

# Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

June 2016

Church Website: [www.oldfirst.org](http://www.oldfirst.org)

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## Pastor Maggi Henderson on Sabbatical

Pastor Maggi Henderson's sabbatical began after worship on May 29. She will return on Sunday, October 2, for World Communion/Peace and Global Witness Sunday. Part of Maggi's original call includes a sabbatical every four years. Elder Pam Byers suggested a sabbatical policy and the Pastor Nominating Committee readily agreed. They learned that:

A sabbatical has its roots in Scripture and in church tradition, sabbatical leave is an extension of the biblical concept of a Sabbath day and a Sabbath year for renewal. It is both an act of faith that God will sustain us through a period of reflection and changed activity and an occasion for recovery and renewal of vital energies for the pastor and the congregation.

The sabbatical team is in place and many details have already been addressed. For example, our good friend, the Reverend Keenan Kelsey, has generously and happily agreed to lead worship on the first and third Sundays of each month. This gives us consistency in worship especially on communion Sundays. Lay leaders will offer the welcome and announcements, and Larry Marietta will take over choosing the hymns. We can look forward to a variety of guest preachers as well as some of our lay leaders taking the step into the pulpit.

The Reverend Erwin Baron and the Reverend Susan Ashton will address pastoral needs including pastoral care, hospital visits, and additional worship services as needs might arise. The session and deacons will be on hand to give care and leadership. Our Administrator, Brad Peterson, will run the office day to day (as usual!), so, if you need something, call the office and speak to Brad or send him an E-mail. But let's make sure we don't over burden Brad; let's take on tasks that need to be done ourselves and make sure we follow though!

The congregation has several important roles during a sabbatical:

- Welcoming: Make an extra effort to welcome visitors in worship: greeting, asking them to fill out a guest card, inviting folks to coffee hour and welcoming them back the next time they worship.
- Caring: Keep an eye out for folks you haven't seen in a while and E-mail or call and check in. Share information you might discover with your deacon or with the church office.
- Working: Be great communicators: If something is going on in your life or with others, let someone know. If something needs to be taken care of, do it yourself or ask others to help and follow through.
- Praying: Pray for Pastor Maggi, the session and board of deacons, our guest pastors, our lay leaders and the congregation.
- Opening to the Spirit: Keep your hearts and minds open to how the Spirit will be working in the church and through the messages of those who preach!

During Maggi's prior sabbatical we, as a congregation, gained confidence that we really are a family and that we can care for each other and the community around us. Maggi came back refreshed and renewed, which is the purpose of a sabbatical. We hope this year for the "reaffirmation of the calling to ministry on the part of clergy and congregation with both being reinvigorated and rededicated to the work of God's people."

Shalom!

*Lori Yamauchi, Linda Reyder, Dana Nojima, Jeanne Kirkwood, Christopher Burt, Susan Ashton*  
The 2016 Sabbatical Team

### **Guest Ministers during Pastor Henderson's Sabbatical**

The sabbatical group is arranging for guest ministers to conduct the service during Maggi's sabbatical. On all but one communion Sunday we will have an old friend, the Reverend Keenan Kelsey as our minister of the day. Many of us remember Keenan as a member and then an elder here at Old First before she went to seminary. Afterwards she was the pastor at Noe Valley Ministry until her retirement. She has been a guest preacher here many times and we are delighted to welcome her back.

On Sunday, June 5, the one communion day Keenan will not lead worship, we are fortunate to have the Reverend Calvin Chinn back with us. Many of us remember him from last summer when he stepped in during Barbara's illness. He will kick off the sabbatical period. Look for more familiar faces and some new surprises as we fill out the schedule. -Linda Reyder, Worship Committee

### **222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, June 18-25, 2016, Portland, Oregon**

OFPC pastor Maggi Henderson will be attending General Assembly (GA) as a voting commissioner representing the Presbytery of San Francisco. Please remember her and all GA commissioners in prayer.

#### **What is GA and What does it do?**

The General Assembly consists of commissioners elected by presbyteries. Half of the commissioners will be ruling elders, half will be teaching elders. Few will ever have been commissioners to the General Assembly before, but most will have served in one of the other governing bodies of our church: the session, which provides care and oversight of a local congregation; the presbytery, which provides care and oversight of a group of congregations; or the synod which provides care and oversight of several presbyteries.

It reviews the work of synods, resolves controversies in the church, is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church, and serves as a symbol of unity for the church.

The General Assembly has several specific responsibilities outlined in Chapter 3 of the Book of Order. The assembly seeks to protect our church from errors in faith and practice, is responsible for assuring that the expression of our theology remains true to the biblical standards in our historic confessions. The General Assembly presents a witness for truth and justice in our community and in the world community. It sets priorities for the church and establishes relationships with other churches or ecumenical bodies.

#### **How does GA work?**

First, reports and recommendations come from the various arms of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly.

The Office of the General Assembly, headed by the Stated Clerk, is the ecclesiastical arm of the church. The Stated Clerk and his staff work to ensure that the Presbyterian Church maintains itself

as a church. The Office of the General Assembly carries out all constitutional and most ecumenical functions at the General Assembly.

Mission programs are carried out by the Presbyterian Mission Agency which supervises the work directed to be done by the General Assembly, and can make certain decisions on behalf of the Assembly.

Overtures from synods and presbyteries are the second source of General Assembly business. These governing bodies use Overtures to bring recommendations and matters of concern before the whole church.

Commissioners Resolutions are a third source of General Assembly business. As a commissioner one is entitled to sign two resolutions which will come before the whole assembly.

The meeting begins with an orientation on Saturday afternoon and that evening the plenary, or whole General Assembly, meets together to elect co-moderators from among the commissioners assembled. The co-moderators then preside over the plenary meetings for the rest of the week.

Once the co-moderators are elected, the assembly breaks up into assembly committees to consider particular kinds of business. Each committee is responsible for considering a number of items, and reporting back to the General Assembly on completed actions or their recommendations

The combined insights of all those on assembly committees become the recommendations to the whole assembly. If they are approved, they guide the church in the years to come.

### **Future GA Dates**

223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly: June 16-23, 2018 St. Louis, Missouri

224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly: June 20-27, 2020 Baltimore, Maryland

For more information, visit the Presbyterian Church's website: [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

### **OFPC Joins National Campaign to Welcome Refugees**

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Old First is joining a national campaign of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and over 50 other faith organizations to welcome refugees. The campaign is in response to the largest refugee crisis since World War II.

The PC(USA)'s "We Choose Welcome" initiative is intended to provide a robust welcome to refugees and to encourage our national and local leaders to honor our nation's heritage of welcoming refugee and immigrants. The PC(USA) has said that, as a faith community, we must show US government and local leaders that we are ready to welcome refugees as our neighbors. The denomination also wants to make it clear to refugees who are already here that they are, indeed, welcome.

Old First's Session unanimously voted in its May 24 meeting to join our denomination's initiative and to communicate that "We Choose Welcome" for refugees in all appropriate ways available to us.

We will begin communicating the message of welcome by taking a selfie of our congregation with a "We Choose Welcome" banner. We will post the photo on Old First's website, provide it for the PC(USA) website and disseminate it through social media. We will take the photo in the sanctuary immediately after the worship service and before the potluck luncheon on Sunday, June 5. This opportunity to let the world know that we stand for love, justice and welcome is yet another reason to be at Old First that day!

For World Refugee Day on June 20 and beyond, the PC(USA) urges a time of prayer, recommitment to outreach and advocacy.

## Up-Coming Events

### Fundraiser for the International Rescue Committee, June 4, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Please join Mission Bay Community Church, 32 Ocean Avenue, as we learn more about the Syrian Refugee Crisis. On Saturday, June 4, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, we will welcome speaker Kara Tofte from the International Rescue Committee to tell us about the history of the crisis, what's happening now, and how we as Christians can help. Light refreshments will be provided and there will be a time for questions. A suggested donation of \$20 will be collected at the door. Courtyard parking available from the 35 San Juan Street entrance. On-street parking also available.

### OFPC Choir-Golden City Brass Quintet Benefit Concert, June 4, 7:30 pm

OFPC's choir and the San Francisco City Chorus will combine vocal forces with the Golden City Brass Quintet to present a Benefit Concert in our Sanctuary on Saturday, June 4, at 7:30 PM. The concert is free and open to the public, with all donations going to MUST--Music in Schools Today, a non-profit organization that brings a wide range of music opportunities into the San Francisco Public Schools, grades 3-8. The concert features works for 2-choirs, brass and organ in different combinations, all by famous composers from the Renaissance to Contemporary eras. You can visit their website at musicinschoolstoday.org. -Larry Marietta, music director

### OFPC 167th Anniversary Potluck, June 5, After Worship

Old First Presbyterian Church, the oldest Protestant church in California, will celebrate its 167th Anniversary with a potluck following worship on Sunday, June 5th. As usual, it will feature a dazzling array of menu items designed to please any and all palates. Everyone is invited. Those attending are asked to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. However, as always, if you do not bring a dish to share, a small donation of \$5 will suffice. Make plans now to celebrate another year of Old First at the corner of Sacramento and Van Ness. -Betty Voris

### Annual SF Ramadan Interfaith Iftar Dinner, June 8, 7:00 pm



**Birthday Celebration for Glenda Hope, June 12, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

San Francisco SafeHouse is having a party to celebrate the one and only Reverend Glenda Hope's eightieth birthday, and we are invited!

The party will be on Sunday, June 12, from 2 to 4 pm, at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore Street at Jackson. Valet parking will be available. For more information or to RSVP, call SafeHouse at 415-643-7861.

Glenda, saint of the Tenderloin, ministered as executive director of Network Ministries and SafeHouse for 41 years. After receiving her degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary, she was called as Old First's assistant pastor in 1970 and became the first woman ordained as a member of the clergy in the Synod of the Golden Gate.

Since her assistant pastor days, she has been a worshiper and guest preacher at Old First and other congregations. Glenda is loved and admired by many, and her birthday celebration is an opportunity to remind her of that. Glenda requests a donation to SafeHouse as a birthday gift. —Bill Campbell

**SF Night Ministry Open House, June 12, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

The volunteers and staff of the San Francisco Night Ministry invite you to attend their annual Open House on Sunday, June 12, from 2 to 3 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell, between Gough and Franklin Streets.

Our Open House provides a time to learn more about Night Ministry in general, and more about the specific programs that are offered. It is also a good time to explore opportunities to volunteer with us, either as a Crisis Line Counselor or a member of our Daytime Volunteer Corps.

Meet members of the Night Ministry staff, Governing Board members, and current volunteers. Light refreshments will be served.

Visit our website for more of how Night Ministry serves: [www.sfnightministry.org](http://www.sfnightministry.org)

**Save the Date: Second All-Church Retreat, October 15-17, Mt Hermon Conference Center**

If you attended our retreat last year or missed it, you will want to make sure to reserve on your calendar the weekend beginning Friday evening October 15 through lunch on Sunday October 17. Once again we, along with Calvary Presbyterian, will partner with First Presbyterian Church, Burlingame for a fabulous time in the redwoods of Santa Cruz County. In 2015 we had the privilege of having the Reverend Dr. Rodger Nishioka as our inspiring retreat leader. There were break-out sessions for the individual churches and also time to meet folks from the other congregations. In addition, there is comfortable lodging, very good food, leisure time and other group activities. As always, Old Firsters played charades, worked on jigsaw puzzles and enjoyed talking with each other.

Burlingame Presbyterian Church has been going to Mount Hermon for many years and they have the logistical administration under control; yet, we have the opportunity to participate in planning the specifics along with Calvary.

Details will be revealed as they become available – this is a “heads-up” announcement! -Jeanne Kirkwood

## News

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### **Maundy Thursday Offering Helps Refugee Resettlement Agency**

Old First dedicated its entire Maundy Thursday service offering to a refugee resettlement agency, Opening Doors, Inc. in Sacramento. Opening Doors is one of several nonprofit organizations in Northern California that help to empower refugees, immigrants, and human trafficking survivors to achieve self-sufficiency. A total of \$384 plus twelve boxes of in-kind donations were received. -Bill Campbell

### **Edgewood Names Building for OFPC's First Pastor**

Edgewood Center for Children and Families celebrated the reopening of a newly-renovated building named for Albert Williams, Old First's first pastor.

The Williams Building, initially constructed in 1923 and now beautifully renovated, houses two programs that were previously located in the basement of San Francisco General Hospital. The Child Protection Center, located on the third floor, is a confidential assessment site for children who are entering the San Francisco foster care system and for children already in the system who need a different placement that can better meet their needs.

The Crisis Stabilization Unit, on the second floor, serves youth ages 5-17 who are experiencing a psychiatric crisis. The unit provides a warm, safe and supportive environment for assessment and stabilization to children who would have to be hospitalized if this program were not available.

Edgewood's May 9 grand opening celebration and ribbon-cutting were attended by city officials and Edgewood staff, board members and supporters, including Hsiaochien Chuang and Bill Campbell on behalf of Old First's Mission Committee. Old First's historic connection with Edgewood, which dates from Edgewood's founding in 1851, is represented in one of our sanctuary windows.

### **Mission Committee Thanks Susan Ashton and Karen Bene**

The Mission Committee extends special thanks and kudos to Susan Ashton, who delivered ten boxes of household items and other in-kind donations intended for refugees to the nonprofit Opening Doors in Sacramento on a hot May day, and Karen Bene, who created the online version of the Refugee Assistance Volunteer Interests Questionnaire.

### **Pentecost Liturgical Art**



On Pentecost Sunday, May 15, a hundred paper doves were hung on red helium balloons in the sanctuary representing the holy spirit descending from above. By inspecting them closer one discovered that those paper doves had musical notes on their bodies. The doves were actually cut out by hand from old hymnal pages. All were from just one book so no two doves were the same. A special thanks to the volunteers who cut out the doves during the coffee hour on May 1.

Come talk to us about YOUR IDEAS on making liturgical art with old hymnal pages. We need your inspiration!

– Hsiaochien Chuang, Worship Committee

## **OFPC Honors High School Graduates Cheng, Donaldson, Hollarsmith**

On Sunday, May 22, Old First Presbyterian Church recognized three church members who have completed their senior year of high school: Samuel Cheng, Logan Donaldson, and Camryn Hollarsmith. This coming fall, Samuel will begin studies at Columbia University in the City of New York, Logan at San Diego State University, and Camryn at Scripps College, a member of the Claremont University Center.

## **OFPC Choir Schedule, Summer 2016**

The OFPC chancel Choir, including the Section Leaders, will be singing on Sundays, June 12, 19 and 26, with rehearsals being on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Thursday evening rehearsals will resume September 1. With a rehearsal and Sunday service all in one morning, this is the perfect opportunity to give the Choir a try. Everyone is absolutely welcome--there's always extra room in the Choir Loft. There is no audition, although some choral experience will definitely be an asset. The attendance commitment is easy: "come whenever you can!" If you have any questions or concerns, please see Larry after a service or email him: larrymarietta@gmail.com. Like the well-known folk song lyrics go: "All God's children got a place in the Choir!" -Larry Marietta, music Director

## **Statements of Faith by New OFPC Deacons and Elders**

Newly installed deacons and elders have agreed to share their personal written statements of faith in the next several months of Shared Life. Each month will feature one of these inspiring statements.

### **John Kramar, Elder, Class of 2019**

I am a creation of God, redeemed by Christ, guided by the Spirit, and living by faith as instructed by scripture in the community of the Church.

Creator God is greater than anything in the world – with God, I will not fear. God started a good work in me, and I commit myself and my family to grow in knowledge and in faith to share God's love in the world.

Christ Redeemer - I am imperfect, but I am redeemed because Jesus bore my faults – Christ is my Savior. Through his teachings, Jesus Christ is Lord over my spirit, my mind and my body. I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. The Lord is my Shepherd and I have everything I need.

Spirit Comforter - God's Spirit is an ever present comforter for me. I cast all my uncertainties and reservations on the Spirit of God – my Guide from God's love. With the help of the Spirit I strive to bring honor to God and the church.

The Word - I accept the Bible as the historic revelation of God through time, and look to scripture for teaching and reproof. Through this teaching, I understand God in three parts – the Creator, the Redeemer and the Comforter. Though I confess to struggle in understanding the Trinity – I am drawn by faith into the mystery of God. I will let the Word of God dwell in me, and God who began a good work in me will continue it until completion.

The Church - As my creator, God is 'on my side' and has given me this community of faith at "Old First" to support my family, and in turn I give my support to this community. The Church is the body of Christ on earth. I stand to take my place in the Church as a part of the body of Christ.

Answer the Call - I pledge support to support my fellow Christians in being God's light to all the world and our neighborhood through the community of Old First. With my Church, I commit to feed the unfed, welcome the unwelcomed, accept the unaccepted, and love the unloved. By faith I will live like a beloved child of God.

## **Consider the Lilies: The Presbyterian Health Network, a Network of the Presbyterian Health, Education & Welfare Association**

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*Do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. Consider the lilies, how they grow. If God so clothes the grass of the field, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith! –Luke 12:22-28*

Jesus tells us, “Do not worry” and tells us to trust in God. We can also help free ourselves from stress and put balance in our lives with the following tips. To manage your stress, first identify the causes, then:

Avoid unnecessary stress.

- Learn how to say “No,” graciously and stick to it.
- If possible, avoid people who stress you out.
- Pare down your “To Do” List and prioritize.

Alter the situation.

- Learn to express your feelings instead of bottling them up.
- Be more assertive about your needs but also willing to compromise when necessary.
- Manage your time. Multi-tasking is not always most efficient!

Adapt to the stressor.

- Look at the big picture. Is this really worth getting upset over?
- Adjust your standards. Perfectionism is a major source of stress! Sometimes “good enough” is the right answer.
- Focus on the positive.

Accept the things you can’t change.

- Focus on what you can control – your reaction to the situation.
- Share your feelings with someone you trust. Talking something over can change your perspective.
- Learn to forgive. In the same way that God forgives us, free yourself from negative energy by forgiving and moving on.

Make time for fun and relaxation.

- Set aside time every day to do something you enjoy.
- Keep your sense of humor including the ability to laugh at yourself!

Adopt a healthy lifestyle.

- Exercise regularly. Physical exercise such as walking, gardening, cleaning house releases endorphins to combat stress.
- Eat a healthy diet. Restrict caffeine and alcohol.
- Get enough sleep. It helps the mind and body recharge.
- Meditate to attain feelings of peace and balance. This can be done while walking or even waiting for an appointment.

### **Albert Barrios Children's Library**

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Summer has arrived and what better way to relax and unwind is by having families read together. At OFPC Alberto Barrios Children's Library, in Fellowship Hall, Classroom B, there are hundreds of books not only for children of all ages, but books that adults would find equally enjoyable. Come, browse and sign up for your summer readings. Books are easily found by subject labels on the shelves and also by author, title, and subject listings in the blue folder on the table in the Library. Books may be borrowed for 2 weeks and must be signed out.

Newly received books, both purchased and donated are listed below with subjects and age group.

- Angelou, Maya. *Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem.* (holidays, all ages)
- Hamilton, Adam. *The Way.* (Jesus, all ages)
- Hartman, Bob. *The Lion Storyteller Christmas Book.* (holidays, juvenile)
- Kurtz, Jane. *Anna Was Here.* (fiction, juvenile)
- Lambert, Dean Meador. *The Lenten Tree: Devotions for Children and Adults to Prepare for Christ's Death and His Resurrection.* (holidays, all ages)
- Lowry, Lois. *The Giver.* (fiction, all ages)
- Lowry, Lois. *The Messenger.* (fiction, all ages)
- Milway, Katie Smith. *The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough.* (fiction, juvenile)
- O'Dell, Scott. *The Hawk That Dare Not Hunt by Day.* (biographical/historical fiction, all ages)
- O'Dell, Scott. *Island of the Blue Dolphins.* (fiction, all ages.)
- Schimmel, Schim. *Children of the Earth, Remember.* (other, juvenile)
- Slaughter, Mike. *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday.* (holidays, all ages)
- Stoner, Marcia. *What Is Advent?* (holidays, all ages)
- Svenson, Borge. *The Nativity: Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.* (holidays, all ages)
- Ytreeide, Arnold. *Bartholomew's Passage: a Family Story for Advent.* (holidays, all ages)
- Ytreeide, Arnold. *Jonathan's Journey: A Storybook for Advent.* (holidays, all ages)
- Ytreeide, Arnold. *Tabitha's Travels: A Family Story for Advent.* (holidays, all ages)
- Zoehfeld, Kathleen Weidner. *Manatee Winter.* (other, all ages)

Have a great summer with lots of good reading! –Priscilla C. Yu

### **Saturday Community Dinner Seeks Food-Processor**

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Old First Presbyterian Church hosts and facilitates a monthly dinner that feeds over 100 homeless and food insecure people in the Polk Gulch neighborhood. We're currently seeking an 11cup or larger food processor. If anyone has a used unit that's in good condition and is willing to donate it, please let me know. –David Altshuler, Community Dinner Manager, [dvd.altshuler@gmail.com](mailto:dvd.altshuler@gmail.com), 650-224-9626

### **OFPC Officers**

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#### **Session**

Bill Campbell, Hsiao Chien Chuang, Robin Currier, Kristi Hoerauf, John Kramar, Harriet MacLean, Dana Nojima, Linda Reyder, Betty Voris, Lori Yamauchi.

#### **Board of Deacons**

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

### **Revised Common Lectionary, June, 2016**

Date	Day	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
June 5	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 17:17-24	Psalm 30	Galatians 1:11-24	Luke 7:11-17
June 12	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	2 Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-15	Psalm 32	Galatians 2:15-21	Luke 7:36-8:3
June 19	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 65:1-9	Psalm 22:19-28	Galatians 3:23-29	Luke 8:26-39
June 26	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21	Psalm 16	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Luke 9:51-62

### **Dates to Note**

June 4	Saturday	Benefit Concert, OFPC Sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.
June 5	Sunday	Calvin Chinn, preaching, 11 a.m., Old First's Anniversary Celebration Potluck, Fellowship Hall, 12:30 p.m., Concert Series: Gwendolyn Mok & friends, 4 p.m.
June 10	Friday	Concert Series: Johannes Brahms: The Complete Sonatas for Violin and Piano, 8 p.m.
June 12	Sunday	Deacons Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Concert Series: Le Due Muse An Evening of Johannes Brahms, 4 p.m. Due Date for July/August Shared Life submissions.
June 17	Friday	Concert Series: The Village Road Trio & Rosso, Rose Duo with Beth Vandervennet, Folk Inspired Classical Music, 8 p.m.
June 18	Saturday	General Assembly through June 25 in Portland, Oregon
June 19	Sunday	Keenan Kelsey, preaching, 11 a.m., Video lecture: Story of the Bible, Munro Room. 12:30 p.m.
June 28	Tuesday	Session Meeting, 7:00. p.m.

### **Up-Coming Dates To Remember**

August 7	Summer Picnic Potluck
October 15-17	All Church Retreat