

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

November 2018

Telephone 415-776-5552

Website www.oldfirst.org

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

Maggi's Musings

November is a month for gratitude and stewardship. It is a time for us to remember to give thanks, to work on our practice of letting go and sharing, and to pledge our support for the work of the church as we seek to follow the ways of Jesus in San Francisco, across the nation and around the world.

We give because by giving we orient our life to God and in following in God's ways. Giving shows our priorities-and is not love our greatest purpose in life? Why don't you join me this month to set your priorities in order once again? In worship you will hear stories and challenges from your church families, you can give to the food bank and you can pray and study on words and scriptures that might open up our hearts and your pockets to live like grateful people. May it be so with all of us during this season of gratitude and stewardship.

Peace, Maggi

Old, Yet New Words of Thanksgiving: Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation

Washington, D.C.

October 3, 1863

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is

permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

*By the President: Abraham Lincoln
William H. Seward, Secretary of State*

Practicing Thanksgiving in Deed: SFSM Food Bank, Sundays of November

And while we're on the topic. Try practicing gratitude this November by purchasing much need items for the San Francisco/Marin Food Bank while you are out shopping for groceries or household supplies. These items can be put in the Food Bank Food Barrel located in the narthex. Here are suggestions for each Sunday in November.



November 4:	Peanut butter in plastic containers.
November 11:	Oatmeal
November 18:	Spam or canned meat.
November 25:	Canned soup.

And as you place the items you've purchased in the barrel, why not offer a prayer of thanks as well?

November is Stewardship Season: Funding a Narrative Budget

As we approach Old First's annual stewardship appeal, it is time for us to reflect on who Old First is and on the many ways in which our gifts empower us to carry out our mission as a vibrant presence of Jesus Christ in the midst of our great city.

This year's stewardship campaign focuses on a "narrative budget" for Old First. In other words, we take the budget of more than \$400,000 and, instead of describing the various expenditure components (e.g., salaries, building maintenance, purchase of goods and services), we focus instead

on the various results that we are funding. When we give to Old First, it is the results, not the budget categories that motivates our giving.

Doing it this way, we get the following results:

Worship	\$149,000	37%
Benevolences	\$87,000	21%
Congregational Care	\$70,000	17%
Education	\$31,000	7%
Evangelism	\$29,000	7%
Community	\$46,000	11%

To some, these numbers may seem surprising. While we spend more on worship than any other categories (resulting in high quality preaching and music), worship gets only a little more than 1/3 of our budget. Benevolences are more than 20%, which may surprise some people, given that our benevolence budget is typically below our goal of 10%. However, a narrative budget recognizes that expenditures in other categories benefits benevolences, such as the cost of providing space in the building for the food pantry and paying for staff time devoted to various benevolence projects.

Here is a more detailed description of these categories:

Worship is a large component of the pastor's time, and all of the time of the music director. It is also a major component of building expense

Benevolences include funds that the church grants to various mission and social justice organizations. It also includes direct programs of the church, such as food pantry and community dinners, which involve use of the building and staff time.

Congregational Care involves activities to meet the spiritual and other needs of our congregation. This includes social events, pastoral care and assistance to church members in need

Education includes small groups, Christian education classes, retreats and church school for children.

Evangelism includes activities to attract new members, as well as the church's web site and other outreach activities.

Community includes Old First's engagement with the community at large as a good neighbor and programs for the general community. This includes making our facilities available for Old First Concerts (which is a subsidiary of the church), as well as our membership in the newly-formed Discover Polk Benefit District, which has as its mission making the Polk Street area a more attractive and vibrant neighborhood commercial district.

As you can see, Old First constitutes the active and committed presence of Jesus Christ in the middle of San Francisco, as it has been since 1849. The generous pledges of the congregation are at the core of our successful ministry. In deciding on your pledge commitment, please keep in mind the various different ways that Old First works for Christ in our community and be generous in your giving.

Old First Stewardship Committee

Pledge cards will be sent to you soon. You can return them to the church any time; however, we will gather them and give thanks for them during worship on Sunday, November 28.

Small Group Fair, November 4

Small groups are a great way to connect with others at Old First, for fellowship and study. Representatives from existing small groups and the Christian Education Committee will be in the Fellowship Hall, following worship, on November 4, to talk with you about our small groups and take sign-ups.

Election Day, November 6

Once again Old First Presbyterian Church will host two polling locations for the November election: Precincts 7332 and 7334. Remember to vote!

Performance by Renowned Soprano to Support Refugee Girls, Friday, November 9

Old First and other Interfaith Welcome congregations invite you to an evening with accomplished soprano Winnie Nieh at Zion Lutheran Church, 495 9th Avenue (at Anza), on Friday, November 9, at 7:30 pm.

Winnie Nieh has performed for the San Francisco Conservatory Board of Trustees and as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and venues around the world. She serves on the Board of Trustees of the Grammy-winning San Francisco vocal ensemble, Chanticleer. A Harvard graduate with diplomas from Trinity College, London, Winnie Nieh is gifted with perfect pitch and a “well-focused,” “impeccably pure and heart-breaking voice” that is “able to soar above piano or orchestra.” For more on Winnie Nieh watch this YouTube video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=46&v=-7e3aYfMeNU, or visit her website: www.winnienieh.com.

Fully 100% of the evening’s donations will go directly to the International Rescue Committee’s Vision Project, which helps refugee girls in Oakland schools envision their future as women in America. The Vision Project’s week-long workshops aim to empower refugee girls and change perceptions within their communities by providing girls the skills and support they need to envision a positive future and ultimately achieve their goals. Since launching the Vision Project in 2017, the IRC in Northern California has worked with 36 girls from 14 countries speaking seven languages. The IRC is a nonprofit rated A+ by Charity Navigator. For more information visit:

<https://www.rescue.org/announcement/vision-project>.

Suggested donation: \$15/person; \$25/family (cash, credit cards or checks payable to International Rescue Committee). No reservations necessary; reception following performance.

Turkey Chefs for the Saturday Community Dinner: Pick Up Your Turkeys November 18

Plan to roast one or more turkeys for November’s Saturday Community Dinner. You can pick up your frozen turkeys on Sunday, November 18, or during the following work week. You then return them to the church roasted to the church by November 24, the day of the dinner, by 2:00 pm. We need all sorts of help cooking and serving. Contact Pastor Maggi to reserve your turkey: maggi@oldfirst.org. Contact saturdaymeals@oldfirst.org to volunteer your time.

14th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service, November 22

The SF Interfaith Council will hold a Thanksgiving Day Service on Thursday, November 22, 2018, 10:00 am at the Fifth Church of Christ, Scientist, 450 O’Farrell Street.

Pekelnicky Baptism, November 24

Bob Pekelnicky and Virginia Webb Pekelnicky invite friends and members of Old First to the baptism their son, “Teddy,” on Saturday November 24, 2018, 11:00 am at Nôtre Dame des Victoires Catholic Church, 566 Bush Street between Grant Avenue and Stockton Street. A reception will follow the baptism and on the following day Old First will recognize Teddy’s baptism at worship at Old First.

Old First Mission Fair, Sunday, December 2

Don’t miss the Old First Mission Fair after the worship service on Sunday, December 2. This will be a superb opportunity to learn more about our own mission initiatives, as well as great nonprofits, both local and around the world, that we support through our benevolence program and volunteer efforts.

Presbyterian Historical Society Announces Pam Byers Memorial Initiative: Researcher-Focused Memorial to be Established

Fred Tangeman | Presbyterian Historical Society - October 24, 2018

October is LGBT History Month, a fitting time for the Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS) to announce the public phase of its Pam Byers Memorial Collecting Initiative. Financial support for the initiative has been raised through the Pam Byers Memorial Fund.

Pam McLucas Byers was a ruling elder at Old First Presbyterian Church in San Francisco and the first executive director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, a group that advocates for a fully inclusive Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Byers died in 2014.

Beth Hessel, PHS Executive Director, and Nancy Taylor, PHS Director of Programs and Services, began collecting materials and raising funds to establish a researcher-focused memorial to Byers in 2016. Jeff Byers (Pam Byers’s husband), Deborah Block, Patricia Dykers Koenig, and Barbara Wheeler provided key assistance during the quiet phase of the project.

Dykers Koenig, a previous organizer of the Covenant Network and member of the More Light Churches Network, donated ten cubic feet of personal papers. Sharon Rogers, widow of former Moderator Jack Rogers, donated her husband’s papers, which include his work and writings on human sexuality. Jerry Andrews and Jack Haberer have also contributed large document runs from their time as leaders in the Presbyterian Coalition and other Presbyterian organizations. These collections join a growing body of records at PHS related to the denomination’s four decade struggle over the full participation of LGBTQIA+ Presbyterians and their families in the life and leadership of the church.

“Pam used her generous hospitality, deep intellect, faithfulness to Jesus Christ, and commitment to justice and unity to connect Presbyterians in difficult conversations around the full inclusion of LGBT individuals,” Hessel said. “We are looking for the records of individuals and organizations from across the theological spectrum that engaged on these issues. Minutes, correspondence, photos, personal diaries, published work, campaign materials, speeches and sermons that reflect on understandings of sexuality and faith, on ordination or marriage rights for LGBTQIA+ Presbyterians, are all valuable.”

Elizabeth Wittrig will serve as Pam Byers Memorial Fund Project Archivist. In addition to writing finding aids that increase researcher access to collection materials and sharing stories with the wider public through social media and blogs, including her recent work on the UPCUSA Task Force to

Study Homosexuality, Wittrig will gather new items for the initiative. Contact her to discuss donating materials or recording an oral history.

Wittrig previously worked at the Mennonite Church USA Archives and the LGBT-Religious Archives Network, experiences that taught her “how a denominational archive can become a space to preserve and share a living history” and “how the stories of LGBTQIA+ advocates in the PC(USA) fit into the larger societal context.” “At the same time,” Wittrig added, “the stories of LGBTQIA+ Presbyterians are unique—shaped by each individual’s experience with congregations, mid councils, and other communities. I hope we are able to connect the stories we collect with people of all ages and backgrounds.”

To contribute financial support to the Pam Byers Memorial Fund, make an online gift or contact PHS Director of Development Kim Shiley. Learn more about the Pam Byers Memorial Collecting Initiative at the PHS website.

Located in Philadelphia since 1852, the Presbyterian Historical Society collects, preserves, and shares the story of American Presbyterianism with churches and individual researchers around the world. Its collections go back 500 years and feature church records from all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; personal papers of prominent Presbyterians; and correspondence from overseas missions. PHS is the national archives of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and an Office of the General Assembly ministry.

For the on-line original of this article, visit: <http://www.pcusa.org/news/2018/10/24/presbyterian-historical-society-announces-pam-byer/>

Session Report for September 2018

The Session met on Tuesday, September 25. Following are some highlights of the meeting:

- There were two reports on the recent Presbytery Meeting held at St John’s Church on September 11.
- There was a report detailing planning for Choir Section Leaders for the rest of the year. There was some discussion of a budget overrun and several possible solutions were discussed.
- The Community Building Committee announced community Trick or Treat activities to be held on Polk Street October 31. All were invited to attend.
- The Worship Committee reported that Advent planning and art follow-up discussions would be held on September 30 in Room A.
- The Planning Committee announced that two more canoeing sessions would be held in part to discuss adaptive changes versus technical change. It was moved, seconded and passed to accept goals for the OFPC website including update of content, deleting outdated material, upgrading for correctness and preparation to use the website for communication across other media and platforms. It was also mentioned that the the Middle Polk Community Building District has been passed and a signing would occur Thursday September 27.
- The Finance Committee reported that the narthex kiosk was working well, and was able to include special giving.
- The Operations Committee reported that the electronic monitor had been installed in the Narthex.
- The Mission Committee presented a written report and distributed two flyers for upcoming events — the Interfaith Welcome Zion Lutheran Church Concert Series and the Ukulele &

Hula Concert to raise funds to post bond for release of immigrants. It was moved, seconded and passed to give \$500 to Safe House in recognition of their 20th Anniversary.

- The Christian Education Committee announced a class on October 7.

Tom Culp, Clerk

Report: October's All-Church Retreat at Mt. Hermon

Nine OFPC members, including Maggi, joined a large number of First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame folks for the October 19-21 retreat at Mt Hermon in Felton. Skies were blue and the temperature was balmy. The camp is beautiful, situated in a grove of mature redwoods. Our OFPC group was warmly welcomed by "BurlPres" (as they call themselves). Lots of children and young people came to the retreat, happily laughing and thoroughly enjoying their planned activities.

Our speaker, the Reverend Steve Schibsted, is a friendly and dynamic leader. He was a former associate pastor of BurlPres, who then spent seventeen years as the senior pastor at Bidwell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Chico. Steve used several Bible verses focusing on Jesus' invitation to live a lighter life, yoked with him. He talked about God's priorities for our lives, and how our lives can become simplified by having one overriding commitment. He said we should leave a margin of time in our lives to actually experience the abundant life Christ came to give us. Our small group met after each session answering suggested questions and sharing our thoughts.

Saturday afternoon was free time. Some took naps, some took walks, some read and enjoyed the quiet time. Four of us joined a choir to rehearse for Sunday's service. For the adventurous, Mt Hermon has a circuit of zip lines as well as a swimming pool.

The highlight of the weekend (for me) was line and folk dancing Saturday evening. A caller taught a sizable group of us various dances, then we followed his directions as best we could. What a workout! Younger folks joined us and even a tiny little four-year-old just had to join the fun.

We were so enthusiastic about the retreat we hope more folks from Old First can experience the closeness, sharing, time for reflection, and just plain fun of the retreat. We want to work on how to get the cost of the weekend down to a more affordable range.

Consider joining us for next year's all-church retreat in October 2019!

Cindy Burt

(Re)Visiting the Columbarium

Just inside the Van Ness Avenue entrance to the church is Old First's Columbarium, our modern urban version of a country churchyard with its headstones and epitaphs. Those new to Old First may be aware that this quiet and beautiful space is a "columbarium" but may not know quite what that means, and longtime worshipers may have become so accustomed to its presence that they no longer really see it. Therefore, in this season of All Saints, the story of our Columbarium may bear visiting--or revisiting.

The Columbarium is a space set aside as a repository for the cremated remains of church members and friends who have died and to memorialize them and other deceased persons who were part of this church family. The south wall contains niches for the inurnment of ashes, with a stone niche cover inscribed to memorialize each life. The north wall holds plaques inscribed in memory of those who are buried—or whose ashes were scattered—elsewhere. All art in the Columbarium and its environs is considered to be part of the permanent art of the church and to complement other works previously installed. The stained-glass window in the viewing area above the chamber depicts a field of lilies and completes the original vision of the Columbarium. The window was commissioned specifically for this area (where all are welcome to spend time in quiet contemplation) and was finalized through the generosity of donors. It was dedicated on All Saints' Sunday in 2016.

The Columbarium was inaugurated on May 29, 2005, when the ashes of long-time Old First member Alberto Barrios were placed in his niche. Since then, twenty-five more members of our church family

have been inurned or memorialized there, and nineteen people currently hold niches or plaques for future use. These living subscribers make up the Columbarium Society, whose annual meeting will be held this year on the Sunday following All Saints' Day. Among those eligible to purchase niches or plaques are members and friends of Old First, current and former pastors, and staff of the church or its affiliated ministries (Senior Center, Welcome, Old First Concerts). Current prices are \$1,800 for a niche (along with its cover stone) and \$600 for a commemorative plaque. If you would like to learn more about purchasing a niche or plaque, or if you would like to be contacted by a member of the Columbarium Ministry Team, please call Brad Peterson in the church office at 415-776-5552.

Tracy Clagett

Pray for Healing and Wholeness

For our country as we confront our racist acts and systems including the horrific, Anti-Semitic attack and murders at Tree of Life Synagogue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

For Erwin Barron that he may continue to heal and take more food and drink orally.

For Betsy Chiao as she undergoes chemotherapy, and for her supportive husband, Ted.

For Bart Crosby after a fall, that his breathing, balance and mobility may improve.

For Riley Kramar schedules for surgery for an injured knee.

For James Uren, who is under hospice care. (Call James at the VA Medical Center, if you're considering visiting him. Or you may write him: VA Medical Center/4150 Clement St/Bldg 208-CLC, Rm 1B-119/SF CA 94121.)

For Jian Wang and the healing of her broken ankle.

For Herbert Yee, Josephine's husband, who is in hospital.

Give Thanks

For healthy birth of Hannah Rose Wolka, daughter of Old 1st Concerts executive director Matt Wolka, on October 19.

For the 10th wedding anniversary of our church office admin Brad Peterson, and his husband John Kirk on October 27.

For the baptism into the body of Christ of Teddy Pekelnicky on November 24.

Harvest Home, Henry Alford (1810–1871)

Come, Ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home:
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied:
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.



Dates to Remember

November 1	Thursday	All Saints' Day
November 3	Saturday	Daylight Savings Time ends. Let your clocks "fall back" one hour.
November 4	Sunday	Columbarium Society, 12:30 pm
November 6	Tuesday	Election Day: Old First is a precinct polling place.
November 11	Sunday	Board of Deacons Meeting, 12:30 pm
November 15	Thursday	Worship Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
November 18	Sunday	Deadline for December Issue of <i>Shared Life</i> Ushers' Breakfast Meeting, 9:30 am Pick Up Turkeys to Roast for the Saturday Community Dinner
November 22	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day: Church Office Closed
November 23	Friday	Church Office Closed
November 24	Saturday	Saturday Community Dinner, 5:30 pm
November 25	Sunday	Reign of Christ Sunday: Last Sunday of the Church Year
November 27	Tuesday	Session Meeting, 7:00 pm

OFPC Church Officers**Session****Class of 2019**

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

Class of 2020

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

Class of 2021

Kristi Hoerauf
Dana Nojima
Stephen Taber

Board of Deacons**Class of 2019**

Riley Kramar
Emily Olson
AnnieScott Rogers
Mary Russell

Class of 2020

Beth Arnaoot
Courtney Blake
Cindy Burt, moderator
Glen Potter
Jian Wang

Class of 2021

Sarah Taber