

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

July/August 2019

Telephone 415-776-5552

Website www.oldfirst.org

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

Save the Date: Retreat at Mt Hermon, October 2019

The date for the fabulous church retreat weekend is from dinner on Friday, October 18, through lunch on Sunday, October 20. It will be held at Mt Hermon Conference Center and we will once again join "BurlPres," aka First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame. This year Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church will also be a part of the usual stimulating sessions, spiritual enrichment and plenty of fun and games.

The pricing is the same as last year: \$350 for deluxe, \$300 for standard and \$250 for economy. These are double occupancy per person.

The speaker is Don Baird, who just happens to be the father of BurlPres's senior pastor, Graham! His topic title is "Where the Journey Begins: Traveling with Paul and Barnabas through the Holy Land." Don has served as pastor of Fremont Presbyterian Church (Sacramento), of First Presbyterian Church (Salt Lake City), and of First Presbyterian Church (Boise). He received his Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary (Chicago) and his Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary (San Anselmo, CA). He also holds an Master of Business Administration from the University of Utah. He was born and raised in Stockton and comes from a family with a long tradition of Presbyterian ministers. With his wife Morag, they have three grown children – Graham, Teala and James – plus nine grandchildren.

Start saving your pennies to sign up for this traditionally fun and inspiring get-together! Further information about the schedule and planning will be available shortly. We will have registration forms as soon as we receive them from BurlPres.

Details will follow; however, with another large congregation partnering, we will need to get our numbers in promptly to reserve room spaces. So, if you think you will be interested please let Jeanne Kirkwood or Cindy Burt know as soon as possible. Indication of interest will not commit you, immediately.

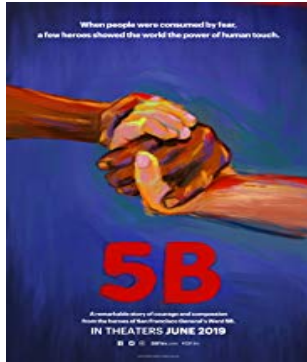
Jeanne Kirkwood and Cindy Burt



SF Interfaith Council Thanks Old First

The San Francisco Interfaith Council expressed its thanks to Old First Presbyterian Church for its help feeding those gathered at WinterShelter this past year, when WinterShelter housed over 667 men! Special thanks go particularly to Amberlee and Courtney Blake for their leadership and expertise. <

In the picture Pastor Henderson receives the certificate of thanks from Rita Semel of the Interfaith Council.



5B, a Film by Dan Krauss, June 29 and July 1

The new movie 5B by Oakland filmmaker Dan Krauss documents how San Francisco General Hospital nurses made history in the 1980s with care for AIDS patients.

The powerful film, released June 19, tells the story of the nurses at San Francisco General Hospital who opened the world's first in-patient AIDS ward — in unit 5B on the fifth floor — in 1983 to care for those suffering, and dying in alarming numbers, during the epidemic's initial skyrocketing rise. There are numerous simple, yet extraordinarily moving, scenes in this film about nurses and patients in a time of crisis. Pastor Maggi recommends the film highly.

5B will be screened at the Roxie Theater, 3117 16th Street between Valencia and Guerrero, on June 29 at 3:00 pm and July 1 at 6:45 pm. Check listings for further showtimes.



Chinatown Rising, a Film by Harry and Jason Chuck, July 6

Chinatown Rising is a new documentary film made by the Reverend Harry Chuck, pastor of Chinatown Presbyterian Church and Cameron House, and his son, filmmaker Josh Chuck.

Chinatown Rising documents a dramatic period in San Francisco and US history. Against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-1960s, a young San Francisco Chinatown resident armed with a 16mm camera and leftover film scraps from a local TV station, turned his lens onto his community. Totalling more than 20,000 feet of film (10 hours), Harry Chuck's exquisite unreleased footage has captured a divided community's struggles for self-determination.

Chinatown Rising is a documentary film about the Asian-American Movement from the perspective of the young residents on the front lines of their historic neighborhood in transition. Through publicly challenging the conservative views of their elders, their demonstrations and protests of the 1960s-1980s rattled the once quiet streets during the community's shift in power. Forty-five years later, in intimate interviews these activists recall their roles and experiences in response to the need for social change. Old First's Pastor Maggi says the film is a "must-see."

The next screenings of Chinatown Rising will be at the New People Cinema, 1746 Post Street between Buchanan and Webster, on July 6 at 11:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.chinatownrising.com.

Old First Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry, July 13 and August 17

Please mark your calendar and let Dana Nojima know that you can lend a hand at the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, July 13 and August 17. Send Dana an E-mail: nojidt@gmail.com. We need helpers anytime from 7:30 am to 10:45 am to unload the truck, to distribute food, and to clean up.

Saturday Community Dinner, July 27 and August 24

Come and help prepare, serve and eat the Saturday Community Dinners on the fourth Saturday of July and August: Volunteers are welcome at 4:30 pm (or earlier), and the dinner is served at 5:30 pm. Volunteers who can stay to clean up are very welcome.

Summer is for Reading! Post Your Reading List on the Bulletin Board

Many of us take time during the summer to read the books piled up in “to be read” stacks, or the titles we’ve longed to read as a vacation treat. Old First is a church of readers, so why don’t you add your reading list to the bulletin board in the Sacramento Street lobby this summer! We can get reading ideas, share your own and maybe even start some book conversations.

Chelsea Hollow Recital, Old First Concerts, Friday, July 26, 8:00pm

Old First soprano section leader Chelsea Hollow and pianist Sophie Xuefei Zhang will be the featured artists for an Old First Concert on Friday, July 26, at 8:00 pm in the sanctuary. Making its West Coast debut, the recital, Voice for the Voiceless, is a program of contemporary music featuring and celebrating women from different stages of life, backgrounds and social statuses. Specifically commissioned for this recital are three world premieres by local, national and international composers. Also included are diverse contemporary selections by Jake Heggie, Ernst Bloch, Francis Poulenc and Stacy Garrop, as well as a set of cabaret songs by “Ma” Rainey, Kurt Weill, and Edith Piaf.

Chelsea shares this about this recital:

We’ll use the intimacy of recital, depth of viewpoints presented in each song, and a layout which moves from questions of our past towards answers of tomorrow. With our compelling and entertaining program of new music, we hope to spark conversation and inspire progress by showcasing and celebrating a variety of women, allies that help to push barriers, and activists that demand collective growth.

Pulpit Exchange with Graham Baird, August 4

Pastor Henderson and Graham Baird, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame (BurlPres) will swap pulpits on Sunday, August 4. They are not moving the actual pulpits, of course, but are trading places: Graham will come to Old First and Maggi will go to BurlPres. Graham has been pastor of BurlPres for some time and many Old First members have met him at our shared all-church retreats in the fall. For more about BurlPres, visit <https://burlpres.org/>

Travel Bags/Supplies for Refugee Families Held in Arizona Detention Center, August 18

The Mission Committee proposes that Old First do a fundraising drive for this project. Travel bags and supplies will be purchased online, then we will set up a “packing party” on August 18 to fill the bags. We’re proposing filling four bags. Per the Northern CA International Rescue Committee, this is a great way for congregations to support asylum-seeking families (generally consisting of a mother and child) picked up by ICE on the Arizona border.

After a stay in a detention center, the families are taken to a day facility in Phoenix operated by St. Vincent de Paul/Catholic Charities, with onsite IRC staff, where they are fed and given help with travel arrangements. The goal is to get them to a US-residing relative - no matter where in the country that might be. Some travel by plane, most by bus; either way, it’s a long journey, undertaken with virtually no money or possessions, no English, and an ankle bracelet on the parent.

Each mother will receive a comfortable, spacious and sturdy travel bag filled with things to alleviate stress on the trip (toiletries are provided separately): travel blanket; two inflatable travel pillows; reusable water bottle; children’s travel kit of games and stuff to do – coloring books, some play figurines (little animals, puzzles, etc.); small flashlight; playing cards; extra travel bags (foldable woven fabric), a few trash/garbage bags, and gallon and smaller Ziplock baggies; first aid kit with several Band-aids, alcohol pads, Neosporin tube, safety pins, hair elastics, Chapstick, trial size baby powder, Vaseline; disposable wet wipes, or diaper wipes that can serve double duty for cleaning; small soft hand towel, good for “sink showers” or cleaning up a bigger mess or as a changing pad, etc.; nutrition bars; lollipops.

A rough estimate is about \$200 for each travel bag and its contents. Donations can be via check payable to Old First Presbyterian Church, with “We Choose Welcome” in the memo line; or, swipe at the kiosk in the Narthex and select “We Choose Welcome”; or on the website, <https://donations.oldfirst.org/>

Mary Russell

SFTS Becomes GST-UR, Brad Peterson to Teach History for Academic Year 2019-2020

As of July 1, the San Francisco Theological Seminary, founded by Presbyterians in 1871, will be embedded in the University of Redlands, based in Redlands, California. The seminary, which will remain on its historic campus in Marin County, will benefit from the academic diversity and fiscal strength of the university, while the university will gain both a prestigious graduate theological program and a historic Northern California campus. The seminary will also continue its membership in the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley.

Brad Peterson, Old First's office admin, is especially excited about this news, as he has been hired as adjunct faculty to teach the courses in the history of Christianity required for the Master of Divinity program for the academic year beginning this September. Brad is a 2008 graduate of the doctoral program in history at the Graduate Theological Union and was a teaching assistant at the seminary during his studies. He also teaches for the School for Deacons of the Episcopal Diocese of California and for the on-line Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, another member institution of the Graduate Theological Union.

Brad's teaching schedule will alter his weekly schedule at Old First. Beginning in September, instead of working his half-day on Fridays, he will work his half-day on Tuesdays. After the morning at Old First, he'll head up to San Anselmo for a weekly four-hour afternoon class at the seminary. Brad has many ties to the seminary, is thrilled about this opportunity to renew them, and grateful to Pastor Maggi and the session for making this possible.

College Bible Class begins this Spring

Have you ever wanted to take a real college Bible class? Now's your chance! City College of San Francisco is offering this fall semester a survey class called "The Bible as Literature," taught by our very own Erwin Barron.

Community and church members are encouraged to join the class, as have Old First members in previous years. It will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday nights beginning August 19 at the main CCSF campus on Ocean Avenue at Frida Kahlo Way. The course will briefly cover all of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, studying them using historical-critical and academic methods.

Erwin Barron, PhD, Old First's parish associate, is a City College professor of English. If you're interested or would like more information, talk to Erwin or you can search for English 48K at the City College website, www.ccsf.edu.

Session Meeting Report for May 28, 2019

Session met on May 28. Following are some highlights from the meeting:

- There was a report on the Presbytery Meeting on May 14 in Lafayette.
- There was a report from the Community Building Committee about Old First digital presence.
- The Mission Committee moved that instead of having a gift card drive already approved that a backpack drive be supported for the International Rescue Committee helping families seeking asylum in the United States at the southern border. The motion passed unanimously.
- As part of the strategic planning discussions, the Holy Cow Consulting document "Vital Signs" generated from the Congregation Assessment Tool dated February 3, 2016 was discussed.
- The Mission Committee reported several items including an International Peacemaker visit in late September/early October, the Pentecost offering on June 9 to benefit in part Edgewood Children's Services and Larkin Street Youth Center, and the Interfaith Refugee Committee fundraiser concert.
- The Operations Committee mentioned recent carpet cleaning, lighting monitoring and upgrades and possible improvements considered for the social hall and bathrooms.

Pentecost Offering 2019

Old First's Pentecost Offering exceeded \$1,200. This offering will benefit Edgewood Children's Services and Larkin Street Youth Center as well as three ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

Spiritual Practices – A Personal Rule of Life

Lori Yamauchi

Spiritual growth needs structure and support. Christian tradition calls the kind of structure that supports our spiritual growth rule of life. A rule of life is a pattern of spiritual disciplines that provides structure and direction for growth in holiness. Patterns mean attitudes, behaviors or elements that are routine, repeated, regular. A rule of life is meant to help us establish a rhythm of daily living, a basic order within which new freedoms can grow. Being serious about maturing in the spiritual life means embracing discipline, that takes training and practice. The purpose of a rule is to help us grow into holiness, and form us into the persons God intends us to be. This transformation is a process that requires the death of much that seems natural to us, in order to allow a deeper mystery of our life in God to rise up, such as the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a moth.

Martin Luther King Jr. developed a rule to guide the nonviolent protests of the civil rights movement. His rule emphasized the spiritual principles and inner attitudes undergirding one's actions, and included specific practices like meditation, prayer and service.

There are three basic questions to reflect on in choosing disciplines for your rule of life:

1. What am I deeply attracted to, and why?
2. Where do I feel God is calling me to stretch and grow?
3. What kind of balance do I need in my life?

Clarify your priorities, and then ask what is realistic for you to commit to. Realistic commitment is an expression of humility. Take account of your personal character. Take account of your personal circumstances in your life.

Once you have decided on a rule of life you can realistically give yourself to, write it down. Commit yourself in print. A rule of life is practical for this time in your life. Put a copy of your rule in a place where you can review frequently. Choose one person you love and trust to share your rule with. Ask that person to pray for you and hold you accountable to faithfulness in your practice.

It is very important to seek support from your faith community when you decide to become serious about developing your spirituality. That faith community supports you through corporate worship, study and service, and through individuals whose experience and wisdom can guide you. That faith community can give us mutual encouragement, support, clarity, guidance, and love.

Newly Elected Deacons and Elders Statements of Faith

For the next few months *Shared Life* will feature Statements of Faith by newly elected officers: Elders Tom Culp, Eva DeLair, Bob Fleming, and Deacons Maryam, David Griffith, Karyn Payne, Mary Russell.

Eva DeLair, Elder (Class of 2022)

I believe that God is an unknowably great being that as humans we understand through actions and messages sent to the earth such as the Bible, Jesus, and the holy spirit's actions in our lives. These lead me to understand that God is fundamentally love and has built the world—including humans--through grace and mercy. Even though the world was created in and of love, suffering, fear, and pain exist in the world.

Jesus, through word and action demonstrates God's love and call to us to heal the sick, welcome and care for the outcast, and love our neighbors as ourselves. Through replicating these actions we can build moments of God's intention.

I believe the spirit continues to lead and propel us to live that grace today. God's presence in the midst of pain and suffering provides strength and hope in order to confront and work to correct pain, fear and indifference and to seek

God's will within our world and ourselves. God's presence through the spirit gives us that strength to persevere, and pushes us beyond where we thought we could go.

The church is an organization designed and called to find and understand the human role in fulfilling God's intentions for our world. The church, made of humans, is imperfect and must continue to evaluate and seek to refocus on God's call to us all. In community, both challenging and supportive, we can do this better than if alone.

Through all of this, our call is to celebrate in to God's grace and reflect it throughout the world, even in the dark, the cold, the pain and the fear we experience.

Maryam, Deacon (Class of 2022)

I believe that God is the absolute One, and he is the creator of the universe and everything in existence, and he preserves them. I believe God can do everything with his power. He loves us and wants the best for us. No vision can grasp him, but his grasp is over all visions.

I believe that Jesus is fully human, fully God. I believe he is the way and the truth and the life. I trust in him. He came to earth in human form so that he could die a physical death and take away our sins. He lived a sinless life and died for our sins, taking the punishment that we deserve, he was buried and rose from the dead. I believe Jesus is my Lord. He is my savior and I believe in his miracles.

I trust in God the Holy Spirit that lives inside those who believe in Jesus. We cannot do on our own. The Holy Spirit will build into our lives love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and many more good things.

I believe the Bible is God's word to the world speaking to us. I believe human authors wrote exactly what God wanted them to write, and the result is perfect and holy.

I believe the church is a house of believers, the house of those who have personal relationships with Christ.

The role of Christians in this world is making new disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit:

Honor all humankind, love them, fear God and obey his authority.

As a beginner, I think I possess a great potential in my new, chosen faith. I'm trying to find a way to make myself a better person, and to spread more love around me. I'm trying to be more useful, honorable and compassionate, to learn the right and wrong, and help whomever I can to have a happier and healthier life.

And I know God and Jesus Christ are my partner – that's why I'm making my plans BIGGER and BIGGER every day for my own life, to be a happier person, and to be kind and helpful to others... because I believe, if I'm not a happy person, I cannot make others happy.

Karyn Payne, Deacon (Class of 2022)

I believe in almighty God, and the only begotten son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

I am reminded of the presence of the Triune God each day when I awake. It is a blessing every day, among many blessings, for which I am deeply grateful.

The children I have, who bring me more joy than I can imagine, are something I thank God for every day of my life.

I was blessed with a singing voice which I use to glorify the Lord as often as I can. I do not take this gift for granted or any of my God given gifts.

Since I came to Old First Church, I believe my faith has been reinforced greatly. For this, I am very grateful.

Strangers are Owed Food, Water and a Welcome

By the Reverend Bart Smith and the Reverend Alison Harrington

Special to the ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The following column is the analysis and opinion of the writers.

For months, all across Southern Arizona, signs in front lawns, apartment windows and storefronts have proclaimed the fundamental truth that humanitarian aid is not a crime. This past Tuesday, eight members of a 12-person jury agreed, causing the government's case against No More Death's volunteer Scott Warren to be declared a mistrial.

For many of us - particularly in the religious community - it was shocking to us that Dr. Warren was charged at all for engaging in acts that many of us view as a basic requirement of our faith.

In fact, over a hundred religious leaders from across the nation gathered in Tucson at the Federal Courthouse on June 5 in support of Dr. Warren. We gathered - Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Christian, Unitarian Universalist, Native American – to pray together because we believe humanitarian aid is never a crime. We also believe treating it as such is fundamentally a threat, not only to the practice of our faiths, but to the basic foundations of civil society.

The bedrock of any society is what the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called “an inescapable network of mutuality ... a single garment of destiny.” We teach that mutual responsibility to our children in kindergarten and Sunday School with the expression “sharing is caring” not “sharing is criminal.”

In the Christian tradition, we believe on judgment day we will have to give an account for the ways in which we treat “the least of these.” In Matthew's gospel, Jesus said that the creator will ask us, “Did you give water to the thirsty?” “Did you feed the hungry?” “Did you welcome the stranger?” And our salvation depends on an affirmative answer: “Yes, Lord, we cared for the least of these.” In the past two weeks, these same questions were being asked, not by some celestial court, but by prosecutors in the federal courthouse as they did all they could to twist the internationally recognized right to give humanitarian aid into a criminal offense. For them, an affirmative answer to “Did you give water? Did you give food? Did you welcome the stranger?” should not result in salvation but rather incarceration. Fortunately, compassionate hearts prevailed and Dr. Warren was not convicted for his acts of kindness to two individuals who were in desperate need of that kindness.

Time after time, the eyes of the nation have turned toward Arizona. From a renegade sheriff up north to draconian laws like SB 1070, we have earned the reputation of being a laboratory for anti-immigrant attitudes and policies. But the majority of us who call Pima County home have always held fast to the beauty that is the borderlands and the richness in the confluence of our cultures, and we have rejected attempts to shape us into a community based on fear and suspicion of other human beings.

Perhaps it is because we live in the heart of the beautiful Sonoran Desert and know what all desert dwellers across the globe and throughout human history know: that none of us could survive the desert if we could not rely on the kindness of others who are always quick to invite you in and offer you a cold glass of water. With the trial of Dr. Warren, the eyes of the nation turned toward us once again and we are proud that, as a community, we stood together and told a different story of who we can be as a nation when we see ourselves as an inescapable network of mutuality bound together through compassion for one another.

In his statement on June 11, Dr. Warren was quick to point out that since his arrest in January 2018, no fewer than 88 bodies were recovered in the Arizona desert. In the face of these deaths and the ongoing suffering created by our border policies, to fail to do whatever we can to alleviate the suffering and stop the deaths is the real crime.

And so the trial of Dr. Warren may be over for now. But if you have a sign up in your yard, in your business, in your apartment, leave it up. We must never cease in our affirmation that compassion and kindness is what binds us together as a society and that humanitarian aid is never, ever a crime but rather a moral obligation.

The Rev. Bart Smith is pastor of St. Mark's Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Alison Harrington is pastor of Southside Presbyterian Church. Both churches are located in Tucson, Arizona.



Alison Harrington



Bart Smith

Time Is

Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933

Time is too slow for those who wait,
Too swift for those who fear,
Too long for those who grieve,
Too short for those who rejoice;
But for those who love, time is Eternity.

Prayers for Healing and Wholeness

Betsy Chiao for increased strength and keeping cancer on hold.
Jeanne Kirkwood for healing after appendix surgery.
Leota Parker for improved stability and cognitive function.
Sarah Taber for knee replacement surgery July 16 and rehabilitation.

A Prayer for Friday Evenings

Holy One, you have promised your mercy to Abraham and his children for ever: Bless our cousins in faith, the Jews and the Muslims, as they gather this night to call upon you. Hear their prayers and ours that together we may be champions of justice and bringers of peace for all people; for the sake of your reign on earth. Amen.

Prayers for Any Day

James Weldon Johnson

O Lord, we come this morning knee-bowed and body-bent before thy throne of grace. O Lord, this morning, bow our hearts beneath our knees, and our knees in some lonesome valley. We come this morning like empty pitchers to a full fountain, with no merits of our own. O Lord, open up a window of heaven and lean out far over the battlements of glory, and listen this morning. Amen.

Dates to Remember

July 4	Thursday	Church Office Closed
July 8	Monday	Mission Committee, Munro Room, 6:30 pm
July 13	Saturday	Old First Staffs Interfaith Food Pantry, 9:00 am
July 14	Sunday	Board of Deacons, 12:30 pm
July 20	Saturday	Presbyterian Women, Library, 12:00 noon
July 21	Sunday	Worship with Guest Preacher Sam Lundquist, 11:00 am
July 27	Saturday	Saturday Community Dinner, Fellowship Hall, 5:30 pm
July 30	Tuesday	Session, Munro Room, 7:00 pm
August 10	Saturday	Presbytery of SF Western District, 1:00 pm
August 17	Saturday	Old First Staffs Interfaith Food Pantry, 9:00 am Presbyterian Women, 12:00 noon
August 18	Sunday	Deadline for September Issue of <i>Shared Life</i>
August 20	Tuesday	Worship Committee, 7:00 pm
August 24	Saturday	Saturday Community Dinner, Fellowship Hall, 5:30 pm

Old First Officers**Session****Class of 2020**

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

Class of 2021

Lori Yamauchi
Stephen Taber
Kristi Hoerauf
Dana Nojima

Class of 2022

Bob Fleming
Eva DeLair
George Becker
Tom Culp, clerk

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

Class of 2021

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Karyn Payne
Sarah Taber

Class of 2021

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Emily Olson
Maryam
Riley Kramar