

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

September 2014

Church Website: oldfirst.org

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

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

MAGGI'S MUSINGS

A visiting pastor was meeting with a group of San Francisco pastors and asked us this: If he was going to bring his family to San Francisco for a summer vacation, when should he come to experience the best summer weather? Two of us answered in unison “October!” Summer in San Francisco is a wholly different thing as many of our visitors come to know as they walk down the streets in their recently purchased sweatshirts on a foggy summer day.

Our summers are a bit different in a variety of ways. Churches in the other parts of the country can count on decreased numbers in worship and participation during summer months. We don't see a big difference. However, the pace of our church life does change during the summer months: We give ourselves the luxury of a few less meetings, the choir takes a break and sits in the pews, and I find it is a bit less frantic and can take more time to ponder.

And I have been pondering about the children and youth of our church. Like most urban churches, we don't have a high number of young people but we have *exceptional* young people, many of whom are active in the life of Old First in a variety of ways. I have a long history of working with youth and children and love being their pastor. So it is a bit of loss for me in this city, where it is said there are more dogs than babies!

This summer I got an E-mail from a member of a North Carolina church where I once worked telling me that her son was doing an internship in Berkeley and asking if I could be in contact with him. I told her “Sure, why don't you have him E-mail me,” yet thinking I wouldn't hear from him. He was dear to me but he really hadn't seen me since he was in elementary school and I thought the request might be more about his mother wanting me to check on him, than about his desire to meet me again. So I was thrilled when he called. I got to spend a wonderful evening with this 21-year-old man. It was a privilege to be his pastor then and a joy to see him “all grown up.”

That evening got me dreaming about how we might care for and be part of our young people's lives in ways that can fit our unique situation today, and *not* be about trying to replicate our past experience or being unrealistic.

I have come up with a modest proposal. I wrote our families and shared this:

I am willing to commit my time and my energy this fall to try a couple of things, a couple of experiments so to speak. But really, I need your support and your kids to make this happen.

I have two simple ideas: First, as some of you may know, last year a city-wide Presbyterian youth group was started called San Francisco Presbyterian Youth Group. (Yup, SFPYG for short!) It draws middle school and high schools students from all over the city and some even come in from the East Bay. There are lots of churches like ours that have kids but not enough for an old-school youth group. SFPYG meets on the **second Sunday of the month from 1:30pm**

to 3:30 pm at different churches all over the city. This fall, I am to go to the meetings and take our youth myself. The first meeting is on Sunday, **September 14**.

Second, I want to do something fun with our kids every two or three months. It might be a service project or hiking, an art thing or playing, or doing some fabulous thing in The City. The first event will be Sunday, **September 7** – the same Sunday that Christian Education starts. We'll start after the coffee hour. I am calling it "Maggi's Mystery Trip!"

This is not about numbers. This is about relationships. If one young person participates, I will call it success. My plate is full already, so to do this new thing I will have to let other things go. And I will need adults to come with me. Maybe you've already asked – or now can offer – to help plan an event, to help with media and computer issues, to drive, or to lead an art project. Finally, I ask for your prayers and support. Let's see where God can work in our midst this fall.

Peace, Maggi

NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH AT OFPC

This fall Old First Presbyterian Church is experimenting with three new opportunities for spiritual growth: re-connecting our youth with **San Francisco Presbyterian Youth Group** (see Maggi's Musings above); **Adult Christian Education** every Sunday; and **Dinner and a Documentary** on September 21.

Adult Christian Education Every Sunday, 9:00 AM

The Christian Education Committee has committed to the following plan for adult education on Sunday mornings:

- Classes will start at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings. We will always supply pastries, fruit juice, coffee and tea with a suggested donation of \$2 to cover the cost. Participants will draw numbers to see who fetches the refreshments for the following week's class.
- We will (almost always) meet *every* Sunday.
- On Sundays when we have no scheduled teacher/speaker, we will have a current events discussion. The focus will be on the Christian aspects of what is happening. There may be some differences of opinion about what the Christian answers may be, but that is what the Presbyterian tradition is like. The Sunday Chronicle, New York Times and USA Today will be available.

Contact Priscilla Yu or Glen Potter with your comments about the new plan.

September 2014 Adult Christian Education, 9:00 am, Munro Room

September 7	Current events discussion
September 14	Andrea Segura leads a discussion of gun violence
September 21	Current events discussion
September 28	Current events discussion

Dinner and a Documentary, September 21

The Christian Education Committee invites you to join us on Sunday, September 21, at 7:00 p.m. for "Dinner and a Documentary" at the home of Michael and Nina Berg. Dr. Marilyn McEntyre will facilitate a discussion of the documentary Forks over Knives after we have viewed it. This documentary focuses on research by two food scientists, and shows that in spite of advances in medicine the popularity of processed foods and animal-based foods has led to epidemic rates of obesity and diabetes and other diseases. Marilyn McEntyre leads retreats and education courses for churches; she is a professor of literature, has written several books, and is also an adjunct

professor of Medical Humanities at the UCSF-UC Berkeley joint Medical Program. Please watch the church bulletin for updates, but save the date now! For more information you can contact the Berg's: ninabergsf@yahoo.com

ADULT EDUCATION: UNDERSTANDING ISLAM, OCTOBER 5

Iftekhar A. Hai will be our guest speaker Sunday, October 5, 2014 at 9:30 am. (Note first exception to new time for Adult Christian Education.)

Mr. Hai's topic will be "Understanding Islam." The topics covered will include: Articles of Faith; the Five Pillars of Islam; the Last Sermon of Prophet Mohammed; attributes of God; the connection to Abraham, Sarah and Isaac through Hagar and Ismael; the mystical Sufi tradition; what righteousness means to Muslims; and statistics of Muslims in the USA. Papers on these topics will be available on the table in the Fellowship Hall one week before Mr. Hai's talk.

Iftekhar A. Hai was born in a village in Southern India during the days of British rule. He earned his bachelor's degree from a Podar college, Matunga, suburb of Bombay. Facing religious discrimination he moved to Pakistan for better job opportunities in 1965. Because of the problems in Pakistan, he moved to the USA to fulfill his dreams and landed in San Francisco in 1969 for a master's program. After earning an MBA in 1973 he married his wife, Atiya. He served thirty years as a financial officer, which was his American dream.

Mr. Hai found Muslims facing bigotry, racism and hatred in the USA. He thus moved from finance to interfaith education. He became one of the founding Directors of United Muslims of America in 1982 and has been its full time honorary Director of Interfaith relations since 1990. In June 2004, he founded UMA Interfaith Alliance and became its President. The mission was to promote cooperation and understanding among world religions through interfaith dialogue, creating racial and religious harmony and encouraging American Muslims to get involved locally, nationally and globally for the common good of all people.

The 9/11 tragedy and the demonization of Muslims and Islam have created a crisis for American Muslims. Mr. Hai explains Islam and its practices to Americans in churches, synagogues, schools, colleges and universities. He has represented Islam in Conflict Resolution Conferences and interfaith seminars in USA, Canada, the UK, India, Pakistan, Africa, Afghanistan, Brazil, Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

OFPC AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Old First Presbyterian Church has direct interests in the Middle East. Old First prays for and financially supports The Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt, and The Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon, and has a close friendship with Presbyterian mission co-workers Steve and Cinda Gorman in Egypt and with Tala Jarjour, a Syrian professor at the University of Notre Dame. Two articles of interest to Old First members follow below. The first reports briefly on the Gorman's work and recent visit to Old First. The second concerns Christians in Iraq and is a reprint from newspapers in Lebanon.

Presbyterian Mission Co-Workers Share Witness at Old First

On Sunday, August 3, Old First welcomed Steve and Cinda Gorman, Presbyterian clergy working for our denomination with partner institutions in Egypt. During an adult education forum and as guest preachers, they shared a remarkable testimony of peace-making which has been essentially unreported in the media.

Steve and Cinda Gorman told two largely unreported but deeply moving stories of a crucial Christian – and Muslim – witness for peace in Egypt: In August 2013, Muslim militants torched several dozen Christian homes, businesses and churches, expecting to ignite a violent sectarian response. Led by Coptic Patriarch Tawadros II, Christians - Copts, Orthodox, Catholics, Protestants - came to their burned churches and worshipped but did not start burning mosques. Then, several dozen other churches were also marked for destruction, but were protected by Muslim neighbors. Cinda and Steve believe that this witness for peace – Christians and Muslims interrupting the expected cycle of violence – may have saved Egypt – for now – from the



sectarian civil war now engulfing its neighbors. These stories perfectly illustrated their preaching text: “Bless those who hate you... do not repay anyone evil for evil,” Romans 12:14-18.

If you would like to support this remarkable ministry, you can write a check to Old First Presbyterian Church with either "Gorman's" or "Egypt" on the memo line. Old First Presbyterian Church will send contributions to the Synod of the Nile (where Steve works) and the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Cairo (where Cinda is on staff).

Photo: During worship, Steve Gorman presents Maggi with a Coptic cross made of polished camel bone.

An Open Letter to the UN Secretary General on the Fate of Mosul’s Christians

The Daily Star, Lebanon News

A group of liberal-minded Muslim and Christian Lebanese professionals and academics has recently written to the Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations expressing grave concern about the latest persecution of Christians in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul by the “Islamic State.” Here is the text of the letter prepared by the group, which prides itself on embodying the best that Lebanon has produced by way of peaceful pluralistic co-existence and mutual respect among the eighteen religious denominations recognized in the Lebanese Constitution. Among the signers is George Sabra, president of the Near East Theological School at Beirut, one of OFPC’s regular prayer partners.

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

We are a group of Muslim, Christian and Druze professionals and academics from Lebanon who are old schoolmates and lifelong friends, some of us since early elementary grades. In all modesty, we constitute a representative sample of the finest that Lebanon’s peaceful pluralist coexistence among various religious sects has produced over the years despite what turmoil the country has been through in recent decades.

We have taken the liberty to write you this letter because of our deep alarm at what is happening to the Christians of Mosul in Iraq, and generally to the native Christian and other minority communities throughout the Middle East. In particular, these beleaguered ancient Christian communities of our region are struggling hard as they face mounting pressures and challenges from the same violent and intolerant fanatics. Confronted with forced conversions, or a humiliating life of collective submission, or the sword, Mosul’s Christians have naturally opted to leave just as other Christians in neighboring hotspots have done before them. This time round, however, it is unconscionable that the international community would stand idly by and allow the wholesale destruction of rooted communities solely because of their religious beliefs. The United States in particular bears an important burden in this regard since its actions in Iraq

beginning with the 2003 invasion that rid the world of a brutal dictator unintentionally hastened the demise of a good portion of that country's Christian community. Religious cleansing was not tolerated in the former Yugoslavia during the 1990s, and it should not be accepted in Iraq or elsewhere in the Middle East in 2014.

We do not hold the view that the Darwinian model of struggle for existence and survival of the fittest can be automatically transposed from the natural world of flora and fauna and applied to human societies; this was tried before in the form of Social Darwinism and culminated in the unspeakable atrocities perpetrated by racist fascism and Nazism with devastating barbaric consequences for all of humanity. The kind of open and liberal mindset that defines us as individuals and as a cohesive group we owe to years of osmotic interaction in Lebanon's fine educational venues as well as through a thousand other occasions for shared experiences and the exchange of uplifting influences within the country's rich civil society.

All this was made possible thanks to Lebanon's distinctive climate of personal and societal freedoms that has set the country apart in a positive sense from its largely freedom-starved Arab surroundings. In spite of the horrors Lebanon has witnessed in its recent history it has remained a unique repository of that precious commodity – freedom – thanks in large part to the continued existence of an indigenous Christian community with a cumulative centuries-old vibrant tradition of freedom. And this same tradition has played no small part in shaping the emergence of a receptive, accomplished and enlightened Lebanese Muslim elite that is the pride of all Arab Muslims. Other embattled Christian and Muslim communities in the region caught, like the Christians of Mosul, in the vicious crossfire between warring sectarian and tribal factions, or between dictators and religious militants, also deserve a chance to live a free and peaceful life within their own ancestral towns and villages, and to savor the bountiful gifts accruing from such freedom. Lately, we have seen how the terrifying cynicism of certain regimes has been complicit in the spawning of groups such as the so-called "Islamic State" so as to present the world with a spectacle even more horrible than their own familiar modes of brutality. If free Christians and free Muslims die out, or embark under duress on one-way departures from the region, those who remain – both Christians and Muslims – will be the great losers in the long run.

Your Excellency, to stop the steady depletion from our region of this rare and sophisticated breed of free Muslims and Christians – the salt of the Arab earth, as it were, and the only guarantee of a brighter future for Arab children – we submit for your consideration the following practical recommendations for action:

First, the most effective way to combat outrageous abuses of human rights and human dignity such as what we are witnessing today in Mosul against its Christians is to shine the unrelenting international spotlight of publicity on these grave transgressions, thereby bringing about a global chorus of sustained condemnation of the perpetrators and their despicable practices. We therefore call upon you from the vantage point of your esteemed office to continue to speak out forcefully and to urge other influential figures and groups to do the same in defense of the suffering Christians of Mosul and all similarly suffering communities under comparable dire circumstances in our troubled region. We urge you as United Nations Secretary-General to make good on the calls we are hearing to bring those who have viciously emptied Mosul of its Christians before the International Criminal Court to face justice.

Second, a long-term plan must be implemented and the required funding to achieve it secured to bolster and promote Islamic moderation across the board so that credible and authoritative

Muslim voices everywhere can openly condemn, and dissociate themselves from, these types of abuses committed under the cloak of their religion. Such a campaign should also involve both the educational and media sectors of the Arab world that play a crucial role in shaping public opinion and attitudes. This should be done in close cooperation with the regional religious establishments and with independent civil society institutions open to such an ambitious and liberal enterprise. The best way to undermine extremism's culture of violence and death is to strengthen and celebrate the universal values of human dignity, pluralist existence, mutual respect, religious freedom, reciprocity, acceptance of the different other and minority rights.

Third, serious thought must be given to the long-term implications and dangers for the region and the rest of the world of takfiri ideologies of hate and violent rejection in the name of religion gaining a secure foothold in a volatile place such as the Middle East. Effective coordinated responses by the international community designed to nip this cancer in the bud should be contemplated carefully and executed boldly. Drying up the sources that fund this sort of violent takfirism could be a good start, so those supplying the financial, material and logistical support to these radical groups for whatever geopolitical or strategic reasons should know that inevitably the tables will be turned against them and the fire they have stoked will rebound to consume them.

Fourth, a reserve fund should be created under United Nations auspices and with the help of individuals, organizations and governments of good will to address the urgent humanitarian and other needs of victimized persons and groups in the event that prevention does not work and persecution persists. Uppermost on the priority scale should be the security and preservation of actual as well as potential victims in their native lands and homes, and the cessation of demographic hemorrhaging whether in the form of displacements within the region or outright emigration beyond it. The burgeoning and scandalous Middle Eastern refugee phenomenon must be ended.

Fifth, everything possible should be done to protect from further erosion those few remaining oases in the Arab world such as Lebanon where freedom endures. The line of steady collapse must be held firm at the boundaries of these oases, and this can best be done by strengthening and supporting those elements and institutions in these oases that are living embodiments of this precious freedom.

If the rational and responsible steps outlined above are undertaken under your wise guidance and leadership, your Excellency, the world will once again feel hopeful that the turning of this inhuman tide is possible.

We thank you for your time and for the efforts you have expended on behalf of justice and peace.

Yours sincerely,

Kamal F. Badr, medical doctor; Amer El-Hage, consulting engineer; Mohamad Rustom Halwani, civil engineering consultant; Atef Wafic Idriss, food scientist and consultant; Anthony Iliya, investment banker; Hania Kabban, English as a foreign language teacher; Jamil I. Kawa, engineer and scientist; Richard K. Khuri, professor of philosophy; Habib C. Malik, professor of history; Robert Moughanie, businessman; Amal Zaroubi Moujaes, businesswoman; Sami Moujaes; businessman; Hani H. Nsouli, political writer; Toufic Saadeh, real estate professional; George F. Sabra, professor of theology; Janan al-Awar Smither, professor of psychology; Fuad N. Ziyadeh, medical doctor

OFPC, PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN, AND OIKOCREDIT

Presbyterian Women is a long time international women's group of the Presbyterian Church (USA). PW's purpose is to:

- nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- support the church's worldwide mission,
- work for justice and peace,
- build an inclusive, caring community of women.

Here at Old First we embrace these goals as we meet the third Saturday of the month. After eating together and a sharing time, we read and discuss the month's lesson. This comes from our annual study magazine, Horizons. This year we are studying "Reconciling Paul" based on 2 Corinthians.

As part of our mission support we collect pennies for the Least Coin fund, an international mission field funded by coins of the smallest denomination in each host country. This spring we also decided to increase our mission support by investing in OikoCredit. Some of you may remember seeing a presentation of OikoCredit at last year's Mission Fair. It was hosted by our former pastor Roger Hull and OikoCredit's Stuart Kregel. This and an insert on OikoCredit in our Horizons magazine inspired us to get involved.

OikoCredit is a worldwide cooperative that provides funding to low-income people for the purpose of investing in their own businesses and to gain financial independence. The group invests in women in 67 countries around the world. This benefits the women, their families and their communities. Naturally we feel this is a great way to bring hope and help to other women while putting our faith (and money) to work.

To learn more about OikoCredit (and see pictures) go to www.oikocreditusa.org/invest. To share in the fun and faith of PW, visit us in the Old First library the third Saturday of each month from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm.

HYMN FESTIVAL AND BENEFIT FOR SALVADORAN PASTORS, ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 1111 O'FARRELL STREET, SEPTEMBER 21

Join us for two events, and one fabulous way to spend the day on September 21. We are hosting a Hymn Festival, with a Reception and Silent Auction Benefit to follow. Purchase tickets for either event, or receive a discount when you buy both together.

Hymn Festival 3:30 PM

Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear what happens when one of the finest organs in the Bay Area is paired with one of the country's leading organists. David Cherwin, artistic director of the National Lutheran Choir, is a nationally known conductor, composer and organist. He'll be leading a Hymn Festival on the Taylor & Boody organ built for St. Mark's. Whether or not you are an organ aficionado, or follower of Lutheran liturgical music, this event will feature memorable music for all to enjoy.

Reception and Silent Auction 5 PM

Join us for a light dinner and silent auction to benefit the Salvadoran Lutheran Pastoral Support Fund. For the past three years, St. Mark's has sent a delegation to visit our sister parish, Cordero de Dios, in El Salvador. Through our travels, we learned that many pastors in poor communities in El Salvador serve congregations that are not self-sustaining, meaning offerings given by members are not enough to pay the pastors who serve. In times of crisis, pastors do not receive

any income for weeks or months. We seek to change this by helping the Salvadoran Lutheran Pastoral Support Fund reach its two million dollar goal. There will also be opportunities to support programs St. Mark's is pursuing with Cordero de Dios.

David Cherwin

Recognized for his contributions to the field of church music and liturgy, David serves as editor of the National Lutheran Choir Series of choral music published by Morningstar Music Publishers. He is a founding member of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians and has served in its leadership in a variety of capacities. He is a member of the American Choral Director's Association, American Guild of Organists, Chorus America and Choristers Guild. In addition, David serves as Cantor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, a parish known for its passion for creative high quality liturgy and music.

David holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance and the Master of Arts degree in Theory and Composition from the University of Minnesota. In the fall of 2000, he was honored as a "Distinguished Alumnus" by Augsburg College, Minneapolis, where he studied choral music education and organ performance as an undergraduate. David also spent two years at the Berlin Church Music School studying conducting, composition and organ. He is the 2007 winner of the Raabe Prize for Excellence in Sacred Composition for his piece "The Souls of the Righteous."

Salvadoran Lutheran Pastoral Support Fund

In an effort to support the work of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church pastors, the ELCA has teamed up with the Salvadoran Lutheran Church to establish an Endowment Fund which is exclusively dedicated to provide for Salvadoran Lutheran Church pastoral salaries. The goal is to raise \$2 million to be kept as principal for the fund, which will generate enough interest to pay basic salaries to the ordained clergy of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church. As of May 2014, the fund is generating interest enough to cover the salaries of 6 pastors.

If you are unable to attend our event, but you'd like to support the fund, please visit <http://www.stmarks-sf.org/give-a-gift/>. Enter the amount of your gift in the "Other" category with the note "El Salvador Pastor Endowment Fund."

SANCTUARY FOR THE ARTS

The Sanctuary for the Arts meets the first Sunday evening of the month. It is a spiritual community for those seeking an artistic expression of worship, including clergy, spiritual directors, creatives, churched, un-churchd, and non-churchd. The Sanctuary is rooted at the intersection of art, faith and social change. Through improvisation and artistic expression we become more fully alive in our connection with the divine and each other.

The Sanctuary is led by the Reverend Jeff Cheifetz, a Presbyterian Church (USA) Teaching Elder and transitional minister, who has worked with churches in three denominations, and by Amy Diane Shoemaker, a Disciples of Christ seminary graduate, dancer, and spiritual director. Jeff and Amy are both inspired by InterPlayce, an improvisational movement practice that is based in affirmation, and that integrates body, mind, heart, and spirit.

You are invited to our worship service on Sunday, September 7, at 5:30pm, at InterPlayce, 2273 Telegraph Avenue (the entrance is around the corner, on 23rd Street) in Oakland. Please wear non-serious clothes, and come a little early to find street parking and get settled. InterPlayce is an eight-minute walk from the 19th Street BART station, and is served by several nearby

ACTransit bus lines. For more information, visit <http://www.sanctuaryforthearts.com> or E-mail Jeff Cheifetz at jchz54@gmail.com.

HOST AN INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT?

Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep School at 1055 Ellis Street has partnered with *gphomestay*'s residential program. Together, they are offering an opportunity to families in San Francisco. If you are interested in hosting an international student and you live within 30 minutes of San Francisco, you may want to consider becoming a host family. You may learn more at the program by visiting www.gphomestay.com.

Host families receive a monthly stipend and have access to ongoing support from local Residential Coordinators who can help coordinate meeting your student upon arrival, keeping you connected with the school community, and mediating issues if they arise. Students come with their own insurance and spending money and stay for the academic year. There are also short-term hosting opportunities available.

For more information contact Dave Brown at dbrown@gphomestay.com or the school's host coordinator at 781-996-0439. You can learn more at www.gphomestay.com – and even fill out an application.

COMING EVENTS

OFPC Choir Resumes

The choir of Old First Presbyterian Church has returned to Thursday rehearsals and Sunday worship. This is a perfect time to return to the choir, or to join for the first time. If you know someone who might enjoy singing in the Old First Choir, even if not a church member,, this would be a great time to introduce them to any one or our choir members or director Richard Benefield: richardbenefield@gmail.com

Interfaith Food Pantry, September 6

Old First Presbyterian Church is responsible for staffing the Interfaith Food Pantry September 6. If you are able to help unload the truck and/or distribute food that day, send an email to foodpantry@oldfirst.org.

Christian Education Resumes, September 7

Christian Education for adults at 9:00 am and for youth and children after “Time with Our Children” during the 11:00 am worship service resumes on Sunday, September 7.

JUST ENOUGH

Marilyn McEntyre was at first wary when congregants were asked in a worship service to “write your spiritual autobiography in six words.” Then these words came to her: “Eat the manna. More will come.” To McEntyre this was an expression of her ongoing anxieties about “saving and spending, keeping and letting go, prudent stewardship and the practice of generosity.” Her six-word autobiography reminded her of the way her mother lived – not far from poverty yet “rich in trust and stories about just the right amount of food, money, help showing up when it was needed.”

Marilyn Chandler McEntyre (*What's in a Phrase?* Eerdmans, 2014) as quoted in “Century Marks,” *Christian Century*, May 28, 2014, pp. 8-9.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY: THE SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER, 2014

Date	Day	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel Reading
Sept 7	Ordinary 13	Exodus 12:1-14	149	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
Sept 14	Ordinary 14	Exodus 14:19-31	114	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
Sept 21	Ordinary 15	Exodus 16:2-15	105:1-6, 37-45	Phil. 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
Sept 28	Ordinary 16	Exodus 17:1-7	78:1-4, 12-16	Phil. 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32

OTHER DATES TO NOTE

Monday	Sept 1	Labor Day: Church Office closed
Saturday	Sept 6	Old First Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry
Sunday	Sept 7	Christian Education Resumes
Tuesday	Sept 9	Worship Committee World Communion Sunday Planning Workshop, 7:00 pm, Munro Room
Sunday	Sept 14	Columbarium Team, 12:30 pm, Library
Sunday	Sept 14	Board of Deacons, 12:30 pm, Munro Room
Saturday	Sept 20	Worship Committee Lent Planning Workshop, 10:00 am, Sanctuary
Saturday	Sept 20	Presbyterian Women, 12:00 noon, Library
Sunday	Sept 21	Dinner and a Documentary, 7:00 pm, Berg home
Tuesday	Sept 23	Session, 7:00 pm, Munro Room
Saturday	Sept 27	Worship Committee Sacristy and Artwork Archive/Storage Workday, 10:00 am, Sanctuary
Sunday	Oct 5	World Communion Sunday, Peacemaking Offering

BIRTHDAYS

September		October			
1	Lisa Bigley	1	Betty Voris	23	Linda Reyder
4	Glen Potter	6	Randy Smith	24	AnnieScott Rogers
5	Daniel Pearch	7	Jian Wang	24	Priscilla Yu
12	Bob Hermann	12	Jacob Alford McEwen	28	Doris Bebb
13	Nina Berg	12	Nancy Spencer	29	Gerald Hennis
14	Harriet MacLean	15	Sidney Hollar	30	Bradly Alford
14	Ellen Alford McEwen	17	Josephine Yee	30	Jeanne Choy Tate
15	Joy Crosser	19	Bill Campbell		
21	Lois Nason	23	Ted Chiao		
23	Augusta Duncan				

The Officers of Old First Presbyterian Church

Session

George Becker, personnel; Michael Berg, mission and giving; Pam Byers, community-building; 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