

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

March 2016

MAGGI'S MUSINGS

I have decided to dive into the mystery of Easter this year. I will let go of trying to explain what a gift, a mystery, a life changing event Easter – the life, death and resurrection of Jesus – is for me. Rather, I will simply invite you join me in “drinking in” some of the words, the prayers, the ponderings of God’s people as we approach the mystery of Holy Week and the Easter joy of the Resurrection. –Peace, Maggi

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

O God our Father, we rejoice in the thrill of Palm Sunday. We see again the bright colours of that triumphant spring day; we hear the shouts Hosanna; we wave palm branches in unison with the children of Jerusalem. Yet we know that joy can be short-lived, that a crowd is often fickle; and that we are part of the fickleness. Forgive our broken loyalty, we pray. Make us true followers of Jesus, each day of this coming Holy Week that, as we walk the way of his cross, we may commit ourselves all over again to the fashioning of his Kingdom in Jerusalem, in our own communities and across your world. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen. –Maxwell Craig.

Maundy Thursday

*Come to this table
to meet the living God,
love indescribable and beyond our imagining
yet closer than our won breathing.*

*Come to this table
to meet the risen Christ
flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone,
God-with-us, embodied in our living.*

*Come to this table
to meet the life-giving Spirit,
interpreting our search for truth and justice,
breathing into us renewing power.*

*Come to find, to meet, to hold
the living, loving God
made new for us in bread and wine.*

–Jan Berry

Good Friday

*My God, My God, he cried,
if he is quoted right...
Somehow that moan is comforting
to us, alone at night,
who tremble, daring dawn,
that He, so wise and strong,
should weep and ask for aid.
Somehow, my lovely distant god,
it makes me less afraid.*

–Marian Kessler

Easter: Life and Hope Restored

The reality that the followers encountered is astonishing, wonderful, frightening: God has raised Jesus from the dead.

Three women approach the tomb on Easter morning. Jesus’ “follow me” has brought them to a journey’s end where they anticipate sadness and mourning as they perform the last service of honor to the dead. But instead, life is restored, hope is renewed, the “Way” continues! Christ’s disciples share the incredible stories of encountering the risen Jesus: in a locked room, by the lakeshore, on the Road to Emmaus. Christ is risen, alleluia!

The resurrection experience transformed the followers of Jesus; stories in Act tell the new communities formed in his name, and of the joyful witness by preaching and sharing resources the followers made to the world.

The church continues the Easter proclamation by word and deed, renewing its hope and calling on the power of the risen Christ to overcome sin and death in the world. The church wears white and gold in this festival season of fifty days: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! –Unknown

A NEWSLETTER IN SEARCH OF AN EDITOR: *SHARED LIFE*

For *Shared Life*, our monthly newsletter, continue, there must be a new editor. Will you fill this role? Volunteer now: Call Pastor Maggi.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES AT OFPC

Palm Sunday Worship with Installation of New Officers, March 20, 11:00 am

We will recall Christ's joyous entry into Jerusalem and anticipate the events of Holy Week. New members of Session and of the Board of Deacons will also be installed.

Maundy Thursday Worship, March 24, 7:00 pm

A simple service recalling Christ's last supper with his friends on the eve of his arrest. Old First will be joined by St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Their rector, Dana Corsello, will preach.

Good Friday, Tenebrae Service, March 25, 8:00 pm

We continue our journey with a service of readings and growing darkness recalling Christ's crucifixion.

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27

Pancake Breakfast, 9:00 am

Once again, the deacons and the Community Building Committee will sponsor an Easter Pancake Breakfast from 9:00 am until 10:30 am on Easter morning. Juice, fruit, sausage and pancakes will be served. Make plans now to attend.

Organ, Brass, Timpani, Voice: Easter Prelude, 10:30 am

Old First Presbyterian Church's music director, Larry Marietta and other musicians will increase our praise with a prelude consisting of music for organ, brass, timpani, and vocalists prior to our worship service at 11:00 am. Please keep conversations for the narthex.

OGHS Offering at Easter Worship, 11:00 am

Please bring you fish boxes to worship on Easter Sunday, March 27. Give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering which enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. OGHS provides relief to those affected by natural disasters, provides food to the hungry, and empowers the poor and oppressed. The offering is shared among the following programs:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Self Development of People

Easter Coffee Hour after Worship

Let's make coffee hour this Easter truly an Old First occasion by adding to the usual baked fare by bringing extra treats to share. Baked treats, candy, nuts... all - and more - are welcome.

EASTER LILIES AND MUSIC ORDER DEADLINE: MARCH 14

Old First Presbyterian Church invites you to add to the Easter celebration at Old First Presbyterian Church by making a donation toward Easter lilies for the sanctuary and special music for Easter Sunday worship. Submit your contribution and dedication to the church office no later than **Monday, March 14**.

Your contributions can honor someone living, remember the dead or give thanks for a blessing.

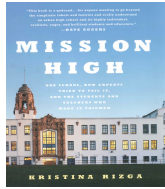
- The suggested contribution for **EACH dedication is \$20**.
- To be included in the Easter bulletin, all contributions must be received at the church office no later than **Monday, March 14**.
- For each gift of \$20, please submit your name, your choice of **EITHER LILIES OR MUSIC**, and **ONE DEDICATION** to honor someone living, to remember the dead or to give thanks for a blessing.
- Lilies will remain in the Sanctuary until after worship on the Second Sunday of Easter. At that time, the lilies may be taken home, shared with a friend, or planted in your garden.

Thank you in advance for your contribution to our Easter Celebration!

WINTER POTLUCK AFTER WORSHIP, SUNDAY, MARCH 13

Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share, or make a small donation of \$5 will to get you in the door. Specially identified tables will be hosted by members of the Planning Committee who will share the results of the Holy Cow survey. Those seated at the tables will be able to ask questions and discuss the ideas and plans.

MISSION HIGH BOOK DISCUSSION, MARCH 20 AND APRIL 03



Come join book discussion of a Mission High book discussion. We will meet on two Sundays: March 20 after coffee hour about 12:30 pm, and April 3 at 9:30 am. The expectation is that you have begun, if not already finished reading the book. Come ready to discuss parts that interested you are that were *aha!* moments. Do none of these times work for you? Then set up a time and put it in the bulletin and on Facebook, and then invite others to join you.

NOTICE: NO MORE PARKING IN BOFA PARKING LOT ON SUNDAYS

January was the last month of our lease for parking the Bank of America lot for Sunday worship. Please park in the Old First Garage or use on-street parking. Parking validation stickers for parking during worship are available from ushers.

GRATITUDE FROM KATHY BARR

Kathy Barr, the executive director of Old First Concerts, sends the following message to OFPC: *“Many thanks for the cards I received with your kind wishes and blessings for healing after my knee replacement surgery. I so appreciated your thoughts and my spirits were lifted.”* –Kathy

BIOGRAPHIES OF NEW ELDERS

Robin Currier is originally from Houlton, Maine, and has lived in San Francisco since 1993. Robin was baptized in a Methodist church. He became interested in Old First after attending with his husband, Bryan Nichols. Robin became a member in 1998. He retired from Brown & Toland Physicians in 2014. He feels the church is on the verge of some very important changes and looks forward to being a part of those changes.

John Kramar is a third generation Californian who studied law at UC Hastings in San Francisco in the late 80's, and has now returned after 25 years to San Francisco in 2014 for his work. Before joining Old First in 2014, he was a member of the Church of the Beatitudes, United Church of Christ, in Phoenix, Arizona. John and his husband Riley joined Old First for the fellowship of a faith community in active support the local community. He enjoys finding connections between people, issues, and institutions. He brings a spirit of hope and inclusion to the challenges facing Christ's church in our modern world. He has experience in teaching, strategic planning, consensus building, and community outreach. He has been blessed to finding a career in working in his life's calling to welcome the sojourner, and believes in stepping up in service when called by the church.

Lori Yamauchi is from Hilo, Hawaii and has lived in San Francisco since 1981. She previously was a member of the Church of the Holy Cross in Hilo, prior to college. Lori became a member of Old First in 1981 because of its outstanding preaching and choir, as well as its service to the community. Lori has served as an elder and deacon, as well as served on various standing committees of the church. She sang in the choir for 29 years. She also served as moderator of several committees, including Pastor Nominating Committee, Music Director Search Committee, and Old First 2000 Task Force. She brings gifts of administration and planning, having been a professional city and higher education facilities planner for 35 years.

Betty Voris was raised in the American Baptist Church in Indianapolis Indiana. She and her husband, Steve, joined Old First Presbyterian Church in 1998. For five years Betty has served as an Elder, chairing the Community Building Committee. She is nominated for a one-year term as Elder. Betty currently is a member of Presbyterian Women, on the Senior Center Commission and serves as liturgist on occasion. She also has been on the Evangelism Committee and has assisted when needed. A journalist and writer by profession, she serves in several San Francisco volunteer capacities. She and Steve will celebrate 41 years of marriage this September.

BIOGRAPHIES OF NEW DEACONS

Riley Kramar is originally from Hawaii. He has lived in San Francisco for the past two years. The church he attended before Old First was Church of the Beatitudes in Phoenix Arizona. He served on the Board of Directors there for almost five years. Along with his husband, he worshiped at Old First for a few months before joining. They joined Old First in the fall of 2013. Riley was touched by the sense of true welcome and interest not only from Pastor Maggie... but from the members...He is a lover of the art of hospitality and getting to know people, this is why he feels compelled to answer the call to serve the Old First Community.

Emily Olson grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and has lived in California since 1964. She was a high school science teacher and raised two boys in her earlier marriage. She became a member of Old First Presbyterian Church in January of 2015 after attending services regularly with her husband, Chuck Olson, for two years. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley for 15 years and served as a Deacon there. She also sang in their Chancel Choir for most of those years and she still participates in their Friday morning bible study program.

Mary Russell is originally from Missouri, but has lived in San Francisco for 40 years. Mary attended worship at Calvary for a few years but was instantly drawn to the community of Old First on her very first visit here in February 1986, then joined that June. She has alternated serving as a Deacon and an Elder throughout these years, as well as teaching Sunday school (all ages) and serving on various committees and ministry teams: Mission, Christian Education, Evangelism, Peace & Justice, Columbarium, and being part of Presbyterian Women. She looks to God's continued guidance in the joy of serving this beloved community!

MATERIALS FOR SMALL GROUPS

Are you part of a small group wondering what to read next? Do you want to start a new small group and don't know what to read first? Old First is going to add small group materials to its library collection. Existing small groups can contribute their used books to the library for other groups to use. And your group can see what's available to borrow for something to study next. Contact Steve Taber to contribute or find out what's available to use. This is new, so the collection should grow over time.

OFPC ON-LINE CALENDAR

Do you know an easy tool for planning events at Old First? It's the Old First calendar, on our website: www.oldfirst.org. The Old First calendar is available at all times. You can print a copy of any month to have a hard copy. You can look at things this week - what will the next concert be? Or you can look two months from now to plan some event and make sure there are no conflicts. Make life easier for the next *Shared Life* editor and others using our building. When you start planning an event, plan what you will want in *Shared Life* and submit it early. Plan ahead: It wasn't raining when Noah started the ark.

"PRESBYTERIANS"

This anonymous poem written some years ago was passed along to us by Mary Lou Wilson.

Presbyterians

The Presbyterians when they meet
They munch, they snack, they dine... they eat!
Here is just a very quick peek
At what I'll cook, bake, serve this week:
Monday is the Seniors' Day.
A large cake will go a long way.
Tuesday, Session – the Elders meet.
Cupcakes will be their special treat.
Wednesday is the Women's Guild.
A casserole will keep them filled.
Thursday, the choirs come to sing.
A batch of cookies we all bring.

Friday is our Couples Club night.
A pasta dish will be all right.
Saturday our young folks will hike.
A bag of sandwiches they like.
Sunday is our church luncheon.
To toss a salad will be fun.
So when our days on earth are done
And at heaven's Gate we have come
For our last task along the way
To the Gatekeeper we will pray:
St. Peter, open your Pearly Gates very w-i-d-e
To get the paunchy Presbyterians inside