

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

October 2019

Telephone 415-776-5552

Website www.oldfirst.org

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

SHARING GOD'S LOVE, WELCOME, AND JUSTICE ON OUR CORNER, IN OUR CITY, AND IN THE WORLD

World Communion Sunday with Guest Preacher Glenda Hope, October 6

The Reverend Glenda Hope, long-time friend of Old First, will join us to preach and preside at communion on World Communion Sunday, October 6. For over three-quarters of a century, Christians of many denominations have celebrated communion on the first Sunday of October to affirm a vision of ecumenical unity despite our present divisions. According to Presbyterian Outlook:

Davitt S. Bell (the late Clerk of Session and church historian at Shadyside [Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA]) recalled that Dr. [Hugh Thomson] Kerr [minister of Shadyside] first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930). Dr. Kerr's younger son, the Rev. Dr. Donald Craig Kerr, who is pastor emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, was sixteen in 1933. He has related that World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another.



(John A. Dalles, Presbyterian Origins: World Wide Communion Sunday, Wekiva Presbyterian Church website, reprinted from 7 October 2002 Presbyterian Outlook, accessed 15 August 2011.)

Old First Retreat at Mt Hermon, October 18-20, 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 Baird, who preached at Old First on August 4. Don's topic is **Where the Journey Begins: Traveling with Paul and Barnabas through the Holy Land**. Don has served as pastor in Sacramento, Salt Lake City, and Boise, Idaho. He received his Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary (San Anselmo, California). He was born and raised in Stockton and comes from a family with a long tradition of Presbyterian ministers.



Mt Hermon is nestled among the towering redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains just six miles from Monterey Bay. It has sunny fields, redwood trees, quiet walks and hiking trails, and zip lines. The food is exceptional and the fellowship with other churches is priceless! Our retreats at Mt Hermon offer a great balance of learning, fellowship, worship and free time.

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. Scholarships are available on request.

If you are interested, please let Jeanne Kirkwood or Cindy Burt know as soon as possible.

Jeanne Kirkwood and Cindy Burt

Saturday Community Dinner, October 26

Come and help prepare, serve and eat the Saturday Community Dinners on the fourth Saturday of every month: 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.

Remembering All the Saints: Submission Deadline, November 3

On November 3, All Saints' Sunday, we will remember church members, friends and loved ones who have died since All Saint's Day last year. To include someone's name in the remembrance, please let our office admin, Brad Peterson, know the following:

- the name of the person,
- your relationship to the person (sister, brother, friend, etc.), and
- the date of death.

Notify Brad by E-mail (brad@oldfirst.org), by phone (415-776-5552), or by mail (1751 Sacramento St/SF CA 94109) no later than **Monday, October 28**.

News from Pricilla and George Yu

Dear Friends of Old First,

It's been around seven weeks since we left OFPC and have semi-settled into Longwood at Oakmont, Verona, PA. We have moved here to be near our son and his family who live half an hour away from us in Murrysville, PA. Oakmont/Verona and Murrysville are all suburbs of Pittsburgh.

Longwood at Oakmont is an affiliate of Presbyterian Senior-Care with over 400 residences, not all necessarily retired. There are several categories of accommodations, Garden Apartments, Country

Homes and Apartments of various varieties in different sections of Longwood. We call this community a campus.

Longwood has many activities you may participate in including exercise classes, water aerobics, Tai Chi, card games, mahjong, line dancing, ping pong, yoga, etc., etc. There also are lectures from visiting university professors, musical events, state legislators coming to speak, movies, and so on.

The 60-acre campus is beautiful with rolling hills, flowers and greenery all over. We live in the Woodlands Apartment section — a 2-bedroom apartment similar to the one we lived in SF. However, our living room has a gorgeous view, overlooking a forest of tall green trees and rolling hills. The food served is of high quality, nothing that we could ever attempt to prepare.

We have discovered the Pittsburgh area is abounding in Presbyterian churches.

In our immediate district we seem to feel at home at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, a short distant from where we live. For the first time, this past Sunday, we heard the choir sing. It was lovely. Our thanks go to Larry Marietta's suggestion - who was formerly Director of Music at Fox Chapel - to visit the church and see how we would like it. Fox Chapel has two services at 10 am: traditional worship in the sanctuary and, downstairs, contemporary worship. The majority who worship downstairs are the millennials and families with young children.

We met the minister briefly just before he took a one month hiking holidays in Europe. The church is lovely, built in the 1960's, and designed in a rather modern motif in my eyes.

The atrium where you congregate before and after the service for coffee and juice is airy, giving the appearance of openness with glass ceilings to shield you from the hot summers and cold winters. Like all churches, their membership has gone down. It was noted in the past they were two thousand strong but now down to between 400-500 members!?

BTW in our Longwood complex there is a chaplain who has weekly Sunday worship services.

I think of Old First often and truly miss you all. I miss Maggi, the dear friends of Old First, the choir and serving at Old First.

We would love to hear from you. My E-mail address: pcyu@illinois.edu

Stay well and happy. Love and Blessings from Priscilla and George Yu!

Report from Brad Peterson on Teaching at SFTS

A weekly routine has now settled. Instead of working my morning half-day on Fridays, I now work a whole day on Friday and work only the morning on Tuesdays. Each Tuesday, at 12:27 pm promptly, I catch Golden Gate Transit Bus 101 on Van Ness Avenue at Clay Street. After changing buses in San Rafael I arrive in San Anselmo at 1:23 pm and then walk or ride my bike to San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS) perched on the hill in San Anselmo.

The class is small – two students from the Presbyterian Church (USA) and one from the Disciples of Christ. However, our time together allows for real involvement with the history of Christianity and how it is different or similar to our own faith journeys and practices today.

Though SFTS is now embedded in the University of Redlands as its Graduate School of Theology and new flags and signs have gone up around the campus, the experience for me is all delight and nostalgia. This semester I teach in a room just across the hall from where I was first a teaching assistant during doctoral studies with my adviser, Chris Ocker, then the professor for church history at SFTS.

Brad Peterson, Church Office Administrator

***Out of the Vast* by Augustus Wright Bamberger**

There's part of the sun in the apple,
There's part of the moon in a rose;
There's part of the flaming Pleiades
In every leaf that grows.

Out of the vast comes nearness;
For the God whose love we sing
Lends a little of His heaven
To every living thing.

Prayers for Healing and Wholeness

Leota Parker, for comfort and peace as she lives with metastatic cancer that will not be treated.
Sarah Taber, for rehabilitation after knee replacement surgery.
Betsy Chiao, for increased strength and keeping cancer on hold.
Glen Potter, for healing of his broken hip followed by a smooth rehabilitation.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Jeanne Kirkwood, for a mended ankle fracture and returning strength and stability walking.
Chuck and Emily Olson, for five years of marriage.

Dates to Remember

October 6	Sunday	World Communion Sunday, Guest Preacher Glenda Hope
October 13	Sunday	Board of Deacons, Munro Room, 12:30 pm
October 20	Sunday	Deadline for Submissions for November Issue of <i>Shared Life</i>
October 22	Tuesday	Session, Munro Room, 7:00 pm
October 26	Saturday	Saturday Community Dinner, Fellowship Hall, 5:30 pm
October 27	Sunday	Annual Meeting of the Columbarium Society, 12:30 pm
November 3	Sunday	All Saints' Sunday, Remembering the Saints

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

Linda Reyder
Bill Campbell
Hsiaochien Chuang
Virginia Webb-Pekelnicky
Lori Yamauchi

Class of 2021

Lori Yamauchi
Stephen Taber
Kristi Hoerauf
Dana Nojima

Class of 2022

Bob Fleming
Eva DeLair
George Becker
Tom Culp, clerk

Board of Deacons**Class of 2020**

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

Class of 2021

Mary Russell
Karyn Payne
Sarah Taber

Class of 2022

David Griffith
Emily Olson
Maryam
Riley Kramar