March 20 – Andy Cheng  
March 20 – Greg Free  
March 20 – Dana Nojima  
March 22 – Chloe Pollock  
March 23 – Spencer Pollock  
March 31 – Stephen Voris

OLD FIRST Concerts - \$17 General \$14 Seniors (65 or older)\$14 Full time students  
[www.oldfirstconcerts.org](http://www.oldfirstconcerts.org)

#### **Friday, February 5 at 8 PM**

##### **Quarteto Vivace Brasil**

**Edson Lopes & Roberto Cochiequi**, *guitars*; **Tadeu Coelho**, *flute*; **Rodrigo Marinonio**, *percussion*  
Works by Armand, Scheidler, Barrios, Piazzolla, Joplin, Albeniz, de Falla, and others.

#### **Sunday, February 7 at 4 PM**

##### **Zodiac Trio**

**Vanessa Mollard**, *violin*; **Kliment Krylovskiy**, *clarinet*; **Riko Higuma**, *piano*  
Works by Glass; Rorem; Schoenfield; Schickele, and List.

#### **Friday, February 12 at 8 PM**

##### **Music in the Now**

Compositions and improvisations by Mills College Graduate Students: Annie Lewandowski, Anagamin Ensemble, Zeina Nasr, Grex, Gretchen Jude, Lona Kozik and Julia MacDonald

**Tuesday, February 16 at 8 PM**

**Composers Inc.**

*Seven Faces of the World* by Joseph Kolkovich; songs by Robert Greenberg, new works by Jeffrey Miller and Zibuokle Martinaityte.

**Saturday, February 20 at 8 PM**

**San Francisco Composers Chamber Orchestra**

**Mark Alburger, Music Director**

New works by Bay Area Composers

**Sunday, February 21 at 4 PM**

**Chopin Birthday Celebration**

**Esther Keel, piano**

### On The Road with Buddy

Last year, Buddy Tate-Choy traveled across America by bus. He graciously agreed to share sections of his journey in the pages of Shared Life.

**Nov. 16, 2009**

Monday in Chicago's Chinatown. Exactly 12:00 noon. I have found the local public library where the use of a computer is free, and the librarian has given me 60 minutes. It has taken me nine minutes to access my gmail account so I am on my way to becoming a computer whiz.

Some interesting notes:

**Q** Riding the bus for 53 hours is a one-time experience. I now have had that one-time experience.

**Q** Greyhound buses are not what they advertise. They look pretty from the outside, but the inside leaves much to be desired. The seats are cramped, the ride is not very smooth. The so-called "toilet" is akin to a latrine in El Salvador.

**Q** When Greyhound says they stop at ten terminals along the way, they really mean stops twenty-two terminals along the way. And the stops happen no matter what time of the day or the night: early morning, or when everyone is sleeping at 3am. The driver announces that we have arrived at Ogalala, Nebraska for a ten minute stop and you may get off the bus, if you wish, but if you're not back on when the bus driver leaves, life and the bus will go on without you. Interesting threats by Greyhound bus drivers.

**Q** All the bus terminals have NO hot food, terrible coffee (if there was any), vending machines offering everything a dietician would recommend for eating your way to a heart attack, cup-a-noodle Ramen soup at EVERY bus terminal (sometimes with no hot water available. How do the Japanese eat cup-a-noodle without hot water?). Terminal agents who are either very old or very young and wonder why a Chinese man from San Francisco would choose to ride a bus across the country. All recommended that next time I try a train or plane. The bus goes on.

I traveled from San Francisco to Salt Lake City, excited but fearful. The bus was half-filled when it left SF, but when it stopped in Oakland (a stop not advertised when you buy your ticket), every seat filled. It was packed, it was hot, it was bumpy, and not fifty miles from home I began to wonder what I was doing. The bus goes on. In Salt Lake City, a change of buses and I get to sit alone with a window and an aisle seat empty --- luxury in a Greyhound bus for a fat Chinese man to be able to sprawl over two bus seats.

**Buddy and Jeanne** were "on the road" together in late January when Jeanne presented a paper at the Postcolonial Theology Network at the United Theological College in Bangalore, India. After the conference, they traveled in Southern India.

Rediscovering Faith through Fiction**The Future of Books-I. Diane R. Molberg**

*To me, books are the physical vessels that keep us linked to all the human times and places, nothing less than the one practical, hands-on thing that cheats death and the silence. ~ Richard Bausch*

Not long ago, a member of an on-line reading/writing site I frequent posted the following: “Wouldn’t you know it? Only two pages to go and the light on my Kindle burned out.”

Last Christmas, a commercial ran on television with a catchy tune and appealing graphics promoting Kindle as the ultimate gift for “everyone on your list.”

The Kindle, in case you are fortunate enough not to know about it, is a white plastic “Wireless Reading Device with a 6” display. It is global wireless, latest generation,” and costs \$259.00 (amazon.com). For only \$9.99 one can download Barbara Kingsolver’s latest novel, The Lacuna (507 pages, \$17.00 for the book).

It’s almost impossible, even painful, for me to say how alarmed, indeed almost terrified, I am by the advent of the “Kindle Generation.” One of the first things I did to calm myself, but then I do this often, is pick up my paperback copy of The Hummingbird’s Daughter, and slide my fingers slowly across the pages softened by many readings. I press the open book to my face and breathe in the cottony smell of paper as if it were incense. I cradle it the crook of my arm, enjoying the weight and heft of it. I do this with almost every book I own. Kingsolver’s latest will feel just right.

I loaned The Camel Bookmobile first to Rosemary, and then to Genie Kinney and most recently to Bill Campbell. Each time the book comes back to me with the experiences of these reader friends imprinted on the pages that now feel even softer, turn more easily with each reading. At the Book Swap last year I picked up Strangers by Anita Brookner. Tracy’s name was written in the inside cover. Linda Reyder immediately said she’d read the book and assured me I would like it. Again, pages touched by friends, smoothed by the thoughts and emotions of others.

The wonderfully eccentric, expatriate American writer of the 1920s, Gertrude Stein, was famous for, among many other things, wearing enormous jackets (granted, she was enormous) with wide, deep pockets that she’d stuff with books. She went to great pains to find just the right jacket and wore nothing else refusing to take one step out of her house unless her pockets were packed with her beloved volumes. Imagining Ms. Stein with a Kindle is quite an image.

I love giving bookmarks to my friends and I love getting them. My favorite is a small silver half moon my friend Katharine gave to me inscribed with Edith Wharton’s famous quote: “There are two ways of spreading the light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.” My experience of a book is like that: the light I hold to the world and myself, the candle that never goes out.

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## The Officers of Old First Church

*Deacons* - Nina Berg, transportation, funding requests, communion clean-up; Tracy Clagett, prayer coordinator; Mary Culp, treasurer, funding requests; Pam Free, co-moderator; Dan Joraanstad, secretary; Craig Kehne, coffee hour; Diane Lewis, funding requests; Heather Losee, co-moderator; Dianne Middleton, transportation; Dana Nojima, merchandise sales; Oliver Spencer, memorials and meals; Priscilla Yu, memorials and meals

*Elders* - George Becker, Personnel; Michael Berg, Mission and Giving/Stewardship; Christopher Burt, Worship; Pam Byers, Personnel; Jeanne Choy Tate, Special Projects/ Liaison for DCE; Barry Clagett, Finance; Bob Hermann, Community Building; Kristi Hoerauf, Finance; Jeanne Kirkwood, Clerk of Session; Alfred Martin, Worship; Charles Olson, Operations; Jean Olson, Christian Education; Mary Russell, Mission and Giving; John Sebastian, Planning Elder; George Yu, Christian Education.