

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

December 2012

Church Website: oldfirst.org

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

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

MAGGI'S MUSINGS

The season of Advent, a time of reflection and preparation before Christmas, begins with the First Sunday of Advent on December 2. If we look and listen to a secular calendar or store windows one would think that Christmas is already upon us and that it has little to do with the birth of Christ. But we, as disciples of Jesus, work and live by a different calendar as we seek to walk in the way of Jesus – not just during this season – but 365 days a year. Advent is indeed the new year on the Christian calendar and I challenge you to set yourself on a new path this season. And Old First Presbyterian Church offers a variety of ways to do just this in worship and at home.

In Worship

- Preaching this Advent will focus on the first two chapters of Luke. Please take time to read and reflect on these chapters and how the following people of faith take part in the birth of Christ:

Zechariah	December 02	Luke 1:1-23
Mary	December 09	Luke 1:26-30
Elizabeth	December 16	Luke 1:24-25, 39-45, 57-66
Gabriel and the Angels	December 23	Luke 1:11-19, 26-37
The Shepherds	December 30	Luke 2:8-20

- In the chapel you will be able to explore the weekly scripture readings through a multi-sensory prayer station and art experience for all ages. Visit the chapel during distribution of communion, before or after worship over the next weeks, or on weekdays.

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At Home

- Take home a devotional booklet for Advent and make a commitment to read it during each week. Set a realistic goal, like reading it three times a week and consider every other opportunity a bonus. Call or E-mail the church office and ask for a copy if you won't be at church.
- Visit San Francisco Theological Seminary's website (<http://www.sfts.edu>) and sign up for their daily devotional. The seminary invites you to join them in reflection and prayer through daily Advent devotions from December 2 through Christmas, December 25. These daily devotions are written by SFTS students, alums, faculty, staff and trustees. They are the seminary's gift to the SFTS community, family, friends, and the larger church. This year's theme is "Hope of All the Earth." It comes from the beloved Advent hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" written by Charles Wesley. The hymn is based on Haggai 2:7 and Isaiah 9:6.
- Before Each Sunday take time to read, reflect and pray with each week's scripture.

Peace, Pastor Maggi

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mission Fair and Christmas Potluck, December 2

Enjoy a potluck lunch while learning about all the mission work that Old First Presbyterian Church supports. Beginning immediately after the service, you can contribute a dish to share or, as usual, make a donation and share in all the festive foods.

Our church, through its mission budget, is proud to support the fine work accomplished by some very effective organizations – locally, nationally and internationally. The local organizations invited to participate in our annual Mission Fair include the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, Edge/Ecumenical House at San Francisco State, Larkin Street Youth Services, San Francisco Network Ministries, the San Francisco Night Ministry, the San Francisco Food Bank, San Francisco General Hospital Sojourn Chaplaincy, the San Francisco Interfaith Council, Temenos, and Welcome/Faithful Fools.

Also represented will be the Albert Barrios Children’s Library, our choir, the Board of Deacons, the Peace & Justice Committee and the Doris Kraus Senior Center.

Christmas Eve Party Before Worship, December 24

Members of Old First Presbyterian Church and their friends are invited to a Christmas Eve party at the home of Steve and Sarah Taber, prior to the Christmas Eve service at Old First Presbyterian Church. The Taber’s will provide a ham and turkey and you are invited to contribute side dishes, desserts or wine.

When: December 24, 2012 from 5:30 to 7:45

Where: 1170 Green Street (just above Hyde Street)

Transportation: 19, 45, 41 and Hyde Street cable car

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF

Give a Christmas Gift for a Homeless Young Person

Bring a Christmas gift to church and help Larkin Street Youth Services brighten the holidays for over 450 young people staying Larkin Street’s emergency shelters and transitional living facilities or accessing Larkin Street’s Drop-In Center and programs.

Gifts do not need to be expensive. Everyday items are much needed. All gifts must be *new and unwrapped*. Some items on the young people’s wish lists this year:

Gifts	Personal Care Items	Cothing/Household
MP3 players	Toothbrushes/toothpaste	Ponchos/umbrellas
Headphones	Deodorant	Jackets
Bike helmets	Sewing kits	Hooded sweatshirts
Backpacks	Razors/shaving cream	Socks
Gift cards	Brushes/combs	Shoes/sneakers
Muni tokens/BART passes	Beauty products	Alarm clocks
Purses/wallets	Hair dryers	Dishes/pots/pans
2013 day planners/journals	Shampoo/conditioner/lotions	Towel sets

You can drop off your gift at Old First Presbyterian any time up to Sunday, December 9. Look for Bill or Marilyn Campbell at the coffee hour. (We can take gifts to Larkin Street’s Drop-In Center at 1138 Sutter Street (Larkin/Polk) through **Friday, December 14.**)

Larkin Street offers innovative and comprehensive services that give homeless and at-risk youth ages 12-24 the tools they need to reclaim their lives and become self-sufficient adults. Three out of four youth who complete Larkin Street’s comprehensive program escape the street.

OTHER NEWS

Counting our Blessings

At the **Doris Krauss Senior Center** we have been blessed by the leadership and ministry of the Reverend Genie Kinney as our director for the last six years. Genie will be retiring from the senior center at the end of this year and will then begin her well-earned “real” retirement. We will celebrate her ministry on Monday, December 17, at the senior center noon lunch. All who have taken part in or worked at the Senior Center during her tenure are invited to join in the celebration.

The session has put together a task force to review, to explore, and to “vision” what the Doris Krauss Senior Center’s future might look like. During this time of reflection, our church member Jan Hammock will serve as interim director through the February. The senior center task force sees this time as an opportunity to see where the church’s passion and energy meet the needs of the wider community. The task force will be seeking the congregation’s wisdom, thoughts and prayers in the months to come.

Columbarium Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the **Columbarium Society of Old First Presbyterian Church** was held on October 28 in the church library. Nine members of the society and one invited guest were present. Fittingly for the season around All Saints’ Day, the meeting was opened with a devotional remembrance of the lives and work of Florence and Lorna Logan, sisters important in the history of Old First Presbyterian Church and of the city of San Francisco.

Columbarium events of the year to date were related. Most prominent of these was the May interment of William “Bill” Wunsch’s ashes. Bill was a beloved Old First Presbyterian Church. He passed away in April. It was also reported that there has been active interest this year in niches and plaques, and the Columbarium Fund has been able to repay nearly one-third of the amount owed to the church for final construction costs of the columbarium. At the conclusion of the meeting, attendees gathered in the candle-lit chamber to share a prayer of thanksgiving for the faithful service of those who rest in the Lord.

The Columbarium Society is made up of all who have purchased a niche or a plaque in our columbarium. For more information, please contact any member of the Columbarium Ministry Team: Tracy Clagett, Bill Feister, Bob Fleming, Linda Reyder, Mary Russell, or Steve Taber.

Old First in the Redwoods

At the end of last September Old First Presbyterian Church went on retreat. We gathered under beautiful blue skies and tall redwoods at Mt. Herman, a retreat center in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The rooms were nice, the food was surprisingly good, and access through the various buildings and open spaces of the site was easy. Some churches have gone year after to year Mt Hermon. (To learn more about Mt. Hermon, visit <http://mounthermon.org>.)

Our retreat leader, Elizabeth “Dean” MacDonald, was creative in her approach to our goals of fun and fellowship. Through guided and interactive small groups she drew us into conversation about our faith and our lives. We sang many hymns, had Saturday afternoon off for hiking or playing on the famous Santa Cruz Boardwalk, and grew a little closer together, through these shared experiences.

Because of the generous donations of several people, the Board of Deacons, which sponsored this year’s retreat, had costs of less than \$800. Big thanks go to Nina Berg and Jeanne Kirkwood for their organizational leadership, as well as to Chris and Cindy Burt, Glen Potter, Greg Free, Dana Nojima, Erwin Barron, Pam Byers, and others in the congregation who helped in many ways.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY: THE SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER, 2012

Date	Day	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel Reading
Dec 02	Advent 1	Jer. 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Thess. 9:13	Luke 21:25-36
Dec 09	Advent 2	Mal. 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Phil. 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Dec 16	Advent 3	Zeph. 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Phil. 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Dec 23	Advent 4	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:46-55 or Psalm 80:1-7	Heb. 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
Dec 24	Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96:1-13	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
Dec 25	Christmas Day	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 98:1-9	Heb. 1:1-14 (5-12)	John 1:1-14
Dec 30	Sunday after Christmas	1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26	Psalm 148	Col 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52

OTHER DATES TO NOTE

Sunday	12/02/12	Mission Fair and Christmas Potluck after Worship
Sunday	12/09/12	Deacons' Meeting, Sarah Taber's Home
Saturday	12/15/12	Presbyterian Women
Monday	12/24/12	Christmas Eve Service 8:00 pm

The Officers of Old First Presbyterian Church

Session

George Becker, personnel; Michael Berg, mission and giving; Chris Burt, worship; Pam Byers, community-building; Barry Clagett, finance; Saskia de Vries; Bill Feister, Christian Education; Gregory Free, treasurer; Jeanne Kirkwood, clerk of session; Mary Russell, mission and giving; Randy Smith; Steve Taber, operations; Betty Voris, community-building

Board of Deacons

Nina Berg, communion clean up, flowers/memorial donations; Carol Carter, funding requests; communion cleanup; Samuel Cheng; Joy Crosser; 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; Leota Parker; Glen Potter, transportation; AnnieScott Rogers, deacons' prayer chain; Oliver Spencer, funding requests, special events; Sarah Taber, memorial receptions and meals; Horngsheng Tu, technology