

January 2011 Shared Life of Old First Presbyterian Church

January 3 – Name Tag Sunday: Wear your own and take a look at others’.

January 8 – Food Pantry; 7:30.a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

January 16-Christan Ed.: “A Clean Well Lighted Place,”led Diane Molberg

January 23 - Witness to the Resurrection Memorial Service remembering church member Emma Lee who lived into her 101st year. Please watch your church bulletin and the website for more details.

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

4 February – Sunday, January 16

4 March – Sunday, February 13

Page 1 Announcements; deadlines, Lectionary, Food Pantry

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Lectionary

Jer.31:7-14; Ps.147:12-20; eph. 1:3-14; John 1: (1-9) 10-18

Isa.42:1-9; Ps.29; Acts 10:34-43; Matt.3:13-17

Isa. 49:1-7; Ps. 40:1-11;1 Cor. 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

Isa. 9:1-4;Ps.27:1, 4-9; 1 Cor.1:10-18; Matt.4:12-23

Micah 6:1-8; Ps.15; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; Matt.5:1-12

Epiphany of the Lord

Isa.60:1-6; Ps. 72:1-7, 1-14

Eph.3:1-12; Matt.2:1-12

Scripture selections for childrens' Sunday School

Jan. 2 & 9 Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 16-23 Matthew 4:12-23

Jan. 30 Matthew 5:1-12

Recession Relief Food Pantry

Our next turn for running the Food Pantry will be January 8, from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Joy Crosser is the contact for signing up to volunteer, and can be reached at foodpantry@oldfirst.org.

Peacemaking Offering in October, 2010, **collected** \$696.00 for local and world wide peacemaking work. Thank you for being such a generous congregation.

Maggi's Musings

For the Presbyterian Church, Sunday January 16th is designated as Race Relation Sunday. On this Sunday, many of our churches remember the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, trusting in the power of resurrection and vowing to carry on the work and vision which Dr. King began. We remember that he was a man of faith, ordained at age 19. He had a strong love of God, a deep knowledge of the Bible, and the belief that God's vision was not just for an ancient people but for the current day. Martin Luther King's speech at the Washington Memorial August 28, 1968 was more than a speech; it was a sermon, a prophet's proclamation. He was inspired by the words of the Prophet Isaiah (**ISAIAH 40:4-5**) Those words gave strength, vision, and challenge to people 40 years ago and still do today. This January, I invite you to hear anew the words of Martin Luther King not just as a historical event but as opportunity for the Spirit of God to strengthen and challenge you in 2011.

We are invited to join peoples of all faiths for the 2011 commemoration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday January 17, 2011. We will gather on 4th Street at the Cal Trans hub and then walk to 3rd Street Bridge (next to AT&T Park) for a reenactment of the interfaith march in Selma, Alabama. It was announced by the San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC), one of the sponsors of the celebration, that "clergy and laity of all faiths will join together to walk from the bridge at Third Street to the Martin Luther King Memorial Waterfall in Yerba Buena Gardens in a symbolic remembrance of the march Dr. King led on March 9, 1965, across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, " reports SFIC Chair Rev. James DeLange. The march will take place during the day. (Please see the San Francisco Interfaith Council Website, www.sf-interfaith.org, for more details.)

I plan to take part this year and dream that Presbyterians from Old First and around the city will join together to bear a witness to our vision that one day all God's people will live in peace and wholeness. Is there someone who will help organize a group from Old First? Will you take part and march on this important day? Please email me at maggi@oldfirst.org or check out our website for more details.

Peace,

Pastor Maggi

Excerpts from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's speech August 28, 1968

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama, whose governor's lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.
(ISAIAH 40:4-5)

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring."

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday, January 9 at 9:30 a.m., Pastor Maggi will lead a discussion of your ideas for the classes, subjects, and suggested times for classes through Christian Education in 2011.

Sunday, January 16 at 9:30 a.m. Diane Molberg will lead a discussion of “A Clean Well Lighted Place,” by Ernest Hemingway in the Munro Room. This was rescheduled from an earlier date in December. Contact Diane for more information or copy of the story at molberg@earthlink.net.

MOMENTOUS OLD FIRST CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Leaving no telltale sign of the many seasons it has weathered, the Old First Presbyterian Church building is about to mark a milestone—its centennial.

August 29, 2011 will be the 100th anniversary of the setting of the cornerstone of the new church that replaced the sanctuary destroyed in 1906. “The cornerstone is a remembrance of the significance of the earthquake and this building is a vital piece of the church's history and identity,” Steve Taber, church historian and long time member, recalled.

Taber explained that the church was part of a campaign to contain fires following the quake; to create a “fire wall” to prevent destruction from the fire spreading further west. Since Van Ness Avenue was the widest street in the area, officials decided to deny the fire fuel by destroying all buildings along the eastern side of Van Ness and therefore saved the rest of the city,

Playing a critical role in that disaster was Theodore Burnham of Vallejo who was a conservator of memorials of early Presbyterianism, Taber went on to note. Burnham, caught in the city during the quake, had the presence of mind to dash into the structure before the fire break was launched and rescue the church's 1849 archives.

Taber notes, “He brought the records to the San Francisco Theological seminary and did this deed at considerable risk to his life, because the mayor had ordered soldiers to shoot looters on sight.”

Given that next summer is the anniversary, Taber says a ceremony involving the original institutions who participated in the original groundbreaking is appropriate. Representatives from Calvary Presbyterian, the San Francisco Theological Seminary, The Episcopal Bishop of California, the San Francisco Chronicle and others. Taber said he has broached the subject with Pastor Maggie Henderson but has not taken further action; however, he would like to organize a committee for a celebration.

“The 100th anniversary reinforced our identity as part of the San Francisco community historically and endowed members with a sense of being a part of the community of faith that helped establish the city in the pioneer spirit of the founders of San Francisco,” Taber said.

The author gives special thanks to Steve for his graciousness and patience in taking time to explain details of church history. It is also highly recommended that those interested

check out his fascinating book, "Pioneer Community of Faith, Old First Presbyterian Church, 1849-1999," available in the church library. -Will Roller



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

Friday, January 21, 8:00PM

Navitas Ensemble

Hannah Addario-Berry, *'cello*; Elizabeth Choi, *violin*; Special Guest, Jodi Levitz, *viola*

Works by Bartok, Schulhoff; Schnittke, and Dohnányi

Sunday, January 23, 4:00PM

William Wellborn, *piano*

Celebrating the Bicentennial of Franz Liszt

Works include *Mephisto Waltz, No. I*; *Sonata in B minor*, and *Hungarian Rhapsody, #15*

Friday, January 28, 8:00PM

CMASH

Ann Moss, *soprano*; Steven Bailey, *piano*

Works by O'Malley; Wade; Hegie, and others

Sunday, January 30, 4:00PM

Roy Oakley, *violin*, William Corbett-Jones, *piano*; Carol Rice, *'cello*, Jan Bures, *horn*

Works by Schubert, Brahms (*Trio in E-flat, Op. 40*), and Beethoven

Letter from the Editor

Reflections a Year Later – Diane R. Molberg

One year has already passed in my role of Editor of Shared Life of Old First. Can it be so? As I reflect on my past year in this role, there is much to consider.

The good, of course (and it's all been very good) was having the chance to work one on one with so many of you. While I always thought, in the abstract, the members of Old First Church were creative and intellectually driven, working with so many of you on Shared Life has proven that in fact. I've also learned more about the history of Old First and the Presbyteries in general. When I've asked for a short piece, you have always been there, whether it's a line or two about what you're reading for Book Nook, or a historical piece about our wonderful Church. I need to single out Bill Campbell who always manages to find something interesting to contribute. Heather Losee jumped right in when I asked if she be willing to contribute issues on health and they've been outstanding in enlightening to our physical well-being.

I've thought a lot about what articles have stayed in my memory which is hard considering an entire year. I remember some for their passion, some for their interesting approach. The first that comes to mind is Dr. Becker's piece on the wonderful organ we enjoy which was published in the September issue. Two favorites from the October issue were Mike Berg's piece on "This is my Church," and Terry Stumpf's article on reading the Lectionary. Two pieces both passionate and informative. The February issue included a wonderful piece by Dan Joraanstad on the impact "the Recession Food Pantry" had on colleagues he worked with. What a testament to how the Spirit of God moves in amazing ways. And this month's piece by Lynda Reyder on the Prayers of Jane Austen is a gem!

We've shared our lives in many ways not the least of which was following Buddy Tate-Choy on his bus trip across America (warning: I still have segments remaining!), and Andy Cheng's induction on December 3.

What personally pleases me? I'm happy that John Sebastian sent me to "Google" to find out how to correctly do PDF versions of Shared Life! Thanks, John! I'm glad beyond all measure for Cheryl and Betsy. Two better compatriots in publication I couldn't hope for, and of course for Pastor Maggi's supportive work with me on making *Shared Life* as good as it can be.

What do I regret? That I didn't figure that PDF stuff out sooner. I regret I keep forgetting to put a Table of Contents in the PDF version! What do I want? If you're not getting *Shared Life* by email and you should be, I wish you'd let Cheryl know so she can update your email contact. And if you're not reading *Shared Life* each month, I really wish you would, and finally I wish we would share more of our Christian lives in the pages of *Shared Life*. That said, thank all of you for your patience and great good will. It's been a lovely to share this journey in Christ with all of you. - Diane

Rediscovering Faith through Fiction – Lynda J. Reyder

“...by my ever dear Sister Jane”

Jane Austen, the renowned and beloved author of six classic novels; Pride and Prejudice, Persuasion, Emma, Sense and Sensibility, Northanger Abbey and Mansfield Park, is currently enjoying a resurgence of popularity due to TV adaptations, movies, prequels and sequels, and literary criticism focused on her works.

Yet her prayers have mostly been ignored. Jane's prayers are not meant as literature. She was a clergyman's daughter and two of her brothers were also clergymen. Indeed Jane herself is known to be a person of deep and sincere religious faith. Religion was an essential part of her daily life. Indeed, religious themes run through her novels most notably repentance and redemption. The prayers, however, are communal and familial, and meant to be read aloud at the end of the day by one family member as the others listen. At the end they all join in saying the Lord's Prayer.

Amazingly, only three written prayers survive. First written by Jane they were later copied on two sheets of paper by her brothers or sister, Cassandra, who inscribed the short manuscript with the title “Prayers composed by my ever dear Sister Jane.” In 1957 the manuscript was donated to Mills College in Oakland, where they reside in the Heller Rare Book room of the F.W. Olin Library. They can also be found online at www.mirror.org/Ken.roberts/austen.prayer.html. The three prayers are:

1. An Evening Prayer (One) “Give us Grace...”
2. An Evening Prayer (Two) “Almighty God. Look down with mercy...”
3. Another Day Now Gone (Third Prayer) “Father of Heaven, whose goodness...”

Readers of Jane's novels can see her heroines, and some heroes, must travel a path of self-knowledge that parallels Christ's struggle for forbearance and candor (charity of judgment) referred to in the prayers. Jane Bennet in Pride and Prejudice exemplifies these virtues throughout the novel. Elizabeth and Darcy experience a point of self-knowledge, confess, and reform their behavior. This must be done before there can be a happy resolution. Looking at “Another Day Now Gone” we find these themes/petitions: “to think humbly of ourselves;” “To be severe only in the examination of our own conduct;” “to consider our fellow-creatures with kindness to judge of all they say and do with that charity which we would desire from them ourselves”

In Sense and Sensibility Marianne says, “Whenever I looked toward the past, I saw some duty neglected, or some failing indulged”. Contrast her thought with Jane's lines from the third prayer, “another day is now gone, and added to those for which we were before accountable”. Jane further petitions for “the grace to feel the importance of every day as it passes...” and “earnestly strive to make a better use of what thy goodness may yet bestow on us, than we have done of the time past.”

An excerpt from Prayer Two speaks to our past holiday season and a new start. “We bless thee for every comfort of our past and present existence, for our health of body and of mind and for every other source of happiness which thou hast bountifully bestowed on us and with which we close this day (this year) imploring their continuance from thy fatherly goodness, with a more grateful sense of them, than they have hitherto excited. May the comforts of every day, be thankfully felt by us, may they prompt a willing obedience of thy commandments and a benevolent spirit toward every fellow-creature”.

The Officers of Old First Church

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