

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of
Old First Presbyterian Church

October 2011

Church Website: oldfirst.org

Church Photostream: www.flickr.com/photos/oldfirst

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

Maggi's Musings

This month begins with World Communion Sunday and our annual Peacemaking Offering. By celebrating communion with our sisters and brothers around the world and contributing to the Peacemaking Offering, we support those who work for wholeness, healing, and peace for this city, this country and the world. We do this because we have been called to do so by the Prince of Peace, who longs for us to be peacemakers in this chaotic world.

I am reminded, this year, by how much we need peace in the world and yet how it always feels somehow beyond our reach. I know there is such a need for peace and yet, I admit, I only focus on it for about a week before it drops out of my consciousness. Some thirty years ago, this church signed up as a Peacemaking Church. I think we need to renew that commitment once again. I'm challenging both you and me to return to intentional peacemaking in our prayer and in our everyday interaction with our family, friends, church and city.

1. Seek peace as a focused spiritual practice: Read a different scripture passage about peace (next page) each day, or re-read and meditate upon just one of the passage for a whole week, or pray using the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi.
2. Pray that you can be a peacemaker, pray for peace in this city, and pray for a particular issue or person on the world stage each day.
3. As you go about your everyday live really look for the ways that you can be a person of peace, of wholeness, of hope, of calm in our city.

Let's see how God might transform us and the world this October,

Peace,
Pastor Maggi

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Scripture Passages about Peace

Genesis 1:26-31	God created man in his own image...
Genesis 11:1-9	Let us build ourselves a city... and ... make a name...
Exodus 20:1-17	You shall not kill...
Leviticus 26	I will give peace in the land...
Deuteronomy 30	Choose life, that you and your descendants may live...
Joshua 23:14-16	The Lord will bring upon you all the evil things...
1 Kings 3:3-15	Discern between good and evil...
Psalms 46	God is our refuge and strength...
Psalms 72	May he judge the people with righteousness...
Psalms 85	Righteousness and peace will kiss each other...
Isaiah 2:2-4	They shall beat their swords into plowshares...
Isaiah 9:2-7	Of his government and of peace there will be no end...
Isaiah 11:1-9	The wolf shall dwell with the lamb...
Isaiah 52:7-53:12	Surely he has borne our griefs...
Isaiah 58	Is not this the fast that I choose...
Isaiah 59	The way of peace they know not...
Jeremiah 25	The Lord has an indictment against the nations...
Ezekiel 13:8-16	Visions of peace... when there was no peace...
Ezekiel 34	I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep...
Zechariah 8	Render... judgments that are true and make for peace...
Matthew 5:2-16, 38-48	Blessed are the peacemakers...
Matthew 7:1-14	Judge not that you be not judged...
Matthew 25:21-46	Lord, when did we see you...
Luke 1:67-79	To guide our feet into the way of peace...
Luke 4:1-19	The spirit of the Lord is on me...
Luke 10:29-37	Who is my neighbor?
Luke 19:37-44	Would that... you know the things that make for peace...
John 18:33-38	My kingdom is not of the world...
Romans 5:1-11	We have peace with God...
Romans 12:1-21	Live peaceable with all...
2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Ambassadors for Christ...
Galatians 5	The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace...
Ephesians 2:11-22	He is our peace... and has broken down the dividing wall...
Ephesians 4:1-16	There is one body and one spirit...
Ephesians 6:10-20	Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might...
Colossians 1:9-29	Making peace by the blood of his cross...
1 Thessalonians 5:1-23	Be at peace among yourselves...
James 3:13-4:12	The harvest of righteousness is sown in peace...
1 John 3	This is the message... we should love one another...
Revelations 21:1-22:5	Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...

UPCOMING EVENTS

Peacemaking Offering, October 2

On World Communion Sunday, we will join with Presbyterians everywhere in the Peacemaking Offering. Each congregation is encouraged to retain twenty-five percent of the Offering for local ministries of peacemaking. Twenty-five percent is used by presbyteries and synods, and fifty percent is used by the General Assembly ministries through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Please make check out to Old First Presbyterian Church with "Peacemaking Offering" on the memo line.

The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. It is one of four special offerings designated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly.

All Church Picnic, October 2

Don't forget that following Worship on World Wide Communion, Sunday, October 2, the Congregation will adjourn to nearby Lafayette Park for food, fun and fellowship. You're invited and please bring a guest! It's a fairly easy walk up Sacramento Street to the park, but transportation can be arranged for those who would find it more convenient. Just let a Deacon know.

To complete the World Wide theme, think about bringing a dish that represents your favorite community or place or people. Dress comfortably for church. Consider bringing a hat or light jacket, a blanket or a folding chair. We'll have games for children and adults, talking and eating and drinking—what could be more fun for the Old First crowd? This is an all-new take on our semi regular annual picnic. Let's make it a tradition. Sponsored by the Deacons.

Pastor's Book Discussion, October 2 and October 16

Pastor Henderson will lead discussions of *Broken We Kneel* by Diane Butler Bass in the Library on Sunday, October 2, at 9:30 am and on Sunday, October 16 at 12:30 pm. There is still one copy of the book available for \$10.

Installation of Jeanne Choy Tate as Lay Pastor, October 16

Jeanne Choy Tate will be installed as lay pastor at Noe Valley Ministry on Sunday, October 16, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Luke's Hospital Chapel, 3555 Cesar Chavez at Valencia. Old First Presbyterian Church gives thanks for the start of her new ministry.

All Saints' Sunday Remembrance, November 6

At the beginning of the All Saints' Sunday Remembrance, the names of this congregation's members, friends and family who have died since the last service are read. Between each name a bell will toll. On this day we proclaim our trust in the power of the resurrection and remember the promises as stated in Revelation that "we shall be God's people and God shall be us and will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Death shall be no more, and never again shall there be sorrow or crying or pain."

If there is someone you want to have remembered in this service, please fill out the insert in the worship bulletin October 24 and 31, or send the information to the church office by Monday, November 1. Please be sure to include the person's name and date of death, your own name and relation to the deceased.

CROP Hunger Walk, April 29, 2012

The annual CROP Hunger Walk will not take place as usual in October this year, but instead has been rescheduled to April 29, 2012, again around Lake Merced. The Presbytery organizers hope the date change will help us avoid last year's torrential downpour, and the competition for space with the Nike Women's Marathon!

NEWS

Synod Vice Moderator is Member of Old First Presbyterian Church

Buddy Tate Choy, a member of Old First Presbyterian, has been elected to the post of vice moderator of the PC (USA)'s Synod of the Pacific. Congratulations, Buddy!

New Carpet, Clean-Up Kit

Thank goodness for the new carpet! We are ready for spills! Special thanks go to Elder Steve Taber and all those worked on getting new carpet in the office and hallways. Spills will happen, so look for the "Carpet Cleaning Bucket" with all sorts of supplies in the bathroom next to the church office. If you clean up a spill or see one please report it to our sexton, Fernando Gonzales, and he will do any necessary follow-up.

100th Anniversary of Cornerstone, August 29**Old First Presbyterian Church Receives City Honor**

Over eighty members and guests of Old First Presbyterian Church celebrated the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the present church building on August 29. The evening – full of history, camaraderie, food, music and fun – was capped by the appearance of the Honorable David Chiu, president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Chiu, also a Presbyterian, honored Old First Presbyterian Church with a Certificate of Honor from the Board of Supervisors which praised the church's philanthropic work and the 100th anniversary of the building.

The evening began outside with a ceremony commemorating the original 1911 cornerstone ceremony. The program featured the Reverend Calvin Chinn from the San Francisco Presbytery; the Reverend James McDonald, PhD, president of San Francisco Theological Seminary and the Reverend Christine McSpadden, a canon of Grace Episcopal Cathedral.

Following the ceremony, the crowd gathered in the Fellowship Hall and heard a bit of the history of the church from our pastor, the Reverend Maggi Henderson, Stephen Taber, Chinn, and the Reverend Roger Hull, a former pastor of Old First Presbyterian Church. Roving throughout the hall in 1911 dress were members of the Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild as well as members of the church.

Thanks go to Betty Voris, Stephen Taber and all who helped make the event possible.

Pictures of the event may be found on the church's website: oldfirst.org

THIS MONTH'S FEATURE

Welcome: A Communal Response to Poverty**The Reverend Megan Rohrer, Executive Director of Welcome**

The Welcome ministry has had an amazing year. When I began at Welcome in 2002, our main programs were the Welcome Center (a light lunch from 2:00-4:00 pm on Tuesdays) and

Community Dinners (a full meal every second and fourth Saturday from 5:30-7:00 pm). These programs continue to be the only programs in the city that serve people as they are seated, and staffed by volunteers who eat with the guests. Together these meals serve more than 5,952 meals a year.

In addition to serving meals, our special projects creatively respond to urgent needs facing the homeless in our Polk Gulch neighborhood. In the past, this has included an identification project and creating urban farms. The Free Farm on Eddy and Gough, built in the ashes of St. Paulus Church which burned down in the '90's, is built from materials diverted from the dump and includes a mental health care labyrinth. Since it was created in February of 2010, it has given away more than 4,000 pounds of free produce to the neighborhood, served more than 4,900 lunches, resulted in an adult baptism and taught countless individuals about food justice issues in San Francisco.

This past year, Welcome began using the history and writings of faithful homeless LGBTQ youth from the 60's as bible study with contemporary homeless LGBTQ youth in San Francisco. This project, called Vanguard, resulted in a magazine enabling the youth talk about their issues, a national speaking tour to educate congregations about the issues of LGBTQ youth in San Francisco, and Welcome being invited to talk about our innovative project at conferences including the National End Homelessness Conference.

Most importantly, I want to take this opportunity to our friends at Old First. Without your support, both in the use of facilities and mission giving, Welcome would not be able to continue the programs that for a decade have feed the most vulnerable members of the neighborhood, or to create innovative new ideas that educate congregations and organizations across the country about ways we can faithfully respond to poverty.

WISDOM

Seventeenth Century Nun's Prayer

Lord, You know better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from the craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful, but not moody. Helpful, but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but You know, Lord, I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the endless recital of details and give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally, I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with. But a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me, Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen.

DATES

- October 2 Peacemaking Offering, World Wide Communion Sunday, Picnic
Name Tag Sunday: Wear your own name tag and take a look at others'.
Pastor's Book Discussion: 9:30 am, Library
- October 9 Deadline for November issue of Shared Life; E-mail articles to Diane Molberg:
molberg@earthlink.net
- October 16 Pastor's Book Discussion: 12:30 pm, Library

LECTIONARY

- October 2 Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19:1-14; Philippians 3:4b-14;
Matthew 21:33-46
- October 9 Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9;
Matthew 22:1-14
- October 16 Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10;
Matthew 22:15-22
- October 23 Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8;
Matthew 22:34-46
- October 30 Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13;
Matthew 23:1-12

THE OFFICERS OF OLD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Board of Deacons: **Nina Berg**, Communion Clean Up, Funding Requests, Flowers/Memorial Donations; **Carol Carter**, Funding Requests, Communion Cleanup; **Tracy Clagett**, Secretary; **Dan Joraanstad**, Co-Moderator; **Craig Kehne**, Coffee Hour, Communion Cleanup; **Diane Lewis**, Funding Requests, Cards; **Harriet MacClean**, Memorial Receptions and Meals; **Dana Nojima**, Co-Moderator, Merchandise Sales; **Glen Potter**, Transportation; **AnnieScott Rogers**, Deacons' Prayer Chain; **Oliver Spencer**, Special Events; **Sarah Taber**, Memorial Receptions and Meals; **Hornghshen Tu**, Technology; **Priscilla Yu**, Funding Requests

Elders on Session: **George Becker**, Personnel; **Michael Berg**, Mission and Giving; **Chris Burt**, Worship; **Pam Byers**, Community Building; **Saskia de Vries**, Worship; **Gregory Free**, Finance; **Kristi Hoerauf**, Finance; **Sidney Hollar**, Christian Education; **Jeanne Kirkwood**, Clerk of Session; **Mary Russell**, Mission and Giving; **John Sebastian**, Planning; **Steve Taber**, Operations; **Betty Voris**, Community Building; **George Yu**, Christian Education