

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

May 2013

Church Website: www.oldfirst.org

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

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

MAGGI'S MUSINGS

Pastors have three statements that tend to make us roll our eyes. Statements like “It must be a great job because you only work on Sundays,” or “I am spiritual and not religious.” Another one is when after we’ve been away for a continuing education event, people ask, “How was your vacation?” We say “it wasn’t a vacation, it was continuing education” probably with a tiny bit more passion than they expect.

I’ve come to understand those statements are one way of saying you were missed, but also happen because we don’t often share news about our time away and why it is vital to us and the church. Actually, it isn’t just vital it is required. According to my contract, I am supposed to take two weeks of continuing education a year and, if I don’t use it, the personnel committee is mandated to make sure I do. This is the same for every Presbyterian pastor. I think it’s become a requirement rather than a suggestion, because wise folks know that pastors sometimes get so busy we just come to think we can’t get away, or that we don’t even need time away.

Pastors need to keep learning, being challenged, and being fed. I’ve discovered I need my spiritual reservoir to be refilled. I need time for my imagination to stretch. I need time to hear others voices. I need to have my faith and learning batteries recharged.

More than once, I have gone to an event thinking “I am so busy at work, I can’t really spare the time away” and then find that I am thankful to be there and that the church really just does fine without me once in a while. So I want to share what I am doing for continuing education in 2013.

I have a yearly commitment to a group of clergywomen, The Round Table, who meet for four days each year. The group is made up of thirteen pastors from all over the nation, working in a variety of settings. We’ve been meeting for over a decade. We are committed to each other and to the church. Each year we go to a different location, take on a topic, read up on it, and share resources and sermons. This year we met in Chicago and our theme was interfaith issues. We shared sermons and lesson plans, read books by Abu Patel, and met at the office of Interfaith Youth Core (www.ifyc.org). After twelve years, we’ve developed deep knowledge of - and care for - each other. If you were to walk past one of our meeting rooms, you’d often hear laughter erupting from the space. We work hard during the day. Then, in the evenings, the formal work ceases and we enjoy each other’s company, we eat good food and we play. This year we met in Chicago, so I also went to a taping of the radio news-quiz show “Wait Wait Don’t Tell Me” (<http://www.npr.org/programs/wait-wait-dont-tell-me>) and discovered the joy of a Chicago hot dog.

In May, I am taking part in the Annual Recreation Workshop at Montreat, North Carolina (www.recreationworkshop.org). This is a five day event focused on creation, worship, community, creativity and the arts. I am especially excited to take a workshop called “Playing the Lectionary.”

Playing the Lectionary: All too often our church’s programs and activities separate one another by age, station in life, interests, etc. We often sacrifice the church family coming to know one another by a heavy focus in demographic planning. In this workshop, we will start with the lectionary passages and build creative and fun intergenerational events including all ages and all reaches of our church life. We will seek to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit and build the church family using the lectionary as a starting point and using those scriptures as the focal method of deepening our church family connections.

Many of you know that on my sabbatical I started a program with McCormick Seminary, (www.mccormick.edu) to earn a Certificate in Executive Leadership. We meet for four three-day meetings in San Leandro. In March I finished up my classes with the theme Change, Collaboration and Conflict. I will finish my Capstone Project (a paper) in June. My hope is that after the paper is done, I can revisit my notes, my assignments and books and see how I can incorporate what I have learned into my on-going ministry.

So how can I tell if a continuing education event has been successful or enhancing? Sometimes it is comment from a member who says “You have really come back with energy,” or ‘I can tell in your sermon that you got renewed while you were away.’ It may be a just one great idea or a new alternate way of looking at an old challenge. It is a combination of head, heart, and fellowship. Ultimately, it is when I find myself recharged to be your pastor and to follow in the ways of Jesus.

Peace,
Pastor Maggi

UPCOMING EVENTS

Guest Preacher, Anniversary Lunch, May 5

On Sunday, May 5, our guest preacher will be Jeanne Choy Tate, a member of Old First Presbyterian Church and a commissioned lay pastor. We will celebrate the 164th anniversary of the founding of Old First Presbyterian Church this day with a catered dinner served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. *Let ‘Em Eat BBQ and More* will supply the food for luncheon. For only \$6, you will enjoy camaraderie, fellowship and food.

Deacons’ Sunday, May 12

Our deacons will lead us in worship on Sunday, May 12.

Pentecost, May 19

The Great Fifty Days of the Easter Season come to an end on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. Pentecost marks the gift of the Holy Spirit to the young church as is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. That day be sure to wear something red – it’s the traditional color of the Holy Spirit.

Bay to Breakers, May 19

Note that the Bay to Breakers Race will be run on Pentecost morning and will slow traffic.

American Red Cross Disaster Preparedness Training, May 21

Our neighbors across Sacramento Street, the 1776 Sacramento Homeowners Association, have invited Old First Presbyterian Church members to join them for disaster preparedness training led by the Red Cross at our church on Thursday, May 21, beginning at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Living in a coastal earthquake zone means we should all have a disaster plan in place before an emergency occurs. This training will review disaster risks and how we can prepare for them. Please contact Brad in the church office (by phone or E-mail), if you're interested in learning how to be prepared in the event of disaster. Refreshments will be served.

1 Kings: Old First Presbyterian Church's Book-of-the-Month

This June, Pastor Maggi will preach four sermons on the vivid stories from the First Book of Kings. This book recounts the often tense and conflicted relationship between God and the kings of ancient Israel. Maggi invites you to read the book in advance that you have time to absorb the fascinating stories.

Calling All Youth at Old First: Summer Day Camp, July 8-12

Youth who have completed kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to St. Mark's Lutheran Church for summer day camp, July 8-12, each day 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Aftercare can be provided for families as needed. Day camp is a unique partnership between Mt. Cross Summer Camp and St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Join us for a week of faith-based fun, which includes group games, arts & crafts, worship, community building activities and Bible Encounters.

Location: St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell St.

Dates: July 8-12, 2013, 9am-3pm (with the possibility of aftercare)

Cost: \$90. Full scholarships are available. For more: www.stmarks-sf.org

NEW MEMBERS

On Easter Sunday, April 31, Old First Presbyterian Church joyfully received eight new members. Introduce yourself when you see them – they all add richness to our community!



Donna Beatty, who has attended Old First Presbyterian Church for many years, joined by Reaffirmation of Faith. Originally from Kansas, Donna has lived in San Francisco since 1956. She worked in cardiovascular research at Mt. Zion and later at the EPA. Now retired, she lives on Russian Hill.



Katie Haith moved here last year from Los Angeles, where she attended First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. An engineer, she drives to Old First from her home in San Bruno. She has already become active in a small group. She joined by Reaffirmation of Faith.



Julia Highlen has been singing in the choir since last June. She and her (new) husband Tanner began attending during Lent of last year, after moving to the Nob Hill. She works as a construction engineer. Having grown up Methodist, she joined by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Tanner Highlen was baptized. He works for CaptainU that makes recruiting software for college coaches and tools to help high school athletes navigate the recruiting process.



John Josiah was also baptized. He was introduced to Old First Presbyterian Church by Craig Kehne and has been faithful attending worship since early last year.



Dianne Morrow, who moved to the Bay Area last summer, joined Old First by Letter of Transfer from The First Presbyterian in Philadelphia - one of the oldest Presbyterian congregations in the nation! Dianne works in compliance for a financial services company and lives in Oakland. She also paints and enjoys her two rescue pups.



Gordon Phipps grew up in the San Ramon Valley in Contra Costa County. He joined by Reaffirmation of Faith. Gordon works in the service industry. He lives nine blocks from the church and has attended several study groups at Old First Presbyterian Church. A former journalist, he is also an amateur playwright.



George Tobias first attended Old First Presbyterian Church ten years ago, but has only recently moved back to San Francisco. His Presbyterian roots include study at Princeton Seminary several decades ago. He took away from it a lasting appreciation of good preaching and Christian education. He joined by Reaffirmation of Faith.

MAY: A MONTH TO CELEBRATE

by Kristi Hoerauf

Many commemorations happen in May: socialist, secular, spiritual, sporty, silly, sentimental, solemn, and Scandinavian!

May 1 is a holiday throughout much of Europe, in much the same way that the U.S. observes Labor Day in September. May 5 is the Anniversary Lunch of Old First Presbyterian Church, when we remember the founding of the congregation in 1849. It is also the observance of *Cinco de Mayo*, commemorating the Battle of Puebla, which was an unexpected victory for the Mexican army over the French army of occupation in 1862. *Cinco de Mayo* may be well-known in California, but it isn't Mexico's independence day as many believe; that's September 16. On May 8, we commemorate VE Day: Victory in Europe Day, when Germany capitulated to the Allies, ending World War II in Europe.

The sporty element of May begins with the sublime and ends with the ridiculous, depending on your point of view, but both involve *horse*-power. The first weekend of May has the Kentucky Derby, and the month ends with the Indianapolis 500 on Memorial Day.

The following Sunday is the sentimental observance of Mother's Day. After that, on May 19 we have sporty, silly and spiritual all on the same day. An only-in-San-Francisco-event, the annual Bay to Breakers Race, takes place with some running and lots of silliness. In times past, our member Joe Ballard ran the Bay to Breakers fast enough to finish, go home, get changed into his suit and still be on time for church.

The rest of us will observe Pentecost in the sanctuary, with no running involved. Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian church. It reminds us of the church, in the way that Worldwide Communion Sunday does. Hearing the scripture read in many languages as sometimes happens during worship on this Sunday reminds us of people worshipping in the same way, all over the world. After Pentecost comes Trinity Sunday. Trinity Sunday reminds us of God as the Triune Holy One, however incomprehensible it may be to try to understand.

The Scandinavian celebration in May is "Syttende mai" (May 17th). This is Norwegian Constitution Day. In 1814, Norway adopted a constitution which declared Norway's independence; however, at the time, the European powers intervened, leaving Norway autonomous in domestic matters, but in external matters ruled by Sweden. In 1905, Norway forced the issue, declared independence, vote for a monarchy and elected a Danish prince as their own monarch: King Haakon VII.

On the last Monday of May, we solemnly remember those who died in the armed services. Memorial Day began as Decoration Day, a remembrance of those who died in the Civil War.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS FOR CELL PHONE

Question: Who has a cell phone? Answer: almost everyone. What a great convenience! So easy to stay in touch and if you don't have time or the inclination to talk to someone right now, there's always voice mail. Texting, checking email, finding a restaurant – the possibilities seem endless. And what if there is an emergency?

Well, don't use your cell phone to call 911 in California. Here, all 911 calls go to CHP dispatch. In our area, that's in Vallejo and there are 10 dispatchers. Even if they're not busy (when would that be?), the cell phone calls coming in have no geographical reference. And when they are busy (or really, really

busy such as when the PG&E gas main exploded in San Bruno), your cell phone call can bounce around for several minutes. And it may end up being fielded by an office in San Jose or further away. Landlines don't have this problem. Calls via landlines go directly to the local emergency office and also have a geographical link. But, we can't drag our landlines around with us. And there certainly aren't many pay phones available any longer.

While eventually technology may offer some improvements to the CHP system, there is nothing currently on the horizon. What to do? Program local emergency numbers into your cell phone for the areas you spend the most time in. Here is a list

Local Emergency Numbers

To call in an emergency with a cell phone, use these numbers, not 911

Alameda	510-337-2100	Monte Sereno	408-354-8600
Alameda Co	510-667-7721	Morgan Hill	408-299-3144
-Castro Valley	"	Mountain View	650-903-6395
-San Lorenzo	"	Napa	707-253-0911
Antioch	925-757-1313	Newark	510-793-3737
BART PD	510-464-7000	Oakland	510-444-1616
Benicia	707-745-2424	Orinda	925-254-1110
Berkeley	510-642-3333	Pacifica	650-355-4151
Burlingame	650-368-1421	Palo Alto	650-321-2231
Campbell	408-378-8161	Pleasanton	925-838-6691
Contra Costa Co	925-933-1313	Sacramento	916-228-3000
-Pittsburg	"	San Carlos	650-805-4255
-Concord	"	San Francisco	415-861-8020
-San Ramon	"	San Jose	408-277-8911
Cupertino	408-299-3144	San Leandro	510-618-3490
Daly City	650-992-2313	San Mateo	650-368-1421
Danville	925-373-5400	Santa Clara	408-296-1515
Dublin	925-447-4257	Santa Clara Co Fire	408-299-3144
Fairfield	707-428-7300	-Los Gatos	"
Fremont	510-793-3434	-Morgan Hill	"
Gilroy	408-846-0354	Santa Cruz	831-471-1170
Hayward	510-732-2626	Santa Rosa	707-576-1365
Hollister	831-636-4325	Saratoga	408-299-3233
Lafayette/Moraga	925-284-5010	San Martin	408-299-3233
Livermore	925-447-4257	South San Francisco	650-873-3333
Los Altos	408-299-3233	Stockton	209-464-4646
Los Gatos	408-354-8600	Sunnyvale	408-736-6244
Marin Co	415-472-0911	Tracy	209-831-4553
Menlo Park	650-321-2231	Union City	510-471-1441
Millbrae	650-697-1212	Vacaville	707-449-5452

Milpitas	408-998-7212	Vallejo	707-552-3285
Modesto	209-552-2474	Walnut Creek	925-935-6400

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY: THE SUNDAYS IN MAY, 2013

Date	Day	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
05/05/13	6 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9
05/12/13	7 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 97	Rev. 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26
05/19/13	Day of Pentecost	Acts 16:16-34	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21	John 14:8-17 (25-27)
05/26/13	Trinity Sunday	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	Psalm 8	Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15

OTHER DATES TO NOTE

Sunday	May 5	Anniversary Lunch
Sunday	May 12	Deacons' Sunday – The Deacons of Old First lead worship
Sunday	May 12	Deacons' Meeting, Munro Room, 12:30 pm
Saturday	May 18	Presbyterian Women, Munro Room, Noon
Sunday	May 19	Day of Pentecost
Sunday	May 26	Trinity Sunday
Monday	May 27	Memorial Day – Church office closed
Tuesday	May 28	Session Meeting, Munro Room, 7:00 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, Bill Feister; Christian Education, Gregory Free; Treasurer, Jeanne Kirkwood; clerk of session, Jean Olson, Mary Russell, mission and giving; Randy Smith; Sally Spencer; Steve Taber; operations, Betty Voris, community-building; Priscilla Yu

Board of Deacons

Nina Berg, flowers/memorial donations; Carol Carter, funding requests, communion cleanup; Samuel Cheng; Joy Crosser; Craig Kehne, coffee hour, communion clean-up; Diane Lewis, funding requests, cards; Dana Nojima, co-moderator, merchandise sales; Leota Parker; Glen Potter, transportation; AnnieScott Rogers, deacons' prayer chain; Sarah Taber, memorial receptions and meals; Horngsheng Tu, technology