

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

January 2013

Church Website: www.oldfirst.org

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

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

MAGGI'S MUSINGS

On January 6 we celebrate the Epiphany of Christ. We remember the wise men from the East who followed the star to Bethlehem to worship the infant Jesus, as is told in Matthew 2:1-12.

Epiphany is the celebration of God's manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God's promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came from the east to worship to the Christ child, and God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus.

The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ.

—Excerpted from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship*

The word “epiphany” (from the Greek *epiphaneia*) means “appearance” or “manifestation” of God, and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn. In ancient times, an epiphany meant either a visible manifestation of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler venerated as a god.

For Christians, Christmas marks the coming of God to us; Epiphany celebrates the appearance of the Lord in the midst of humanity. For many, Epiphany is a time to reflect on what we will bring to offer God of ourselves as we follow Jesus this New Year 2013. We look for moments of God's light, an *aha* moment, a clarity of how we will follow Jesus in a new season. Poet Kate Compston offers this thought:

The Gifts I bring

My singing heart, my day's doxology, my gold,

I bring for CELEBRATION.

My stillness, my glimpses of serenity, my frankincense,

I bring for MEDITATION.

My brokenness, my years of rage and sorrow, my myrrh,

I bring for SACRIFICE.

How might you be a light for others? One example is Cynthia Kang, Old First Presbyterian Church member and now a Jefferson Award recipient!

In 1972, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft, Jr. and Sam Beard founded the American Institute for Public Service, a 501c3 public foundation, to establish the Jefferson Award, a prize for community and public service.

The Jefferson Awards are presented on two levels: national and local. National award recipients represent a “Who's Who” of outstanding Americans. On the local level, Jefferson Awards are

hosted by KCBS TV, Channel 5, and the recipients are ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition or reward. By honoring the recipients, it is the goal of the Jefferson Awards to inspire others to become involved in community and public service.

That certainly fits Cynthia Kang. The Reverend Genie Kinney, our out-going director of the Doris Kraus Senior Center, wrote in her nomination:

For five years Cynthia has been the head cook and meal planner--and after our volunteer who did the shopping retired, Cynthia took that on herself too. It may look like an easy thing – to provide a nutritious and tasty meal for sixty on a budget of \$125 a week, but that would be mistaken. It takes dedication and "know how" to provide a meal week after week. I have watched Cynthia work tirelessly for three hours each Monday to make sure the meal is as good as it can possibly be. It is not the easiest job in the world. It has attracted more seniors and kept them coming back – they like the meals they are served. Some of the seniors have attended the center for more than twenty years. They know they are loved by all of the volunteers and that they can ask for help and if possible they will be helped. They also know Cynthia cares for them by her providing a good lunch.

The KCBS TV crew came and filmed the senior center in December. Reports on the Jefferson Award recipients in the local Bay Area will be shown on Channel 5 starting January 2.

Peace,
Maggi

CHANGE TO PARKING METER ENFORCEMENT

Parking Meters on Sunday, Beginning January 6

In 2013 beginning on Sunday, January 6, parking meters will be enforced from noon to 6 pm on Sundays. If you park on the street when you attend worship, please be sure to pay to avoid a costly ticket. You can prepay before you enter the church, and the meter won't start counting the time until noon. The only days without meter enforcement in 2013 will be New Year's Day (1/1), Thanksgiving Day (11/21) and Christmas Day (12/25).

FEATURE

Old First Takes Part in the MLK March and Celebrations Monday January 21

Join in the 3rd annual interfaith tribute to the *Selma-to-Montgomery* march and the symbolic crossing of the *Edmund Pettus Bridge* during the annual march/parade as it crosses San Francisco's Lefty O'Doul Bridge and briefly stops at Willie Mays Plaza at AT&T Park. We will join the celebration as we march as an Old First group. Last year 15 people marched and we would love to double that this year. We will meet at 10:30 at the CalTrain Station at 4th and King Streets. Look for the Old First Sign. The walk will end at a commemoration ceremony at the Esplanade stage at Yerba Buena Gardens, with spiritual leaders from a host of faith backgrounds providing reflection on the vision of Dr. King. Free and discounted commemorative transit passes on BART, Golden Gate Transit and Ferries and SFMTA are available on a first-come-first-served basis by registering on the Contact page at norcalmlk.com.

“The Drum Major Instinct” A Sermon by Martin Luther King, Jr., February 4, 1968

In this sermon Dr. King talked about how we all, as humans, have the desire to be “number one.” “Let us see that we all have the drum major instinct. We all want to be important, to surpass others, to achieve distinction, to lead the parade. Alfred Adler, the great psychoanalyst, contends that this is the dominant impulse. Sigmund Freud used to contend that sex was the dominant impulse, and Adler came with a new argument saying that this quest for recognition, this desire for attention, this desire for distinction is the basic impulse, the basic drive of human life, this drum major instinct.” During the sermon he elaborated on how this need to be “number one” destroys the individual and the very fabric of society. In his final summation he gives the following alternate view of being a “drum major:” “If any of you are around when I have to meet my day, I don't want a long funeral. And if you get somebody to deliver the eulogy, tell them not to talk too long. And every now and then I wonder what I want them to say. Tell them not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize – that isn't important. Tell them not to mention that I have three or four hundred other awards – that's not important. Tell them not to mention where I went to school. I'd like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others. I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to love somebody. I want you to say that day that I tried to be right on the war question. I want you to be able to say that day that I did try to feed the hungry. And I want you to be able to say that day that I did try in my life to clothe those who were naked. I want you to say on that day that I did try in my life to visit those who were in prison. I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity. Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness.”
–Sent by Pat Devine to Pastor Maggi in 2008 while thinking about MLK Day.

NEWS

New App for Ancient Practice: Daily Prayer

Rediscover an ancient practice in the digital age. Get the Presbyterian Daily Prayer app to have psalms, Scripture readings from the Daily Lectionary, and prayers sent to your iPhone or iPad each day. Visit www.pcusa.org for more information and downloads.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25

Since 1908 Christians around the globe – Protestants, Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans and others – have set aside the eight days from January 18 to 25 to pray for Christian Unity.

Food Pantry, January 19, 2013

Old First is responsible for providing the volunteers for the Interfaith Food Pantry on Jan. 19. If you are able to help, please contact Joy Crosser: foodpantry@oldfirst.org

Fernando Scheduled for Knee Surgery, January 23

Our sexton, Fernando González, will have surgery on his knee on January 23 and may be away from work for some days. Please say a prayer for Fernando's quick recovery and remember that since we depend on him for so much, we will need to be extra conscientious in cleaning up after ourselves during his absence.

Lent on the Horizon: Ash Wednesday, February 13

The Christmas Season concludes with Epiphany on January 6. However, Lent and the Easter Season are not far off. This year, Lent will begin on Wednesday, February 13, with a joint

worship service with St. Luke's Episcopal Church, our neighbors at Clay Street and Van Ness Avenue.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY: THE SUNDAYS IN JANUARY, 2013

Date	Day	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel Reading
Jan 6	Epiphany of the Lord	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Eph. 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan 13	Baptism of the Lord	Isaiah 43:107	Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan 20	2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalm 36:5-10	1 Cor. 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Jan 27	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalm 19	1 Cor. 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21

OTHER DATES TO NOTE

Tuesday	Jan 01	New Year's Day, Church office closed
Sunday	Jan 13	Deacons' Meeting, Munro Room
Saturday	Jan 19	Interfaith Food Pantry, Old First volunteers
Saturday	Jan 19	Presbyterian Women
Monday	Jan 21	Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Church office closed
Tuesday	Jan 22	Session Meeting, Munro Room

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; 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.