

Shared Life of Old First Presbyterian Church

July/August 2011

OFPC Website: oldfirst.org

OFPC Photostream: www.flickr.com/photos/oldfirst/

Shared Life Deadlines

Please E-mail articles to Diane Molberg: molberg@earthlink.net

- September issue: by August 14
- October issue: by September 11

Page 1 Deadlines,Lectionary

Page 2 Maggi's Musings

Page 3 Musings, con't.; News: Old First Choir, Aids Walk, Time,Tallent,Treasures

Page 4 Adult Sunday School-Emily Dickinson; Cornerstone Celebration

Page 5 Good Friday Offering; Children's Library;Foster home for Lottie;Dinner Circles

Page 6 Dinner Circles, con'td; What's That You're reading?,Dana Noima,;Faith in Fiction,Diane Molberg

Page 7 Faith in Fiction, con't.

Page 8 Birthdays; Old First Concerts

Page 9 Concerts, con't; Officers of Old First Presbyterian

July 3 Name Tag Sunday: Wear your own nametag and take a look at others'.

July 4 Church Office Closed, Senior Center Open

July 17 AIDS Walk

August 7 Name Tag Sunday: Wear your own, and take a look at others'.

August 7 Adult Sunday School: Emily Dickinson poem with Diane Molberg

August 14 Adult Sunday School: Emily Dickinson's "The Master Letters" and poems with Diane Molberg

August 29 Cornerstone Celebration. Outdoor Celebration: 6 p.m.

LECTIONARY

July 3 3rd Sunday after Pentecost: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49,58-67; Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 10 4th Sunday after Pentecost: Genesis 25:19-34; Ps.119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11, Matthew13:1-9, 18-23

July 17 5th Sunday after Pentecost: Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm139:1-12, 23-24, Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 24 6th Sunday after Pentecost: Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Ps.128; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew13:31-33, 44-52

July 31 7th Sunday after Pentecost: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5, Matthew13-21

August 7 8th Sunday after Pentecost: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-18; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

August 14 9th Sunday after Pentecost: Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-2; Matthew 15(10-20)21-28

August 21 10th Sunday after Pentecost: Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

August 28 11th Sunday after Pentecost: Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

MAGGI'S MUSINGS**July at Old First Presbyterian Church: A Sabbath Rest from Meetings**

July is the month where the work of members tends to slow down. Elders and Deacons do not meet and Shared Life has a two month issue. The Worship Committee has invited all other groups not to meet on Sundays after worship, as a *Sabbath Rest* from meetings. However, it isn't just that we would go home earlier but that we would use this reclaimed time as a gift, as an opportunity to get to know each other on a deeper level and maybe, just maybe, begin to dream about who we are as church and where Christ is calling us to serve in San Francisco. The desire is that we take time to really talk to and listen to people at coffee hour: get to know new people, take time to hear how someone is doing, and maybe even discuss matters of life and faith. The hope is that this Sabbath Rest flows out into the neighborhood as we invite people to join us for meals in the three block radius of Polk. Why not invite a well-known friend and a visitor to eat together? We will get to know our parish neighborhood and know each other better. Each week during July I will put a topic of conversation in the bulletin as well as a few restaurant suggestions. As one of my professors said a church meal shared can be a means of grace.

But it isn't all about food... it is about *prayer*. I am challenging the Deacons and the Elders to set time aside to pray: to listen, to ask, to dream, to vision where God is calling us in 2011 and beyond. Many of the officers will be reading *Strategic Leadership for Change: Facing our Losses, Finding Our Future* by Kenneth J. McFayden. This book was introduced at our officer's retreat this spring. If you would like have a copy please contact the church office or me.

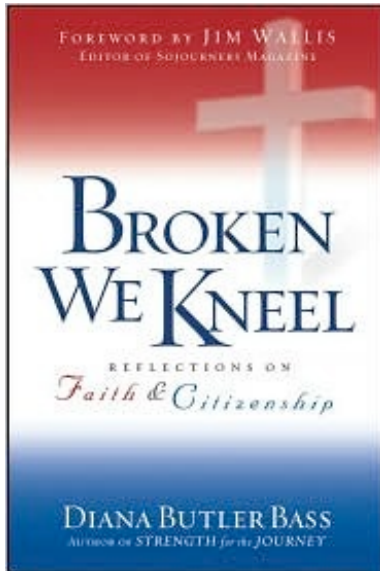
Tenth Anniversary of 9/11

I suspect, like me, you can remember where you were when you first heard or saw the destruction of the World Trade Towers ten years ago. I was in sitting in a church staff meeting when a secretary brought in a small TV and we sat stunned and shocked as we began to take in the enormity of what was unfolding before our eyes. We as individuals and as a nation would never be the same.

In my capacity as a board member of the San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC) I have been a part of planning of events to mark this tragic anniversary. This year September 11 will fall on a Sunday. A service of remembrance will take place at 5:45 a.m. and individual churches and houses of worship will mark the day in their worship services and in the afternoon the SFIC will join with Opera in the Park for Mozart's Requiem, which will be punctuated with moments of remembrance. On Saturday September 10, many mosques will have open houses. More details will be forthcoming through Shared Life, E-mail and our website as the time draws nearer.

I encourage everyone to join in an all-church reading of *Broken We Kneel: Reflections on Faith and Citizenship* by Diane Butler Bass. Bass was living and worshiping in Washington DC on 9/11 in a church very near the Pentagon. In light of the tragic events of September 11 she looks at the uniquely American relationship between church and state, Christian identity and patriotism, and citizenship and congregational life. I was caught by her exploration of which song we sing in response: Amazing Grace or God Bless America?

Bob Abernathy, executive editor, Religion and Ethics News Weekly on PBS writes,
Diane Bass has written a moving, deeply personal and provocative history of her struggle to be a peacemaker in the midst of post 9-11 patriotism. Broken We Kneel will resonate with everyone trying to live in the City of Man and the City of God.



Copies of the book can be purchased in your local bookstore or on-line and a limited number of used and new copies will be available for purchase in the church office or after worship in August. I envision that in August-September we can start discussing the book in variety of settings: small groups, Sunday school and people simply joining together in discussion. I am looking for a number of people to host a group in their homes, at a coffee shop, at a meal or just after church on Sundays. Will you let me know if you are interesting in learning more about taking part via E-mail at maggi@oldfirst.org.

Together may we pray, work and live for peace.
 Pastor Maggi

NEWS

Old First Choir – A Much Needed Vacation, Jay Pierson

The OFPC Adult Choir will take a vacation for the month of July. They worked tirelessly for the Good Friday and Easter Services, then prepared eight pieces for the recent American Guild of Organists Composers Concert and have been providing music for Sunday morning worship. So in July you can look forward to some solos, instrumentalists and guest musicians during Sunday worship services.

AIDS Walk: Sunday July 17, 2011

Again this year Old First members and friends can join with other Bay Area Presbyterians on Team #1057, Presbyterians Fighting AIDS. Check out the registration and donation information at <http://www.aideswalk.net/sanfran/>. We will also have sign-up and sponsor information at coffee hour until then.

Time, Talent and Treasures

The stewardship program of most congregations is built on four practices: weekly offerings, annual pledge drives, use of the stewardship cycle to support the annual budget and, in some churches, filling out “time and talent forms.” The tradition of the fall fund drive grew out of an agricultural context and was tied to the harvest, a pattern that no longer makes sense. In a post-Christian context, “perhaps the really big stewardship issue for a congregation is the faith formation issue of how to form whole people of faith who know that they belong to God” (*Introduction to Rethinking Stewardship*, Word and World Supplement Series B, Christian Century, May 31, 2011).

Adult Sunday School, Diane Molberg

August 7 and August 14, Diane Molberg will hold Seminars on the work of the American poet, Emily Dickinson. August 7 will be a close reading of her poem, “my life had stood a loaded gun.” August 14 will be a discussion of “The Master Letters” and poems. This is a very popular series so try and make it. The readings will be provided. If you haven’t attended a class with Diane before, be sure and send her your email so she can forward class material to her.

100 Years of Pioneer Spirit: Celebrate on August 29 Ceremony and Wine Reception

With heavy hearts and tears filling their eyes, members of what was then called First Presbyterian Church watched from Lafayette Park as the US Army set fire to all the structures on the east side of Van Ness including their beloved church building of 24 years. They knew a firebreak was needed in order to save the city from the massive fires burning as a result of the 1906 earthquake, but that didn’t make it any easier.

Almost from the first day they met as a church in 1849, the forebears of today’s Old First Presbyterian Church founded many institutions that helped to bring about a civilized community. Old First Presbyterian Church came to be known as the “Mother of Churches” for the number of churches it started including Calvary Presbyterian Church and the Welsh Presbyterian church. An unprecedented number of women took on leadership in that early church.

As the first organized church in San Francisco, members held services in public courthouses, warehouses, tents, and some five temporary buildings over the first 33 years of their existence. They had raised the enormous sum of \$46,500 in order to build this magnificent permanent church. Now it was burning. Old First Presbyterian pioneers were a hearty group. They leased a vacant lot and built a temporary church while they debated plans regarding the best place to rebuild. A time capsule was sealed under the cornerstone, and the cornerstone of the burned church was incorporated into a building wall and still can be seen.

It is with enormous pride that the current membership of Old First Presbyterian Church honors its rich history and the pioneer spirit. Those early pioneers fought wind, rain, floods, and fire as well as the problems of insufficient money and a population where less than 50% EVER set foot inside any church. Sound familiar? Today’s membership deals with similar obstacles, yet we continue to function spiritually as well as provide crucial services to our community.

On Monday, August 29 at 6:00 pm, enjoy food, music and great moments in our Fellowship Hall as we honor our pioneers, their determined accomplishments, and our proud history. Chat with visiting dignitaries as we honor our pioneers, their determined accomplishments and our proud history. Cost for the evening: \$10. Mark your calendars and become part of the enthusiastic spirit that has made our church a recognized leader in San Francisco.

Good Friday Offering at Work

The offering at this year's Good Friday Offering was dedicated for relief work in response to tornadoes that hit the southern part of the U.S. in April. Our offering was sent to First Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, who has a long history of service in their community and are in a unique place to offer help.

Their web site, <http://fpctusc.org/>, states,

The congregants of First Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa are responding to the April 27th tornado that destroyed more than 4,000 homes in our city with prayer, resources, sweat and hope. Every day, members are giving their talents and treasure to help the city recover and rebuild. First Presbyterian is responding to the disaster by attending to the needs of 51 congregants whose homes were damaged in the tornado; establishing a recovery fund for the long-term restoration of the city; and becoming a host site for mission teams coming to work in the area through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

You can help rebuild Tuscaloosa by donating to our Tornado Recovery Assistance Fund. We will use the fund to provide money for long-term recovery projects initiated by First Presbyterian Church and for projects throughout the Tuscaloosa community. Among those projects is the First Presbyterian Church Tornado Relief Host Site. Our church will be hosting mission teams from churches across the United States for as long as recovery is necessary. We also will be funding worthy projects in Tuscaloosa on a case-by-case basis. All money raised in this fund will go to support Tuscaloosa tornado relief and rebuilding.

On hearing of Old First Presbyterian Church's gift, the Reverend Charlie Durham, Pastor First Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa Alabama, replied "Thank you for the offering coming our way. It means so much to our congregation to know in such a tangible way that we are one Presbyterian family in Christ!"

Alberto Barrios Children's Library, Priscilla Yu and Lori Yamauchi

Thanks to the many members and friends of Old First Presbyterian Church for their generous gift to purchase books for the Alberto Barrios Memorial Children's Library on June 5, 2011. All the books were sold. Your donations are deeply appreciated and will send the children on the journey to the joy of reading and developing a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ in collaboration with the curriculum of the Church School Ministry.

Foster Home Needed for "Lottie," an Elderly Siamese Cat

The Ziegler's are relocating to the big island, Hawaii, at the end of the summer but their elderly cat cannot follow until the end of October. A foster home is needed for the months of September and October. The ideal home would have no other pets. If you can help or know someone who could, please contact by calling (831) 917-3217 or see Jim and Janet on Sunday mornings. All Lottie's food and litter will be provided and any vet bills covered.

Dinner Circles, AnnieScott Rogers

It has been a long time since we updated our dinner circles. (Is there more than one still in existence?) The dinner circles are usually a group of six to eight people who attend church at Old First Presbyterian Church with their partners or invitees and who meet on a regular basis to dine together. Each group determines frequency; quarterly events are a good starting point. Some of the dinner circles rotate at the homes of the group, others meet at a mutually agreed-upon restaurant.

The dinner circle that still meets from time to time at an “affordable” restaurant has been kept alive by Roseanne Hu, who will be joining me in bringing the tradition back to life. Carol Carter is also in this group, and the three of us will try to help others find the fun and camaraderie that we have and continue to share. Our request is for anyone reading this to contact Carol, Rosie or me with your wish to join either or both of these groups. We will keep record of this information, and act as a liaison toward getting to know each other better.

Contact us using these E-mail addresses:

AnnieScott Rogers

Roseanne Hu

Carol Carter

SINGinSF@aol.com

roseanneH4@aol.com

Kaquecac@yahoo.com

Or contact us at church and give us the information requested below. We look forward to talking with you.

Your Name	Number in Group	Prefer Dine-In?	Prefer Dine-Out?

WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE READING?

Dana Nojima

A wonderful journal, IMAGE, is available in the Old First library. IMAGE covers aspects of contemporary expressions of Art - Faith and Mystery in a serious but approachable level. The edition that I read had short fiction, poetry, comments on the visual arts and film, and several essays. The short fiction I enjoyed tremendously was *Dispatches from the Prayer Tower*, by Meredith Gray. Gray writes: “The eternal flame was out when I got to work this morning. I was in the middle of smearing on a little lipstick, and nearly run it right across my face as I stared up at the empty patch above the spire at the top of the Prayer Tower.” From there she provides insights into Oral Roberts University, the Prayer Tower, questions of faith and healing. Pick this journal up and give it a read. You will be rewarded.

REDISCOVERING FAITH THROUGH FICTION

Diane R. Molberg

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake. Aimee Bender

Food... can repair the losses which the human body suffers through the act of living. –

Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin

Coming of age. Magic Realism. Ideas that identify a body of modern literature ranging from the classics of Mark Twain to the contemporary Gabriel García Márquez. Modern novelist, Aimee Bender challenges us to consider what is real in magic, and what is magic in reality.

This forms the basis of her remarkable new best seller, *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*.

Our coming to Christ, to our faith, is a coming of age as well; a rite of passage that combines the magic and the real. We discover this especially in the sacrament of Communion. We eat food that embodies the body of Christ, and drink wine that signifies the blood of Christ. We take in magic. In a similar way, Bender's narrator, nine-year-old Rose Edlestein, comes to her life experience through food. The central premise is both simple and surreal: one day, Rose bites into a forkful of her mother's lemon cake with chocolate frosting and discovers that she can "taste" her mother's feelings, her mother's tears, in the cake. It was Rose's birthday cake and as she finished the first bite, she felt a "subtle shift inside, an unexpected reaction." She tasted the chocolate but at the same time, "it seemed my mouth was filling with the taste of smallness, the sensation of shrinking, of upset," a taste mysteriously related to her mother.

What do we taste when we put the communion bread dipped in wine into our mouths? Do we taste the tears of Christ? This is the miracle of magic realism, for Rose does taste her mother's sadness, her tears. Adrift in her marriage and emotionally estranged from Rose's father, her mother is grieving, and from then on, with every bite of food Rose tastes, she senses the emotional state of the person who prepared it.

Threaded through Rose's coming of age is the experience of her brother Joseph. Bookish, Joseph has the ability to disappear and reappear at will. In the middle of a summer afternoon, "airy and calm," ... "Joseph is at home, then suddenly not home," only to reappear at the kitchen table eating.

It is Joseph who leads Rose to her ultimate test of faith. Rose visits her brother, now living alone in a barren space that smells "faintly of noodles." No pictures. One light bulb. She moves into the room and finds her brother sitting in a chair, a laptop computer on the card table in front of him. He explains he's in the middle of a complicated experiment and can't talk. He needs to concentrate, but Rose refuses to go. She's desperate to fathom the unfathomable mystery and power of her brother. She brings to this moment love and concern and strength and the deep well of knowledge about herself that she has learned to live with. Does she have enough strength to stay with Joseph now, on his strange journey?

"I'd just like to stay for a little while longer," she says as quietly as she can, trying to concentrate as she did on that long-ago piece of lemon cake. Something happens. Her brother changes. Physically. Bizarrely. Yet, "gentleness was still in him."

Coming of age is a dangerous time of life for everyone, yet magic is most available to us then. Our senses are heightened, our risk-taking more dramatic. Magic informs our senses and imagination. Pay attention long enough and we might understand that we can't intellectualize the Sacraments, or Christ's Passion. We need to learn to feel it in tactile, sensory ways. When we walk down the aisle to take the bread and wine, we open ourselves to mystery and magic. I pray to have courage like Rose. To sit at the feet of strangeness, to believe in some unbelievable way, that something big is happening, but "gentleness" is still there.

BIRTHDAYS

July 8 – Anne Cheng
 July 10 – Bill Feister
 July 11 – George Becker
 July 15 – Jim Fagler
 July 20 – Johnni Olds
 July 21 – Sarah Taber
 July 22 – Hugh Thacher
 July 25 – Pam Byers
 July 25 – Jerry Stuart

July 27 – Gabriele Beck Engeser, Alastair Moore
 July 31 – Emmy Clausing
 Aug 4 – Steven LaGatta
 Aug 8 – Charles Burns, Steve Schacher
 Aug 19 – Barry Clagett
 Aug 20 – Helen Kennedy, James Uren
 Aug 25 – Mary Russell
 Aug 28 – Britt LaGatta, Leota Parker
 Aug 31 – Euphemia Felicitas

**OLD FIRST CONCERTS**

Kathy Barr, Director

Phone: 415-474-1608, Fax: 415-474-6533

www.oldfirstconcerts.org

Concert Admission: \$17

ARIA RECITALS (\$17 General and \$14 Student/Senior)

Sunday, July 10 at 4:00 pm

Monday, July 25 at 7:30 pm

MASTER CLASSES (\$22 General and \$17/ Student/Senior)

Wednesday, July 6 at 7:00 pm: Dolora Zajick

Saturday, July 16 at 2:00 pm: Yefim Maizel

CONCERTS

Friday, July 15 at 8:00 pm: sfSound

Klavierstücke IX by Stockhausen; Sequenza VII by Berio; Keroiyly by Finnissy; Aquatic Aura

by Nishimura; Maxwell's Demon by Burns

www.sfsound.org

Friday, July 29 at 8:00 pm: Vinaccesi Ensemble

Selected solo cantatas by Benedetto Vinaccesi performed on period instruments

www.vinaccesi.com

Friday, August 5, at 8:00 pm: Lisa Mezzacappa & Nightshade

Bassist and composer Lisa Mezzacappa's electro-acoustic chamber ensemble, performing her original compositions and unusual arrangements inspired by the work of contemporary visual artists and filmmakers

www.lisamezzacappa.com

Sunday, August 7 at 4:00 pm: Rudy Salvini Octet

Works from the Great American Songbook, plus originals

Friday, August 12 at 8:00 pm: Adam Tendler, piano

Works by Ned Rorem, Anthony Porter, Adam Tendler, David Lang, Aaron Copland, Samuel Barber, and John Adams
www.dissonantstates.com

Sunday, August 21 at 4:00 pm: Yuri Liberzon, guitar

With special guests Patrick O'Connell, guitar; Meerenai Shim, flute
Works by Astor Piazzolla, Steve Reich, Leo Brouwer, Augustin Barrios Mangore
www.yuriguitar.com

Friday, August 26 at 8:00 pm: Jason Cutmore, piano

Piano Sonata in C major, K. 330 by Mozart, Cerdaña by de Séverac; Navarra by Albéniz.
www.jasoncutmore.com

Sunday, August 28 at 4:00 pm: Robert Howard, cello; Elizabeth Dorman, piano

Orion by Takemitsu; Louange à l'Éternité de Jésus by Messiaen; Suite Italienne by Stravinsky; Sonata in F major by Brahms

THE OFFICERS OF OLD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Board of Deacons

Nina Berg, Communion Clean Up, Funding Requests, Flowers/Memorial Donations; **Carol Carter**, Funding Requests, Communion Cleanup; **Tracy Clagett**, Secretary; **Dan Joraanstad**, Co-Moderator; **Craig Kehne**, Coffee Hour, Communion Cleanup; **Diane Lewis**, Funding Requests, Cards; **Harriet MacClean**, Memorial Receptions and Meals; **Dana Nojima**, Co-Moderator, Merchandise Sales; **Glen Potter**, Transportation; **AnnieScott Rogers**, Deacons' Prayer Chain; **Oliver Spencer**, Special Events; **Sarah Taber**, Memorial Receptions and Meals; **Hornghshen Tu**, Technology; **Priscilla Yu**, Funding Requests

Elders on Session

George Becker, Personnel; **Michael Berg**, Mission and Giving; **Chris Burt**, Worship; **Pam Byers**, Community Building; **Saskia de Vries**, Worship; **Gregory Free**, Finance; **Kristi Hoerauf**, Finance; **Sidney Hollar**, Christian Education; **Jeanne Kirkwood**, Clerk of Session; **Mary Russell**, Mission and Giving; **John Sebastian**, Planning; **Steve Taber**, Operations; **Betty Voris**, Community Building; **George Yu**, Christian Education