

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

February 2020

Telephone 415-776-5552

Website www.oldfirst.org

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

Maggi's Musings

The work of pastor is never really limited to a 9-to-5 Mon-Fri work week or – as some folk used to think – to one day a week on Sunday. There is study, prayer, and time in front of the computer for a sermon, which take anywhere from 10 to 20 hours a week. There is ongoing work around the building and with the daily life of the church and staff. There are E-mails to be written and returned, calls to be made and answered, and texts to be read and replied to. And I am so old-fashioned that I still also write notes! There are pastoral visits, meetings, and meals or coffee with members and visitors. I have responsibilities and meetings at local houses of worship and in our presbytery. I am out and about in the neighborhood and on the city. And on top of all that, I have a personal life, interests outside of church, and two cats. My regular day-off on Fridays is sacred to me!

One of the ways I keep my energy, creative flow, my spiritual life whole is by taking part in learning opportunities and educational events. I want to share two of them with you that feed my soul at the moment: first, the California School of Celtic Consciousness and, second, the Healthy Pastors/Healthy Congregations program of the Presbyterian Board of Pensions.

The School of Celtic Consciousness (SCC) was founded by John Philip Newell, a Scottish pastor and member of the Iona Community on the island of Iona in Scotland (<https://iona.org.uk/>). He is the celebrated author of *Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality*. A few years back, he spoke at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, our neighbors up the block on Van Ness Avenue.

The SCC is a three-year curriculum that takes place at a variety of places in the USA and focuses on the teachings of Celtic prophets in relation to the sacredness of the human soul, the sacredness of the feminine, and the sacredness of the earth. The daily schedule consists of prayer at the beginning and ending of each day, presentations by Newell, followed by meditative practices, silence, and sharing. I am excited because the California CCS will be held at the beautiful Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg, and because I have been drawn to Celtic Spirituality for years and now get to learn from a master. Find out more at www.heartbeatjourney.org.

The Session and I have been accepted to take part in Healthy Pastors/Healthy Congregations. It deals with money and finances and, you may guess, it is a subject we pastors are not often well trained for. The Presbyterian Board of Pensions writes this:

Talking about money can be difficult for anyone, especially for Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregational leaders deciding compensation for pastors. Even so, there are good reasons to have conversations about finances:

- *For pastors called to preach God's word and sustain a vital ministry, personal matters, such as financial planning, often take a back seat to serving their congregations.*
- *A growing number of pastors today are carrying significant educational debt or have insufficient savings for retirement.*

- *When pastors are not on solid financial footing, it can hinder their excellence in ministry and erode their personal well-being.*
- *Pastoral compensation and benefits are theological as well as practical matters.*

There are three main components.

1. *online learning modules for the pastor, available through Board University via Benefits Connect.*
2. *an in-person training session for the pastor and congregational leaders, taught by a Board of Pensions Church Consultant.*
3. *individual financial counseling for the pastor through Ernst & Young Employee Financial Services.*

To find out more visit:

<http://www.pensions.org/your-path-to-wholeness/healthy-pastors-healthy-congregations>

I am looking forward to see how God will work new things in my life and the life of the church this year. I covet your prayers and am thankful I am called to be your pastor.



Peace, Maggi

Old First's Annual Meeting, February 9

Old First Presbyterian Church will hold its Annual Meeting at the end of worship on Sunday, February 9. Old First will take time for reviewing the church's budget, for approving the pastor's compensation package, and for dreaming.

Valentine's Day Cards for Our Members and Friends, February 9

Come to coffee hour after worship on Sunday, February 9, to sign Valentine's Day cards for members and friends of Old First who live far away or cannot get to worship.

San Francisco Ballot Review Discussion, February 9, Room A

After the congregational meeting following worship on February 9, please join Betty Packard Voris, Old First member and chairperson of the San Francisco Ballot Simplification Committee, in Room A (off the Fellowship Hall), for a discussion of the San Francisco ballot propositions. Even if you can't make it, please plan to vote in the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary election!

Memorial Service for Mary Culp, February 15

Old First will witness to the resurrection and remember long-time member Mary Culp with a memorial service on Saturday, February 15, at 2:00 pm.

Don't Miss this Great Opportunity to Learn More about Evangelism and Welcome Leslie Veen, February 16, 23, March 1

The Reverend Dr. Leslie Veen, Director of Contextual Education at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University and ordained Presbyterian minister (and previously seminary intern at Old First), will be teaching an evangelism class at Old First on February 16, 23 and March 1.

Dr. Veen is a long-time friend and frequent guest preacher at Old First. The classes will take place in the Munro Room after the worship service and begin at 12:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served.
Lori Yamauchi

Lenten Devotionals Available Sunday, February 23

Devotionals to accompany us during Lent will be available from the ushers beginning Sunday, February 23.



Ash Wednesday, February 26

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent's 40 days, falls on February 26 this year. Old First will join St. Luke's Episcopal Church for worship that evening. Watch the on-line calendar or bulletin for the time of the service.

Lent will come to a climax at Old First with worship on Maundy Thursday, April 9 (for which St. Luke's will join us), Good Friday, April 10 and the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 12.

Ukulele & Hula Concert Bond Fundraiser, Saturday, February 29

Enjoy performance, sing-along, and a potluck with Na Hoaloha Ukulele ensemble and Hālau Kaiāulu Hula group to raise bonds to release immigrants in detention on Saturday, February 29, at 4:00 pm at St John's Presbyterian Church, 25 Lake Street in San Francisco. Admission is free, a donation is suggested. For more information or to donate on-line, visit: www.stjohnssf.org

Easter Garden

For Easter Sunday we will have an Easter Garden and Additional Musicians! Watch next month's *Shared Life* and Sunday bulletins for the annual opportunity to donate an azalea and or underwrite music in honor or in remembrance of a loved one. The cost per dedication will be \$15.00.

Nominating New Deacons and Elders for 2020

Greetings, it is time to think whom to nominate for elders and deacons next year. The deacons and elders form the structure and heartbeat of the church.

Deacons and elders are chosen by the people. The Book of Order states that "Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world." As for deacons "The office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, warm sympathies, and sound judgment should be chosen for this office."

Please pray and reflect who might be called to be a deacon and or an elder. The Nominating Committee needs your suggestions. You may speak to the person you're considering and ask if they're willing to be nominated. Another way is you can also contact the Committee by sending an E-mail to nomcom@oldfirst.org, by contacting Committee members directly, or by speaking with Stephen Taber.

Session Meeting Report for December 2019

Session has been busy, recently holding three meetings. The following are highlights:

- **Carolyn Asbury and Pierre Moye were approved for membership. (Welcome, Carolyn! Welcome, Pierre!)**
- A Stewardship report was made indicating that the stewardship drive is in good shape. **(Note: If you haven't made your pledge for 2020, please do so now!)**
- The Strategy and Planning Task Force is assembling the vision of the future of Old First collected in November into a draft vision statement.
- Updates on the Fund Your Vision/SF Presbytery West Bay Region grant proposals for Renewal of Ecumenical House Campus Ministry and Catholic Charities immigrant services were reviewed and discussed.
- The November Financial Report was distributed and discussed.

- Christian Education noted that a description of the d365 daily devotions app will be published in the Shared Life and that the Reverend Dr. Leslie Veen will lead three sessions on evangelism on February 16 and 23 and March 1.
- The Mission Committee announced that for 2020 Old First be a tithing church (10% of its budget to Benevolences).
- The Worship Committee reported that the sanctuary decorations for Advent were set up, for which compliments on the beauty and imagination of the artistry were received.
- The Community Building Committee noted that the reworked website will be completed by the end of 2019.
- A special meeting was held on January 11 to review and reconcile the 2020 operating budget.
- **A special appeal to raise \$4,000 to pay additional expenses for our Pastoral Resident was approved.**
(Checks to support this this undertaking can be written to “Old First Presbyterian Church” with the notation “pastoral resident” on the memo line.)
- A motion to increase endowment fund earnings paid out was approved.
- A motion to reduce the staff salary increase for 2020 was defeated.

Tom Culp, Clerk of Session

Save the Date: Annual Church Retreat at Mt Hermon, October 16-18, 2020

Glen Potter: “You Do Not Know What You’ve Missed till You Miss It!”

Each year I look forward to our retreat in the fall. This last year I believe I was one of the first to register. It’s like having a great hotel room in the middle of Muir Woods. The learning, discussion and companionship are invigorating. It is not too far to drive and I enjoy the views. In 2019 I had a fall and couldn’t go. I’m going to the retreat this fall for sure!



Betsy Lutz: First Time There

My late husband and I attended a church retreat over thirty years ago. I cannot remember if we drove south, north or east from SF. Our children were five and seven and my memories were of bunk beds, children's activities, communal meals, lots of trees and a long drive from SF. We did not attend a second retreat.

In 2019 I joined Old First and my pew mate, Glen Potter extolled Mt Hermon. I was not really interested in attending Mt. Hermon, *but* an old friend from First Pres Burlingame suggested I attend and enjoy Old First companions. We ended up driving down together and being roommates. The Reverend Baird is an exceptional speaker and brought us new and refreshing lessons from the Bible. Our Old First lesson discussions were educational to me. One of the most important aspects of Old First is the openness and friendliness of our community. Our discussions were frank, informative and thoroughly reinforced my connection to Old First. My response was so positive that Joanne, my First Pres Burlingame friend came to some of our discussions.

The communal meals gave me a chance to deepen my knowledge of Old First members and the one who was the most entrancing was Teddy! When you are in the Dining Hall, you see and hear many tables from other churches. It was a joyful noise.

If you have questions about Mt. Hermon, talk to Glen or talk to me! We both encourage you to learn and enjoy the Bible, the woods, the lessons.

Old First Newcomers: Amanda and Austin

Do you see people you may not know in church? Glen Potter and I introduced ourselves to Amanda and Austin and we want to share them with you. Please greet them the next time you see them. —Editor, Betsy Lutz

Hello! Our names are Amanda Roncaglia and Austin Coffee. We are currently college students attending the Academy of Art University. We have been going to Old First Presbyterian Church for several months now, as well as some of the Old First Concerts. We first discovered the church when looking up ones in our area, and were very impressed by the welcoming atmosphere and the organ inside.

I, Amanda, am currently studying Visual Development at our college. Visual Development is the study of concept art, which is character design and environment design for movies, TV shows, and video games. I'm having a lot of fun with it! In addition, I'm also currently learning how to use a program called *Zbrush*, which is 3-D sculpting. Before I learned the digital mediums for art, I first started out in the college by being taught traditional mediums such as working with clay, oil painting, and drawing in charcoal. I've really enjoyed meeting some of the other artists at the church as well as those who are very interested in art, because it helps me learn. Because of this and many other reasons, I'm really happy to be a part of the Old First Presbyterian Church community.

And I'm Austin! I am studying Music Composition for Visual Media at the Academy of Art University. Essentially I am learning to produce scores for television, advertisements, games, and film, using industry-standard computer programs. I am trained in programs such as Sibelius, which I use to create sheet music, and Logic Pro X, which I use to produce music in other contemporary styles. My foundation in classical piano guides me through my compositional process. I also play guitar and ukulele! I am continually in awe of the dedication to musical excellence that the Old First congregation displays, and enjoy the welcoming feeling that radiates from your doors!

When we're not studying, you might find us at Trader Joe's, Bob's Doughnuts, or Village Pizzeria. We're thankful to have such a welcoming community at Old First Presbyterian and look forward to

meeting you all! Feel free to reach out to us at Amandaroncaglia@gmail.com and Austindavidcoffee@gmail.com.

Prayers for Healing and Wholeness

Jim Fagler for recovery from hip surgery with improved and pain free mobilization.

Betsy Chiao for increased strength and keeping cancer on hold.

Jeanne Kirkwood for smooth sailing with chemotherapy.

Glen Potter for increasingly confident and fluid mobility.

Lorraine Bellesi for continuing health issues.

Prayers for Mourning and Peace

Tom Culp on the death of his mother, Mary Culp.

Brad Peterson on the death of his mother-in-law, Caroline Kirk Hagen.

Dates to Remember

February 2	Sunday	Financial Work Group, 12:30 pm East Bay Group, 12:30 pm Ground Hog Day
February 3	Monday	Mission Committee, 6:30 pm
February 4	Tuesday	Spirituality Group, 7:00 pm
February 9	Sunday	Board of Deacons, 12:30 pm
February 14	Friday	Valentine's Day
February 15	Saturday	Presbyterian Women, 12:00 noon Memorial Service for Mary Culp, 2:00 pm
February 16	Sunday	Deadline for Submissions to the March Issue of <i>Shared Life</i> Evangelism with Leslie Veen, Munro Room
February 18	Tuesday	Worship Committee, 7:00 pm
February 22	Saturday	Saturday Community Dinner, Fellowship Hall, 5:30 pm
February 23	Sunday	Evangelism with Leslie Veen, Munro Room
February 25	Tuesday	Session, 7:00 pm
February 26	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday: Lent begins. Evening Worship with St Luke's Episcopal Church, 1755 Clay Street at Van Ness Avenue

Old First Officers

Session

Class of 2020

Linda Reyder
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

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

Welcome, Betsy! Thank You, David!

Please welcome Shared Life's new editor Betsy Lutz. The present issue is her first. Please also extend thanks to David Griffith who has faithfully served as editor since May 2016.