

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

October 2015

Church Website: oldfirst.org

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

Old First Concerts: oldfirstconcerts.org

MAGGI'S MUSINGS

Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal, the new purple hymnal, will be dedicated on Sunday, October 25. The theme of the worship service will be *Singing our Faith, Singing in Celebration*. You will remember that a year ago the session approved acquiring the new hymnals. Many of you sponsored hymnals in honor or in memory of friends and family. A gift from the estate of Mary Blake helped us along. Then we received a generous gift from Pam Byers' family that enabled us to get all the hymnals we needed along with large print copies and resources for the music director.

I was reminded that Pam actually collected hymnals and hummed hymns throughout the day. Pam wrote, "Because I actually love hymnals, and because I'm slightly crazy, I compared the table of contents of the new hymnal with our current one. You won't be surprised to learn that most (although not all) of our favorite hymns are retained in *Glory to God*. In other words, I believe the new hymnal keeps virtually all our best loved (and new) songs, while adding a great many more!"

I have learned that denominational hymnbooks typically enjoy a life-span of about 20-25 years. *The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, the blue hymnal, was published in 1990, so it seemed right when the 206th General Assembly authorized research into a new hymnal in 2004. The committee "tested" over 10,000 hymns to choose the more than 850 hymns found in the new hymnal. (Seventh Ave Presbyterian Church in San Francisco was one of the "tester" churches!) Requiring careful choices, if also a glacial pace, the hymnal committee required a two-thirds approval for every text and every tune before their inclusion in the *Glory to God*.

About 60% to 65% of the blue hymnal has been carried over into *Glory to God*. I did a bit of research on my own and found that at Old First we sing about 40% of the blue hymnal. This means that our most frequently sung hymns are in the new hymnal, while we will also be able to deepen our faith by learning new hymns beloved by other people and traditions. You may be surprised to discover how many of the new hymns you have already heard the choir sing or sung yourselves.

We will put the new hymnals in the pew racks for blessing and use on October 25.

May God teach us new songs of joy and hope this day and all the days of our life.

Peace,
Maggi

WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION: SARA BARRIOS (1920-2015)

With mourning hearts and trust in the resurrection, we share the sad news of the death of beloved former member, Sara Barrios. Sara died September 27 in Knoxville, Tennessee, where she lived. For further information, including an address to send a condolence to Sara's family, please contact the church office. To see her obituary, visit www.gentrygriffey.com/obits/sara-m-barrios.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Old First Staffs the Interfaith food Pantry, October 3

October 3 provides all the volunteers, for the Food Pantry. Come unload the truck, bring food inside, distribute and clean up later. Contact Dana Nojima or foodpantry@oldfirst.org.

Senior Center *FunRaiser*, October 3

Everyone is invited to celebrate seniors at the first annual Doris Krauss Senior Center *FunRaiser*, Saturday, October 3. The event will be held in a festive Fellowship Hall from 500 pm to 7:00 pm . There will be fun, music, food, raffles and surprises. Cost is \$25 and \$10 for DKSC members. Raffle tickets can be purchased from the Senior Center, Randy Smith, Cindy Burt or Betty Voris. There are multiple raffle prizes, but the grand prize is a barrel and wine tasting for 10 worth \$250. You need not be present to win. Both admission and raffle tickets may be purchased at the door. To RSVP, send email to senior center director Gina Withers: gina@oldfirst.org.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

World Communion Sunday/Peace & Global Witness Special Offering, October 4

Next Sunday is World Communion Sunday, when we will gather our annual Peace & Global Witness Special Offering. There will be Special Offering envelopes in Sunday's bulletin for you to use. Please mark your check "Peace & Global Witness."

Fall Potluck, October 4

Sunday, October 4, we will hold our fall potluck in the Fellowship Hall following worship. We will serve hamburgers and hot dogs as main courses. Please bring a salad, a side dish or a dessert to share; however, if you don't cook, a minimum donation will also get you a seat at the table.

UPCOMING DATES

Advent Planning Workshop, October 10

Susan Ashton will lead the Advent Planning Workshop this year. We look forward to creating liturgy for Advent and generating ideas for the art work. Please join the Worship Committee on Saturday, October 10, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in the sanctuary.

OFPC Retreat, October 16-18

Don't miss out on our October 16-18 retreat at beautiful Mount Hermon. Our theme is *Responding to God in a New Day*. The guest speaker will be Rodger Nishioka of Columbia Theological Seminary. Nina Berg, Cindy Burt, Bill Campbell, Jeanne Kirkwood or Glen Potter can give the registration form and retreat brochure to you. Please return your registration form with a \$50 per-adult deposit to Cindy Burt a.s.a.p. to ensure your place at Mount Hermon.

Organ 101, October 25

With its thousands upon thousands of parts, our magnificent Sanctuary Organ is a product of many specialty disciplines; carpentry, mechanical engineering, computers, electronic magnets and motors, miles and miles of wires, metallurgy, and numerous other facets: blowers, wind reservoirs, wind chests, a console that resembles an airplane cockpit...the list is seemingly endless. The modern organ has evolved over two thousand years from the times of ancient Roman and Greek festivals.

On Sunday, October 25, our Adult Education Class will take place in the Chancel Choir Loft after worship, from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, when Larry Marietta, our music director, explains how all the above categories (and many more) come together to produce what we hear every Sunday. Plus, we'll get to explore the huge organ chambers behind the beautifully stenciled façade pipes.

HOLY COW! AN ALL-CHURCH SURVEY

Old First is beginning a planning process for the church's future, and our starting point will be a survey of the entire congregation. It is important that everyone participate in the survey. Experts recommend that congregations look at their mission every five to ten years; and the last time we did this was in 2005, so we are due.

Old First has engaged a national consulting firm, *Holy Cow! Consulting*. (Yes, that's its real name.) *Holy Cow!* has worked with over a thousand congregations and is highly recommended. We will take the same survey that hundreds of congregations have taken, including many in our own denomination.

The *Holy Cow!* survey is comprehensive. It will take twenty to thirty minutes to complete. The good news is that there are no essay questions and no wrong answers. We can complete the survey online or with pen and paper. All responses will be anonymous.

We expect that the survey will begin in January 2016, and we will have a two week window to complete it. When the survey is completed, the results will require interpretation, and a Holy Cow! facilitator will help us with that.

What do we hope the survey will give us? Six things:

- An in-depth look at the experiences, perceptions and aspirations of the congregation.
- The congregation's over-all level of satisfaction and energy.
- Where, in a general sense, the congregation would like to see the church go.
- Some of the critical success factors in getting from where we are now to wherever we want to be in the future.
- A sense of our readiness for change. (As Ken McFayden has said, everybody wants to grow, but nobody wants to change.)
- Discovery of potential resources that we have missed.

The survey is an essential first step in our planning process. It's all hands on deck. We want everyone's participation to gain a good sense of where we are as a congregation. If we do have everyone's participation, the survey will be a big first step. You will be hearing and reading more about our planning process in the coming months.

SAN FRANCISCO FOR FREE

Fleet Week, October 5-12, 2015

The Navy returns for San Francisco Fleet Week from October 5 to October 12. Among the many free activities around the city will be the parade of ships entering San Francisco Bay under the Golden Gate Bridge on Friday, October 9, and Fleet Fest on October 10 and 11 at Pier 80 featuring: food trucks, live music and ship tours. For more information, visit fleetweeksf.org.

Free Weekends at the California Academy of Science Free Weekends through November 1

On weekends now through November 1, the California Academy of Sciences will admit San Francisco residents free, Fridays included as well as Saturday and Sunday. The weekends are assigned by neighborhood and zip code. You need to bring identification showing your San Francisco address. Go to www.calacademy.org/neighborhood-free-weekends to find the dates for your neighborhood, as well as acceptable proof of residence for free admission.

Jean Olson is a newly-trained volunteer docent at the Academy of Science and will be there most Fridays, so you might see her there.

City Guide Walking Tours

San Francisco City Guide Walking Tours are one of the best kept secrets in town. There are free walking tours offered all over city every day of the week! For newcomers it is a great way to learn about the city, for long time folks you can discover more about your favorite areas and it is super way to show the city to visitors. Did you know your Pastor, Maggi Henderson is a city guide leader for a walk called *Making Waves on the Embarcadero*? Her next walking tours take place on Friday, October 30, and Saturday, November 14, at 1:00 pm. They start in front of the Ferry Building. Learn more about this walk and all the others by visiting the website at sfcityguides.org.

FEATURE: "I WAS A STRANGER," WYTHE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

Excerpted from *Bringing Good News: 40 Stories of Congregations and the Ministries that Transformed Them*, H. Simmons and R. Boyer, editors. Richmond, VA: Union Presbyterian Seminary, 2014, pp. 65-66.

The Wythe Presbyterian Church outreach to the Myanmar refugee community began simply when two young men came to worship on a Sunday morning...

As refugees in Malaysia and Thailand awaiting resettlement, these two young men prayed that they would be able to find a church home in the United States. After arriving in the Hampton area, they visited other congregations but did not feel welcomed. When they came to Wythe Presbyterian Church, they felt they had found a home where they were accepted, welcomed, and appreciated.

* * *

One of the first challenges faced by refugee families is language. Few of the refugees speak any English before being resettled in the Hampton area. Wythe responded by creating an English Language Learners program to complement the one offered by the resettlement agency. In addition, Wythe applied for and received grant funds to help with translation services as needed. With this assistance, refugee families are able to increase their English proficiency while also being able to navigate situations in which their limited language skills would otherwise prove inadequate.

Another pressing need of the Myanmar refugee community is transportation. The public transit system in Hampton leaves much to be desired. Refugee families need transportation to access social services, medical appointments, education for their children, and jobs. The congregation put together a transportation team to assist the families in getting to their various appointments. This has helped refugee families lead healthier lives, support themselves financially, and get their children into schools. Members of Wythe also helped many of the refugees learn to drive, purchase automobiles, and navigate the bureaucracy involved in getting reliable transportation. The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia has provided assistance to this ministry through a grant from their Peacemaking Committee.

* * *

In addition to these material needs, the refugee community is in need of the spiritual resources that only the church can provide. Wythe Presbyterian provides worship, Christian education, fellowship, and pastoral care for and with refugee families. In the fall of 2010 the Myanmar Christian Fellowship began meeting at the church, offering experiences in their native language.

* * *

That initial visit of the two young men happened nearly two years [earlier]. Since then the congregation and the refugee community have been transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit in growing this ministry. This February, we will be ordaining and installing the first of the Myanmar refugees as a ruling elder at Wythe Presbyterian Church. This partnership exemplifies the best qualities of peacemaking and justice ministries, with people from diverse backgrounds and circumstances being brought together in mutual care and concern.

WANTED: ELECTRIC MIXER

I'm dreaming about a KitchenAid mixer. Do you have a 5 to 6 quart KitchenAid electric stand mixer taking up space on your counter or gathering dust in a shelf? If so, it could find a good home at Old First to use in our kitchen. Senior center staff, Saturday Community Meal volunteers, and others in the church could use a good mixer. We often cook for large groups and an electric mixer would make a world of difference. So lay aside those never realized dreams of baking and donate your mixer to Old First. You will get a big thank you, a tax donation slip and a cake of choice baked by Pastor Maggi.

SCRIPTURES FOR PREACHING DURING OCTOBER

October 4	Isaiah 65:17-25, Ephesians 2:11-21
October 11	Deuteronomy 5:1-12, Mark 12:28-31
October 18	Mark 10:35-45
October 25	Psalms 150, Colossians 3:14-17

DATES TO NOTE

October 3	OFPC staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry.
October 3	Doris Krauss Senior Center <i>FunRaiser</i> , 5:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
October 3	<i>Wrestling Jerusalem</i> at Marines' Memorial Theatre, 7:00 pm
October 4	World Communion Sunday with Peace & Global Witness Offering
October 4	Fall Potluck, 12:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
October 10	Advent Planning Workshop, 10:00 am, Sanctuary
October 11	Columbarium Ministry Team meeting, 12:30 pm, Library
October 16	Old First Presbyterian Church Retreat, Mt. Hermon
October 17	Presbyterian Women, 12:00 pm, Library
October 18	Deacons' Meeting, 12:30 pm, Munro Room
October 25	Hymn Book Dedication Sunday: <i>Singing Our Faith, Singing in Celebration</i>
October 25	4 th Sunday Small Group, 12:30 pm, Library
October 25	Organ 101, 12:30 pm, Sanctuary with Larry Marietta
October 27	Session Meeting, 7:00 pm, Munro Room

OLD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S 2005 VISION STATEMENT

Our Purpose:

To touch the lives of people in the city by God's surprising grace.

Our Mission:

Opening ourselves to God, we...
celebrate the living God through worship,
build a nurturing community from the diversity of the city,
grow spiritually as informed Christians.

And seeking to touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace in response, we...
express our Christian faith in ways that are relevant to the lives of urban dwellers,
touch the lives of those in our broader community who need a helping hand,
practice stewardship of our resources to support our multi-dimensional mission.

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

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY: REMEMBERING THE SAINTS OF OLD FIRST

On **All Saints' Sunday, November 1**, we will remember church members, friends and loved ones who have died since All Saints' Sunday last year. To include someone's name in the remembrance, you can fill out the insert in the Sunday bulletins and place it in the offering plate, or you may inform the church office by E-mail (brad@oldfirst.org), by phone (415-776-5552), or by mail (1751 Sacramento St/SF CA 94109) using the form below. Let the church office know the person's name, birth and death dates, and relationship to you - no later than **Thursday, October 22**.

First Name to Remember: _____

Relationship to Me: _____ (examples: my father, my friend)

Death Date: _____

Second Name to Remember: _____

Relationship to Me: _____ (examples: my father, my friend)

Death Date: _____

My Name: _____