

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

July/August 2012

Church Website: oldfirst.org

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

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

SUMMER SERMONS

Our summer “festival of preaching” continues in July and August, as Pastor Maggi continues on sabbatical. Be sure to join your friends in worship at Old First Presbyterian Church as often as you can this summer!

Preaching and celebrating communion on **July 1** and **July 15** will be the Reverend Dr. **Carol Miles**. Carol was ordained in San Francisco Presbytery in 2000 but spent the next decade teaching homiletics (preaching) at Austin Presbyterian Seminary in Austin, Texas and at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. She returned to the Bay Area in 2009 and served for three years as Executive Director of Westminster House and Presbyterian campus pastor at UC Berkeley. She is in wide demand as a conference and retreat leader.

Elder **Saskia de Vries** will preach on Sunday, **July 8**. A member of Old First since 2009, she is a Team Leader at the Interfaith Food Pantry. She chairs the Worship Committee and often enlists her partner, artist Colleen Sanders, to help with liturgical art projects (such as the Pentecost flames behind the choir). With degrees from both Yale and Harvard, Saskia is a postdoctoral research fellow in neurobiology at Stanford Medical School. Her article, “The Brain on Faith,” which was excerpted in the June edition of *Shared Life*, will be reprinted soon in *The Christian Century*.

Joining us on **July 22** is the Reverend **Calvin “Cal” Chinn**. After several other pastorates on the West Coast, he was pastor of the English-language congregation of San Francisco’s Presbyterian Church in Chinatown for 16 years. Since “retiring” on the 40th anniversary of his ordination, he has led continuing education events for Bay Area clergy, has coordinated our presbytery’s Commissioned Lay Pastor program, and has served for a year as the presbytery’s Transitional Executive Presbyter. He and his wife Sharon Wells are longtime friends and occasional visitors at Old First Presbyterian Church.

The Reverend **Kristina Robb-Dover** will preach for us on Sunday, **July 29**. A 2005 graduate of Princeton Seminary, she is a Minister Member of Greater Atlanta Presbytery. In addition to serving as a “marketplace chaplain” and providing pastoral care and spiritual counseling to private companies in greater Atlanta, she is working on her first book; *Grace Sticks: The Bumper Sticker Gospel for Restless Souls*, which will debut next year. She muses on the intersection between life and God at the Beliefnet blog, “Fellowship of Saints and Sinners.” She and Saskia de Vries met as students at Yale.

The Reverend **Keenan Kelsey** will preach and celebrate communion on Sunday, **August 5**. Keenan is a longtime friend of Old First Presbyterian Church; she came back to faith as her

daughter Megan was professing her faith and joining the church. Keenan felt a call to ministry while a member here, graduated with honors (and the preaching prize) from San Francisco Theological Seminary, and was ordained at Old First Presbyterian Church in 1996. Since 1999 she has been the Pastor of Noe Valley Ministry in San Francisco.

On Sunday, **August 12**, we will welcome the Reverend Dr. **Teresa Chavez Saucedo** to our pulpit. Teresa is an educator, facilitator and consultant in cultural proficiency, organizational transformation and multicultural church. She is adjunct faculty at SFTS, has published several articles on racial justice and U.S. Latino theology and is currently working with Presbyterian Women on their anti-racism initiative. Teresa is a minister member of the Presbytery of San Francisco, and Parish Associate at Community Presbyterian Church, Pittsburg.

The Reverend **Scott Clark** will preach and celebrate communion on **August 19**. Scott is Chaplain and Associate Dean of Student Life at the San Francisco Theological Seminary. A second-career pastor following a successful career in the law, Scott has continued to use his legal skills as counsel to the Reverend Jane Spahr during her several church trials for marrying same-gender couples. Scott was the second openly gay clergyman ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) after passage of Amendment 10-A. He and his husband Jeff live in San Rafael.

On **August 26**, Elder **Michael Berg** will preach and lead worship along with other volunteers and clients at the Welcome Ministry. Michael and his wife Nina joined Old First Presbyterian Church in 1995 and quickly involved the church in the Names Project (the AIDS Memorial Quilt), of which he was Board Chair. Michael currently heads Old First Presbyterian Church's stewardship programs. Recently retired from a successful accounting practice, he recruits volunteers for and hosts one of the two monthly community dinners at Welcome. Michael and other leaders will reflect on how their faith influences and inspires their work at Welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AIDS Walk, Sunday, July 15

Old First Presbyterian Church members and friends can join with other Bay Area Presbyterians on Team #1057, "Presbyterians Fighting AIDS," for the annual AIDS Walk. The 10 km (6.2 mile) walk takes place in Golden Gate Park starting and ending at Sharon Meadow. Check out the registration and donation information at <http://www.aidswalk.net/sanfran/>. There will also be sign-up and sponsor information at coffee hours until then. This is the schedule: 9 a.m. Sign-In and Awards Open, 9:45 a.m. Opening Ceremony, 10:30 a.m. AIDS Walk Begins, 12:30 p.m. Post Walk Concert, 2:30 p.m.

Interfaith Food Pantry, July 28, August 25

Old First Presbyterian Church will staff the Interfaith Food Pantry July 28. At least 18 volunteers are needed. August 25, the food pantry will be staffed by all the churches. On that day 4-6 volunteers will be needed from our church. Please contact Joy Crosser to volunteer for either of these days.

For the month of July, bring rice and pasta to contribute to the SF Food Bank. In August, please bring canned meat to contribute. The barrel for contributions is in the narthex. (No glass containers, please.)

Summertime Sunday Potluck, July 29

It's summertime and, although we won't be having a picnic this year because of renovations to Lafayette Park, we will be having a Summertime Sunday Potluck on July 29 following worship. We will supply the hot dogs and buns and you can supply everything that goes with it: salads, side dishes, desserts! All are welcome. For those unable to bring food to the potluck, donations will be accepted. Mark your calendar and be prepared to enjoy summer feasting at Old First Presbyterian Church.

OLD FIRST IN THE REDWOODS, SEPTEMBER 28-30

Carrying on with the venerable tradition of Old First Presbyterian Church Retreats, the deacons and a Retreat Project Team led by Dan Joraanstad and Nina Berg have been busy planning for Old First in the Redwoods. Mark your calendar for the last weekend of September 28-30. The weekend retreat will be held at Mt. Hermon's modern facility in the coastal Santa Cruz Mountains at an all-inclusive cost of \$212. Scholarships are available as needed and children under 12 can participate at no charge. You can see more about the center at: MountHermon.org

Past retreats have been memorable not only for spiritual refreshment and rest but also for deepening relationships among members and friends of Old First Presbyterian Church. The planning process has focused on bringing fun to the forefront. There is plenty of time scheduled to allow for exploration of the beautiful coastal redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains, about 90 minutes from San Francisco. Comfortable accommodations and the ability to spend time with friends and family should make the weekend a time to remember.

Dean McDonald, a pastor, professor, and family counselor will be leading the retreat weekend. She has served churches in Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC. For five years she directed the College of Preachers at Washington National Cathedral. She relocated to the Bay Area recently as her husband Jim McDonald assumed the post of president for San Francisco Theological Seminary.

To register for the retreat, contact djoraanstad@gmail.com or ninabergsf@yahoo.com by September 9.

YOUR PLEDGE DOLLARS AT WORK

Old First Presbyterian Church supports the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon as part of our mission budget. This is a seminary supported by Evangelical Protestant churches. NEST trains pastors and church workers for Protestant churches in the Middle East and Africa. NEST is now 80 years old. One of their recent programs was a conference put on for Iraqi women church leaders earlier this year. This was partly funded by the Least Coin Offering, which our own Presbyterian Women contribute to annually.

The Pentecost Offering raised a total of \$661. This money is used on behalf of youth by the PC(USA). A portion of this offering is kept by local congregations, to be used as decided by the congregation.

QUICK FACT: ORDINARY TIME

Advent and the Christmas Season we know well. They focus on looking forward, preparing ourselves, and then celebrating Christ's presence *in* the world and Christ's ministry *to* the world. Lent and Easter are likewise a snap: Lent gets us to look inward and outward, simultaneously examining both ourselves and the world, making us aware of our own hurts and shortcomings as well as of the brokenness of the world. During the Easter Season we celebrate Christ's resurrection, ascension and gift of the Holy Spirit. The Great Fifty Days of Easter remind us we are fully equipped to proclaim the reconciliation with God, to heal what is broken, and to restore to life what sin and death hold captive.

So the time between these two seasonal cycles – Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter – is called “ordinary” time. Superficially, “ordinary” contrasts with what we might call the “fancy” time of the seasons with their particular emphases. However, it is also the time when we turn our attention to living in and for this world. We are the church, and our calling is not just to celebrate God's love for us, but to act on it. We are called to channel God's passion for the world in our lives and thereby to heal and reconcile the world. This is why for the ordinary Sundays “after Pentecost,” that is, after the Easter Season, the lectionary follows the Gospel stories about Jesus' ministry, which is the model for our ministry.

**REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY:
THE SUNDAYS IN JULY AND AUGUST, 2012**

Date	Day	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
July 1	Ordinary 13	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27	130	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43
July 8	Ordinary 14	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10	48	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13
July 15	Ordinary 15	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19	24	Ephesians 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29
July 22	Ordinary 16	2 Samuel 7:1-14a	89:20-37	Ephesians 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
July 29	Ordinary 17	2 Samuel 11:1-5	14	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:1-21
August 5	Ordinary 18	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a	51:1-12	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35
August 12	Ordinary 19	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33	130	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	John 6:35, 41-51
August 19	Ordinary 20	1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14	111	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58
August 26	Ordinary 21	1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43	84	Ephesians 6:10-20	John 6:56-69

OTHER DATES TO NOTE

Wednesday	July 4	U.S. Independence Day: Church Office Closed
Sunday	July 8	Deacons' Meeting, Munro Room 12:30 pm.
Saturday	July 14	Welcome: Community Dinner, 5:30 pm
Sunday	July 15	AIDS Walk
Tuesday	July 24	Session Meeting, Munro Room 7:00 pm.
Saturday	July 28	Old First Presbyterian Church staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry.
Saturday	July 28	Welcome: Community Dinner, 5:30 pm
Sunday	July 29	Summertime Sunday Potluck
Saturday	August 11	Community Dinner, Fellowship Hall, 5:30 pm.
Saturday	August 25	Interfaith Food Pantry staffed by all churches, Fellowship Hall
Saturday	August 25	Community Dinner, Fellowship Hall, 5:30 pm.

BIRTHDAYS

July		September
10 Bill Feister	7 Robert Fleming	1 Lisa Bigley
15 Jim Fagler	8 Charles Burns	4 Glen Potter
21 Wayne Cottrell	8 Steve Schacher	5 Daniel Pearch
21 Sarah Taber	19 Barry Clagett	11 Dawn Remshifski
22 Hugh Thacher	20 Helen (Kennedy)	12 Bob Hermann
25 Pam Byers	Myhree	13 Nina Berg
27 Gabriele Beck-Engeser	20 James Uren	14 Harriet MacLean
31 Emmy Clausing	24 Tyler Cottrell	21 Lois Nason
August	25 Mary Russell	
4 Steven LaGatta	28 Britt LaGatta	
	31 Euphemia Felicitas	

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, worship; Gregory Free, finance; 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, Tracy Clagett, 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; Leota Parker, Glen Potter, transportation; AnnieScott Rogers, deacons' prayer chain; Oliver Spencer, funding requests, special events; Sarah Taber, memorial receptions and meals; Hornghsheng Tu, technology