

# Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

March 2013

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)

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## MAGGI'S MUSINGS

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I have to admit I find myself longing for Easter this year. I long to sing those hymns of Easter Joy, to spy an Easter hat in the midst of us usually somber folks, to see people pack the pews with a sense of expectation and hope, to preach some Good News, and maybe to be a bit of I-dare-you-to-show-me-something-new.

I want to live in the mystery and hope that Jesus lived and still lives and believe that the world is not beyond God's love and compassion. I long for the echo of the Love that calls me beloved, for just a sliver of the Light that warms my weary spirit, for just a gentle nudging of the Spirit who moves and guides me to walk in the ways of Jesus.

As a pastor I need to be reminded that it isn't all up to me. I need to remember that I can't *prove* the resurrection. What I can do is to invite people in to taste and to see and to celebrate. Here's what Martin Niemöller (1892-1984) said about Easter:

*Easter is not a part of the old accustomed divine order, of the ordered world in which we live, but it is an absolutely new, unexpected act of the living God, which interrupts and runs counter to the uniform rise and fall of the world's rhythms. Here we have the beginning of something new.*

May God work an ancient/new work in our lives this Easter!

Maggi

PS: Google "Martin Niemöller" and learn about one who spoke light in the midst of dark times! –MH

### **Holy Week and Easter at Old First Presbyterian Church**

#### **Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24**

11:00 am - Worship with Procession of Palms

#### **Maundy Thursday, March 28**

6:00 pm – Foot-Washing and Communion

**at St. Luke's Episcopal Church,  
Van Ness Avenue at Clay Street**

#### **Good Friday, March 29**

8:00 pm – Candlelight Tenebrae Service

#### **Easter Sunday, March 31**

9:00 am – Pancake Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

11:00 am – Worship: The Resurrection of the Lord



### **Bring Your Fish Boxes and One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Easter Sunday, March 31**

#### **Sharing Resources, Changing Lives**

Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with those in need. Your generous gifts assist those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

### **Thinking of Joining Old First? Inquirers' Classes, March 17 and 24**

If you've been attending Old First and Presbyterian Church and would like to explore joining the church, we'd love to have you! For those interested in membership in Old First Presbyterian Church, Elder Pam Byers and Pastor Maggi Henderson will lead Inquirers' Classes *with lunch* on two Sundays, March 17 and 24, at 12:30 pm. Let Pam know, if you'd like to participate. Call her at 415-584-1804 or E-mail her at [pambyers.sf@gmail.com](mailto:pambyers.sf@gmail.com).

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Annual Congregational Meeting, March 3**

Following worship on Sunday, March 3, Old First Presbyterian Church will open its annual meeting in the sanctuary, will elect new officers, will review the budget and will consider and take action on the pastor's compensation package. The meeting will continue downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck lunch and presentation of reports.

The luncheon will feature a ham and the traditional Old First potluck. Members and visitors are invited to bring another main course, a vegetarian dish, a salad, a side dish or a dessert. A \$5.00 donation may be made in lieu of bringing food for the potluck luncheon.

During the meal, elders and deacons will report on activities in 2012 and hopes and plans for 2013. It will be time to celebrate and learn about all that we do at Old First Presbyterian Church.

#### **Lenten Short Story Series Continues, March 3 and 10**

*Have you ever felt trapped by past decisions and unable to move into the future? Are you unlucky and feel like that is ruining your life? Do you feel as if you washed up shipwrecked on an island and are waiting to be discovered? Are you a Misfit? Can you be forgiven?*

These are some of the questions explored in the short stories we will read in an adult education series for Lent. Diane Molberg and Erwin Barron will be co-teaching this Sunday morning class March 3 and 10 at 9:30 am. Join us as we discuss the theological and philosophical implications of these famous, literary works. Copies of the stories will be available in coffee hour or on computer links you can find on the church website.

March 3: "The Rocking House Winner" by D.H. Lawrence  
<http://www.dowse.com/fiction/Lawrence.html>

March 10: "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" by Flannery O'Connor  
<http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~surette/goodman.html>

### **Food Pantry Wants You, March 9**

Please check your calendar to see if you have time you can spare this Lent to help at the Saturday morning Food Pantry on March 9. Helpers are needed from 7:30 - 11:30 am, to unload the truck, distribute and clean up. Joy Crosser, the Old First Food Pantry Volunteer Coordinator, will be out of town from March 5 to 10. So she wants as many helpers as possible committed in advance – today, if possible.

### **Alberto Barrios Children's Library Exhibit, March 10**

The Alberto Barrios Children's Library will hold an exhibit next Sunday of the books purchased with the funds raised by the deacons at the ice cream social last year. We thank the deacons for their effort and thoughtfulness. We invite all to view the wonderful books in the Fellowship Hall, outside the Alberto Barrios Children's Library following worship.

### **Maundy Thursday, Joint Worship at St Luke's Episcopal Church, March 28, 6:00 pm**

This year we – the pastor and people of Old First Presbyterian Church – welcomed the people of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and their rector, the Reverend Dana Corsello, to a joint worship service for Ash Wednesday.

On Maundy Thursday in Holy Week, March 28 at 6:00 pm, St. Luke's Episcopal Church will return the favor and welcome Old First Presbyterian Church to join them for worship at their church at Van Ness Avenue and Clay Street.

### **Pancake Breakfast, Easter Sunday, March 31**

The Community-Building Committee and the Board of Deacons will once again jointly host the annual Pancake Breakfast on Easter Sunday, 9:00 -10:30 am. Come celebrate begin celebrating Easter with the church family for pancakes and bacon. It's an especially Old First way to celebrate – with food and family. The suggested donation is \$3.00, though more is welcome and none are turned away.

## **GREETINGS**

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### **Arlo Jones Ordained**

Arlo Jones, who was a summer intern at Old First Presbyterian Church in 2010, was ordained this past January as Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families at First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen, New Jersey. (She began serving there in August 2012.) Rodger Nishioka, the popular professor of Christian Education at Columbia Seminary (Arlo's alma mater) preached at her ordination/installation. (Rodger Nishioka also preached at Pastor Maggi's installation service.)

Arlo writes:

*My ordination and call as Associate Pastor would not have happened without the ministry of Old First Presbyterian Church. I am so grateful for Old First and Maggi. Prior to coming to Old First, I was debating if I was called to be a pastor or if I should work in Non-profits. My time at Old First really solidified my sense of call. I am so thankful for the loving community that welcomed me at Old First.*

*Thank you so much for challenging me, embracing me and letting me into your homes and the pulpit. Thank you for showing me what it means to serve God with open arms and an open heart. First Pres of Metuchen is in the suburbs of New Jersey, 45 minutes*

*from NYC. I feel incredibly blessed to be doing ministry here, and I know I would not be the pastor I am today if it weren't for the people at old first. Thank you so much for your ministry to me!*

### **Thanks from Pam and Jeff Byers**

Thank you all so much for all the loving prayers and practical support from Old First as Jeff and I have undergone cancer treatments. (Yes, we agree: being diagnosed the same month is carrying togetherness Too Far!) We feel both blessed and hopeful: my chemo is over and I've begun radiation treatments; and Jeff's surgeon says his good recovery so far makes him the poster child for the procedure!

We have been greatly encouraged by the many beautiful cards of good wishes and by all of you who've stopped to give me a hug and assure me of your prayers. We've been nourished as well as cheered by delicious food from Dan & Bob, Glen & Steve, Sarah Taber, Pam Sebastian, and Jeannie & Buddy. When my hair fell out, Annie Scott Rogers lent me hats and Robin Raborn taught me fashion tricks with scarves. And I will never forget walking into rehearsal one night to find the entire choir wearing headscarves in solidarity!

I have always loved this congregation, but now I really know what its embrace means: healing and hope. Thank you all so much!

Pam Byers

### **WHAT'S A MAUNDY? HOW CAN GOOD FRIDAY BE GOOD? WHAT'S EASTER MEAN?**

The three great days of Holy Week tell the story of Jesus' washing of his disciples' feet, agonized praying, arrest, trial, crucifixion, entombment and then resurrection. Why then do we call these days Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday?

**Maundy** is simply an older English form of the French word "mandée" – a mandate or commandment to do something. In this case it refers to Jesus' new commandment to his followers: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (See John 13:34b). Maundy Thursday is thus the Thursday of Christ's New Commandment.

**Good Friday** is the corruption over time of the Middle English name for "the Friday of God." It might have been a euphemism to avoid saying death or crucifixion, but in any case it is the day of the sacrifice of "Christ, our God." (Compare the text of "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence," a communion hymn of the ancient church.)

**Easter** is the oddest name for Christians to have kept for Christianity's oldest and greatest holiday. For Easter is actually the name of an Anglo-Saxon pagan spring goddess and her festival. When Christian missionaries brought Christianity over the Alps to Northern Europe, they aligned new Christian holidays with the existing holidays the locals already knew. Just as the birth of Christ was lined up with the Anglo-Saxons' Yule, and All Saint's Eve (Hallowe'en) was lined up with the pagan Celtic Samhain, so celebrating Christ's resurrection was lined up with Easter – but here the old name stuck to the new feast.

**REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY: THE SUNDAYS IN MARCH, 2013**

| Date     | Day                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading      | Psalm                                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading                    | Gospel Reading                                  |
|----------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| March 3  | 3rd Sunday in Lent  | Isaiah 55:1-9                | Psalm 63:1-8                          | 1 Corinthians 10:1-13                      | Luke 13:1-9                                     |
| March 10 | 4th Sunday in Lent  | Joshua 5:9-12                | Psalm 32                              | 2 Corinthians 5:16-21                      | Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32                             |
| March 17 | 5th Sunday in Lent  | Isaiah 43:16-21              | Psalm 126                             | Philippians 3:4b-14                        | John 12:1-8                                     |
| March 24 | Passion/Palm Sunday | Isaiah 50:4-9a               | Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 or Psalm 31:9-16 | Philippians 2:5-11                         | Luke 19:28-40, Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49 |
| March 28 | Maundy Thursday     | Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 | Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19                  | 1 Corinthians 11:23-26                     | John 13:1-17, 31b-35                            |
| March 29 | Good Friday         | Isaiah 52:13-53:12           | Psalm 22                              | Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9 | John 18:1-19:42                                 |
| March 31 | Easter Sunday       | Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18       | Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24                  | Philippians 3:17-4:1                       | Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36                   |

**OTHER DATES TO NOTE**

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| Sunday   | March 3  | Worship, Annual Congregational Meeting, Potluck Lunch, 11:00 am        |
| Sunday   | March 10 | Deacons' Meeting, Munro Room, 12:30 pm                                 |
| Sunday   | March 24 | Palm/Passion Sunday, Worship, 11:00 am                                 |
| Tuesday  | March 26 | Session Meeting, Munro Room, 7:00 pm                                   |
| Thursday | March 28 | Maundy Thursday, Joint Worship at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 6:00 pm |
| Friday   | March 29 | Good Friday, Worship, 8:00 pm  |
| Sunday   | March 31 | Easter Sunday, Pancake Breakfast, 9:00 am, Worship, 11:00 am           |

**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, 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