

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

June 2014

Church Website: oldfirst.org

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

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

MAGGI'S SUMMER READ 2014:

***LEARNING TO WALK IN THE DARK* BY BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR**

Many of you have noticed I often quote Barbara Brown Taylor in my sermons. I first encountered her at a preaching workshop some twenty years ago and have grown to appreciate her insightful theology, beautiful writing and ability to open up a passage when I am stuck or at a loss to see how a passage of scripture connects to life in 2014.

Taylor is also a best-selling author on faith and spirituality, and on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter, she released her newest book *Learning to Walk in the Darkness*. I am reading it now and find myself savoring each chapter and wishing I had folks to talk with about it. So that is where you come in... I am inviting you to read this book with me this summer. We will have a number of copies available for a donation of \$5 to \$10. If you get the book, see it as a commitment to read it and not let it sit on the waiting-to-be read pile.

Johnathan Merritt writes,

Barbara Brown Taylor has been called a heretic by some and a prophet by others. Baylor University even named her one of the 12 most effective speakers in the English-speaking world. Her name is Barbara Brown Taylor, and she is on a mission to redeem the darkness. "Christianity has never had anything nice to say about darkness," says the 62-year-old Episcopal priest in her new book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. Taylor charges churches with propagating a "full solar spirituality" that "focuses on staying in the light of God around the clock." But she says the faithful need to discover a "lunar spirituality," which recognizes that humans need both darkness and the divine."

I look forward to our conversations and your ideas and leadership on how to engage the community of Old First Presbyterian Church in our summer read. **Read the book and watch for events related to the book in July and August.**

Peace, Maggi

Get the Book

Copies of Learning to Walk in the Dark will be available at coffee hour and in the church office for a donation of \$5 to \$10. The book is also available from the San Francisco public library. Kindle versions can be purchased on-line.

Read More

- *Johnathan Merritt's interview with Barbara Brown Taylor:*
<http://jonathanmerritt.religionnews.com/2014/04/14/barbara-brown-taylor-encourages-christians-embrace-darkness/>
- *Barbara Brown Taylor's blog about the darkness and Holy Saturday, the day before Easter:*
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/barbara-brown-taylor/learning-to-walk-in-the-dark_b_5175191.html

PASTOR HENDERSON PART OF INTERFAITH DELEGATION TO TURKEY

The Pacifica Institute has invited our pastor, Maggi Henderson, to Travel to Turkey from June 10 to 22. The institute is a non-profit organization of Turkish-Americans (www.pacificainstitutie.org), a goal of which is to promote cross-cultural awareness by encouraging dialog between various cultural, spiritual, ethic and belief traditions and by finding common ground where compassion can be restored. Maggi has been invited on this trip in her role of as chair of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Interfaith Council. She will join six others including a doctor, a lawyer, tech workers, a retired policeman and public radio worker. They will travel to Istanbul, Izmir, Efes, Antalya, and Cappadocia staying in hotels and with local families. They will visit historical sights, meet with journalists, relief organizations, high school students and leaders of churches and mosques. Maggi says,

I am simply excited to visit this land where Christianity and the early church have such old roots and to widen my perception and awareness of the world. Old First Presbyterian's gift of time at my 25th Ordination Celebration gives me the freedom to say yes to this trip. Please keep me in your prayers as I travel.

During her absence, the Reverend Glenda Hope will lead worship on June 15 and the Reverend Keenan Kelsey will lead worship on June 22.

LETTER OF THANKS FROM SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY, DUMAGUETE CITY, PHILIPPINES

Pastor Maggi received the following letter of thanks for Old First Presbyterian Church's monetary gift for relief work in the wake of natural disasters in the Philippines, which we collected on Good Friday.

On behalf of Silliman University and its many partners and hundreds of volunteers among our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends, I thank you for allowing us to carry on with our relief operations through the gift of Old First Presbyterian Church in the amount of *Php* 25,114.32 (US\$ 581.35). Through your generosity, we have been able to touch the lives of hundreds affected by recent calamities, particularly in Women's Program, North Ormoc, Leyte.

Indeed, your donation bridged our geographical differences and united us as God's people Your gift allowed us to provide for the basic needs of those affected, particularly, toward a portable clean water purifier that is serving the school and the community o Kananga, Leyte. What was most inspiring was how your generosity sparked hope not only within us but in the families that we were able to assist with you.

Thank you for making these relief efforts possible. Your generosity has inspired other people to be generous as well!

Dahang Salamat!

With my best regards,
Ben S. Malayang III
President

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES: BERG, FAGLER, HOLLARSMITH

Patrick Berg

Patrick has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Seattle University. He will stay in the Seattle area as he has been hired by the Department of Defense to work as a nuclear engineer at the Puget Sound Shipyard.

Jemma Fagler

Jemma has completed her high school education at San Francisco University High School. Commencement exercises will be held on Saturday, May 31. In the fall, she will begin studies at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Logan Hollarsmith

Logan has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental and Urban Studies from Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Graduation exercises were on Sunday, May 24. Following his participation in the upcoming General Assembly in Detroit as our Presbytery's Young Adult Advisory Delegate, Logan (with two friends as crew) will sail up the Hudson River, through the Erie Canal, across the Great Lakes to Chicago, and down the Mississippi River to New Orleans... in time to start a 10-month job in November with AmeriCorps building post-Katrina housing.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AUTHOR JEANNE CHOY TATE

Presbyterian Publishing First Book Award 2014

Jeanne Choy Tate's first book, *Something Greater: Culture, Family and Community as Living Story* (Pickwick Publications, 2013), on caregiving and community in Chinese and American cultures has won third place in the Presbyterian Writers Guild First Book competition!

The Presbyterian Writers Guild selected the following to receive its prestigious Presbyterian Publishing Corporation First Book Award for 2014:

- First place: *Nathaniel's Call* by Robert John Andrews
Second place: *Tuesday's Muse* by J. Todd Jenkins.
Third place (tie): *Something Greater: Culture, Family and Community as Living Story* by Jeanne Choy Tate; and
Chasing the Divine in the Holy Land by Ruth Everhart.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Brad Out of the Office, June

Our office admin Brad Peterson will be out of the office on June 6 and 9, so he can be at the Los Angeles finish-line of the 543-mile *AIDSLifeCycle: Ride to End AIDS*, in which his husband John Elliott Kirk is riding. John is a member of the 10k Club, as he has raised over ten thousand dollars in sponsorships. Brad will also be out of the office June 16 through June 27 to travel to Minnesota with John to visit his mother, Dorothy, who has turned 90 years old this past May.

During Brad's vacation time, Kristi Hoerauf will be in the church office periodically to check phone messages and E-mail to the church office and to prepare the worship bulletins.

OFPC Staffs Interfaith Food Pantry, June 7

Old First Presbyterian Church will staff the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, June 7. If you can help unload the truck and/or distribute food that day, send an E-mail to foodpantry@oldfirst.org.

Pentecost, June 8: Wear Red

Fifty days after Pesach (Passover) comes Shavuoth (the Feast of Weeks), the Jewish celebration of God's gift of the Torah (the Law) to Israel. Similarly, early Christians celebrated the God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the church fifty days after Easter, Jesus' resurrection. The story of the first Pentecost is told in the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2. (Article continues on next page.)

This year we will celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, June 8. We will receive our Pentecost Offering, one of the annual special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This offering benefits children at risk, youth, and young adults. Watch for the bulletin insert on Sunday, June 1, and the Pentecost Offering envelope on Sunday, June 8.

Finally, the story in Acts speaks of the gift of the Holy Spirit as a mighty wind and its effect as one of fire above the faithful gathered there. This fire has inspired the use of the color for celebrating Pentecost. So on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, be sure to wear a dash of red.

Deadline for July/August Edition of Shared Life, June 15

The next edition of Shared Life will cover the two months of July and August. Please submit all news, articles and notices to Editor Kristi Hoerauf via E-mail, khoerauf@yahoo.com, by Sunday, June 15.

CURL UP WITH A NEW BOOK AND BOOKS FOR ALL

Children's Library Books

The Alberto Barrios Children's Library is not only a library for children but has many books that adults/parents/teachers can read and enjoy. There are reference resources for all ages that can be used such as *Rand McNally Historical Atlas of the Holy Land; Encyclopedia of Easter, Carnival & Lent*; Biographies on *John Calvin, Anne Frank, Martin Luther, Randolph Caldecott, Helen Keller*; and Classic Fiction such as *The Chronicles of Narnia Series (7 vols), Harry Potter (the complete series), The Lord of the Ring Series (4 volumes), Aesop's Fables, Many Waters, A Wrinkle in Time, Charlotte's Web* and many others. These readings on joy, friendship, love, sacrifice and more will appeal to parents, teachers, librarians, pastors, and anyone looking for a creative way to explore timeless lessons on life and important values of Christian faith. —Priscilla Chang Yu

Children's Library Catalog Update

Good News: The Children's Library catalog updated by Lori Yamauchi has been added to the Old First Website, Children's Library page: <http://www.oldfirst.org/library.html>

New Books

Parables

Nouwen, Henri J. *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. A beautifully written story based upon Rembrandt's painting of *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. The author, Father Nouwen, is read today by Protestants and Catholics alike. Father Nouwen shares his deep experience with Rembrandt's painting and how we should be like the father of the two sons as we seek to live the Christian faith of God's grace, forgiveness, and love. The author was so touched by the painting that it changed his life completely. This is a beautiful reflective book for all age groups.

History

Bauer, Susan Wise. *The Story of the World. Vol. 1: Ancient Times*. This work is an excellent way of presenting history chronologically. It is written in story form and conversational style. It holds children's interest and as such helps them retain information. Families and teachers will enjoy reading this aloud to the children.

Holidays, Easter

Grimes, Nikki. *At Jerusalem's Gate, Poems of Easter*. This book offers readers insight into the most important moments in Christian history. This is a retelling of the Story of Easter in verse. The author includes an introduction to each poem, telling how and why she chose that part of the verse. The verses tell a part of a character or scene in the story. The woodcut illustrations by David Frampton are lovely,

reminding you of stained glass images. The last page includes Bible passages based on the verses. A book for all age groups.

Hartman, Sara. *Mary Magdalene's Easter Story*. This booklet tells the Easter story from Mary Magdalene's view-point (John 20:10-18). Children will follow Mary's faith all through Jesus' turmoil, trial and final victory.

Engelbrecht, Edward A. *The Easter Story. Drawn Directly from the Bible*. This Easter Story, with realistic illustrations tells the Easter story of Jesus Christ's walk to the cross, His glorious resurrection, and His victorious ascension into heaven, where He reigns as our Lord and Savior. Included in the book are prayers, questions, and discussions. The last page has the hymn "Glory Be to Jesus."

Lucado, Max. *The Easter Story for Children*. A strong account of Jesus' last days. This Easter book follows Jesus from the Last Supper to his trial, death, resurrection, ascension, and the power and coming of the Holy Spirit. Also woven into the story is Peter's denial, which teaches children that God's forgiveness is unending.

Biography

Tutu, Archbishop Desmond. *Desmond and the Very Mean Word*. This is a true story of Archbishop Tutu, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for bringing equality, justice, and peace to his native country, South Africa. The story takes place when Tutu was a young boy, riding his new bike and being bullied by a group of boys. His struggle to overcome this finally came after talking to Father Trevor—the lesson he learned was forgiveness and love must come from within to those who hurt you, then this will free you from the pain you have suffered. Book for all age groups.

Worship

Reed, G. L. *What is Baptism? and What is Communion?* The author, G.L. Reed is an educator, consultant, and mentor with twenty-five years of experience working in the fields of community building, spirituality and organizational learning. Dr. Reed holds a Doctor of Ministry in Spirituality, Sustainability, and Inter-Religious Dialogue.

These two booklets introduce the principle elements of worship for ages 9 to 12. By working through the fun activities, puzzles, and games in these multi-topic booklets series, pre-teens will learn the basic fundamentals of Christian worship, including Communion and Baptism. The size fits nicely into a Bible.

Bible

Hanft, Josh. *Miracles of the Bible*. The stories of the Old Testament are told in flowing language. Hanft retells a dozen Old Testament miraculous stories, such as Eve being created from Adam's rib, the parting of the Red Sea, Noah and the Ark, David and Goliath, Daniel in the Lion's Den, and many others. Each story is told in one page, with a short, relevant Bible verse highlighted in the center of the page. Seymour Chwast's illustrations are simple but appealing. The winning features are the foldout pages of eight of the stories. Each full-page flap reveals a new central character—a hugely tall Goliath, Samson smashes towering columns and Jonah's whale has a tail that flips across two full pages. This memorable volume is told and done in a clever way to introduce these key Old Testament stories.

Other

George, Elizabeth. *A Girl's Guide to Making Really Good Choices*. This book uses a girl as the main character and follows through with a variety of choices, some good and some bad. There are Scripture readings to answer questions. Each chapter deals with a different choice as well as how God would want them to handle it. It teaches the girls to spend time daily with the Lord, praying, reading the Bible, obeying, choosing good friends, and many more. This book can be used as a family devotional or for a middle school girl to read.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY: THE SUNDAYS IN JUNE, 2014

Date	Day	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel Reading
Jun 01	Easter 7	Acts 1:6-14	68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:1-12, 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
Jun 08	Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30	104:24-34, 35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21	John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39
Jun 15	Trinity Sunday	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matt. 28:16-20
Jun 22	Ordinary 2	Genesis 21:8-21	86:1-10, 16-17	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39
Jun 29	Ordinary 3	Genesis 22:1-14	13	Romans 6:12-33	Matthew 10:40-42

OTHER DATES TO NOTE

Saturday	June 07	Old First staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry.
Sunday	June 08	Day of Pentecost: Wear Red
Sunday	June 08	Deacons' Meeting, 12:30 pm, Munro Room
Sunday	June 15	Deadline for July/August Edition of Shared Life
Saturday	June 21	Presbyterian Women, noon, Library
Sunday	June 24	Session Meeting, 7:00 pm, Munro Room

The Officers of Old First Presbyterian Church

Session

George Becker, personnel; Michael Berg, mission and giving; Pam Byers, community-building; Bill Campbell, mission and giving; Hsiaochien Chuang, worship; Barry Clagett, finance; Gregory Free, treasurer; Harriet MacLean, planning; Jeanne Kirkwood, clerk of session; Jean Olson, mission and giving; Linda Reyder, worship; Randy Smith, planning; Sally Spencer; Steve Taber, operations; Betty Voris, community-building; Priscilla Yu, Christian education

Board of Deacons

Cindy Burt, Sam Cheng, Craig Kehne, Diane Lewis, Diane Molberg, Bryan Nichols, Leota Parker, Glen Potter, AnnieScott Rogers, and Jian Wang