

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

April 2016

MAGGI'S MUSINGS

The echoes of *Alleluias* and *He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed* are still echoing my ears and heart from Easter Sunday worship. I find myself thankful that we are an Easter people not just one Sunday a year but 365 days a year. During the new officers training we studied the Brief Statement of Faith (see pcusa.org for a copy and history) and I found it gave structure and words to much I am experiencing and contemplating this Eastertide:

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

There is an activeness, an engagement of our hearts, our minds, our spirits to follow the living Christ. It takes courage or maybe craziness to say "come, come in into my life." For we are saying that God still calls us, still uses us, and that we even now seek the living presence of Jesus made real through the Spirit the giver and renewed of life who still...

**calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

And since we are people of resurrection we proclaim that not even death will be the end.

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

As a pastor, Easter seems right time to remind myself that since we are an Easter people it should be reflected in practical and maybe uncomfortable ways, such as asking if we have our memorial services, our *Witness to the Resurrection* service planned? For at the time of a death it is a gift to have information from the deceased about their memorial service, the worship plans such as scripture, hymns, and the order of the service as well as the wishes for burial or cremation. So many times I discovered that the words, the scriptures, the plans given in the midst of some of our hardest times come as a comfort, a witness of faith to those that are grieving. Please take time and fill out the attached *Witness to the Resurrection/Funeral Planning Sheet*, share the completed sheet with your family members, your friends, those who are important to you, and send a copy to the church.

May we say "Come, Lord Jesus, into our lives!" And may we follow the One who calls in love.

Peace, Pastor Maggi

WELCOME, DAVID GRIFFITH! NEW EDITOR OF *SHARED LIFE*

We welcome David Griffith as the new editor of *Shared Life*, the monthly newsletter from Old First Presbyterian Church. David will begin as editor with the up-coming May issue, so send your articles and notices to him – sharedlife@oldfirst.org – by Sunday, April 10, the deadline for the May issue.

THANKS TO OFPC VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

Thank you to all people at the church that worked on making Holy Week and Easter such holy and moving days! We are blessed to have such wonderful staff in our music director Larry Marietta and office administer Brad Peterson. You all are amazing! –Maggi Henderson.

OGHS OFFERING

It is not too late to bring in your coin fish boxes or checks for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

MISSION HIGH BOOK DISCUSSION, APRIL 3

Come join book discussion of a Mission High book discussion. We will meet on Sunday, April 3 at 9:30 am.

OFPC STAFFS INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY, APRIL 9

Old First Presbyterian Church will provide all the volunteers for the Interfaith Food Pantry, Saturday, April 9. Contact Dana Nojima or email foodpantry@oldfirst.org to volunteer.

LGBT DINNER GROUP, APRIL 10

Old First is a unique and interesting place and one member thought it was about time to start dinner party groups to know each other a bit deeper—from a secret passion of ironing, to our pastimes and passions. Daniel Pearch has volunteered to start the first LGBT dinner group beginning on Sunday April 10. Pastor Maggi has volunteered her house in Mid Town Terrace, accessible by car or on the 36 Teresita bus route. The meal will be from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. It will be an old-fashioned potluck with a San Francisco twist! Please RSVP to Daniel Pearch at dspearch@yahoo.com or 415 867-4677 by Wednesday April 6.

PRESBYTERY MEETING AT OFPC, APRIL 12

The Western Region of the Presbytery of San Francisco will meet at Old First Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, April 12, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. We're looking for greeters. Please volunteer by speaking with Pastor Maggi or Robin Currier.

PASTOR HENDERSON'S SABBATICAL 2016

One part of Pastor Maggi's "terms of call" is the provision for a sabbatical every four years of service. Many of you have noticed that indeed another four years of ministry together have passed and she is due for a sabbatical this summer. This is a time be a time of retreat, renewal, and revitalization.

In preparation for her sabbatical the session has formed a *Sabbatical Team* to ensure so that all eventualities will be covered. They will also look at how this can be a renewing and revitalization time for the church too. Worship Committee and the Sabbatical Team will undertake the creative work of arranging for ministers to preach and to administer communion; this presents us with the exciting opportunity of asking various people, including our own church members to preach. Elders and Deacons, and other folks, will take the pastoral role with home and hospital visits. During Maggi's last sabbatical the church got to enjoy a variety of preachers and got a sense of how the church is truly "the priesthood of all believers." Maggi got good rest and a renewed sense of how she was called to just the right place as the pastor of Old First. There were be more details in the months to come.

NO LONGER NEED YOUR OFPC ELECTRONIC KEY CARD?

If you have a white plastic key card (or other brass keys) for Old First that you no longer use, would you please turn them in to Brad in the church office. The company that supplies electronic key cards to us has been slow in providing additional cards, and Brad has need of old ones to re-program. Simply put your old keys in Brad's mail-box in the church office or mail them to the church with "attention: Brad" on the envelope.