

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

May 2017

Church Website: www.oldfirst.org

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Brook Scott: Internship Reflections

I am sad to say that my seminary internship will be coming to a close at the end of May. I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience at Old First! Your faith community is so welcoming. Thank you for making me feel so involved, included, and valued while I've been here. Highlights include the inspiring retreat at beautiful Mount Hermon in October, watching all the donations pour in to support refugee families, and being part of the Advent and Easter seasons with you.

I learned so much while I've been under your care. Pastor Maggi has been a terrific mentor! As I was given a larger role in worship each week, I really was able to learn the ropes. It was a great vote of confidence when Maggi asked me to lead worship on the Second Sunday in Easter! The greatest thrill for me has been preaching from the pulpit. Thank you for listening to me as I discovered my "voice." Thank you to my Shepherding Committee: Erwin Barron, Susan Ashton, Courtney Blake, George Yu and Linda Reyder, for your wisdom and guidance, especially tips on how to be a more effective speaker!

Lastly, I'm really impressed by all that Old First does! I've really enjoyed the different roles that I've been able to play at Old First. I want to thank the leaders on various committees for letting me play a leadership role alongside you: John Kramar with Planning, Bryan Nichols with Bible Study, Bill Campbell with Mission, Hsiaochien Chuang and Linda Reyder with Worship, Robin Currier with Deacons and Pastor Maggi with the book group on *Waking Up White*. A big thanks to Brad Peterson for helping me come up to speed on how the office runs. Thank you, Larry Marietta, for your magnificent assistance with music for worship. And thank you all for your wonderful support, encouragement and friendship! I will miss Old First but will have many fond memories.

Yours in Christ, Brook Scott, Seminary Intern

Church Photo Directory Now On-Line

Old First now has an on-line photo directory that members can access and edit. The instructions were E-mailed to most of the congregation in the last week of April. If you haven't received the E-mail, please contact the church office and Brad, our office admin, will forward the instructions to you. For further or more detailed information about the directory, please speak with either Kim Pham or Chris Burt, who put the time and effort into setting the directory up.

Old First Generosity

Thanks go to all the members and friends of Old First who contributed to the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering received on Easter Sunday. So far Old First has received almost \$2,800 for the many programs of this multi-denominational Christian effort to empower, provide water, supply food, and give relief from disasters at home and around the world.

A thank-you must also be extended for the \$300 collected on Good Friday for **Healing Hearts in East Congo**, a ministry with children and youth burdened with the wounds of trauma.

Worship Committee Pentecost Art Planning, May 7

The Worship Committee will meet after church in the Munro Room on May 7 to look over the box of Pentecost artwork. We will determine which artwork, if any, is suitable for this year, and plan new art as needed. Anyone interested in assisting with this is welcome to join us at 12:30 pm in the Munro Room.

Humor, Heart and Hope for the Homeless: St Vincent de Paul Benefit Luncheon, May 18

“Humor, Heart and Hope for the Homeless” is the name of this year’s benefit luncheon for the programs of the St Vincent de Paul Society. The luncheon will be held May 18 at the Four Seasons San Francisco on Market Street and will feature guest speaker, Michael Pritchard, a probation officer and award winning comedian. The \$95 ticket covers a reception, the luncheon and the speaker. Proceeds benefit the Multi-Service Center South and The Riley Center: Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence. For more information visit www.svdp-sf.org

All Church Retreat, October 20-22, Mt. Hermon Conference Center

Did you attend the retreat last year at beautiful Mt. Hermon, snuggled in the glorious wooded area of Santa Cruz? If so, you will remember the dynamic speaker, Ralph Watkins, faculty member at Columbia Seminary. You will also recall the informative discussion groups, the opportunity to mingle with friends and meet new folks as well as free time! If so, no doubt you will want to come again this year.

If you didn’t attend, you have another chance coming up this October! Once again, we will combine with Calvary Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church, Burlingame. This gives us the opportunity to get to know fellow Presbyterians in our area as well as to deepen friendships already made. The speaker this year is Nancy Lammers Gross, professor at Princeton Theological Seminary. You can see a short bio of her at: <http://ptsem.edu/people/nancy-lammers-gross>.

Watch for more details in future *Shared Life* issues

Session Meeting Highlights from March 28 Meeting

- The process of interviewing newly elected officers began with a small group breakout where individual interviews took place. Following the breakouts, the entire group reconvened. Each new officer was introduced with some detail of their interview, each new officer read their own statement of faith and there was a motion to approve their nomination. Newly elected officers were approved for installation on April 9.
- There was a presentation on the Discover Polk Community Benefit District (DPCBD). A motion to sign the DPCBD petition for effective membership starting in 2018 was passed.
- A motion to change OFPC Personnel Policy adding an item E “Members of Old First Church are not eligible to apply for permanent openings on the church staff” was passed.
- It was reported that the Mission Committee has been working online, that Steve Taber represented Old First at a Edgewood Orphanage facility ribbon cutting, there would be a Moment for Mission on Palm Sunday, and that the One Great Hour of Sharing offering would be taken on Easter Sunday.
- It was noted that the final Christian Education session on the book *Waking Up White* would be held April 2.

Tom Culp, Clerk of Session

LSYS Lark Inn Needs Bedclothes and Towels

Larkin Street Youth Service's housing for youth, the Lark Inn, needs

- bedclothes for standard twin beds including sheets, pillowcases and blankets, and
- towels including bath sheets, hand-towels and wash cloths.

Second-hand bedclothes and towels are welcome, provided they are washed and stain-free and neither thread-bare nor torn. New items would be even more welcome. You can deliver these items to 134 Golden Gate Avenue, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. Call Jason at 415-673-0911 extension 221 for more information.

Old First: What Happens When You're Not Here

What happens at Old First when you're not here? More than you'd guess!

Old First regularly plays host to church and college youth groups around the year, and from Sunday, April 2 to Saturday, April 6, Old First was home to over 30 young people from **Whitworth Church** (PC USA) of Spokane, Washington.

Anthony Jones, Whitworth Church's Director of Spiritual Formation for Youth, led the group out each morning to different work sites to engage in ministry, but, as Anthony said, "It's important for them to learn about the needs of the world." The group spent days learning about and working at Saint Vincent's Day Home, a child development center in the heart of West Oakland; Slide Camp, a summer camp with a focus on food and farming in Muir Beach; the Farm/Bay Area Rescue Mission in Richmond; Project Open Hand; Glide Memorial Church; Cameron House; and YWAM (Youth with a Mission) in the Tenderloin.

Evenings the group also visited St Dominic's Catholic Church, the Golden Gate Bridge and Ocean Beach, where they had devotions, as well as Ghirardelli Square and Pier 39, where they had fun.

At the end of each day they ate supper cooked in our kitchen, rolled out sleeping bags in the Fellowship Hall, and then packed up each morning for another day.

The last text-message received from Anthony read "Thank you, thank you, thank you!" The group had arrived safely in Oregon and before losing cell phone coverage, he wanted Old First to know how appreciative he and the group were for Old First's hospitality.

Brad Peterson, Office Admin

The Rhodora, On Being Asked, Whence is the Flower, Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)



In May, when sea-winds pierced our solitudes,
I found the fresh Rhodora in the woods,
Spreading its leafless blooms in a damp nook,
To please the desert and the sluggish brook.
Rhodora! if the sages ask thee why
This charm is wasted on the earth and sky,
Tell them, dear, that if eyes were made for seeing
Then Beauty is its own excuse for being:
Why thou wert there, O rival of the rose!
I never thought to ask, I never knew:
But, in my simple ignorance, suppose
The self-same Power that brought me there brought you.

A Trilogy of Popular Easter Hymns: Musical Notes from Larry Marietta

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today is the most frequently sung Easter Hymn in the US, England and France. Written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), it first appeared in *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, 1739, with eleven stanzas. Today it is one of over ten hymns and one translation by Wesley included in our hymnal *Glory to God*.

Born in England, Wesley was the 18th child of Anglican cleric and poet Samuel Wesley and his wife Susanna Wesley, the younger brother of Methodist founder John Wesley (two hymns in *Glory to God*) and of Anglican cleric Samuel Wesley the Younger, the father of the musician Samuel Wesley, and the grandfather of musician Samuel Sebastian Wesley (one hymn tune, AURELIA, in *Glory to God*).

Wesley was educated at Oxford, where his brothers had also studied, and formed the “Holy Club” among his fellow students in 1729. John Wesley later joined this group, as did George Whitefield.

An ordained Anglican priest, it was a highly personal conversion on Whitsunday in 1738 that gave him “rest in his soul” and released in him the gift of hymn writing. He is known to have written at least 6,000 hymns and possibly as many as 500 more under various pseudonyms.

It’s tune, EASTER HYMN, aka THE RESURRECTION, appeared anonymously in *Lyra Davidica, or A collection of Divine Songs and Hymns, partly Newly Composed, partly translated from the High German, and Latin Hymns: and set to easy and pleasant tunes, for more General Use*, 1708. In his preface, the unknown editor states his intention to introduce “a little freer air than the grave movement of the psalm tunes, as being both seasonable and acceptable.” The sole surviving copy of this book is now in the British museum.

Thine Is the Glory is the English version of a French hymn “*A toi la gloire*”, written in 1884 by Edmond Louis Budry (1854-1939), a Swiss minister. First published in *Chants Évangéliques*, 1885, it was translated into English by Richard Birch Hoyle for the first edition of *Cantate Domino*, 1924. Hoyle (1875-1839) was an English cleric who became involved with the English YMCA and who later came to the US to teach at the Western Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA.

The tune JUDAS MACCABEUS is actually the chorus “See, the Conquering Hero Comes” from the oratorio *Judas Maccabeus* by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759). It was first published as a hymn tune in *Harmonia Sacra*, 1760, as the setting for Charles Wesley’s hymn “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today.”

The text of **Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain** was written by John of Damascus (c.675-749), a Syrian monk and priest canonized by both the Greek and Roman churches. Given the title of Chrysorrhous (Stream of Gold), he became an ordained priest of the church at Jerusalem late in his life. Originally an ode for the first Sunday after Easter – often called St. Thomas Sunday – the text is based on the Song of Moses, an Old Testament canticle from Exodus 15. The translation comes from John Neale, first appearing in an article on Greek hymnology in *Christian Remembrances*, 1859.

The tune ST. KEVIN was composed by Arthur S. Sullivan, of Gilbert & Sullivan fame, for *The Hymnary*, 1872.

Self-Development of People ministry visits with the people of Belize Rick Jones, Presbyterian News Service, April 21, 2017

LOUISVILLE – An international task force from the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) recently returned from a visit to Belize, where it met with a number of groups that have received funding to become more self-sustaining. SDOP selected Belize as a focus country in 2010 because of its continued struggle with extreme poverty.

“I heard and saw gratitude on the faces of the people we visited. They expressed their love for the land and the desire to do things that bring forth life,” said the Rev. Rebecca Reyes, SDOP National Committee chair.

SDOP has been making annual visits to Belize, working mainly with grassroots’ communities located in the southern part of the country. The efforts have focused on building relationships with... Mayan and Garifuna... communities.

In the last six years, SDOP has provided approximately \$175,000 in funding to groups in Belize, seeking to generate income for their communities, mostly in the area of agriculture.

Since 2010, at least 12 groups have received funding to build sources of income. Among the groups visited this year, the Trio Farmers in Development Pre-Cooperative, which works with a local school to teach children to grow vegetables, the Sandy Beach Women’s Cooperative Society Limited, which runs a restaurant, and a number of agricultural cooperatives. On average, each funded group receives approximately \$20,000.

“The people now are much more confident. One organization, the Marigold Women’s Group, runs a restaurant and used the funding to purchase freezers so they can sell ice,” said Bidart. “They are finding new innovative ideas to grow their businesses and are very confident.”

The task force says not only are businesses growing, relationships among groups are starting to form.



Nago Bank Cooperative’s Chair Ruben Alexander Pineda (second from left), along with cooperative officers in the fields with Rebecca Reyes, a member of the International Task Force visiting Belize. (Photo courtesy of SDOP)

“Collaborations are being strengthened and community trust is the foundation of the work and progress being made,” said Reyes. “They also acknowledged the consistent work it takes to keep the progress going. Imagination is always at work and creativity is all around.”

Over the years, many of the organizations have become self-sustaining and no longer need the SDOP support.

“I am reminded of the biblical story of the child who presents two loaves to Jesus to feed the 5,000. SDOP is giving its two loaves, which is a minor contribution to the needs and hunger of so many,” said Reyes. “However, I believe the key to that story is that in giving the two loaves, others also began to give which made the feeding of the 5,000 possible. The gifts of the people make a difference.”

Self-Development of People is able to provide funding for these and other projects that change lives because of your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

For the full article and additional photographs, visit the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s website: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/self-development-people-ministry-visits-people-belize/>

Old First Family and Friends

Prayers for Healing and Wholeness:

Glenn Potter, recovering from a fall

Mary Lou Wilson

Dates to Remember

May 6	Saturday	OFPC hosts Interfaith Food Pantry
May 7	Sunday	Columbarium Ministry Team, 12:30 pm Worship Committee Pentecost Art Planning, 12:30 pm
May 14	Sunday	Deadline for June Issue of <i>Shared Life</i> Deacon's Meeting 12:30 pm
May 21	Sunday	Confirmation Class, 9:30 am
May 23	Tuesday	Session Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
May 27	Saturday	Saturday Community Dinner, 5:30 pm
May 28	Sunday	Worship, Brook Scott preaching, 11:00 am
May 29	Monday	Memorial Day: Church Office Closed

Dates to Save!

Annual-All Church Retreat, Mount Hermon, October 20 – 22, 2017

OFPC Officers

Session**Class of 2018**

Chris Burt
Kristi Hoerauf
Dana Nojima

Class of 2019

Tom Culp, clerk of session
Robin Currier
John Kramar
Lori Yamauchi
Priscilla Yu

Class of 2020

Bill Campbell
Hsiaochien Chuang
Linda Reyder
Daniel Pearch
Virginia Webb-Pekelnicky

Board of Deacons**Class of 2018**

Nina Berg
Alfred Martin
Randy Smith
Sarah Taber

Class of 2019

Riley Kramar
Mary Russell
Emily Olson

Class of 2020

Beth Arnoot
Courtney Blake
Cindy Burt
Glen Potter
Jian Wang

Hope, Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993)

I'm not talking about wishing. Wishing is weak. It's even faintly negative, because when you say "I wish," it usually means you don't believe the wish will come true. But when you hope—really hope—then a magic ingredient comes into play. That ingredient is expectancy. Expectancy says, "This desired outcome can happen. I think it's going to happen. Right now it may be just a dream, but it's a realizable dream." When you start hoping instead of just wishing, then expectation is stirring in you.

From the January 2017 issue of *Guideposts*

PC(USA)'s Self Development of People in Minute for Mission in Worship, May 21

A representative from the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Committee on the Self-Development of People will join Old First Presbyterian Church for a Minute for Mission during worship on Sunday, May 21, and will speak about this important ministry of the PC(USA) and its partners around the world.

Pastor Maggi on Pilgrimage, June 13-26

Would you pray for Pastor Maggi this month as she prepares to co-lead the *Portals to the Sacred Trip* to France, June 13-26. Our own Jeanne Kirkwood and Keenan Kelsey are among the participants on this pilgrimage.