

November 2010 **Shared Life** of Old First Presbyterian Church

November 7 Name Tag Sunday. Wear your own name tag and take a look at others'
November 7 All Saints Day Remembrance
November 7 Return to Standard Time: Turn clocks BACK one hour.
December 5 Christmas Gift Market

***Shared Life* Schedule -- e-mail articles to molberg@earthlink.net**

December Issue	Sunday, November 14: deadline for all submissions Wednesday, November 17: Final deadline for changes/revisions. Thurs. November 18-23: Dead Week for Shared Life. Submissions closed. Wednesday, November 24: Press date for postal mailing/e-version.
January Issue	Sunday December 12: deadline for all submissions. Wednesday, December 15: Final deadline for changes/revisions Thurs. December 16-21: Dead Week for Shared Life. Submissions closed. Wednesday, December 29: Press date for postal mailing/e-version

Lectionary

Nov. 7 Hag.1:15b-2:9; Ps. 145: 1-5, 17-21 or Ps. 98; 2 Thess.2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38
Nov. 14 Isa.65:17-25; Isa. 12; 2Thess.3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
Nov. 21 Jer.23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Col.1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
Nov.28 Isa.2:1-5; Ps. 122; Rom.13:11-14; Matt.24-36



Stewardship 2011

On October 17 Pastor Maggi Henderson asked us to consider what we can pledge this year and then add some more. She was inspired in her message by 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. You have received a brochure from the Stewardship committee with additional information to aid in your discernment of your pledge this year. We will also provide bulletin inserts to provide additional encouragement. Please look for them! Your Stewardship Committee



Maggi's musings

My Church, Our Church, God's Church

One of the best reflections on stewardship I have come across was written by John Westerherhoff **“Stewardship is what we do after we say we believe, that is, after we give our love, loyalty, and trust to God, from whom each and every aspect our life comes as a gift.”** This captures the sense that faith and giving are both an individual act and communal act. When we sit in these pews on a Sunday morning, or when we join the church, it is a witness that we believe in something beyond ourselves, that we aim to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and that we seek to claim God's love for us and live that love out in the world. When we do this at Old First Presbyterian Church, we say it is “my church.” We also know that it is not simply “my church” but the church of those sitting next to us and those who don't make it into the church on Sunday. It is “their church” too. Ultimately this is “God's church.” We are simply a part of God's wider church that happens to worship and live out God's love at 1751 Sacramento Street.

We give because God has provided us with abundance and so we give as thanksgiving. We give so that others may witness the generosity and compassion of those who know Christ. We give in obedience to God's call to share and to build in us a sense that all we have is a gift from God and not be hoarded.

Practically, this means all of us have a part in the vibrancy of this church by our presence here but very practically in gift of money.

We are very careful at Old First with the monies that are entrusted to us. We have tried to be respectful of this struggling economy and have made difficult cuts to our already lean budget. Yet, at the same time we don't want to limit the ability to live out God's vision. For instance, we are taking on a new interfaith food pantry this year that will cost us about approximately \$250.00 a month and honestly we don't have money for that in the budget. Yet, we decided to commit and to trust that God will loosen hearts and pocketbooks to get us there. Honestly, I would like to see more money in the budget, not simply to come back to the levels we had in the past but so we can freely begin to dream about how we will serve our neighbors and enrich the ministry we are doing at Old First.

I basically need you to increase your pledge. Why not try a simple increase of 1% or 5% over your last year's pledge? The pledges will be collected in worship on November 21, 2010.

II Corinthians 9: 7-8 reminds that **“each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”** For when we give we are convicted that, **“God is able to provide us with every blessing in abundance, so that by having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”**

May this be an abundant year in your life, in the life of Old First and throughout in the world.
Peace, Pastor Maggi

November Adult Education Classes: We have reviewed the responses to the questions cards filled out in the September review, and as a result offer a variety of times for classes.

Nov 7 9:30 Munro Room Dr. Bill Feistier will lead a discussion on coping with grief and loss during the holidays. While Thanksgiving and Christmas are joyous seasons for many of us, it a time of mixed emotions for those who experience loss. Come join a discussion to look at the holiday anew and bring hope into the season.

Nov 14 12:30 Library. Bonheoffer Discussion on his book Letters and Papers from Prison. We will focus on the third part of the book, "Holding Out until the Overthrow."

Nov 21 12:30 Bonheoffer Class Repeated

November 28 9:30 Munro Room. We will begin a series of advent discussions on this first Sunday of Advent Sunday and continue through December 19



The Interfaith Amigos

Saturday, November 20 Program with Q&A: 7pm ~ Reception to Follow FREE ADMISSION ALL ARE WELCOME! Calvary Presbyterian Church complete details at www.calvarypresbyterian.org & www.interfaithamigos.com 2515 Fillmore Street (at Jackson) You are cordially invited to a very special interfaith event featuring Sheikh Jamal Rahman, Rabbi Ted Falcon and Pastor Don Mackenzie, known as "The Interfaith Amigos." Come hear these three friends and teachers discuss both the circumstances that brought them together and the awkward and challenging—yet very rewarding—work of interfaith dialogue. Too often religion seems to fuel more hatred than love, more conflict than collaboration. The Interfaith Amigos, through their book and presentation, "Getting to the Heart of Interfaith," offer insight and encouragement to those who strive to open up to the beauty and wisdom of others' faith.

Join the San Francisco Interfaith Council at the 13th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast, "Honoring the Unsung Healers: Hospital & Hospice Chaplains" Tuesday, November 23, 2010, 7:00am-9:00am, Hotel Kabuki 1625 Post Street (at Laguna), SF. Reservation can be made <http://www.sf-interfaith.org>. Pastor Maggi is now a member of the Interfaith Council's board and encourages everyone to participate.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD ON THANKSGIVING DAY at the interfaith service sponsored by the San Francisco Interfaith Council. Join your fellow San Franciscans on the 25th, at 10:00 a.m. Third Baptist Church of San Francisco 1399 McAllister St, San Francisco, CA 94115

World Aids Day Service Wednesday December 1 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 6:00 PM. St. Mark's doors will be open wide on the evening of December 1st and we want YOU to be a part of this! We are delighted that The Rev. Mark Holmerud, Bishop, Sierra Pacific Synod (ELCA), will be presiding and your *own* Rev. Maggi Henderson, Pastor, Old First Presbyterian Church, will be preaching.

Advent

Advent is the liturgical season of waiting and preparing for Christ. It lasts four weeks, beginning on November 28th, and marks the start of the new Christian year. This year we will consider the signs that signal Christ's coming, His presence among us, and His return - signs of peace, healing, transformation and new life. As part of our celebration of Advent, we will be decorating the sanctuary on Saturday, December 4th. Please come help decorate, and stay tuned for more information.

Christmas Gift Market, December 5

Please mark your calendars for some very special Christmas shopping opportunities again this year, presented by the Peace & Justice, and Mission & Giving Committees. Your purchases from the items provided by Old First Deacons, the Doris Krauss Senior Center, and the Peace & Justice Committee's Fair Trade products (coffees, teas, chocolates, olive oil, etc.) will directly benefit their programs. Larkin Street Youth Services will also participate and receive their full benefit from your purchases.

Again this year, you'll be able to make contributions to two Presbyterian-supported organizations: Alternative Gifts International's diverse list of programs in the U.S. and other countries, that provide assistance for farming, education, medical and other needs (www.alternativegifts.org). You may select a gift card with information on that gift to send to the person(s) you're honoring (the cards and envelopes are large enough that you can include a couple of precious family photos also!) Returning this year will be handicraft gifts created by Palestinian craft producers in and near Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Galilee, etc., supporting women, refugees and people with disabilities (www.sunbula.org). You can read more about each of these organizations at their websites, and also on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) website, www.pcusa.org.

Volunteers are needed to help with Alternative Gifts International tables – set-up and clean-up, pasting program information into gift cards, collecting money/checks, and keeping track of the gifts purchased. We also welcome any special Christmas treats you'd like to bring to be served at the coffee table. Any questions, please see Mary Russell.

Help Larkin Street Brighten the Holidays for Homeless Youth

Old First has a 26-year Christmas tradition of helping Larkin Street Youth Services brighten the holidays for some of San Francisco's most vulnerable youth. Larkin Street will host celebrations for over 400 homeless and at-risk young people, ages 12-24. Some are living in Larkin Street's emergency shelters and transitional living programs. Some are on the street.

We can have a direct, positive impact on these young people by sponsoring a gift drive with friends or family or where we work or live. We can deliver *new, unwrapped* gifts or visit an online wish list at <http://www.wishlistr.com/larkin-street-youth-services> and have gifts shipped directly to Larkin Street.

Gift cards from retailers like Macy's, Old Navy, Gap, Payless Shoes, Safeway, Trader Joe's, Starbucks, Peet's, Chevy's, Amoeba, Urban Outfitters, Borders, Walgreens and Ikea are extremely popular.

Some of the most requested items include backpacks, umbrellas, jackets, rain ponchos, hooded sweatshirts, knit caps, scarves, sneakers, pants, gloves, socks, underwear, BART passes, 2011 day planners and journals.

Other frequent requests include toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, shaving cream and hair dryers. Basic household needs include alarm clocks, dishes, pots, pans, utensils, towels and twin-sized sheets, blankets, small appliances, home electronics and school and art supplies.

To permit Larkin Street to distribute gifts on time, we can bring them to the Alternative Gift Market during the coffee hour on Sunday, December 5, or any coffee hour through December 12. We can also take or ship gifts to the Larkin Street's administrative office at 1138 Sutter Street (between Polk and Larkin), weekdays through Wednesday, Dec. 15, 9:30 and 4:30. For more information, please contact Audrey Muntz at (415) 673-0911 x 221 or volunteer@larkinstreetyouth.org.

A New/Old Christmas Tradition

Remember when, at Christmas time rather than send individual cards to other members, we would send one card to Old First Church? The children made a large “Christmas Board” where the cards are posted for all to enjoy. The money saved on purchasing individual cards and on postage would be given to the church. Time saved would be used for other Holiday activities. Let’s do that again for 2010! Revive another Old First tradition!



TAKE ACTION to Protect Yourself and Those you Love from Seasonal Influenza (flu) – Heather Losee

Recommendations from Center for Disease Control (CDC)

Flu is a serious contagious disease that can lead to hospitalization and even death. In 2009–2010, a new and very different flu virus (H1N1) spread worldwide causing the first flu pandemic alert in more than 40 years. Flu is unpredictable, but the CDC expects the 2009 H1N1 virus to spread this upcoming season along with other seasonal flu viruses. CDC urges you to take the following actions to protect yourself and others from the flu:

1. GET THE VACCINE! This is the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.
 - The 2010-2011 flu vaccine will protect against influenza A, H3N2 virus an influenza B virus, and the 2009 H1N1 virus that caused so much illness last season.
 - Everyone 6 months of age and older should get vaccinated against the flu as soon as the 2010-2011 season vaccine is available. Also those with chronic health conditions, and pregnant woman who are at higher risk for flu. This season it is all in ONE shot.
2. TAKE PREVENTIVE Action!
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Bend your arm and cough into the bent elbow to prevent spread of germs. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
 - Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
 - If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours or until the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)
 - While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.



✓ **The Great Adventure-Men’s Group Wednesdays***, 7 – 9 pm ,Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore Street, San Francisco

- Are you searching for something when it comes to understanding who you are, or where you are going? Feel like “there’s got to be something MORE”? Well, you’re not alone. Thousands of men are asking those same questions and finding answers through Men’s Fraternity (<http://www.mensfraternity.com>). So come check us out – you will be glad you did!
- Open to all men in the SF area
- For more info, email calvaryphil@pacbell.net



The Book Nook

Joy finished reading Anthony Trollope's The Way We Live Now and urges anyone who hasn't read it already to take the plunge into this hefty tome. "After reading about a half dozen Trollopes," she maintains this is the best. I came to this selection because it was mentioned by Newsweek as a perfect tale for our times, with something for everyone with the main plot being the ease with which the unscrupulous can garner confidence (a la Madoff). Also compelling are the themes of enabling/enthralled mother, the roles of "high" and "low" church, the crossing of class lines for financial resuscitation of the fallen, anti-Semitism, etc. And Trollop even included San Francisco in the story. I'm probably the last one to have read it, but it was a treat.

Cloud Atlas, by David Mitchell: A genre-mixing sextet of interconnected narratives, which together make up a story that begins in the mid-nineteenth century and reaches its poignant conclusion in the far distant future. Dazzling and highly original. Recommended by Tracy.

Harriet is trying to get started on re-reading To Kill a Mockingbird, which is, in her opinion, the most exquisitely written book of all time. "I never read it as a young person, but I listened to it on tape when I was commuting to OUSD a few years ago, and now I received it as a gift from a close friend."

Rose Marie read America America by Ethan Canin. He was born in Michigan but his family moved to San Francisco. He graduated from University High School, went to Stanford, and is now on the faculty of the Iowa Writers' Workshop faculty. His first book, Emporer of the Air, caught my attention. He has written another book of stories and other novels as well. This novel is about politics and power, about genuine ambition and corruption, about class, and about the complexity of morality, about a young man caught in this complex web, struggling to maintain his integrity. The writing is excellent and captivating, and the book is timely. Editor's note: Also highly recommended by Canan: The Palace Thief

Diane is reading (out of desperation from so much to read) three books. A coming of age novel, English Creek by Ivan Doig (recommended by Rosemary Beldsoe), The Creative Life: True Tales of Inspiration. Finding Your True North by Julia Cameron, and The Midnight Disease by Alice Flaherty. The novel is a bit slow paced and I find myself skipping ahead, but the writing is first rate and the characterization is excellent. Both the Cameron and Flaherty books are non-fiction and geared primarily to writers and the various demons we face. However, anyone interested in the creative process couldn't go wrong with these two books.

Rediscovering Faith through Fiction “**The Plot Escapes Me**” – James Collins

What’s the point of reading so many books when I can barely remember what’s in them?

In a recent New York Times essay, novelist James Collins asked this question. Studying his bookshelves, he saw titles of books he instinctively knew he liked but with a shock of recognition, he realized that he remembered nothing about the contents. He distinctly recalled sitting in a vacation home by the lake and looking up from the book he was reading—“Perjury: The Hiss-Chambers Case”—to see the sun sparkle on the clear rippling water before “returning to the polluted gloom of the Case.” Now, he realized with a shock that he didn’t remember what the point of the book had been.

He peruses his bookcases and they’re all there: Michael Chabon’s “Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay,” Muhlstein’s “Taste for Freedom,” Proust, and all he can do is associate them with a stray image, an atmosphere. He wonders why read books if he can’t remember what’s in them?

We read, of course, for many reasons: the aesthetic and literary pleasure we experience when reading, when holding a book; we read to learn, to expand our horizons. We read because we want a book to change us, yet how is that possible when “its fugitive content passes through us like light through glass.” Would it have made no difference, Collins asks, if he had never read any of them?

He asks Maryanne Wolf, author of “Proust and the Squid: the Story and Science of the Reading Brain,” who replied that we are all different for having read a book. “Reading creates pathways in the brain,” she says. But as for content, it is a “gestalt” what William James called “a wraith of memory.” Everything we read is stored in our brain’s networks. We are the sum of it all, Wolf maintains.

As a voracious reader, I wondered how much I retained from what I read. Do I remember a single premise of the Renaissance Italian scholar, Vico, that I had to read in graduate school? Thank heavens, I do not. Do I remember Aristotle’s Poetics that I also read in grad school? Yes, and I can’t explain why. As for my beloved fiction, I not only remember the first time I read To Kill A Mockingbird, or Dandelion Wine but I remember almost every delicious moment in these novels. The “gestalt” of my memory bank still offers up the sad life of Edith Wharton’s tragic heroine, Lily Bart, in House of Mirth. Hemingway’s “Hills Like White Elephants,” blessed in its brevity, is hard to forget. And of course, a verse by Emily Dickinson is never stored away too deeply that I cannot access it. More to the point, I think I know what these and other books in the literary network in my brain mean to me, and that’s a good enough reason to read.

Collins wonders at one point if he’d have been better off playing golf, and happily decides that for however much he may or may not remember, the pleasure of reading is an engrossing and beautiful thing. May it be so for all of you.



Old First Concerts - \$17 general admission, www.oldfirstconcerts.org

Friday, November 5 at 8 PM

Melody of China

World Premiere of *Shanghai Stories* by Francis Wong, other works by Dawei Wang, and traditional Chinese music.

Friday, November 12 at 8 PM

Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton, harp

Works by Krumpholtz, Roussel, Alvars, Damase, Agócs, and Salzedo.

Sunday, November 14 at 4 PM

Anne Bluethenthal and Dancers with singer-songwriter Melanie DeMore

Dance works including a World Premiere of a work created for Old First Concerts, with organ music by Sean Feit

Friday, November 19 at 8 PM

Yee Duo

Thomas Yee, violin; Jieun Yee, piano

Devil's Trill Sonata by Tartini; *Dialogue* by Biggs; other works by Prokofiev and Piazzolla.

Sunday, November 21 4 PM

Hyunchae Kim, kayageum

World Premiere of *Song of the Firewood* by Hyo-shin Na, local premieres of works by Hyun-chae Kim and Kwan-yong Shin.

The Officers of Old First Church

Deacons - **Nina Berg**, Treasurer, Communion Clean Up, Funding Requests; **Tracy Clagett**, prayer coordinator; **Mary Culp**, Funding Requests; Dan **Joraanstad** (Co-moderator); **Craig Kehne**, Coffee Hour; **Diane Lewis**, Funding Requests; **Heather Losee**(Co-moderator); **Harriet MacClean**, Nominating Committee Representative, Memorial Receptions & Meal Coordination; **Dana Nojima**, Merchandise Sales; **Glen Potter**, Transportation; **Annie Scott Rogers**, Prayer Chain Coordination; **Oliver Spencer**, Special Events &Community Outreach; **Priscilla Yu**, Memorial Receptions & Meal Coordination

Elders - **George Becker**, Personnel, **Michael Berg**, Stewardship, Mission & Giving, **Christopher Burt**, **Saskia de Vries**, Worship, **Barry Clagett**, Finance, **Gregory P. Free**, **Bob Hermann**, Community Building, **Kristi Hoerauf**, Finance, **Sidney Hollar**, Ad. Ed., **Jeanne Kirkwood**, Clerk of Session, **Mary E. Russell**, Stewardship, Mission & Giving, **John Sebastian**, Planning, **Steve Taber**, Operations, **George Yu**, Adult Ed.