

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

May 2015

Church Website: oldfirst.org

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

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE RESPONDS TO EARTHQUAKE DISASTER IN NEPAL



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Thousands are dead or injured from the massive earthquake and aftershocks that shook Nepal and neighboring countries on April 25. The quake, the worst in more than 80 years, struck just west of the capital of Kathmandu and destroyed towns and mountainous villages. The government of Nepal has officially requested international assistance and declared a state of emergency.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas with our partner, ACT Alliance, and its members who are already on the ground. PDA will remain active through the long term recovery, accompanying our partners in the area as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for rebuilding and resilience.

The needs for the response will be great. God's people are once again called on to stand in the "GAP" – Give. Act. Pray.

Give: Financial support for relief efforts can be designated to DR999999 with reference to Nepal. Gifts can be made online, by phone (800) 872-3283 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. (EST), or checks can be mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburg, PA 15264-3700.

Act: Learn how your congregation can help families who have lost everything in the devastation. Stay informed and like us on Facebook, download resources and share updates with your congregation.

Pray: Pray for those who suffered loss of family or those who are working tirelessly to provide rescue, humanitarian aid, and spiritual and psychological support.

Be the presence of God with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the people of Nepal. For more information, visit www.pcusa.org/pda.

“And after the earthquake...the sound of sheer silence,
and a Voice said: ‘what are you doing here?’” (1 Kings 19:12–13)

PENTECOST, MAY 24

Pentecost Empowerment

The Easter Season comes to a close on the feast of Pentecost, which, this year, falls on Sunday, May 24. Pentecost is the 50th day after Easter Sunday – Pentecost means 50th in Greek – and it commemorates the gift of the Holy Spirit to the early church as Christ had promised his followers prior to his Ascension. Pentecost with its thrilling story of the sound of wind, the appearance of tongues of flame, and the gift of languages is a major festival of the church year and reminds us that we are not only worshipers, but also disciples charged and equipped with the Spirit to carry on Christ's work of loving, reconciling and healing the world. So as a reminder of those empowering tongues of flame, wear a dash of red on Pentecost!

Pentecost Offering

Our annual Pentecost offering helps young people. It's divided into several areas: 40% is designated by each congregation to be used locally, 25% is used to support Young Adult Volunteers, 25% is used for youth programs, and 10% is used for at-risk children and youth.

The Young Adult Volunteer program allows young people to volunteer a year of service by providing health insurance and student loan repayment while they volunteer. The youth program portion supports programs such as the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, which OFPC member Camryn Hollarsmith attended in 2014. The at-risk funding is used for pre-school education, keeping adolescents in school, and preventing drop-outs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adult Educations: Christian Ethics in the Modern World, May 3, 12:30 pm

Christians say they make their moral decisions based on the Bible. But is that really true? How do we decide what are the right things to do as Christians in the modern world? Erwin Barron I leads a discussion of Christian ethics on May 3 from 12:30-1:30 pm in the Munro Room. You are invited to bring a sandwich and join us for an interesting discussion. We will use case studies to examine what tools we use to decide on the best behavior as Christians. Does the Bible really tell us what to do?

Maggi on MOSAIC, KPIX-TV 5, May 10, 5:00 am

Our pastor, Maggi Henderson, and two other women clergy from the Bay Area will appear on MOSAIC, a local program of KPIX-TV Channel 5 on Sunday morning, May 10, at 5:00 am.

Host Hugh Burroughs interviews Pastor Henderson, Elizabeth Ekdale, the lead pastor of St Mark's Lutheran Church, and Beth Singer, a senior rabbi of Congregation Emanu-El in this instalment of MOSAIC. They talk about their congregations, themselves and why women clergy leaders are important and what special qualities they bring to ministry and what challenges they face.

Deacons' Ice Cream Social: Logan Donaldson and Project Homecoming May 10, after worship

After worship on May 10, the board of deacons will host a fundraising ice cream social for Logan Donaldson's upcoming youth mission trip to New Orleans. Logan will spend a week working with Project Homecoming in its continuing efforts to rebuild after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Indulge your sweet tooth and support a great cause!

Interfaith Food Pantry, May 16

Old First Presbyterian Church provides volunteers for the Interfaith Food Pantry May 16. Come help unload the truck, bring food inside, distribute and clean up later. Contact Dana Nojima or foodpantry@oldfirst.org to volunteer.

Bay to Breakers, May 17

The annual Bay to Breakers footrace takes place May 17. Please be aware of street closures along the route and the traffic congestion that goes with them, and plan your trip to worship around this sprawling event.

Adult Education: *Les Misérables*, May 17, 12:30 to 4:00 pm

Les Misérables, the musical adapted from Victor Hugo's 19th Century novel, is one of the most popular musicals in history and tells a compelling story of perseverance in the face of social injustice. It is also a powerful Christian allegory – depicting the victory of forgiveness and redemption over a dogmatic and legalistic form of faith.

Les Misérables



On Sunday, May 17, Old First will present a showing of the Academy Award winning film of *Les Misérables*, preceded by Steve Taber's description of the film's background and Christian imagery and followed by a discussion.

The program will start at 12:30 pm and run until about 4:00 pm. Participants will be invited to bring a lunch and enjoy an afternoon of quality entertainment and thoughtful discussion. This event will also inaugurate our new 60" flat screen TV. Please let us know if you can attend, E-mail Steve at Stephen@sstaber.com or call the church office.

SFTS Graduates David Altshuler, May 23

David Altshuler, a seminarian intern and Saturday Community Dinner coordinator at Old First Presbyterian Church, will be among the graduates at the commencement exercises of San Francisco Theological Seminary on Saturday, May 23, 9:30 to 11:00 am, on Bouick Field in front of the SFTS Playhouse. SFTS will make David a Master of Divinity. To drop David a note of congratulations, send mail to

David Altshuler
21 Belle Avenue Apt 1
San Anselmo, CA 94960

Bike to Worship, May 31

The third annual Bike to Worship is a city-wide event, open to all faith communities, and is co-sponsored by the SF Bicycle Coalition, SF Interfaith Council and California Interfaith Power and Light. Old First Presbyterian is participating in this year's Bike to Worship Week and Pastor Maggi will ready to bless your bicycle at coffee hour. So, bike to worship. To learn more about the event, visit the SF Bicycle Coalition website: www.sfbike.org.

OFPC's 166th Anniversary Potluck Luncheon, June 7

On May 28th Old First Presbyterian Church will be 166 years old. Founded in 1849, the church had five homes before being rebuilt on our present site. Join with us at our Anniversary Potluck on June 7th to celebrate another great year of spiritual service to the community. The main course will be provided by the church. You may contribute either a side dish, a salad or a dessert to the potluck or, as usual, you may pay a modest donation instead. Signups begin May 17th during coffee hour.. Hope to see you joining the celebration.

Adult Education Classes for Fall 2015

The Christian Education committee is beginning to plan adult education classes for fall. We would like to encourage people to lead classes and discussions of any type – formal classes, informal salon-type forums, one-time events, small group discussions. However, we are trying to balance the kinds of topics and the various schedules. We are in the process of establishing guidelines. Anyone who would like to lead an official adult education program of the church should submit a brief written proposal to the CE Committee Chair, Priscilla Yu in person or at peyu@illinois.edu for the fall program, we would appreciate proposals by June 1.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY: THE SUNDAYS IN MAY, 2015

Date	Day	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel Reading
May 3	Easter 5	Acts 8:26-40	22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
May 10	Easter 6	Acts 10:44-48	98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
May 17	Easter 7	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	1	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
May 24	Pentecost	Acts 4:32-35	133	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31
May 31	Trinity Sunday	Acts 4:5-12	23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18

BIRTHDAYS

May		June			
2	Fernando Gonzalez	8	Michael Berg	15	Tom Culp
6	Jemma Fagler	9	Pam Sebastian	15	Saskia de Vries
9	Margaret Utterback	11	Sally Spencer	16	Logan Hollarsmith
		12	Jasun Harnell	16	Jim Lewellen
14	Jack Rozzell	13	Kristi Hoerauf	18	Nina Krietzman
15	George Yu	14	Dianne Middleton	30	Michael Bene
31	Erin Berg				

Officers of Old First Presbyterian Church

Session

Christopher Burt, evangelism; Bill Campbell, mission and giving; Hsiaochien Chuang, worship; Gregory Free, treasurer; Kristi Hoerauf, finance; Harriet MacLean, personnel; Dana Nojima, operations; Jean Olson, clerk of session; Linda Reyder, worship; Steve Taber, planning; Betty Voris, community building; Priscilla Yu; Christian Education

Board of Deacons

Nina Berg, Cindy Burt, Samuel Cheng, Diane Molberg, Alfred Martin, Bryan Nichols, Mary Russell, Randy Smith, Sarah Taber, Jian Wang