

# Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

April 2012

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

Church Photostream: [www.flickr.com/photos/oldfirst](http://www.flickr.com/photos/oldfirst)

Old First Concerts: [www.oldfirstconcerts.org](http://www.oldfirstconcerts.org)

## MAGGI'S MUSINGS

I was asked once to explain Easter, this Jesus and resurrection stuff. The person hoped that I could somehow make understandable, explainable, reasonable this great mystery and joy of the life of faith-the resurrection. I am sure my answer was a disappointment – I invited the questioner to come to Holy Week services: to the foot-washing and last supper of Maundy Thursday, to the dark day of betrayal and death on Good Friday, to join in grief, waiting, and a sliver of hope at the Easter vigil on Saturday and then to celebrate with us on Easter when we would joyfully proclaim “Christ is Risen! Risen indeed!” It is more of an experience to live than an equation to be proved, more of a hope to be nurtured than a fact to be explained. I do know that Jesus was more than just a wise man. Even death did not hold him. For me it means that darkness and evil never have the last and final word. Jesus’ resurrection is at the core of who we are and who we long to be. As A.M. Ramsey said “No resurrection? No Christianity.” For me Easter means hope still lives in the worst of times and acts of compassion and justice still take place in the most dire of days, that ordinary people join together to follow the ways of Jesus and do gentle and exceptional acts, and that new life and change erupt from people (from us) for whom no hope, no change seemed possible.

I invite you, I urge you, and I challenge you not to be casual about Holy Week and Easter this year. Make time, make a commitment, and open your heart to mystery. Leave your self-open to listen, to be expectant, and to be on the alert for the presence of God in your midst. I invite you to read and to walk into and through the story with scripture anew this year. Read the texts in the morning and again at night. See how your day interacts with the scripture and informs your understanding.

Monday: John 12:1-11

Tuesday: John 12:20-36

Wednesday: John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday: John 18:1-19:42

Saturday: John 19:38-42

Easter Sunday: Mark 16:1-8

Commit to coming to worship during Holy Week or find a church that has a noon time or evening service near your home or your work. Join us at Old First Presbyterian Church on Palm/Passion Sunday, April 1 at 11:00; on Maundy Thursday, April 5 at 6:30 pm for foot-washing and communion, when we will be joined by the congregation of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church; and on Good Friday, April 6 at 8:00 pm for a Tenebrae Service of scripture and music. On Saturday evening you can celebrate the vigil of Easter at nearby Grace Cathedral at 7:00 pm (family service) and at 9:00 pm (choral service). And then come with your hearts thrilling with the light and good news on Easter morning at 11:00 at Old First Presbyterian Church! Let yourself live the story, the emotions, the grief and the resounding joy.

Peace, Maggi

**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO HOLY WEEK AT OLD FIRST**

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**Palm/Passion Sunday, April 1**

11:00 am: Worship with Procession of Palms

**Maundy Thursday, April 5**

6:30 pm: Foot-Washing and Communion with Our Neighbors from St. Luke's Episcopal Church

**Good Friday, April 6**

8:00 pm: Candlelight Tenebrae Service of Music and Scripture

**Easter Sunday, April 8**

9:00 am: Easter Pancake Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

11:00 am: Resurrection of the Lord: Worship with Communion, Lilies, Brass and Tympani.

There's no better time to invite your friends to church! The sanctuary will be beautiful; the choir is preparing lots of special music; and you know Maggi will be eloquent and moving. Plan to be here, and bring neighbors or co-workers who don't have a church home but would benefit from Old First's fellowship and the profound messages of this season. Studies routinely show that most people come to church because someone invited them!

One special suggestion: post your intention to worship at any or all of these services on your own FaceBook page, inviting others to join you. Thanks!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, April 8**

Old First will again make our offerings to One Great Hour of Sharing as part of our Easter celebration, April 8. Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Bring in your "fish" boxes and make out your checks to Old First Presbyterian Church with OGHS on the memo line.

**Installation of Church Officers**

On Sunday, April 15, Old First Presbyterian Church will ordain and install new members of the session and board of deacons at the 11:00 am worship service. Please plan to be present to support these people called to lead our congregation in its varied and many ministries.

**April Deacon's Meeting, April 15**

The board of deacons will meet on Sunday, April 15, at 12:30 pm in the Munro Room.

**Sabbath Economics: Durst Organic Growers, April 24**

On Tuesday April 24, from 10:00am to 1:00pm, Durst Organic Growers in association with Countryside Community Church will presents a farm field visit called: Sustainable Agriculture – Sustainable Churches – Sustainable Communities. See the full page display in this issue of Shared Life.

**Discussion with Steve Taber: Politics and Christianity, April Date to be Announced**

Steve Taber will host another discussion regarding politics and Christianity at his home in April. The topic will be the manner in which people of faith engage in political discourse in a secular political environment. How can we achieve balance between attempting to impose religious values on one hand and banishing religion from public dialogue altogether? You are invited to this discussion at the Taber's home at 1170 Green Street. The plan is to start at 6:30 pm with a light meal and to conclude by 8:30. If you are interested, call Steve at 771-3358 or e-mail him at [stephen@sstaber.com](mailto:stephen@sstaber.com) for the specific day and date.



Toward a Church as **GENEROUS**  
and **JUST** as God's Grace...

**A Season of Welcome: Coming Out as an Inclusive Church,  
a Covenant Network Mini-Conference**  
**April 28, 2012**  
**9am - 1pm**  
**Davis Community Church**  
**Davis, CA**

Registration deadline - April 15  
You can register on-line by visiting [www.covnetpres.org](http://www.covnetpres.org)  
or print out a registration form to send in via mail.  
Join us!

2515 Fillmore Street • San Francisco, CA 94115  
415 351 2196 (phone) • 415 351 2198 (fax)  
[www.covnetpres.org](http://www.covnetpres.org)

**CROP Hunger Walk, April 29, 2012: *There is Enough for All***

CROP Hunger Walks help children and families worldwide and right here in the US to have food for today, while building for a better tomorrow. Local efforts make a huge difference and Old First Presbyterian Church members, families and friends are once again part of it!

Founded in 1946, Church World Service (CWS) is a cooperative ministry of more than thirty Christian communions working together to eradicate hunger and poverty and promote peace and justice among the world's most vulnerable people. Within the United States, CWS assists communities in responding to local hunger and disasters, resettles refugees, promotes fair national and international policies, provides educational resources, and offers opportunities to join a people-to-people network of local and global caring through participation in CROP Hunger Walks, among other programs.

Look for the signup sheet at coffee hour or see Mary Russell. You can be a Walker, or you can generously sponsor others to walk. The CROP Hunger Walk is great opportunity for exercise, a beautiful walk all around Lake Merced, and chance to do something that matters.

Location: Lake Merced- Parking Circle at Sunset Blvd/Lake Merced Boulevard

Registration: 1:30 pm, Walk: 2:00 pm

**All Church Retreat, September 28-30**

Save the dates for Old First Presbyterian Church's all church retreat coming up this September 28-30 at the Mount Hermon retreat center.

**NEWS**

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**Farewell to Organist Dennis Flynn**

Our organist, Dennis Flynn, will be leaving Old First Presbyterian Church. His last Sunday will be Easter Sunday, April 8. Dennis has accepted a position as organist at the Episcopal Church of the Saviour in Hanford, California. We wish him a fond farewell and much success and thank him for his time and talents that he shared with us at Old First Presbyterian Church.

**Pastor Henderson's Sabbatical**

One part of Pastor Maggi's "terms of call" is a sabbatical of several weeks after a number of years of service. She will begin her sabbatical on the day after Pentecost and will return for the church retreat: June 3 to September 28. In preparation for her sabbatical the session has formed a *Sabbatical Group* to ensure that all eventualities are covered. The Worship Committee has the big task of arranging for ministers to preach and to administer communion; this presents us with the exciting opportunity of asking various people, including our own church members to preach. Elders and Deacons, along with Erwin Barron and Susan Ashton, will take the pastoral role with home and hospital visits. Volunteers will help Brad in the office with the work day inquiries. If you would like to help, have questions or have suggestions, please contact any member of the Sabbatical Group: George Becker, Christopher Burt, Saskia de Vries, Jeanne Kirkwood, Mary Russell.

**DORIS KRAUSS SENIOR CENTER: REPORT FROM GENIE KINNEY**

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**Senior Center Needs Volunteers!**

Are you looking for a way to be of service to your church and community? The Doris Krauss Senior Center would like to train interested people to help with the following activities:

- To shop for our meal on Monday, to be the greeter or to help serve the meal at noon
- To play mahjong with seniors and/or teach the game to others -or new games of interest
- To participate in the singing at 1:00 pm
- To help in the Senior Center office doing clerical work and using the computers
- To sort through the computers we have and recycle those that don't work and set up those that do
- To help seniors learn how to use the Internet
- To plan a program or projects for the seniors

If you have a particular gift you would like to share or would like to volunteer in some capacity please call me at 871-4580 or come for lunch at the center on Monday's at noon.

Our volunteers at the Center are the backbone of our program. Two of our longest serving volunteers are Don Pender and Sarah Taber. Don Pender comes to the Center on the first Monday of the month to play music during the lunch hour. He then leads the singing in the afternoon. He has been coming as a volunteer for the five years of my tenure at Old First, and for a number of years before that. He is not only a talented musician but also very kind and gentle with all of us who join in the music program. Don also visits with seniors who were once members of the Center but can no longer attend. Don quietly gives to us the gift of music and a graceful love for all who attend on a Monday.

I also want to thank Sarah Taber for her service and her love of the seniors. Sarah is the last volunteer who knew Doris Krauss, our founder. Sarah gave her time and talents so the seniors would have a place to meet each week. Sarah shopped for the groceries each week, did massages for the seniors and served on the commission for the senior center. Sarah is on a well-deserved sabbatical and she is missed by one and all. I want to thank Sarah for the help she gave to me, as director, when I arrived five years ago. I could not have done the work at the center if not for her support.

### **Senior Center White Elephant Sale**

The Senior Center is having a sale (White Elephant or Jumble?) on Monday, April 23 from 10 am to 2 pm. You are invited to bring your items for us to sell on Monday, April 16. We hope you will join us for lunch on April 23. We have delicious meals and on April 23 we will be asking for \$5.00 for an entree, salad and dessert. (We have a wonderful dessert chef.) Please join us on April 23. All are welcome.

### **Senior Center Exercise with Raphael**

Please join our gentle exercise program at 1:30 pm every Monday. A one-time donation of \$10.00 would be appreciated. Raphael is a certified therapist and works especially with seniors. This program would be very good for people who need to begin exercising and want a beginners' course. As an extra bonus you could come early and have lunch at noon. (Our meal and desserts are so good you will need the exercise class to just break even.)

### **A LETTER FROM LOGAN DONALDSON**

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Dear Old First Presbyterian Church:

My dreams of climbing the Eiffel Tower for an unbelievable panoramic view of Paris, of cooking with Austrian chefs, and of experiencing authentic European life during a home stay with a welcoming host family are coming true! I want to see the world, connect with other cultures, and gain the independence only travel can bring. However, I need your help to make these dreams a reality.

I have been accepted as a *People to People Student Ambassador* to the European Discovery program in the summer of 2012! I will be traveling with a delegation of kids my age, led by experienced teachers, engaging in a wide variety of cultural encounters and adventures. Our journey will take us to historical sites, famous landmarks and unique cultural experiences. Our curriculum will teach us about the history, culture, and people of the region. After all, there is no better way to learn about culture than to experience it firsthand, through home stays and school visits. Along the way, we'll be eating some interesting local foods. Our twenty day route goes through Switzerland, Austria, France and Italy. Needless to say, I am incredibly excited. If you would like more information on the program, please contact me personally or visit [www.peopletopeople.com](http://www.peopletopeople.com). It's going to be a whirlwind tour.

I am paying my way and raising money for the program. The cost of the program is \$7,700. I have been reaching out to friends and family. Would you be willing to help sponsor my trip? I would be enormously grateful for your support. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers.  
Logan Donaldson

### **RESOURCES FOR DEVOTIONS AND BIBLE STUDY**

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#### **Devotions in Print and On-Line**

Maggi recommends two more resources for devotions during the Easter Season:

- *Daily Feast: Meditations from Feasting on the Word: Year B*, a lectionary-based devotional series for this year's readings will be available soon for \$15.00 at coffee hour after worship.
- *d365.org* is an on-line daily devotional sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Episcopal Church and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; simply navigate to [www.d365.org](http://www.d365.org).

#### **The Discipleship Study Bible: NRSV Including Apocrypha**

Pastor Henderson has found a new, useful study Bible: The Discipleship Study Bible (New Revised Standard Version). One reviewer said, "While many study Bibles are either conservative and focus purely on personal piety or else are so full of historical-critical details that the average reader gives up in frustration, The Discipleship Study Bible maintains a strong emphasis on issues of social justice and

service while respecting the importance of personal spiritual growth.” This edition includes colored maps and a concordance. These paperback Bibles cost \$20 (a 40% savings over retail). They will be on sale in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

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### QUICK FACT

#### **Why is it Called *Easter*?**

“Easter,” the English name for the season celebrating the Resurrection of Christ is derived from the name of a Germanic dawn goddess whose festival was in springtime – the early missionaries introduced the new Christian festival but left old name. The word is also related to the English word “East” (whence comes the dawn) and the Latin “aurora,” also meaning dawn. Though the association of dawn or sunrise with the new life Christ’s resurrection brings might be poetically appropriate, other languages call Easter by more obviously theological names. Spanish “pascua” and French “paques” are both derived from the Hebrew feast of Pesach, more commonly called Passover in English. (Compare the English adjective “paschal.”) The Slavic languages are even more direct: Russian’s “Voskresenyie” literally means Resurrection, which –with one vowel dropped: “voskresyenyie” – becomes the name for *every* Sunday starting the week.

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### WORSHIP SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT OLD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### **Palm/Passion Sunday, April 1**

11:00 am: Worship with Procession of Palms

#### **Maundy Thursday, April 5**

6:30 pm: Foot-Washing and Communion with Our Neighbors from St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

#### **Good Friday, April 6**

8:00 pm: Candlelight Tenebrae Service of Music and Scripture

#### **Easter Sunday, April 8**

9:00 am: Easter Pancake Breakfast

11:00 am: Resurrection of the Lord: Worship with Lilies, Communion, Choir, Brass and Tympani.

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### OTHER DATES TO NOTE

Sunday	April 1	Name Tag Sunday: Wear your name tag and take a look at others’.
Saturday	April 14	Welcome: Community Dinner, 5:30 pm
Sunday	April 15	Deacons’ Meeting, 12:30 pm
Sunday	April 15	Deadline for Next Month’s Issue of Share Life
Tuesday	April 24	Session Meeting, Munro Room, 7:00 pm
Saturday	April 28	Welcome: Community Dinner, 5:30 pm

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### The Officers of Old First Presbyterian Church

#### **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; Jeanne Kirkwood, clerk of session; Mary Russell, mission and giving; John Sebastian, planning; Steve Taber, operations; Betty Voris, community-building; George Yu, Christian education

#### **Board of Deacons**

Nina Berg, funding requests, communion clean up, flowers/memorial donations; Carol Carter, funding requests, communion cleanup; Tracy Claggett, secretary; Dan Joraanstad, co-moderator; Craig Kehne, coffee hour, communion clean-up; Diane Lewis, funding requests, cards; Harriet MacLean, 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; Hornghsheng Tu, Technology; Priscilla Yu, Funding Requests

### **QUICK FACT**

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#### **Christ is Risen!**

The Easter greeting – rendered in English in various ways, including “Alleluia. Christi is Risen!” with its response “Risen indeed. Alleluia!” – goes back to Koine Greek, the language of the New Testament and the first Gentile Christians. In Greek it goes like this: “Alleluia. Christós Anésti!” “Alithós Anésti. Alleluia!” And “alleluia” has even a longer history. The Greek speaking Christians borrowed the praise-shout from Hebrew – “hallelujah” or in old-fashioned English “praise ye, Jehovah!”