

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

**June 2011**

OFPC Website: [oldfirst.org](http://oldfirst.org)

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## **Shared Life Deadlines**

**Please E-mail articles to Diane Molberg: [molberg@earthlink.net](mailto:molberg@earthlink.net)**

**July/August combined issue: by June 12**

**September issue: by August 14**

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June 5 **Name Tag Sunday:** Wear your own name tag and take a look at others'.

June 5 Fund Raising for Children's Library

June 6 Final Day of Children's Church School

The last Sunday for Children's Education was May 29. There will be a modified program for the summer. Adult classes at 9:30 have already ceased for the summer. Watch for special summer adult offerings.

August 27 Cornerstone Celebration

## **LECTIONARY**

June 5 7<sup>th</sup> Sun day of Easter

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10;32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

June 12 Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1

Corinthians 12:3B-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or 7:37-39

June 19 Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2: 4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

June 26 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-13; Matthew 10:40-42

## **Birthdays**

June 9 – Pam Sebastian

June 11 – Sally Spencer

June 12 – Jasun Harmell

June 14 – Dianne Middleton

June 15 – Tom Culp

June 16 – Logan Hollarsmith

June 18 – Nina Krietzman

June 24 – Ariel Krietzman

July 6 – Anne Cheng

July 10 – Bill Feister

July 11 – George Becker

July 15 – Jim Fagler

July 20 – Johnni Olds

July 21 – Sarah Taber

July 22 – Hugh Thacher

July 25 – Pam Byers

July 27 Gabriele Beck

Engeser; Alastar Moore

July 31 Emmy Clausing

## MAGGI'S MUSINGS

Pentecost is a Jewish holy day that celebrated a harvest – that of the first fruits – and also God's gift of the law through Moses on Mt. Sinai. The community did not work on that day and gave thanks to God for both harvest and law.

On Pentecost, Christians remember God's gift of the Holy Spirit, who came upon the disciples that day with the sound of a mighty wind. Tongues of fire appeared on the disciples and they began to speak in other dialects so that all who were gathered in Jerusalem that day could hear the Good News of Jesus Christ in their own language. Peter spoke quoting Joel 2:28-29, and the New Testament tells us that 3,000 people became believers. Read the story in the Acts of the Apostles, Chapters 1 and 2.

We also commemorate Pentecost as the birthday of the church, and explore and give thanks for the variety of gifts and expressions of our faith that the Spirit gives us and that we bring to the church.

We will celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, June 12. The worship committee invited members of the church to come together in May to plan the day and they are incorporating the elements of wind, fire and water into the service. You are encouraged to wear red to the service. Red is the color symbolic of the Holy Spirit. I leave you with a poem by Walter Brueggemann. Peace, Pastor Maggi

### **To make all things new that never were**

We name you wind, power, force and then,  
imaginatively, "Third Person."

We name you and you blow...

blow hard,  
blow cold,  
blow hot,  
blow strong,  
blow gentle,  
blow new...

Blowing the world out of nothing to abundance,  
blowing the church out of despair to new life,  
blowing little David from shepherd boy to messiah,  
blowing to make things new that never were.

So blow this day, wind,  
blow here and there, power,  
blow even us, force,

Rush us beyond ourselves,  
rush us beyond our hopes,  
rush us beyond our fears, until we enact your newness in the world.

Come, come spirit. Amen.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Alberto Barrios Children Library Fund Raiser

June 5, 2011

Come one and come all to select choice books for the Children's Library. These books will be used not only for recreational reading, but also for correlating with the teaching curriculum of the Church School Ministry. The fund-raiser will follow the worship service, June 5, and be held in the Fellowship Hall.

### Pentecost Offering

June 12, 2011

The Pentecost Offering will be received on the day of Pentecost, June 12. This special Offering provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. Our congregation will use 40 percent of the Offering to support ministry with children at risk here in S.F., and the General Assembly's 60 percent portion provides leadership development opportunities for Presbyterian youth and young adults and supports children-at-risk programs at the national level. Since 1998, Presbyterians of all ages have raised over \$7 million for these ministries that benefit younger members of God's family. Our giving to the Pentecost Offering, for children at risk, youth, and young adults, matters. Thank you!!"

### **AIDS Walk, Sunday, July 17, 2011**

Again this year, Old First members and friends can join with other Bay Area Presbyterians on Team #1057, Presbyterians Fighting AIDS. Check out the registration and donation information at <http://www.aidswalk.net/sanfran/>. We will also have sign-up and sponsor information at coffee hours until then. Thank you!!

### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Laying of the Cornerstone

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, August 27

Join in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of Old First Presbyterian Church's building at Sacramento Street and Van Ness Avenue!

## NEWS

### One Great Hour of Sharing

Thanks to Old First Presbyterian members and friends for your great generosity in contributing \$2,400 to "One Great Hour of Sharing" at Easter. This annual Offering received by the Presbyterian Church (USA) supports the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

### Educational Milestones in Old First Presbyterian Church

Congratulations!

Three members of Old First Presbyterian Church are celebrating achievements in education this spring.

- Bryan Nichols recently received a Master of Divinity degree from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA. The commencement ceremony took place at First

- Congregational Church of Oakland on May 22.
- Ariel Krietzman will receive a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Art and a minor in Environmental Studies from Knox College, Galesburg, IL. Commencement will take place June 4.
  - Nina Krietzman received a Certificate of Completion from the San Francisco Unified School District, Mission High School Campus on May 19. She now moves on to be an artist at Creativity Explored two days a week.

### Changes in PCUSA Constitution

#### Amendment 10A

Over thirty years ago, the Presbyterian Church adopted a "definitive guidance" which prohibited "practicing" gay and lesbian persons from ordination as pastors, elders or deacons. Last month, Presbyterians ended those thirty years of oppression! In May, the Presbytery of the Twin Cities became the 87th presbytery to affirm Amendment 10A, which eliminated the ban on ordaining gay men and lesbians in the church's Book of Order. Thus a majority of presbyteries across the nation have affirmed the amendment, as is required to change the Book of Order. The change will go into effect in June, after all the presbyteries have finished voting. In the meantime, we celebrate that God is continuing to work in the Presbyterian Church.

The Presbyterian Church USA now joins the United Church of Christ, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Episcopal Church in explicitly allowing local governing bodies to decide whether to ordain gay, lesbian, and transgender people. Especially gratifying is that Presbyterians made this decision by local presbyteries, small and large across the country, agreeing to this change. Local groups of Presbyterians in Alabama, Tennessee, and many other unexpected places across the country changed their votes from past years and now support local decisions about gay and lesbian ordination.

Old First Presbyterian Church has had a substantial role in this process. Former pastor Tim Hart-Anderson and others began the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, and Elder Pam Byers, who led the organization through most of this time, was very instrumental in changing hearts and minds across the country.

### **BECOMING A COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR**

Jeanne Choy Tate

Since finishing my PhD, my faith has felt dry, lacking in heart. After trying futilely to re-energize my faith in a number of different ways, I reached the conclusion that it wasn't my faith that was lacking but ways to express my faith actively in community. Retired life is very fulfilling: lots of travel, a book contract, and discovering the "diva" within in musical theater. Part of me thinks I am absolutely crazy to try to fit one more thing into my life. But recovering a dynamic, growing faith is just too important for me to ignore. I need to risk moving out of my comfort zone.

Recently, I enjoyed my experience on the Committee on Ministry most when working with congregations in transition. That seems a good fit with my interests in visioning, creating healing community and effective organizational structures. I began to envision working as a consultant/trouble shooter, helping congregations identify issues confronting them and bringing an outside perspective and resources to explore their creative potential for ministry. I am also interested in empowering people's faith development by helping to make scripture relevant to daily lives, especially when they are in the midst of change.

I began conversations with Keenan Kelsey and the Noe Valley Session about working with them in their transition to worshipping at St. Luke's hospital while their church is being renovated. When the Session said they would want me to come as a "pastoral presence," I almost burst into tears. It was as if they could read my heart. Being recognized as a "pastoral presence" is the one thing that I have felt called to that has been missing for much of my life. I came under care of Presbytery 34 years ago and have struggled ever since to find a place in the structure of the institutional church that would allow me to be this. Finally the role of Commissioned Lay Pastor provides a way to define that kind of relationship with Noe Valley.

I will attend Session meetings as a resource person and to advise on organizational structures to support Christian Education, deacons and outreach. Their new worship space is close to my home and I may be able to help them get to know that new neighborhood better. I will also meet with Keenan almost weekly for planning, collegial support and lectionary study. I will help with worship leadership, preaching, and pastoral care as needed. As other needs arise, I may take on additional responsibilities up to five hours a week.

Buddy and I plan to remain members at Old First during this transition period of several years. As it turns out, since I began the conversation with Noe Valley's Session, Keenan unexpectedly went into the hospital for emergency back surgery and is now recovering at home for an extended period. Consequently my presence at this time seems especially appreciated. My approval as a Commissioned Lay Pastor is on the Presbytery agenda for the June meeting. I hope members of Old First will attend my installation service that will probably be on June 19 or 26.

## **REDISCOVERING FAITH IN FICTION**

Diane R. Molberg

"I've never stopped asking myself the question, what do I know for sure."  
Oprah Winfrey

For those who work a nine to five job, who travel extensively, or are occupied with any number of things from child care to shopping, 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 25, 2011 will be just another day, just another hour on television. For those who Tivo that hour, or call in sick to watch it, they know the significance. It will be Oprah Winfrey's last show on ABC.

After 25 years of steering her talk show to the pinnacle of talk-show history, and of making herself a powerful presence in thousands of lives, Winfrey is moving on. She has her own network on cable TV appropriately named OWN. (Oprah Winfrey Network.)

For at least 15 of Oprah's 25 years I never watched her show. I can't remember the first show I saw or what the topic was but from then on, I found myself watching daily. The last few years, I rarely miss an airing. It's hard to identify the power Oprah has except to say that it is generated from her big heart, her warm soul, and from a genuine belief that people can always, always, be better than they are. I like to listen to people like that.

When she was asked, "what do you know for sure?" by the late film critic, Gene Siskel, she couldn't answer. She thought about what is *certain*, what is *real*, what is *true*. This is what evolved as her top 10 things she knows for sure.

1. **What you put out comes back** all the time, no matter what.
2. You **define your own life**. Don't let other people write your script.
3. Whatever someone did to you in the past, **the past has no power over the present**. Only you give it power.
4. When people show you who they are, **believe them the first time**.
5. **Worrying is wasted time**. Use the energy for doing something about whatever worries you.
6. What you believe has more power than what you dream, wish, or hope for. **You become what you believe**.
7. If **the only prayer you ever say is 'thank you,'** that will be enough.
8. The happiness you feel is in **direct proportion to the love you give**.
9. **Failure is a signpost** to turn you in another direction.
10. If you make a choice that goes against what everyone else thinks, **the world will not fall apart**.

What do you know for sure? The consideration of this question offers a good starting point for self-examination, for meditation, or for journal writing.



## REFLECTIONS

Heron Dance, Melody Beattie  
herondance.org

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend."



*Old First Concerts*

Kathy Barr, Director  
Phone: 415-474-1608

[www.oldfirstconcerts.org](http://www.oldfirstconcerts.org)  
\$17 admission

**Sunday, July 18 at 4 PM**

**Daniel Glover**, *piano*

Works by Barber and Chopin, inspired by nationalism.

**Friday, July 23 at 8 PM**

**Solo Acoustic Wizards: Ancient & Modern**

Michael Chikuzen Gould, *shakuhachi*; Mark Deutsch, *bazantar*

**Sunday, July 25 at 4 PM**

**Trevor Stephenson**, *harpsichord*

Works by Bach, Handel and Scarlatti.

**Friday, July 30 at 8 PM**

**Ultra World X-tet**

Gary Schwantes, *saxophones & bamboo flutes*; Weishan Liu, *guzheng*; Winnie Wong, *guzheng*; Raymond Froehlich, *drums & percussion*; Aaron Germain, *bass*

Fusion of East and West for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Friday, August 6 at 8 PM**

**John Ferguson**, *piano*

Works by Beethoven

**Sunday, August 8 at 4 PM**

**Rudy Salvini Octet**

Jazz and standards from the Great American Songbook

**Friday, August 13 at 8 PM**

**EUOUAE**

**Steven Sven Olbash**, *director*

Sacred music from 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century France, including *Messe de Tournai*, Gregorian chant

**Friday, August 20 at 8 PM**

**sfSound**

World Premiere of *Oceanothers* by Erik Ulman, and other works

**Friday, August 27 at 8 PM**

**Yuri Liberzon**, *guitar*

Works by Jarett, the Beatles arranged by Toru Takemitsu, de Visée, Rudnev, and others.

**Sunday, August 29 at 4 PM**

**Lenny Carlson**, *guitar* & **Hal Richards**, *reeds & winds* with **Al Obidinki**, *stringbass*

Works by Ellington, Gershwin and others.

**THE OFFICERS OF OLD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***Deacons*

**Nina Berg**, Communion Clean Up, Funding Requests, Flowers/memorial donations; **Tracy Clagett**, prayer coordinator; **Carol Carter**, Funding Requests, Communion Cleanup; **Dan Joraanstad** (Co-moderator), List of homebound members; **Craig Kehne**, Coffee Hour, Communion Cleanup; **Diane Lewis**, Funding Requests, Birthday, Sympathy, Congratulation cards; **Heather Losee** (Co-moderator); **Harriet MacClean**, Memorial Receptions & Meals; **Dana Nojima**, Merchandise Sales; **Glen Potter**, Transportation; **Annie Scott Rogers**, Deacons' Prayer Chain; **Oliver Spencer**, Special Events; **Sarah Taber**, Memorial Receptions & Meals; **Hornghen Tu**, Technology; **Priscilla Yu**, Funding Requests, Nominating Committee Member.

*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**, Christian Education, **Jeanne Kirkwood**, Clerk of Session, **Mary E. Russell**, Stewardship, Mission & Giving, **John Sebastian**, Planning, **Steve Taber**, Operations, **George Yu**, Christian Education.