

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

September 2013

Church Website: www.oldfirst.org

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

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org/

MAGGI'S MUSINGS

One of the reasons I am thankful to be a part of the Presbyterian Church USA is because we are a connectional church. For me, this means we recognize that the work of God and the ways of Christ are being lived out all over the country and throughout the world in ways that surprise and amaze me. Being a connectional church reminds me that there is broadness and diversity in the ways our church follows Christ and seeks God's peace and justice. I love to have my understanding deepened and my world view widened. Plus, it keeps me humble to realize my way – our way – is not the only way.

This September we have a chance to enrich our hearts and minds with the presence of Ryan Smith among us. Please keep him in your prayers and make sure you are a part of worship on September 8. This will be a great opportunity to invite a friend to worship!

Ryan Smith PC (USA) Representative to the UN Preaching September 8

Ryan Smith is the representative to the United Nations from the Presbyterian Church (USA). He brings experience working in faith-based non-governmental organizations both in the United Nations community and in Washington, DC. He has worked with Catholic Charities USA and with Caritas Internationalis, a long-time partner of the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations.

"It is a joy to welcome Ryan as a colleague," said Mark Koenig, director of the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, part of the Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry of the General Assembly Mission Council. "His knowledge of the role of faith-based advocacy at the United Nations as well as his connections within the United Nations community will strengthen our witness. He is deeply committed to working for justice and peace in the name of Jesus Christ."

Called to inspire, equip and connect God's people as faithful disciples in the global community, the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations provides individuals, congregations, middle governing bodies and theological institutions with educational opportunities that encourage commitment to work for justice, compassion and peace. This ministry also serves as a witness to the nations of the world that "God sends the church in the power of the Holy Spirit to share with Christ in establishing God's just, peaceable, and loving rule in the world." (Book of Order, G-3.0300)

Smith has worked on issues related to human trafficking, immigration, and refugees. His work at the United Nations focused on the Millennium Development Goals. He has lived in Tanzania and served as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant in Germany.

At the time of his appointment, Smith said "I am humbled and honored to be taking this new role. I will move forward in this new position with a great sense of responsibility. From the very beginning of the United Nations, the Presbyterian Church has helped to help shape its path, and I am excited to be a part of this next chapter. It is my honor to spread God's word in the non-governmental, governmental, and intergovernmental communities that comprise the United Nations. I see this as a great opportunity to use the gifts God has granted me and to advocate on behalf of the faithful for the world's most vulnerable populations. As I begin

my work, I am reminded of the words of Jesus, that with faith as small as a mustard seed we can move a mountain.”

Join us for worship on September 8 and expand your awareness of our connectional church.

Peace,
Pastor Maggi

NEWS

Seminary Intern David Altshuler

On Sunday, September 8, San Francisco Theological Seminary seminarian David Altshuler will begin as our seminary intern. This is Old First Presbyterian's first intern in many years. We are joining in a new model with St. John's Presbyterian Church and “sharing” David's internship. He will be with us two Sundays a month and 20 hours a week and then spend two Sundays and 20 hours at St. John's. David will get the opportunity to experience two thriving urban churches and see how we each uniquely seek to follow Christ and serve God in the city. David has completed his second year at San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo. While he has been studying, he has joined First Presbyterian Church in San Anselmo and has been Chaplain's Assistant at the seminary. He has trained as a hospital chaplain where he provided spiritual care and counseling in various hospital settings. David is a second career student. Before beginning seminary he was involved in corporate and small business. If you feel called to be a part of his support team please let Pastor Maggi know. Please take time to welcome David on September 8 and include him in your prayers as we seek to model ministry for David as we are enriched by his presence with in the coming year.

New Members

We rejoice in three new members received this summer. Be sure to get to know them at Fellowship Hour; you'll enjoy it!

- **Amanda Leto** joined by Reaffirmation of Faith, having belonged to a Presbyterian church as a child. Amanda returned to the Bay Area four years ago, after a long, adventurous, career in the Air Force Reserves, FAA, and Southern Air Transport. She works for the FAA at Oakland Airport. Browsing classical music events online, she found Old First, and she felt so much at home that she drives in weekly from her home in San Leandro. She hopes to move to town next year and continue classical piano studies at SF Conservatory.
- **Ellen Milligan**, who belonged to Old First in the early 2000's, has rejoined by Letter of Transfer from Geneva Presbyterian Church in Modesto. She is a student at the National Holistic Institute in San Francisco, studying massage therapy, and anticipates earning her certificate in January 2014. She is glad to reconnect with Old First friends and to be back in the choir. (So are her fellow sopranos!)
- **Mark Spicer** began attending Old First with his young son Sam early last year. Having grown up in the Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit, he looked for a congenial church home for Sam and him when he moved to Oakland; Old First, he says, felt like home. As he works on an MBA, Mark does safety compliance at SFO. Sam, now two, was baptized in August.

All three new members have already become active at Old First Presbyterian Church. Ellen and Amanda (wearing their new Old First t-shirts) marched with our contingent in the Pride Parade, and Mark worked at the Food Pantry in July.

Glenda Hope Retires, 40+ Years of Ministry Celebrated

The Reverend Glenda Hope, founder of Network Ministries and San Francisco SafeHouse, will retire after more than forty years of dedicated services to the poor, the homeless, women at risk and the forgotten. A Gala Evening celebrating her ministry will be held on Wednesday evening, September 25. The gala will include

wine, hors d'oeuvres, a raffle and music, and will benefit San Francisco SafeHouse on its 15th birthday. For more information visit www.sfsafehouse.org.

Glenda was ordained at Old First Presbyterian Church and our church's session wants to celebrate her ministry by making a gift to San Francisco SafeHouse in her honor from our memorial fund. The session also invites individual members to add to this donation in her honor: Make your check payable to OFPC and write "Glenda Hope Gift" on the memo line.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY: CHILD CARE DURING WORSHIP

Do you miss young children and infants? Wish you could be an aunt or an uncle for an hour? Then volunteer to be an "on call" caregiver, when a visitor comes to worship with an infant or child. As many of you know, we no longer have a need for a full-time nursery worker but on occasion a visitor brings a child and we would like to have a list of people who would be available to care for a child during a service. We envision the ushers would have a list to work from as the need arises. This is another way to live out your baptismal promise to care for all God's children who walk or are carried through our doors. If you are interested please contact Pastor Maggi or Elder Priscilla Yu.

A MESSAGE FROM GINA WITHERS DORIS KRAUSS SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

I would first like to say that I am very excited to be a part of the Doris Krauss Senior Center. When I look back and think of how I got here it all makes perfect sense to me now. I began this journey at the knee of my beloved Grandfather Bruce Hutchinson. I would spend summers with my grandparents in Massachusetts when we were stateside; (my father was career Air Force) he would take me with him to the shoe shine shop downtown. There I would watch him with his friends while perched somewhere with a slice of pizza or hoagie; they would chat about everything and I loved hearing all the stories that they would tell. Their gestures, excitement and energy would fill the room with a joyful chatter. I would remember the conversations long after going home with my parents. Life would put me in positions where I had the pleasure of spending time with older people that were not family members. I always was fascinated at their journey and would listen to them tell me all about their lives. Their story telling would make my world bigger and gave me the opportunity to dream and see the world through their eyes.

I never thought that I would one day work with older adults in a meaningful way and that it would mean so much to me. I had stumbled into an occupation that would bring me closer to the days that I spent as a young girl listening to tall tales from people that a lot of the times were much different than I was. They came from different countries, and spoke different languages and worshiped in different ways. They gave me an education about the world and what worked and what didn't work; they gave me a path of how to be as I aged and what to expect. For that I will be forever thankful!

As I ventured further into the world of the elderly, I became fascinated with the process of aging and how aging in America was viewed. I went to the Society of Aging conferences until eventually I was presenting at the conference and was becoming quite skilled in the topic of "Isolation of Seniors." I was accepted into the New Ventures in Leadership for Professionals of Color. The program was a year long and at the end of that time I would develop a Medical Escort Program for communities of color and monolingual seniors.

While in this program I was approached and asked to clarify my definition of who were the elderly and how did they describe themselves? I struggled to give the right answer and I could not answer the question with any clarity. I listened to a description of the elderly simply being older people and that when we are born the aging process begins. Could our perceptions be a self-fulfilling prophecy for those groups of older people?

Have we chosen their fate without understanding their further potential, as if they are done reinventing themselves? Taking the time to consider the different phrases we use for stages in our life defines for a lot of us the behavior that is acceptable and unacceptable. Teenagers (young adults) for instance are given much consideration while growing toward the adult stage of life when making choices for themselves. Once past that stage we expect different behavior from them and are disappointed whenever that does not occur. These stages may need redefinition for some in order for us to understand the aging process. Many agencies are coming together to meet the needs of what I describe as the “Young Seniors”; those that are settled comfortably in the second half of their lives. They are volunteers who want to give back; they are individuals who still want to be a part of mainstream activity. This idea becomes difficult only if we are unable to change our attitudes regarding the aging process. Visualize a meeting place that was not considered a senior day program or senior activities site; while this is much needed in our communities for some, there are those that simply don't want to participate.

The young senior or aging adult may need something totally different and unique to meet the needs of this totally different group of people. It is really all of our responsibility to give this dynamic generation options to grow as the population ages and to meet the need in only the way that progressive thinkers do!

I see this in the seniors that attend the Doris Krauss Senior Center, their need to connect and tell their stories and enjoy the company of their friends along with a carefully prepared home cooked meal. The laughter that fills the room and the joy that is in their eyes when they tell me their truth or the places they have traveled and the people that they loved.

Doris Krauss Senior Center makes a difference in our old friends' lives to take them away from the self-fulfilling prophecy that we have subliminally given them and ourselves; realizing this has enabled me to interact differently when meeting older people since I was one too! Under the name Doris Krauss Senior Center it should also state “Forever Young.” I look forward to working to make this center the best center there ever was. I am thankful for the chance once again to be with people that I truly like and look forward to seeing and hearing what they have to talk about this week.

To contact Gina – especially to volunteer for the Doris Krauss Senior Center – send her an E-mail at gina@oldfirst.org.

GREETINGS FROM OFPC MEMBER TERRY STUMPF

Greetings, one and all! Just a brief update of what is happening in my life...

You may have heard that I and another colleague were terminated in March 2012 from Fourth Presbyterian Church due to cost containment issues. Needless to say, it was a shock and disruptive. I spent most of my time the remainder of the year taking care of mom in Fresno, going back and forth from Chicago. The best decision was our ability to get her into palliative and hospice care at her residential care facility. She did die on January 27, 2013. It was a great loss, but she was pain free, comfortable and cognizant until three-weeks before her death. My comfort comes from knowing she's now free and whole and safely in the arms of Jesus. She died the way she wished.

I remain unemployed by choice at the present time. In November of last year I moved into a pet friendly apartment with a Lake Michigan view just five blocks from where I previously lived - Hyde Park, not far from the University of Chicago and the home of President Obama and family. I have sighted him several times. I now have my little Maltese puppy with me- she's now 14 weeks old and weighs two lbs. She'll grow to four lbs. maximum. Her name is Hydie from Hyde Park on the Lake.

I have been attending several churches. The one I attend most often is Hyde Park Union Church, a union of the United Church of Christ and the American Baptist Church. Worship, faith formation, community mission, and membership remind me of Old First Presbyterian Church. I have not decided if I will join or not. During one sermon, preached on Transfiguration Sunday, I was struck that I am on a journey of discernment leading towards transformation. Not a change of who I am, but what is and will come before me as to next steps and pathway. So I feel I am still observing Lent - introspection, prayer, and discernment.

Recently, I had a wonderful time away to Boston and Cape Cod. One of my highlights was attending the Episcopal Church of St. Mary's of the Harbor, and, lo and behold, I ran into my most favorite poet - Mary Oliver. Good and great - made my Sunday and trip.

Peace, and be well!
Terry Stumpf

UPCOMING EVENTS

Interfaith Food Pantry, September 7 AND October 12

Old First Presbyterian Church is responsible for staffing the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, September 7, and again on Saturday, October 12. Please contact Joy Crosser if you can help.

Presbytery of San Francisco, September 10

The Presbytery of San Francisco meets on Tuesday, September 10, at Christ Presbyterian Church in San Leandro.

Jeanne Choy Tate, Book-Signing, September 15

On Sunday, September 15, meet OPFC member and author Jeanne Choy Tate at coffee hour after worship. She will be available to sign copies of her book *Something Greater*. For opportunities to discuss her book with the author (October 6 and 13), see the feature article below.

Worship Committee, September 21

The Worship Committee will meet to plan for Advent on Saturday, September 21, at 10:00 am in the sanctuary. "We would love you to join us, exploring the texts, creating liturgy and art to make this Advent a true preparation for the coming of Jesus. Thanks." – Chris Burt.

Peace: "At All Times in All Ways," September 29

Old First Presbyterian Church will collect our 2013 Peacemaking Offering on Sunday, September 29. Watch the bulletin for information about this important ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA). To learn more, you can also

- visit www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/specialofferings/peacemaking-offering/
- follow Special Offerings on Facebook or Twitter, or
- subscribe to the Special Offerings monthly newsletter for stories of impact and examples of how congregations across the PC(USA) are using their share to make a difference in their local communities.

Peacemaking Offering at Old First Presbyterian Church, September 29

At worship on Sunday, September 29, we will collect our annual Peacemaking Offering, one of the church-wide special offerings gathered in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

This year the Presbyterian Church (USA) is offering "Path of Peace Daily Reflections" for a Season of Peace: September 8 through October 6 (World Communion Sunday). You can subscribe to this service or download copy of the reflections by visiting www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/seasonofpeace/. This cycle of

Bible readings and reflections has become all the more timely and poignant in light of the expanding tension around the armed conflict in Syria.

The Peacemaking Offering supports the peacemaking efforts of the church at every governing body level and provides an opportunity to witness to God's gift of peace in the world. Gifts given to the Peacemaking Offering through a congregation are divided in the following manner – 25% is retained by congregations for support of their own peacemaking ministry; 25% is used to support presbytery and synod peace-making efforts; and 50% is forwarded to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program of the Presbyterian Mission Agency so that it can continue to provide assistance and resources for congregations and other bodies of the PC(USA). Online gifts to the Peacemaking Offering are used on the General Assembly level.

Old First Presbyterian Church Annual Picnic, September 29

We will hold our annual church picnic in the newly re-landscaped Lafayette Park (uphill from the church at Sacramento and Gough Streets) on Sunday, September 29, after worship. Watch the Sunday bulletin or our Facebook page for more information.

Care for all God's creation by joining in a March for the Elephants Friday, October 4

In response to the continuing poaching crisis in Africa – 35,000 elephants slaughtered last year alone – a broad-based coalition of activists in the San Francisco Bay Area invite the public to participate in San Francisco's inaugural March for Elephants. This will be an international action to be held in approximately 28 cities all over the world. The goal is to raise awareness, urging people to join the battle to save the elephants.

We will assemble for the march at Portsmouth Square (733 Kearny Street) on Saturday, October 4, at 10:00 am. The march will depart at 11:00 am under the protection of the San Francisco Police Department. For more information visit www.MarchForElephantsSF.org/, or contact Lois Olmstead: E-mail: march.for.elephants@gmail.com, telephone: 925-283-3345.

Calvary Presbyterian Invites Volunteers to Collaborate on Habitat for Humanity, October 5

Calvary Presbyterian Church is once again partnering with Habitat for Humanity to help build their latest project, a brand new development in the Oceanview district of San Francisco, called Habitat Terrace. The next Calvary Volunteer Day on this new job site is scheduled for October 5th.

Calvary welcomes both returning volunteers and those planning to do Habitat for the first time. Your volunteer day will look like the following:

- 8:30 am – arrival and check in
- 9:00 am – orientation and assignments
- 9:00 am – work on job site
- 12:00 noon – lunch
- 1:00 pm – work on job site
- 4:15 pm – clean up and debrief

Calvary has only 10 volunteer slots remaining on this day so please reply ASAP. If the volunteer slots are filled your name will be placed on a waiting list and you will have the first opportunity to fill a spot on our next Habitat Volunteer Day. For more details contact Mark Schulz, Calvary's Habitat for Humanity Liaison: markmmschulz@yahoo.com or (650) 207-1411.

SF Night Ministry Fall Gala, October 19

The San Francisco Night Ministry is entering its 50th year in 2014, and will present its annual Fall Gala "Gold Rush 49" on Saturday, October 19 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in the Urban Life Center, 1101 O'Farrell Street. A reception and silent auction begin at 5:30 pm. Dinner and live auction begin at 7:00 pm. All proceeds support Night Ministry's middle-of-the-night programs of counseling, referrals and crisis intervention to anyone in any kind of distress. Tickets are \$75.00 or \$150.00 and can be obtained through the Night

Ministry website (www.sfnightministry.org/) or Brown Paper Tickets (www.brownpapertickets.com/event/421606/).

Note! Among the items to be auctioned at the gala will be a dinner prepared by three ecumenical cooks: The Reverend Dana Corsello, rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the Reverend Elizabeth Ekdale, pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, and our own pastor, the Reverend Maggi Henderson. The winning bidder will enjoy this exceptional meal at the Pacific Heights rectory of St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

THIS MONTH'S FEATURE
JEANNE CHOY TATE'S *SOMETHING GREATER*

Jeanne Choy Tate, author of *Something Greater*, will lead a series of discussions at OFPC based on various chapters of her book. It will be helpful, but not necessary to have read the book before attending. She will also autograph copies of her book, *Something Greater*, after worship on Sunday September 15.

Sunday, October 6

Chinese and American Families in Contrast, Chapters 3 and 4

- How do Chinese child-rearing practices present an alternative to modern American individualism?
- If I pass my beliefs on to my children, won't that stifle them? Shouldn't they make their own choices?
- How do families in the U.S. pass a psychology of individualism on to their children? Where else do children learn to value individualism?

Possibly no other culture stands in such great contrast to American culture as the Chinese. While the independent individual is highly valued in America, Chinese culture continues, as it has for centuries, to raise its children to value parent-child relationships and to understand personal identity in relation to the family. By failing to acknowledge the importance of intergenerational relationships, American parents turn their children over to the influence of their peers, media and pop culture.

Sunday, October 13

From the Interdependence of Biblical Families to the Independent Individual, Chapters 2 and 3

- What can our individualistic culture learn from the interdependence of Biblical families?
- How did American culture become so individualistic?
- How does America's individualism impact our faith and Christian values?

From the beginning of the Biblical story in Genesis, Yahweh enters into history through families. Hebrew households stood at the center of the society and the whole community took responsibility for the religious upbringing of children. When Jesus came, he welcomed people into an even broader understanding of family relationships at the center of faith. Yet, even though the church began in family households, as Western culture has developed, family households and caregivers now have little influence in the public arena of civic life. Influenced by a psychology of individualism that promotes "freeing" children to be unique individuals, many parents choose not to pass their faith along to their children.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY: THE SUNDAYS IN JULY AND AUGUST, 2013

Date	Day	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel Reading
09/01/13	Ordinary 22	Jeremiah 2:4-13	81:1, 10-16	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14
09/08/13	Ordinary 23	Jeremiah 18:1-11	139:1-6, 13-18	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
09/15/13	Ordinary 24	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	14	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
09/22/13	Ordinary 25	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1	79:1-9	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
09/29/13	Ordinary 26	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15	91:1-6, 14-16	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31

OTHER DATES TO NOTE

Monday	09/02/13	Labor Day: Church Office Closed, No Doris Krauss Senior Center
Saturday	09/07/13	Interfaith Food Pantry Staffed by Old First Presbyterian Church
Sunday	09/08/13	Board of Deacons, Munro Room, 12:30 pm
Saturday	09/14/13	Welcome: Community Dinner, Fellowship Hall, 5:30 pm
Sunday	09/15/13	Book Signing with Jeanne Choy Tate, Fellowship Hall, 12:30 pm
Saturday	09/21/13	Worship Committee, 10:00 am, Sanctuary
Saturday	09/21/13	Presbyterian Women, 12:00 noon, Library
Tuesday	09/24/13	Session, Munro Room, 7:00 pm
Saturday	09/28/13	Welcome: Community Dinner, Fellowship Hall, 5:30 pm
Sunday	09/29/13	Church Picnic, Lafayette Park, 12:30 pm