

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

May 2018

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Maggi's Musings

The Book of Common Worship – the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s wonderful liturgical resource – reminds us that on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13), God gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower us as witnesses to the resurrection. This year Pentecost falls on May 20.

When Jesus' followers were together together fifty days after his resurrection, sounds from heaven, cosmic language, the rush of a mighty *puōē* (wind, breath) invaded the house in which the apostles had gathered. Tongues of fire glowed on each of them and they were filled with holy *pneuma* (wind, breath, spirit). The Hebrew Bible had called God's unseen action God's *ruach* (the wind, breath, spirit), and the early Greek-speaking Christians did likewise. This unseen power of God moved among them and gripped them. This "unseenness" is God's Holy Spirit working in and among us even today. (See John 3:8.)

According to the prophet Joel (2:28-29) God's *ruach* will turn everybody toward God's future. People young and old will dream and will have visions of hope; they will be able to free themselves from hide-bound ways, because God will establish a whole new economy of creation. The Holy Spirit breaks us out of our preoccupation with ourselves and frees us to serve neighbors, loosens our grasp on possessions, and sets us to loving people. New creation is what Joel is talking about. Pentecost is new creation.

The book of Acts tells the story of the outcome of Pentecost's new creation: People witness in word and in deed to the risen Christ. At the outset, the newborn church immediately tumbled out into the streets to witness to God's mighty works in the languages of people all over the world. By the end of the story, a tiny, Spirit-filled community of faith that broke from the present order has spread across the continents with incredible power to bring new things into being. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible.

Therefore, on the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate God's gift of Holy Spirit which draws us together as one people, helps us to comprehend what God is doing in the world, and empowers us to proclaim, in word and in deed, God's plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ (Ephesians 1:10).

Without the gift of the Spirit, Christ's church dries up and withers away, and we are left with only our broken selves. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible. A spirit-filled community of faith opens eyes to needs, hopes and concerns in the world and sees its mission as God's new people active in the world.

The Day of Pentecost is the climax of the Great Fifty Days of Eastertide, celebrating as it does the gift of the Spirit to the body of Christ — the church. We will celebrate Pentecost at Old First with installation of elders to serve on Session and of deacons to serve on the Board of Deacons. As we install these elders and deacons, we will ask the Spirit to be present in them that they may discern God's call to us and God's creative Spirit ever-ready within us.

As part of our celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit we will gather our Pentecost Offering and also enjoy a Founders Day/Old First Birthday potluck lunch after worship.

May God's Spirit blow fresh life into our church – into us – on Pentecost and every day!

Peace, Maggi

Pentecost Offering 2018, May 20

O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. –*Psalm 71:17*

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a churchwide effort to support young people in Christ and to inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 20, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future.

Studies show that a foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood, helps ensure lifelong faith and service. Psalm 71 testifies to this same truth. Verse 17 says “O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.” The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life.

These lessons might be taught through a congregation's commitment to **Educate a Child**, **Transform the World in** ministries that shape a child's academic achievement, setting them on a path toward a stable future. They might be taught through one of the youth events sponsored by **Ministries with Youth** at the national church that brings together young people from all over the country to share their experiences of faith with one another and learn how their faith can help them address challenges all over the world. Or they might be taught through a year of intentional service where they discern God's call upon their lives by our **Young Adult Volunteer Program**.

And there is more: Presbyterian congregations are finding new ways to minister to children at risk in their own communities. General Assembly programs are advocating for children and developing youth and young adult leaders.

By giving to the Pentecost Offering, one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come; children, youth, and young adults. We invite your congregation to join with the worldwide church in building for our future, in building individual lives of faith. Won't you join us? If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

At Old First Presbyterian we will be giving our 40% of our offering to **The Ecumenical House, the San Francisco Campus Christian Center** at San Francisco State University. This is a powerful campus ministry that Old First supports with our mission-giving. Our own Erwin Barron is even on their board.



To learn more about The Ecumenical House, visit: <https://www.echousesf.com/>

Winterfaith Shelter Walk 2018, May 6

Many have been looking for a way to make a difference in homelessness and now you can walk your way to give others hope: Walk in the **Winterfaith Shelter Walk 2018** at Lake Merced on Sunday, May 6, after worshipping at Old First. The Interfaith Council, in collaboration with the City and County of San Francisco, operates the Interfaith Winter Shelter. Some of our members also cook a meal for the shelter each year.

Mission Bay Community Church has invited us to join their team so we Presbyterians can walk together. Pastor Maggi will cover a \$50 pledge to the first person from Old First who would like to walk and get the ball rolling! Walkers ask for sponsors on Sunday, May 6, at coffee hour after worship. Just let Maggi know you are walking. The information in box below shows you how to register on line.



Original design by Hector Navarro, Archbishop Riordan High School
Developed and transformed by Kimberley Rodier

REGISTER TODAY!!!

WINTERFAITH SHELTER WALK 2018

Sunday, May 6, 2018 – 1:30 p.m.

Lake Merced, San Francisco
(meet at Parking Circle at intersection of
Lake Merced and Sunset Blvds.)

To register, donate and/or obtain information please visit:
<http://winterfaithshelterwalk.dojiggy.com>

Questions: Please call 415-474-1321 or
email winterfaithshelterwalk@gmail.com

Sponsored by: The San Francisco Interfaith Council

To benefit the Interfaith Winter Shelter



Inquirers/New Members Class, May 13 and 20

Would you like to know more about partnering with or being a member of the Old First Presbyterian community? We will offer a class on Sunday May 13 following coffee hour and then on May 20 in the morning before worship. Please contact Pastor Maggi Henderson for more information.

Founders Day/Old First Birthday Potluck Lunch, May 20

On Sunday, May 20, we will share a potluck to remember those who founded Old First Presbyterian Church and to mark our birthday. Bring a dish to share. However, if you won't have opportunity to cook, you can make a small donation toward the meal instead.

Pastor Henderson Leading May/June Pilgrimage

This June Pastor Henderson will again join the team leading the Portals to the Sacred, a spiritual pilgrimage in France over three weekends: May 27 through June 10.

The Reverend Janet Ewart, former pastor of Broadmoor Presbyterian Church, will preach at worship on May 27 and June 3. The Reverend Keenan Kelsey, our sabbatical pastor last year, will preach on June 10. Maggi will return to the pulpit on June 17.

To learn more about Portals to the Sacred, visit: <http://portalstothedivinepilgrimages.org>

Double Your Impact Now with Old First's Gift Card Drive for Refugees, June

In June, Old First will have a gift card drive as we observe World Refugee Week. Many recently-arrived refugee families live in poverty, and gift cards put money in their pockets. After years of being denied freedom of choice, they can shop for themselves and buy what they need. Gift cards also help them learn how to shop and to become educated consumers.

According to refugees that the International Rescue Committee's Oakland office serves, retailers that are especially useful to them are Target, Food Maxx and Safeway. The IRC suggests \$25 or \$50 cards.

To support our World Refugee Week gift card drive, you can contribute gift cards or money to buy them, whichever works better for you. If you would like to have a record of your contribution for tax purposes, you will need to write a check to Old First. Either way, Old First will match your contribution to double your impact up to an overall total of \$2,000!

Please bring your check or gift cards to church on Sunday, June 17 or June 24. If you write a check, be sure to put "Refugee Gift Cards" on the memo line.

Old First Raises \$2,700 for OGHHS on Easter Day

Our annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. It offers relief to victims of natural disasters, provides food to the hungry and helps empower the poor and oppressed.

Thank you to everyone who collected pennies or wrote large checks for this generous outpouring.

Giving Thanks for 55 years of Ministry with the Seniors of San Francisco Old First's Doris Kraus Senior Center Closes May 7, 2018

The story is told that in 1963, San Francisco Mayor George Christopher asked the San Francisco Council of Churches to offer a lunch program to seniors. Old First Presbyterian Church said yes to the challenge and would go on to serve seniors faithfully for the next fifty-five years. Doris Krauss, Old First's Director of Christian Education in 1963, also became the director of the new program for seniors and continued in that role for twenty-two years. For almost forty years the center was fully staffed by volunteers.

Five years ago, Old First's session formed the Doris Krauss Senior Center Commission to take a long-term view of the center. The commission of Randy Smith, Betty Voris, Cindy Burt, Sally Spencer, and recent member Kristi Hoerauf brought renewed energy, focus, commitment, and set goals and objectives for the senior center. They have wrestled with funding, limited day-time volunteers, and explored whether the center could bring in more seniors and offer other programs to address unmet needs among San Francisco's seniors.

After much reflection, time, and work the commission proposed to the church session that – after more than half a century – the senior center close its doors. The session reflected on this wisdom and with heavy hearts decided that the Doris Krauss Senior Center had served the city and our seniors long and well. They reflected how fifty-five years ago there were far too few senior centers and now there are over twenty-five city and non-profit centers serving meals and meeting the needs of seniors all over San Francisco.

Old First elder John Kramer spoke a word of hope to the session's heavy heart saying, "In some ways this a triumph-55 years ago this church and others met a need in the city. They were pioneers in caring for Seniors and now a half a century later the city and civic organizations have arisen to meet the needs of seniors in San Francisco. In 1963 Old First was ahead of the curve and now others have stepped into care in ways we could have never imagined!"

Pastor Maggi Henderson reflected that this is now the time for us to pray, to listen, to experiment, and to seek out where God is calling us serve, where we should be the compassion of Christ in 2018 and beyond.

There will be a final catered lunch for seniors on May 7, when we will remember and give thanks for all the meals and fellowship that have been enjoyed around our tables so many Mondays over fifty-five years. Everyone that has a connection with the Doris Krauss Senior Center is invited to join us for this meal at 12:00 noon.

Let the Waters Flow: May Blessing of the Storm Drains



We have officially adopted and dedicated our two drains at Sacramento Street and Van Ness Avenue on Sunday, April 29.

The drains are found at the northeast corner of the intersection near the Staples store and in front of the church on Van Ness Avenue. They were named by vote. The drain across Sacramento Street is "Stormy" and the one in front of the church is "Presby Drain."

In the photo left, we see implements of drain maintenance. There are more photographs on the next page of Pastor Henderson blessing the drain with flowing water and congregation members wielding their implements of drain maintenance.





Leota Parker Art Show



Long-time Old First member Leota Parker, with planning assistance from her son Jim Billings, held an art show and re-ception on March 20 at the Bay View Boat Club. Many of her framed and unframed water colors were on display and were available for purchase. (I know she sold at least one framed scene!) A modern jazz quartet provided the tunes. Leota remains as cheerful and alert as ever - and particularly grateful for every day. I liked this 'selfie' of me with Leota at the bar!

Randy Smith

Larry Marietta's Senior Music Ministry

Music is not only the universal language, but a language that can evoke fond feelings of the present and deeply-buried memories. Old First music director, Larry Marietta, and his voice student and good friend, Dan Lettieri, have joined forces to fulfill a much-desired wish: a music ministry to seniors. Specializing in older Broadway favorites, pop-tunes of the 30s–60s and, currently, an all-Sinatra program, they have already performed for San Francisco Village, SF Towers, and several private senior gatherings. Future engagements are with the Curry Center, several senior-care homes in the East Bay, several summer senior homecare leadership conventions, and Calvary Presbyterian's Senior Fellowship. If you have a venue for consideration, please contact Larry Marietta: larrymarietta@gmail.com

Session March Meeting Report

- Pastor Henderson called elders' attention to thank-you letters received from the three recipients of Old First's Parable of the Talents gifts — Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, San Francisco Theological Seminary, and the International Rescue Committee.
- There was a report on the West Bay Regional Presbytery meeting.
- The Planning Committee reported that progress is being made on on-line giving.
- The Worship Committee planned a pre-Easter work day.
- The Mission Committee reported on the March 24 "March for Our Lives" in support of the nationwide campaign to stop gun violence, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Easter Sunday, the upcoming gift card drive for refugees in the Bay Area and plans for using benevolence funds to make matching grants to incentivize other congregations to contribute to the International Rescue Committee's Vision Project.
- There were brief comments regarding the possibility of designating Ecumenical House at San Francisco State University as a beneficiary of the local-church share of the Pentecost Offering in May and the possible use of the Children's Chapel as a space for children and parents during worship services.

Tom Culp, Clerk of Session

“For Mary Lou and the Love of Her life, James”
by Michael Berg for Mary Lou Wilson’s memorial service

I wanted to write a poem
Two lives, two hearts entwined
An epic poem in the Greek tradition
With sirens and cyclops enshrined

Using rhyme and fancy I would describe
Their voyages far and near
But I knew that if I so seriously spoke
a cackle from heaven would hear

From above Jim would shout
“don’t trouble yourself
Our life up here is grand”
And Mary Lou would add,
face lit with a smile,
“I have news clippings in hand”

To whitewash the past is mistaken.
For our trouble is collectively borne
The toll for some is less heavy
For those we joyfully mourn

James, on that ship you almost died
in a war so long ago
But saved by the LORD you soon became
Mary Lou’s lifetime beau

Mary Lou, your troubled departure
Was not so quiet in the night
But supported by friends, at the end,
You turned back towards the light

Times in a life, so eloquently shared
Should cause us to reflect
That God in His mercy,
allows trouble to some
But for others his grant is perfect.

Our Christian community is lessened today
By the departure of our friend
We sing halleluiah and remember her name
Whenever we say AMEN

Wisdom from the Women’s March, January 2018

Sarah Taber noticed the following quip on a sign at the Women's March, January 20, this year. It is a riff on the Serenity Prayer of Reinhold Niebuhr but it has more the tone of Dietrich Bonhoeffer or Martin Luther King, Junior, both of whom were influenced by Niebuhr.

I'm tired of accepting the things I cannot change:
I want to help change the things I CANNOT ACCEPT!

Prayers for Healing and Wholeness

For James Uren healing from a broken arm.
For Glen Potter healing after surgery.
For Mary Culp healing after a broken hip.
For baby Helena Garrison, grandson of Claudia Garrison, born prematurely and hospitalized.
For Shahla-Niakan, Maryam Behmanesh’s mother.
For strength, positive energy and enduring faith for Erwin Barron during cancer treatment.
For strength and encouragement for Coy Abellano, Erwin’s husband, during Erwin’s treatment.
For all the healing that can be for members of Brad Peterson’s family: Dorothy, Greg, Randi, Caroline, Tim, Phil and Patty.

Dates to Remember

May 5	Saturday	Old First staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry, 9:00 am.
May 6	Sunday	Winterfaith Shelter Walk, 1:30 pm, Lake Merced
May 7	Monday	Mission Committee, 6:30 pm
May 10	Thursday	Ascension of Christ
May 13	Sunday	Deadline for June Issue of Shared Life, Mothers' Day Board of Deacons, 12:30 pm
May 19	Saturday	Presbyterian Women, 12:00 noon
May 20	Sunday	Pentecost: Wear a touch of red to worship!
May 22	Tuesday	Session, 7:00 pm
May 26	Saturday	Saturday Community Dinner, 5:30 pm
May 27	Sunday	Trinity Sunday
May 28	Monday	Memorial Day: Church Office Closed

OFPC Church 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

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Hsiaochien Chuang
Linda Reyder
Daniel Pearch
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Randy Smith
Sarah Taber

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Riley Kramar
Mary Russell
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Beth Arnaoot
Courtney Blake
Cindy Burt
Glen Potter
Jian Wang