

# Shared Life of Old First Presbyterian Church

## May 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)**

**For the June issue: by May 15**

**For the July/August issue: by June 12**

**For the September issue: by August 14**

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### MAY

May 1	Name Tag Sunday: <i>Wear your own name tag and take a look at others'.</i>
May 1-15	Sign Up for Old First Anniversary Luncheon-Social Hall
May 22	Old First Anniversary Luncheon

### LECTIONARY

May 1	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Ps.16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
May 8	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps.116:1-4, 12-19, 1Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
May 15	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Acts 2:42-4; Ps 23; 1Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10
May 22	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Acts 7:55-60; Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14
May 29	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Acts 1:22-31; Ps.66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

### BIRTHDAYS

May 3	Rob LaGatta	June 11	Sally Spencer
May 6	Jemma Fagler	June 12	Jasun Harmell
May 9	Peggy Utterback	June 14	Dianne Middleton
May 15	George Yu	June 15	Tom Culp
May 17	Donald Wilson	June 16	Logan Hollarsmith
May 28	Kathryn Tate	June 18	Nina Krietzman
May 31	Erin Berg	June 24	Ariel Krietzman
June 6	Pam Sebastian	June 25	Evan Wilmouth

**MAGGI'S MUSINGS**

As you read this issue of Shared Life it is at least a week since Easter and we have just celebrated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Eastertide on May 1<sup>st</sup>. But as I write these musings, it is still a few days before Palm Sunday, I am trying to plan a memorial service for Mary Lou Geppinger while still grieving her sudden death, and attempting to get the Holy Week and Easter services details planned. And yet, Easter seems so far away. I know that Easter will come, that the church will be filled, that joyful hymns will be sung, and that we will celebrate Christ risen from dead. We might not know exactly what this all means, but we know it is about Jesus. It is about believing that God is control, about trusting that there is a power greater than the darkest days of our lives, and about living our days as witness to God's amazing love and following in the compassionate, earth shaking steps of Jesus. We live as a people of hope when Easter seems sure and strong and in trust when it feels like glimmer of light so far away. At these times I find myself turning to the wise words of the Presbyterian poet, Ann Weems. She reminds me of the essentials, that it's still about Jesus.

Peace, Pastor Maggi

**It's Still about Jesus**

No matter how we dilute the word of God,

It's about Jesus.

No matter how we cover the dangerous Truth of the gospel,

It's about Jesus.

No matter how we pretty up the story,

It's about Jesus.

No matter how many times we go to our national assemblies *and presbyteries* to vote,

It's still about Jesus.

No matter how many times we distract ourselves with meetings and the good ole Stewardship Campaign,

It's still about Jesus.

Jesus, the Lamb of God,

Jesus, the Light of the World,

Jesus the Prince of Peace,

Jesus, the One chosen to bring good news to the poor,

Jesus, the one sent to proclaim liberty to the captives and to set free the oppressed.

Jesus is my shepherd

I shall not want

I shall not want.

Ann Weems

from Advent's Alleluias to Easters Morning Light, Westminster John Knox Press

**PASTORAL UPDATE**

Maggi Henderson will be on vacation in May including Sundays May 15th and 22nd. She will be traveling in the Middle East including Greece, Israel and Turkey. While she is away in case of pastoral emergency please call your Deacon, an Elder or Office Administer Brad Peterson, during office hours.

## **OLD FIRST CELEBRATES 162 YEARS ON MAY 22, 2011!**

### **MY FAVORITE THINGS**

Celebrate our favorite things about the history and joy of Old First Presbyterian Church at our annual Anniversary luncheon on Sunday, May 22. As the oldest continuously operating Protestant congregation in the State of California, Old First holds the Anniversary Lunch to provide an opportunity to meet and mingle with friends, OFPC church members and visitors.

As you reflect on 162 years of Old First history, look at the church as you've not done before. Consider our rich church history, its architecture, its personal meaning to you. Look at our Hutchings organ, our marvelous stained glass windows, our children's chapel, the exonarthex, and be proud of the Doris Krauss Senior Center, our Welcome Ministry, our neighborhood dinners, our mentoring program and our Saturday Food Bank.

Think of how we have filled this church with friendship, love and music and let our service overflow into the community. This anniversary is a time to celebrate all that we have been and all that we are today. Come and join us.

Signups for the potluck luncheon will continue May 1, 8 and 15 following worship in the Fellowship Hall. If you are not able to bring something, we *suggest a donation* of \$5 that will be used to offset additional costs. See you there!

The Community Building Committee

### **LONG-TIME MEMBERS**

In connection with the anniversary of Old First Presbyterian Church, we acknowledge the following long-time members:

Gold Circle: Members of OFPC for 50 years or more

Bill Wunsch	1953
Euphemia Felicitas	1956
Doris Bebb	1958
Mary Culp	1960
Mary Lou Wilson	1961

Silver Circle: Members of OFPC for 25 years or more

Peggy Utterback 1963, Josephine Yee 1963, Jessie McFadyen 1964, Joan Dills St Clair 1964, Mary MacWilliam 1965, Joe Ballard 1965, Charles Olson 1966, Charles Burns 1970, Charles Rambo 1970, Bill Campbell 1971, Marilyn Campbell 1971, John Sebastian 1972, Pam Sebastian 1972, Cindy Burt 1973, David Maxwell 1974, Chris Burt 1975, Bill Feister 1978, Steve Taber 1979, Sarah Taber 1980, Michael Wilson 1980, Phil Pollock 1980, Augusta Duncan 1980, Tina Wilson 1980, Rose Marie Springer 1980, Jerry Stuart 1981, Rosemary Bledsoe 1982, Nancy Day 1982, Katie Olson 1982, Lori Yamauchi 1982, Mary Culp 1983, Buddy Tate Choy 1984, Jim Fagler 1984, Dan Joraanstad 1984, Glen Potter 1984, Bart Crosby 1983, Greg Free 1983, Pam Free 1983, Mary Carter 1985, Heather Losee 1985, Robin Raborn 1985, Sally Spencer 1985, Jeanne Choy Tate 1986, Harriet MacLean 1986, Daniel Pearch, 1986, Mary Russell 1986

**NEWS FROM THE CHOIR**

Jay Pierson reports that Kaileen Miller, our crystal voiced soprano section leader, will be leaving Old First Presbyterian Church. She is a young, gifted artist and will be spending the summer singing with Central City Opera, then will be off to Richmond, Virginia, to continue her training in the Virginia Opera Young Artist Program. Her last Sunday will be May 15. Please take some time to thank her for sharing her extraordinary talents with us at Old First.

Dr. Jay Pierson

**PENTECOST OFFERING**

The Pentecost Offering is traditionally received on the day of Pentecost. It provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. Congregations are encouraged to keep 40 percent of the Offering to support ministry with children at risk in their communities.

The General Assembly's portion (60 percent) 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.

**AN UPDATE FROM NIGHT MINISTRY**

Did you know that Night Ministry's Crisis Counseling Line is in full-swing 7 days a week, 365 day a year? An emotional crisis can happen anytime, which is why our Night Ministers and Crisis Line Counselors are available to offer support to those in need when most organizations have closed their doors for the night.

From 10 pm to 4 am, every night of the year, Night Ministers and Crisis Line Counselors provide compassionate and non-judgmental pastoral care, counseling, referral services and crisis intervention to callers experiencing loneliness, depression, anxiety, grief and other forms of distress.

Please help us spread the word about Night Ministry so that all in need are aware of this free and confidential resource.

Peace,  
Susan Stevens, Night Ministry Associate



## *The Book Nook*

Glenn is halfway through “Colonel Roosevelt” which is the third of a trilogy, published in 2010. He writes, “I own the other two books of the trilogy and would be glad to loan them to anyone. The second one, “Theodore Rex,” is the best biography or history I have ever read. Of course, I am a long time fan of Teddy.”

I just finished “From the Sultan to Ataturk” which I checked out to learn more about another admirable (though brutal) leader. The current events in the Middle East peaked my curiosity about him. Not a great book but an interesting time in modern history that we may see replicated in the near future in some ways (very valuable lessons to know).

Joy just finished a loaned copy of Isabel Colegate's "The Shooting Party," set in Oxfordshire in the fall of 1913. It is full of hints of the blurring of class distinctions, the delusions of extremists, brutality of sport, so much foreboding and false romanticizing the coming war. It plays out well the interconnections of the choices people make. Colegate sets up certain expectations, and then surprises the reader. Very well crafted, evocative prose.

Mary Russell writes that she thoroughly enjoyed Betty White’s latest autobiography, “Here We Go Again: My Life in Television, 1949-1995”. It includes marvelous photos from all those years, and an update to describe her recent Super Bowl ad and her appearance as host of “Saturday Night Live.” She is ever so bright and witty, and her writing just sparkles; I recommend this enjoyable read to anyone, but certainly to those of us who grew up along with television itself. She treasures genuine friendships with so many people; she’d be a pleasure to know! There are also wonderful and moving stories about her joy at working with animals, and devoted efforts on behalf of shelter animals. Enjoy!!

### **REDISCOVERING FAITH THROUGH FICTION – DIANE R. MOLBERG**

*You cannot travel on the path before you have become the Path itself.* Gautama Buddha  
(from: The Songlines. Bruce Chatwin. 1987)

Stunningly handsome and profoundly charismatic, Bruce Chatwin became a voice for the wanderer, for the self in search of self. With each successive work he became engrossed in an examination of human wandering believing that “people on the move make a natural adjustment towards death.”

A friend described Chatwin as a needle without a compass and Chatwin himself wondered in an almost off-hand way why his eternal restlessness made staying in any one place more than a month, unbearable. He married an Englishwoman and had children, but his soul and mind were on the move. And he was gay.

He mythologized each country and its peoples just as he mythologized himself. Published in 1977, *In Patagonia* became a kind of totem for the nomads of the world who believed, as Chatwin did, that the true self could be found on the way to the top of mountain as much as

on the top of the mountain itself, and that the more remote the journey, the more powerful the epiphany. He sought answers to his constant question: why did the great teachers such as Christ and the Buddha recommend the road as the way to salvation? Published in 1987, *Songlines* follows the Aborigines in Central Australia as they walked these invisible pathways across the continent.

In the late 1980s, Chatwin contracted AIDS. It was a strike against his sense of self, and to his death at the age of 48; he never admitted he had it. He maintained he had fallen victim to a South African mold fungus.

In a pitiful example of the shame and fear associated with this insidious disease, AIDS, to this day, despite the high recognition Chatwin's works are given (he was a brilliant writer), his work is treated with skepticism. "If he lied about his life," some say, "why should we believe what he writes."

*In addition to Songlines and In Patagonia, Chatwin's other books include The Viceroy of Ouidah, On the Black Hill. His letters have just been published: Under the Sun, ed. by Nicholas Shakespeare.*



## *Old First Concerts*

Kathy Barr, Director  
[www.oldfirstconcerts.org](http://www.oldfirstconcerts.org)  
 \$17 general admission, \$14 students/seniors

### **SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2011 AT 4:00PM**

Lori Lack, Christina Mok, & Joanne Lin:  
 Lori Lack, piano; Christina Mok, violin; Joanne Lin, 'cello  
     Dmitri Shostakovich *Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, Op. 67*  
     Jennifer Higdon *Piano Trio*  
     Anton Arensky *Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, Op. 32*

### **FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2011 AT 8:00PM**

The Hausmann String Quartet *with Michael Edwards*  
 Isaac Allen, violin; Bram Goldstein, violin; Angela Choong, viola; Yuan Zhang, 'cello; Special Guest Michael Edwards, clarinet  
     Brahms *Quintet for Clarinet and String Quartet in B minor, Op. 115*  
     Mozart *Quintet for Clarinet and String Quartet in A major, KV 581*

### **SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2011 AT 4:00PM**

Symphony Parnassus: *Voyages*  
 Stephen Paulson, music director; Special Guest Keisuke Nakagoshi, piano  
     Arshak Andriasov *Ballet*  
     Sergei Rachmaninoff *Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor*  
     Antonín Dvořák *Symphony No. 9 in E minor, 'From the New World'*

**FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2011 AT 8:00PM**

Van-Anh Vanessa Vo & Friends

Van-Anh Vanessa Vo, Vietnamese traditional instruments and voice; Freddy Clarke, flamenco guitar and voice; Billy Johnson, drums

**SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2011 AT 4:00PM**

Aleron Trio: *The Music of Women from Three Continents and Romantic Nationalism*

Teresa Yu, piano; Anne Suda, 'cello; Solenn Seguillon, violin

Chen Yi *Tunes from my home*

Jennifer Higdon *Piano Trio*

Cecile Chaminade *Piano Trio No. 1 in G minor, Op. 11*

Antonín Dvorák *Piano Trio No. 4 in E minor, "Dumky", B. 166, Op. 90*

**THE OFFICERS OF OLD FIRST CHURCH**

*[Diane: The "Deacons" section needs editing. Maggi already updated the "Elders" section. -BAP]*

*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, Mary Russell, Stewardship, Mission & Giving; Christopher Burt, Saskia de Vries, Worship; Gregory P. Free, Finance; Pam Byers, Betty Voris, Community Building Committee; Kristi Hoerauf, Finance, Sidney Hollar, George Yu, Christian Education, Jeanne Kirkwood, Clerk of Session, John Sebastian, Planning, Steve Taber, Operations.