

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

November 2014

Church Website: oldfirst.org

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

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

MAGGI'S MUSINGS

We are a singing people. Psalm 96 reads

*O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless God's name;
tell of God's salvation from day to day.*

I am struck by these words that remind me singing is in our faith DNA. And so is constantly learning to sing a *new* song. As you have heard in previous editions of *Shared Life* and in worship at Old First Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has “a new song” for this century: the new (purple) hymnal called *Glory to God*.

The process leading to this new hymnal began in 2004, when the General Assembly appointed a very wide-ranging Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song – a committee including musicians, clergy, elders, church members of all ages and from all over our denomination. The committee sang each of the 10,000 submitted or suggested hymns. The choices were narrowed down and sent to congregations all over the USA for a test-run and feed-back. (Seventh Avenue Presbyterian in San Francisco's Inner Sunset was one such testing ground.) Over 850 pieces of old and new music were selected.

In June this year our worship committee recommended that we purchase the new hymnal, but put off the final decision till September so Pam Byers could introduce the hymnal to the session. Pam wasn't able to be there that night but sent her written thoughts which began with a bit of history:

The Bay Psalm Book, printed in Cambridge, MA in 1640, was the first printed book produced in British North America. Because psalms played such an important role in Calvinist and Puritan worship, several other (European) psalm books were also in circulation in the colonies. Early congregations used whichever they preferred. Finally, in 1819, the PCUSA GA approved appointment of an official hymnal committee; and in 1831 Psalms & Hymns Adapted to the Public Worship became the first official Presbyterian hymnal. Later hymnals were published in 1874, 1895, 1933, 1955, 1972, and 1990 – our current blue book.

I heard Pam gently reminding us that singing and learning a new song or using a new hymnal was a part of our history, our way of being.

Pam admitted in an E-mail that “I actually love hymnals and because I am slightly crazy. I compared *Glory to God* to our current (blue) hymnal.” She had actually developed a spread sheet where she showed that almost every hymn which we sing at Old First is retained in the new hymnal. She further wrote about some of the features of *Glory to God*:

Many new spirituals, psalm-setting for almost every psalm, including all lections, settings for every lectionary text... This is a source of many new-to-us hymns, music from six continents, lots of new Christmas/Advent hymns – ditto Easter, numbers of good "praise" songs that I have heard succeed in various settings, Lots of new (to hymnal and to me) communion hymns & responses, that I hope we will try. Various hymns I like a lot, have sung at conferences and are not in the blue hymnal, 60 responses including our usual and MANY good ones to try.

It is no surprise that the session voted to approve purchasing the new hymnal. It will not replace the blue hymnal, but will add to our options and will be placed on the pews. While there are funds to purchase some new hymnals (left over from when we bought the blue ones) the session directed that that the congregation be given the opportunity to buy new hymnals for twenty dollars each for the church. Many are given in memory or in honor of our loved ones. Session members shared how they often look in a hymnal and remembered the saints who are in our midst and those who had gone before us.

Your first opportunity to purchase hymnals will be at the mission fair on November 23. We are just beginning this venture, so we need a team of people to help... just as people did when we bought the blue hymnal twenty-five years ago. Please speak to Linda Ryder, Horngsheng Tu or me to help.

Peace Pastor,
Maggi

P.S. As I write this just before All Saints' Day, I find myself grieving the death of Pam Byers and thanking God for her witness and life among us. I trust that now she indeed "sings a new song to the Lord" in the church triumphant. MH

STEWARDSHIP SEASON: NOVEMBER 2 THRU 23

Hospitality is an integral part of our identity at Old First Presbyterian Church. We offer hospitality in all aspects of our life together. Hospitality is a way to love our neighbor as commanded by Jesus. Hospitality is also linked to stewardship as seen in this citation from 1 Peter 4:10, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

- We provide hospitality through Worship which is central to our life together. We come together in prayer, song, Scripture and the sermon. Worship cost more than \$130,000 last year.
- We teach hospitality through Christian education with volunteers who teach our children about Jesus. We teach each other in small groups and in adult forums. CE cost more than \$22,000 last year.
- We practice hospitality with each other in Community building organized meals and other activities. We come together as family. We invite others to join us in community. Community building cost more than \$25,000 last year.
- We provide hospitality in outreach and mission. We join with other churches and interfaith groups to support our community dinners and the food pantry. We give to those in need in our neighborhood, our city, our country and in the world. Outreach and mission cost more than \$40,000 last year.
- We receive hospitality and find spiritual comfort through pastoral care. Pastor Maggi Henderson leads us as individuals and in groups. Pastoral care cost more than \$22,000 last year.
- We need a space for this hospitality and thus need to be good stewards of our property with timely building maintenance and use by ourselves and others. Operations cost more than \$155,000 last year.

To paraphrase 1 Peter, we receive gifts from God and use the first fruits of these gifts to serve one another to become good stewards of God's grace.

Please consider an increase in your pledge for this year's stewardship campaign "First Fruits for Hospitality." Your commitment to planning, budgeting and funding is crucial to our ministry.

Stewardship season begins on November 2 and ends on November 23, when we will bring our pledge cards forward during the worship service on Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the church year.

See the last page for a pledge card.

NOVEMBER MEANS THANKSGIVING

SFIC 25th Anniversary Concert, November 9

A concert celebrating the 25th Anniversary of The San Francisco Interfaith Council will be held Sunday, November 9, at 7:30 pm. The concert will be coordinated by Vance George, Director Emeritus, San Francisco Symphony Chorus and will feature performances inspired by a broad spectrum of faith traditions: First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, 1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco. Visit www.uusf.org for information about the venue.

SF Night Ministry 50th Anniversary Gala, November 16

Don't miss the 50th Anniversary Celebration for the San Francisco Night Ministry on Sunday, November 16, at 3:00 p.m. at Grace Cathedral. The celebrated author, Anne Lamott, will be the speaker. A reception will follow the service of prayer and song, praise and thanksgiving. (Our own Pastor Maggi has been part of the team planning the service.)

The day will conclude with a grand banquet at 7:00 pm at Delancey Street Restaurant. The service and reception at the cathedral are open to all. Tickets are required for the banquet. For more information, visit: www.sfnightministry.org.

Turkeys for the Saturday Community Dinner, November 22, 2014

St. Paulus Lutheran Church is serving the Saturday Community Dinner at Old First on November 22, and they have requested help in cooking the turkeys. The turkeys are supplied – all you have to do is cook them!

How it works: E-mail David Atshuler – david@oldfirst.org – and sign up by Monday, November 10 to be a *turkey chef*. You pick up your turkey at Old First Presbyterian Church on the preceding Sunday, November 16. You cook it and bring it back to the church as on Thursday, November 20, OR on Saturday, November 22, starting at 1:30.

Extra volunteers are needed for the meal as well. This time we will serve the meal using real plates and utensils so we could use lots of people to help prepare and serve this meal.

SFIC 10th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service, November 27

The San Francisco Interfaith Council invites you to join in a special service of Prayer and Thanksgiving on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27, 10:00 am at Congregation Sherith Israel, 2266 California Street. Visit www.sherithisrael.org for information about the venue.

UPCOMING EVENTS: MISSION, LOVE, CARING FOR THE WORLD

The Awareness Foundation: Christians in the Middle East, November 5

A discussion about Christians in the Middle East will be led by the Reverend Nadim Nassar, director of the Awareness Foundation at Old First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, November 5, 2014, 7:00–9:00 pm.

For the past several years, the Middle East has been in turmoil, as people have protested, regimes have fallen, sectarian violence has increased and rule of law has eroded. Many of these countries, including Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt, have had vibrant Christian communities that can trace their roots back to the establishment of Christianity in the Middle East two thousand years ago. Yet the very existence of these communities is threatened by the relentless violence and intimidation that Christians now face throughout the region. Father Nassar will report conditions he has seen in Syria and what the Awareness Foundation does to help Christians rebuild their communities and the trust between them and Muslim neighbors. Following his talk, there will be an opportunity for questions and answers.

Father Nassar heads the Awareness Foundation, a nonprofit organization, headquartered in London and operating throughout the world, and is in the forefront of addressing the crises faced by Christians in the Middle East and urges a response to alleviate their suffering and dislocation.

For more information about the Awareness Foundation, visit www.awareness-foundation.co.uk.

SF Presbyterian Youth Group, November 9

The San Francisco Presbyterian Youth Group will meet on Sunday, November 9, 1:30 pm at Mission Bay Community Church, 32 Ocean Avenue.

Edgewood Center for Children and Families, November 9

On Sunday, November 9, Gregg Biggs from the Edgewood Center for Children and Families will join us for worship and coffee hour. Edgewood was founded in 1851 by a group of women meeting at Old First Presbyterian Church and continues to be a unique Bay Area resource, serving over 7,000 youth and their families each year.

In 1851, a group of San Francisco women concerned about the number of orphans arriving during the peak of the California Gold Rush, gathered at Old First Presbyterian Church to respond to the needs of these children. They created what would eventually become Edgewood Center for Children and Families. Edgewood is a nonprofit that provides the full continuum of behavioral and mental health services that transforms the lives of thousands of children, youth, and families each year.

Edgewood has kept pace with the changing needs of the community. Today, it has the distinction of being the Bay Area's largest premier provider of behavioral health, family support, and educational services. Each year, professional staff serve children and youth who have faced severe, multiple trauma and help them to heal and to gain confidence. They also reach teens struggling with depression or thoughts of suicide by giving them the support they need in times of crisis.

The long standing partnership between Edgewood and Old First Presbyterian Church has touched thousands of young lives for the past 163 years. It continues to be a unique Bay Area resource, serving over 7,000 youth and their families each year. To learn more, visit: www.edgewood.org

Presbytery of San Francisco, November 11

The presbytery will meet next on Tuesday, November 11, at Trinity Presbyterian Church in San Carlos. This is the annual meeting where we elect officers and approve the next year's budget, and other business items will fill out our time together.

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Old First Mission Fair, Sunday, November 23

Don't miss the Mission Fair during the Coffee Hour on November 23, the Sunday *before* Thanksgiving. Representatives of local mission causes that we support will participate, and this will be an opportunity to learn more about what they do. This will also be a great time to buy fair trade products, both for ourselves and as holiday gifts. The new Presbyterian hymnal, *Glory to God*, will be on display, and we will have a chance to help Old First buy them. Members who pay for a new hymnal can dedicate it to a member of the Old First family or their own family members or friends. Gifts of hymnals will be recognized in book plates in the front of the books.

Brighten the Holidays for a Homeless Young Person: Thru December 21

Bring a Christmas gift to church and help Larkin Street Youth Services brighten the holidays for over 450 young people who stay in Larkin Street’s emergency shelters and transitional living facilities or access Larkin Street’s drop-in centers and programs.

Gifts do not need to be expensive. Everyday items are much needed. All gifts need to be *new and unwrapped*. Items on the young people’s wish lists this year include:

Gifts	Personal Care Items	Cothing/Household
MP3 players	Shampoo/conditioner/lotions	Socks/underwear
Headphones	Deodorant, soap	Shoes/sneakers/flip flops
Bike helmets	Sewing kits and first aid kits	Hooded sweatshirts/jackets
Backpacks	Makeup kits/shaving sets	Business and business casual clothing
Gift cards	Brushes/combs	Ponchos/rain boots/umbrellas
Muni tokens/BART passes	Beauty products	Alarm clocks/watches/small appliances, flashlights
Purses/wallets	Hair dryers	Plates/bowls/dishes/pots/pans
2015 day planners/journals	Toothbrushes/toothpaste	Towels/sheets/blankets

The Mission Fair on Sunday, Nov. 23, is a great time to bring a gift, or you can drop a gift off at Old First on Sunday, November 30 or December 7. Look for the Larkin Street Christmas gift box or Bill or Marilyn Campbell at the coffee hour. You may also take gifts to Larkin Street’s Drop-In Center at 1138 Sutter Street (between Larkin and Polk Streets) weekdays, 9:30-4:30, attention Jessie Backer, through *Friday, December 12*.

SFIC Service for World AIDS Day, November 30

The San Francisco Interfaith Council and St Mark’s Lutheran Church will sponsor “From Darkness Into Light,” a worship service for World AIDS Day, Sunday, November 30, 2014, 6:00 pm at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 1111 O’Farrell Street (at Franklin).

Fernando Gonzalez Celebration, December 7

On Sunday, December 7, after worship in the Fellowship Hall, there will be a celebration of Fernando Gonzalez’s service to Old First Presbyterian as its sexton and custodian. Fernando retired in October, but continues to be a devoted member of the Old First family. Please join the celebration, but if you are unable to attend, please send messages and/or cards to Lori Yamauchi, at lyamauchi@planning.ucsf.edu or to the church office by December 4. Contributions of gift cards from Amazon, Safeway or other retailers for Fernando can be sent to the church office, as well. If you are interested in helping with the celebration, please contact Lori Yamauchi.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE: EBOLA

Contributions to “Disaster Relief-Ebola” will supplement the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and will allow PC(USA) members and congregations to support the response to the Ebola epidemic in Africa and related humanitarian needs. Your prayers and faithful giving do make a difference. Go to www.presbyterianmission.org, account DR000190, or search on “Disaster Relief-Ebola.” You can also visit www.pcusa.org for more information about how our church responds to the needs of the world.

TOM CULP NEW CHAIR OF OLD 1ST CONCERTS

Old First Concerts is delighted to welcome Tom Culp as our new board chair. Tom has been a member of the board since 2009. Newly retired, he brings his valuable business expertise and get-it-done energy to a leadership role for the concert series. As a long-standing member of the Old First Presbyterian Church he also brings joint fellowship. He follows Barbara Marré as board chair. Her productive leadership over the past seven years has been very much appreciated and we are glad that she will continue on the board.

FEATURE STORY: SONOMA COUNTY WINERIES TURN WINE INTO WATER

Recently, at Ranyienya Primary School in western Kenya, teachers have had to monitor the bathrooms closely. The students have developed a naughty habit of visiting the new latrines even when they don't need to use them, just so they can wash their hands.

Ranyienya is one of two communities to date in the Kasipul Constituency of western Kenya that received funding for a WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene education) project from Global Partners for Development to improve community health, student attendance and attention, and parent productivity. Since they received the WASH project, their attendance rates have doubled and water-borne illness has decreased tremendously within the community. And for the students – the clear water emerging from the taps is magical.



WASH projects fund local engineers and contractors to excavate wells, pipe water to the school and surrounding communities, and renovate school latrines to include hand-washing stations and shower facilities for boarding students. Teachers and students are also trained in good hygiene practices.

Miles down the road from Ranyienya at Apondo Primary School, the children currently walk to retrieve contaminated water from a river that is almost two miles away, haul it home and then bring it to school each day, where it is pooled with water brought by other students for drinking and cooking.

In this dry, poor area of Kenya, women and children use an enormous amount of time and strength to obtain water that is still likely to make them sick. Even though it is often boiled or chlorinated before drinking, chronic gastrointestinal problems, typhoid fever, and parasitic infections are all common results of the use of non-potable surface water for these children and their families.



In response to this quiet crisis, ten family-owned wineries in Sonoma County, California decided to partner with Global Partners to “turn wine into water.” Through the Vineyards to Villages (V2V) initiative, half of the sales price of select V2V wines at participating wineries goes directly to funding WASH projects at rural Kenyan schools with little to no water infrastructure in Kenya.

Participating wineries include Christopher Creek Winery, De La Montanya Winery, Deux Amis Winery, Dom Whitney Wines, Fritz Underground Winery, Hawley Winery, Merriam Winery, Vízlay Vineyards, Williamson Wines,

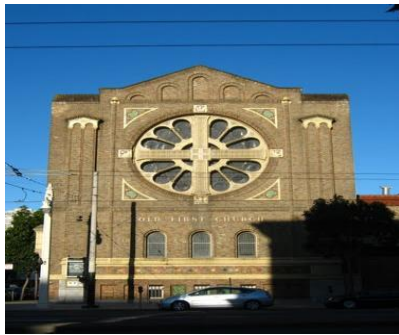
and Wilson Winery.

You can purchase V2V wines by visiting these tasting rooms or asking for V2V wines directly from wineries via phone or e-mail. You can also order wines at www.gpfd.org/marketplace. These wines are perfect for the Thanksgiving table or as gifts for the holiday season!

Global Partners, a nonprofit organization based in Rohnert Park, Ca., works with East African communities to develop individualized solutions to problems related to education, health, and water in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Local underwriters cover all organizational overhead, fundraising, and administrative costs, so 100% of funds generated from V2V will go directly to WASH projects.

For more information on how you can help turn wine into water for rural families in Kenya, visit www.gpfd.org or contact Amy Holter at aholter@gpfd.org or (707) 588-0550.

OFPC SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP, NOVEMBER 2 THRU 23



To help Old First Presbyterian Church plan, budget and carry out its ministry, simply fill in this card and return it to the church office or bring it to worship on Sunday, November 23.

Old First Presbyterian Church, Pledge for 2015

First Fruits for Hospitality

Name:

Address:

Pledge Amount:

\$ _____

Check One:

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Annually

Annual Pledge Guidelines

	3%	5%	10%
\$30,000	\$900	\$1,500	\$3,000
\$50,000	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
\$100,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$10,000

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY: THE SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER, 2014

Date	Day	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel Reading
November 2	Ordinary 21	Joshua 3:7-17	107:1-7, 33-37	1 Thess. 2:9-13	Matthew 23:1-12
November 9	Ordinary 22	Joshua 24:1- 3a, 14-25	78:1-7	1 Thess 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
November 16	Ordinary 23	Judges 4:1-7	123	1 Thess. 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
November 23	Christ the King	Ezekiel 34:11- 16, 20-24	100 or 95:1-7a	Eph. 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46
November 30	Advent 1	Isaiah 64:1-9	80:1-7, 17-19	1 Cor, 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37

OTHER DATES TO NOTE

Sunday	November 2	All Saints' Sunday
Sunday	November 2	OFPC Youth: Something Fun with Pastor Maggi, After Worship
Sunday	November 2	Christian Education Committee, 1:00 pm, Home of Priscilla Yu
Wednesday	November 5	Awareness Foundation with Nadim Nassar, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary
Saturday	November 8	Memorial Service for Pam Byers, 10:00 am, Sanctuary
Sunday	November 9	Board of Deacons, 12:30pm, Munro Room
Tuesday	November 11	Presbytery of San Francisco, Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Carlos
Tuesday	November 11	Session, 7:00 pm, Munro Room
Saturday	November 15	Presbyterian Women, noon, Library
Sunday	November 23	Mission Fair, 12:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Sunday	November 23	4 th Sunday Small Group, 12:30 pm, Library
Thursday	November 27-28	Thanksgiving Day Holiday, Church Office closed
Sunday	November 30	First Sunday of Advent

The Officers of Old First Presbyterian Church

Session

George Becker, personnel; Michael Berg, mission and giving; Bill Campbell, mission and giving; Hsiaochien Chuang, worship; Barry Clagett, finance; Gregory Free, treasurer; Harriet MacLean, planning; Jeanne Kirkwood, clerk of session; Jean Olson, mission and giving; Linda Reyder, worship; Randy Smith, planning; Sally Spencer; Steve Taber, operations; Betty Voris, community-building; Priscilla Yu, Christian education

Board of Deacons

Cindy Burt, Sam Cheng, Craig Kehne, Diane Lewis, Diane Molberg, Bryan Nichols, Leota Parker, Glen Potter, AnnieScott Rogers, and Jian Wang