

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

November 2013

Church Website: oldfirst.org

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

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

MAGGI'S MUSINGS

This season I re-read the thanksgiving proclamation given by President Washington in 1789. It is worth reading a number of times so that its power can break through the antique language:

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor – and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be – That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks – for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation – for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war – for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed – for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted – for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

and also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions – to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually – to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed--to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord – To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and us – and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789, George Washington.

I am surprised by the sense of thankfulness in Washington's words combined with a healthily dose of humbleness. For us Christians this gratitude is nothing new. The psalms are filled with thanksgiving. Just take a look at Psalm 20, 34, 92, 100, 103, 109 or 118 to name a few. Gratitude is not just for a single day of the year, or for a season for us, but is rather a way of life. And that is what we have been talking about during this Stewardship Season – living a life of gratitude. With the start of the new Christian year on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1, I challenge to not to join me in pledging to cultivate a discipline – a habit of gratitude this year.

May it be so.

Peace,
Maggi

WORSHIP NEWS

Worship Committee Advent Art Project, November 12, 13, 16

We are creating the artwork for Advent using design by Charles Wei from San Francisco Theological Seminary. If you can draw, paint or even simply follow directions we would love your help. We will work in the evenings from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 12 and 13, and we will finish on Saturday morning, November 16, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Join the Worship Committee and other volunteers to have some creative fun. –Chris Burt

Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service, November 28

Join San Franciscans of many faiths for the San Francisco Interfaith Council's annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service at 10:00 am, Thursday, November 28. This year the service will be held at the Buddhist Church of San Francisco, 1881 Pine St San Francisco, CA 91409.

Pledge Card Sunday, Sunday, November 17

Remember to bring your pledge card to worship on Sunday, November 17. Of course, you can submit your pledge card at any time (just send it to the church office), but we will bless the gathered pledges on November 17, the end of our Stewardship Season at Old First Presbyterian Church.

El Camino College Chorale at Old First Presbyterian Church, Sunday, November 24

On Sunday, November 24, our choir will take the day off so that we have the opportunity to welcome and hear the El Camino College Chorale. The chorale is the college's premiere choral group, which provides students an opportunity to do all styles of choral literature. Under the direction of Dr. Joanna Medawar Nacheff, the Chorale performs several concerts on campus and in the community, and participates in musical festivals and tours. In addition to its academic pursuits, members perform for special events around the South Bay. Since 1997, the chorale has performed in San Francisco, San José, San Diego, Hawaii, Mexico, the House of Blues in Los Angeles, and the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line from Catalina Island. Members of the chorale have joined other choirs and members in the community several times on the stage of Carnegie Hall, New York. The chorale has also performed as the supporting chorus for Andrea Bocelli's Las Vegas concert on Saturday, December 1, 2007 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena to an audience of 17,000.

On March 25, 2007, the chorale was featured in the Carnegie Hall Spring series, where they gave a multicultural choral concert as the Ambassadors of Harmony. On May 30, 2010, the Chorale appeared in an historic performance of Mozart's *Vesperae solennes* at Carnegie Hall, with three university choirs from Lebanon, under the baton of Dr. Nacheff. This cultural exchange through the "universal language" of music reflected the best form of soft diplomacy. On April 7, 2013, the chorale once again appeared at Carnegie Hall with various choirs from the Middle East and the United States with a performance of Gabriel Faure's Requiem in D minor.

Every year in the fall, the chorale has taken part in the Music Association of California Community Colleges (MACCC) Conference. This year, the conference is taking place in San Francisco at the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway. The conference brings together around 200 students from various colleges throughout California to spend several days both working and performing with a prestigious conductor. This year, Nicole Paiement of the San Francisco Conservatory will be the conductor for the conference and will be working on Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols with the students.

Since November 2007, the chorale has performed every other year at Old First Presbyterian Church following the MACCC Conference in San Francisco. This will mark the fourth time the chorale has performed at OFPC. Their repertoire that day will include works by Luis Salazar, Rosephanye Powell, Keith Hampton, and "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho" arranged by Moses Hogan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Interested in Joining Old First? Inquirers Class, November 10 and 17

Pastor Maggi will lead a New Members/Inquirers Classes on November 10 and 17 at 9:00 am in the Library near the Sacramento Street entrance. If you'd like to participate, please speak with Pam Byers, 415-584-1804.

Winter Hours: Prose, Prose Poems and Poems by Mary Oliver, November 10 and 17

Diane Molberg will lead a two-week adult education program on Sundays, November 10 and 17, at 9:30 am in the Munro Room. This two-week discussion will focus on two essays central to the spiritual work of the American poet, Mary Oliver, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award.

On November 10, we will read and discuss "Building the House," the first essay in this stunning, slim volume. The essay sets the tone for the collection, as Oliver builds a small makeshift house for herself—a process that becomes a metaphor for the "state of the soul," or "the state of the mind with a lamp glowing in it."

November 17, we will study the title essay, "Winter Hours," in which Oliver gives us a glimpse into her "private and natural self." She writes: "To believe in the soul—to believe in it exactly as much and as hardly as one believes in a mountain, say, or a fingernail which is ever in view—imagine the consequences!"

Diane recommends that you purchase the book (Amazon, Kindle available). However copies will also be available by contacting Diane at molberg@earthlink.net, or the church office.

Presbytery of San Francisco, November 12

The Presbytery of San Francisco will meet on Tuesday, November 12, at First Presbyterian Church of San Mateo, 194 West 25th Avenue (at Hacienda Street) in San Mateo. Visit the presbytery's website for more information: www.presbyteryofsfs.org

San Francisco Interfaith Food Pantry, November 16

Old First Presbyterian Church is responsible for staffing the Interfaith Food Pantry November 16. Please contact Diane Middleton at foodpantry@oldfirst.org to let her know that you can help.

San Francisco Presbyterian Youth Group, November 23

The San Francisco Presbyterian Youth Group will be volunteering at St. John's Food Pantry – stjohnscompassion.wordpress.com/about/ – on Saturday, November 23, 6:30 am to 10:30 am.

We will gather at 6:30 am at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 25 Lake Street. I know this might be early for folks, but any service activity on Saturdays always starts early. Since it is the Saturday before Thanksgiving we will be discussing hunger and poverty issues. –Heather Grantham

Mission Fair and Christmas Potluck, December 1

Old First Presbyterian 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 are invited to participate in our annual Mission Fair on Sunday, December 1: Covenant Network of Presbyterians, Ecumenical House at SF State, SF Food Bank, Larkin Street Youth Services, SafeHouse (formerly Network Ministries), SF Night Ministry, SF General Sojourn Chaplaincy, Temenos, and Welcome. Two new organizations will be represented at the festivities: information about Oiko-Credit, “a worldwide financial cooperative that empowers disadvantaged people with credit” will be presented by Roger Hull, a former pastor of Old First Presbyterian Church; and ceramic items from Palestine will be offered by Walt Davis, a retired professor of San Francisco Theological Seminary. Also represented will be the Old First Presbyterian Church Choir, the Board of Deacons, the Doris Kraus Senior Center, and our ever-popular Fair-Trade products.

For the Christmas Potluck, that day, the church will supply both turkey and ham as main courses. You can supply the side dishes, salads and desserts. Of course for those of you who don't cook, a small donation will gain you entry into the holiday feast. Signing up for dishes begins Sunday, November 3, during coffee hour.

After eating, you can take advantage of learning all about the missions that we serve and support. Lots of tables will be full of ideas on how you can help and you can talk with those involved to get your questions answered.

“THANK YOU!” FROM THE ALBERTO BARRIOS MEMORIAL CHILDREN’S LIBRARY

What a successful day October 6 was for the Alberto Barrios Memorial Children’s Library Fundraising Event and viewing the lovely renovated Library!

Lori Yamauchi and Priscilla Yu want to thank the donors and contributors for purchasing the needed books for the Library. We are happy to report that all the books listed were purchased. We collected \$235.50 and are so very grateful for your continued support. Thank you again for your generous gifts.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS, NOVEMBER 3

Daylight Savings Time ends in the early hours of November 3, and we return to standard time. Please remember to set your clocks back before you retire Saturday evening. Remember the motto: "Fall back!"

NOMINATING NEW CHURCH OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee would like your suggestions for candidates for either deacon or elder. You can speak to one of the committee members or send the committee an E-mail with your suggestion: nomcom@oldfirst.org. Please submit your suggestions for candidates to the committee no later than Monday, November 25. The Nominating Committee consists of Michael Bene, Pam Byers, Pam Free, Bob Hermann, Glen Potter, Randy Smith, and Lori Yamauchi.

LEOTA PARKER OPEN STUDIO, NOVEMBER 2 AND 3**ART SHOW AND RECEPTION, NOVEMBER 12**

Leota Parker, artist and deacon, will hold an open studio to show her vibrant watercolors on the weekend of November 2 and 3. Saturday's hours are 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Sunday's hours are 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The open studio will be held at her home at 400 Hyde Street, Apt. 110, in San Francisco.

Leota will also hold an art show of her works on Tuesday, November 12, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, at the Bay View Boat Club, 489 Terry François Boulevard. Beginning at 8:00 pm, there will be live jazz music. Wine and appetizers will also be served.

**THE REVEREND MAGGI HENDERSON'S 25TH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**

Maggi Henderson, pastor of Old First Presbyterian Church, was ordained on December 4, 1988; so we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of her ordination in December, 2013. Since the actual date falls between two Sundays, our festivities will follow worship on Sunday, December 8. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

As part of our celebrations, we'll give her a scrapbook of memories, thanks, photos, and good wishes from current and former parishioners and colleagues. If you'd like to contribute something (and we hope you will!), please hand, mail, or E-mail it to me, Pam Byers, no later than November 30:

Note: Please send E-mail directly to me at the address below. Thanks, everyone!

Pam Byers
180 Lippard Avenue/SF 94131
pambyers.sf@gmail.com

REVISED COMMON LECTORY: THE SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER, 2013

| Date | Day | 1 st Reading | Psalm | 2 nd Reading | Gospel Reading |
|--------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Nov 03 | Ordinary 31 | Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 | 119:137-144 | 2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12 | Luke 19:1-10 |
| Nov 10 | Ordinary 32 | Haggai 1:15b- 2:9 | 145:1-5, 17-21 or 98 | 2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17 | Luke 20:27-38 |
| Nov 17 | Ordinary 33 | Isaiah 65:17-25 | Isaiah 12 | 2 Thess. 3:6-13 | Luke 21:5-19 |
| Nov 24 | Christ the King | Jeremiah 23:1-6 | Luke 1:68-79 | Colossians 1:11-20 | Luke 23:33-43 |

OTHER DATES TO NOTE

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| Sunday | Nov 03 | Christian Education Committee, 9:30 am, Library |
| Sunday | Nov 03 | Columbarium Society, 12:30 pm, Library |
| Sunday | Nov 03 | Seminary Intern Shepherding Committee, 12:30 pm, Munro Room |
| Saturday | Nov 09 | Community Dinner, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday | Nov 10 | Deacons' Meeting, 12:30 pm, Munro Room |
| Saturday | Nov 16 | Old First staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry |
| Saturday | Nov 16 | Presbyterian Women, 12:00 noon, Library |
| Saturday | Nov 23 | Community Dinner, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday | Nov 24 | Ushers' Breakfast, 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall |
| Tuesday | Nov 26 | Session Meeting, 7:00 pm, Munro Room |
| Thursday | Nov 28 | Thanksgiving Day, Church Office Closed |
| Friday | Nov 29 | Church Office Closed |

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, Mission and Giving; Mary Russell, Mission and Giving; Randy Smith, Planning; Sally Spencer, At-Large; Steve Taber, Operations; Betty Voris, Community-Building; Priscilla Yu, Christian Education

Board of Deacons

Nina Berg, Carol Carter, Samuel Cheng, Joy Crosser, Craig Kehne, Diane Lewis, Dana Nojima, Leota Parker, Glen Potter, AnnieScott Rogers, Sarah Taber, Horngsheng Tu