

# Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

September 2016

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## Refugee Welcome Kit Drive Begins September 11

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In May, our congregation formally joined the national campaign of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and over fifty other faith organizations to welcome refugees of all faiths and nations as neighbors. When people completed Old First's We Choose Welcome team's questionnaire, the responses showed great interest in donating or contributing money to buy items to fill Welcome Kits for newly arriving refugees.

Beginning Sunday, September 11, and continuing the next two Sundays, Old First will have a drive to acquire all the items needed for refugee Welcome Kits. Using lists provided by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), all of us can donate items needed for the kits. Volunteers will assemble the donated items into complete kits. Each kit will include all the kitchen items, cleaning supplies, linens and other household items, and toiletries that the IRC requests for a family of four.

Those who prefer to make a monetary donation can do that, and volunteers then will use these contributions to buy the remaining items needed to complete the kits. Depending on the products selected and where they are purchased, we expect that the cost of the items in each kit will run to about \$500.

Watch for more details via E-mail and worship service announcements. Volunteers for the Welcome Kit drive are most welcome! If you are interested in helping, please contact a member of Old First's We Choose Welcome team: Sarah Taber, Sally Spencer, Mary Russell, Hsiaochien Chuang, Dana Nojima and Bill Campbell.

## OFPC All-Church Retreat

**Mount Herman Christian Conference Center, Scotts Valley/Felton, October 14-16**

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If you attended our retreat last year or missed it, you will want to make sure to reserve on your calendar the weekend beginning Friday evening October 14 through lunch on Sunday October 16. Once again we, along with Calvary Presbyterian, will partner with First Presbyterian Church, Burlingame for a fabulous time in the redwoods of Santa Cruz County. In 2015 we had the privilege of having the Reverend Rodger Nishioka, PhD, as our inspiring retreat leader. There were break-out sessions for the individual churches and also time to meet folks from the other congregations. In addition, there is comfortable lodging, very good food, leisure time and other group activities. As always, Old Firsters played charades, worked on jigsaw puzzles and enjoyed talking with each other.

Burlingame Presbyterian Church has been going to Mount Hermon for many years and they have the logistical administration under control; yet, we have the opportunity to participate in planning the specifics along with Calvary.

Details will be revealed as they become available – this is a “heads-up” announcement!

Jeanne Kirkwood

## Upcoming Events

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### **Memorial Service for John Calvin Fritz, Calvary Presbyterian, September 13, 1:00 pm**

A memorial service will be held for former Old First Presbyterian Church member, John Calvin Fritz, on Tuesday, September 13, at 1:00 pm in Calvary's Kit Stewart Chapel. Calvary Presbyterian Church is at 2515 Fillmore Street at the corner of Jackson Street. Calvary's seniors program, which has been on break for the summer, will resume that same day, September 13; the program begins at 11:00 am, includes a shared meal at 12:00 noon for two dollars, and will be followed by the memorial service for John. For more information contact the Reverend Victor H. Floyd, Minister of Spiritual Care, (415) 346-3832 extension 417.

### **Deacons' Ice-Cream Social, September 25**

The deacons enthusiastically support "We Choose Welcome," Old First's ministry of providing assistance to refugee families! In order to help raise much-needed funds, the board will sponsor an ice-cream social in the Fellowship Hall after worship on September 25. We invite you to donate generously for all-you-can-eat ice cream with all the toppings. Everyone is welcome to join the deacons for sweet treats with good friends in support of a vital cause. All donations will go toward welcome kits for refugee families!

Bryan Nichols

### **A Night to Celebrate: Senior Center *Fun*Raiser, October 1**

If you missed last year's Senior Center *Fun*Raiser, you won't want to miss this year's extravaganza. On October 1 the Fellowship Hall will be filled with tasty hors d'oeuvres, punch and wine, great music, a silent auction featuring among its treasures some very fine bottles of wine, a raffle, a sing-along and several surprises. Portrait pictures of senior center regulars will add to the décor, once again created by the ingenious Daniel Pearch. Unlike most fundraisers, this promises to be fun. So circle the date and plan now to attend: Time to be announced.

**Donations for the Silent Auction:** Do you frequent a restaurant, a spa or a business where you could ask for an item, a gift certificate or a gift card for a worthy cause? The *Fun*Raiser is seeking donations for its silent auction. While there have already been donations of winery tours and bottles of extra fine wine, a variety of items will help create added excitement to the auction and something for everyone. Since gifts can often be packaged together, no item is too small. Please help us make this auction a huge success. Donations will be accepted at the church (attention: Gina Withers), or before worship, or during coffee hour. Commission members Betty Voris, Cindy Burt, Randy Smith or Sally Spencer will be selling tickets and collecting donations

**Tickets:** This *Fun*Raiser, a needed source of funding to enhance our seniors' programming, promises an evening of fun, food, entertainment and contemporary music by Larry Marietta. Be sure and get your event and raffle tickets during coffee hour: reduced prices for seniors! Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Betty Voris

### **World Communion Sunday, October 2**

This summer the worship committee has been working on some art projects to help us interpret World Communion for our worship this October 2. That Sunday will also be Maggi's first day back after a refreshing sabbatical.

One of our inspirations comes from Lamentations 1: 1-6, a lectionary reading of the day. This really expresses a deep sorrow felt by many for the world's sufferings. We also want to show God's sovereignty and the world's desired unity. The symbols we selected to carry out these themes include a globe, tears, praying hands and open hands. Several artists are preparing pieces with these themes. Cindy Burt, who has sewn many expressive banners in the past, is making a wall hanging and altar cloth. New to us, Kurt Schwartzman is working on a couple of possibilities, a reredos painting or something to be hung from the ceiling.

As of this writing all projects are works in progress. So, you will have to check out the sanctuary on October 2 to see what finally emerges!

Worship Committee: Hsaoishien Chuang, Linda Reyder, Chris Burt,  
Cindy Burt, Lori Yamauchi, AnnieScott Rogers, Linda Reyder

### **Peace and Global Witness Offering, October 2**

Next month, congregations throughout the Presbyterian Church (USA) will receive the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering (formerly Peacemaking Offering). This offering works both locally and around the world to transform cultures of violence into communities of peace.

Fifty percent of the offering funds the PC(USA)'s Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, which advocates for active, nonviolent solutions to conflict, supports international peacemakers and holds conferences. For example, the program is working to spread God's peace and grace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to address attitudes of racism and violence and prevention of gun violence in the United States.

Peace begins in our homes and local communities, and twenty-five percent of the offering will be used by Old First for local peacemaking. This year, our Mission Committee decided unanimously to donate Old First's share of the offering to the International Rescue Committee, whose Oakland office resettles approximately 75 families, or 450 refugees, per year in Bay Area communities.

Our San Francisco Presbytery will use the remaining twenty-five percent of the offering to support local peacemaking efforts. One of these is the Sojourner Truth Presbyterian Church Peace Camp, in the city of Richmond. The Peace Camp provides tools to enable children to find peace within themselves, their families and the community. Christian educators provide Richmond children resources such as prayer, mediation, art, storytelling, writing, teambuilding and knowledge of peacemakers through history.

Old First's Peace and Global Witness Offering will be received on World Communion Sunday, October 2. Our generosity will help further God's peace and grace in local neighborhoods and in areas of unrest, violence and discord around the world.

Bill Campbell

### **Ready for Hawai'i? Church Potluck, October 2**

You can get a taste of the islands by attending the October 2 potluck in the Fellowship Hall following worship. The entree will be a tasty Hawaiian pork recipe made by island native Riley Kramar. As usual, it also will feature a dazzling array of menu items designed to please any and all palates. Everyone is invited. Those attending are asked to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. However, as always, if you cannot bring a dish to share, a small donation will suffice. It's always a great time and sure to please!

### **Lecture on Islam by Sumbul Ali-Karamali, October 22**

Sumbul Ali-Karamali, an American Muslim mother and former lawyer, will speak on Islam on Saturday, October 22, at 1:00 pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church on Taraval Street at the corner of Funston Avenue. Ali-Karamali grew up in a suburb of Los Angeles, earned a degree in English from Stanford, a law degree from UC Davis, and a degree in Islamic law from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. Ali-Karamali will speak about both Islam and Muslims, from within her tradition and also from an academic perspective.

### **Ballot Measure Discussion, October 23**

Betty Voris will review the city of San Francisco's twenty-six measures on the November ballot on Sunday, October 23, at 12:30 pm. Please join Betty for this informative session to help you understand the ballot measures and engage in a lively discussion.

Lori Yamauchi

### **Session Report: June Meeting**

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Elders at Old First have been busy. Highlights of the June 28 Session Meeting include the approval of the 2016 budget for Old First Concerts as well as the concerts officers, and an update on the We Choose Welcome initiatives saying that thirty people had completed the project team's questionnaire in May demonstrating great interest in donating or contributing to buy items to fill Welcome Kits and Food Rescue Kits for newly arriving refugees. Our new intern Brook Scott and the agreements covering her time with us was approved, John Kramar was named President of the Corporation, the Operations committee moved that painting work continue with the downstairs kitchen and bathrooms, and a committee is being formed to foster communication of the Holy Cow Survey. It was requested that along with a replacement defibrillator that the church purchase a wall mounted storage cabinet to safely house the machine. The Worship Committee reported completing extensive planning for World communion Sunday confirming the theme of "The Globe and Hands around It."

### **Choy Tate Elected to GA Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns**

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I'm please to let people know that, at our June General Assembly, I was elected to the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns for the Presbyterian Church (USA). Some of the committee's responsibilities are

- to engage in ministries of justice and quality of life on behalf of all women everywhere;
- to envision and advocate for the wholeness of the church in which women are full partners in leadership and ministry;
- to encourage and strengthen cultural diversity and work for the full participation of racial/ethnic women in leadership;
- to promote cooperative decision-making within the church;
- to listen, learn and walk with those on the margins of the church and society;
- to encourage the theological and liturgical contributions of women.

Previously, I have served nationally on the North American and Caribbean Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (1/2001–6/2012) and on the Task Force on Changing Families (1/2000–9/2002).

Jeanne Choy Tate

### **Old First Hosts Illini 4000 Fundraisers/Bicyclists**

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*On August 7 and 8, Old First hosted the tired but exultant 2016 Trek Bike America Team as they concluded the 10<sup>th</sup> ride of Illini 4000's history. Visit [www.illini4000.org](http://www.illini4000.org).*

We made it to San Francisco! After 71 days, starting in New York City, the Illini 4000 team biked to San Francisco to raise both awareness and donations for cancer research and patient support services. This summer was an amazing experience that we will never forget. As a team, we were able to explore new parts of the United States, meet extremely generous individuals, form lasting

friendships, and improve our cycling skills. More meaningful was hearing the stories of individuals affected by cancer. They were inspiring and always a great reminder of why we ride across the country. Thank you for supporting us throughout this process. Without your generosity this ride would not be possible. Due to your assistance, we were able to safely travel across the USA raising over \$87,000 for cancer research and patient support services and collecting 36 portraits of individuals affected by cancer.

Once again, thank you for our support. We look forward to staying in contact with you in future years.

Alison DeBruyn, Director of Supporter Relations, Illini 4000

## Old First Staffed Interfaith Food Pantry in August

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After starting the week with only four volunteers signed up, we had a great crew on Saturday, August 14. We served 301 clients with 298 from the rolls and three new ones signing up. In the summer months we get a huge amount of produce and appreciate those who serve. Thanks go to all who showed up and for those who showed up for the Early or Late shifts, you were a tremendous help. Dana Nojima



The amazing box crew of Courtney and Amberly.



Cherry tomatoes that we re-bagged and mountains of produce

## Introducing Brook Scott, Our New Seminary Intern

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*Old First's new seminary intern, Brook Scott, was introduced on August 14.*

I am pleased to introduce myself to you as I start my nine-month internship at OFPC in September. My husband, Jack, and I live in San Rafael and have lived in Marin County for the past 27 years. I am a second-year seminarian at San Francisco Theological Seminary. My roots are in bucolic Coventry in eastern Connecticut where I was one of six children. I majored in history at Trinity College in Hartford and received my masters from NYU's business school. Our son, Will, 24-years old, lives in Beverly, Massachusetts, and our 22-year old daughter, Blair, lives in Washington, DC.

Westminster Presbyterian is my home church where I am an elder, lector, and former chair of the Finance Commission. I am exploring my call for ministry as an inquirer under the care of the Redwoods Presbytery. When I am not studying, I enjoy rooting for the SF Giants and the Golden State Warriors, hiking Mt. Tamalpais, skiing at Lake Tahoe and vacationing on Nantucket Island.

Professionally, I worked as a CPA and management consultant at KPMG in New York and San Francisco, then as a vice president at the RREEF Funds (now the real estate arm of Deutsch Asset & Wealth Management). Most recently, I was Interim Head of Research for the Americas for CBRE, a commercial real estate brokerage company in San Francisco.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be of service at OFPC. My goals are to help the homeless, to work with San Francisco Interfaith Council, to assist in long-range strategic planning, to learn more about the Black Lives Matter movement, and to preach. I can't wait to meet you all and work together in pursuing God's work in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Until then, may God bless you.

Brook Scott, San Francisco Theological Seminary

## **Statements of Faith by New OFPC Deacons and Elders**

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*Deacons and elders installed in 2016 have agreed to share their personal written statements of faith in the pages of Shared Life. Each month features one of these inspiring statements.*

### **Lori Yamauchi, Elder, Class of 2019**

I believe that God is the source of all life – Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

I believe that human beings are created in God's image, but are flawed by the choices to be separate from God – choices which they make out of the individual free will that God gives.

I believe that God provided the way for humanity to return to God, like the Prodigal Son returned to his father. That way is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the ultimate gift and act of God's love for all of creation. Yet, each human being has a soul, who can choose to accept God's love through belief in Jesus Christ, or not.

I believe that acceptance of God's love and forgiveness by faith in Christ leads to a process of salvation, or becoming whole and complete, even when we make choices that lead to brokenness, apathy, and even death.

I believe that we are called to actively engage in the process of salvation, and work out God's will for our lives, both individually and as a faith community.

I believe that the Holy Spirit, the third face of God, helps and sustains that part of us that longs to be whole and connected spiritually to God, who is in each of us.

I believe that part of the process of salvation involves loving by serving others, just as Jesus did. By serving others and being a blessing to others, we receive God's blessings in return.

### **Correspondence with a Visitor: Cheryl Thornett, UK**

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Dear Christopher,

I enjoyed my two visits to Old First Church, which reminded me of my own United Reformed Church here in the UK (Weoley Hill URC, <http://www.weoleyhillchurch.org.uk/>) in many ways.

I must suggest that we offer visitors some Cadbury's Chocolate in the future, as we are only a little over a mile from the original Cadbury's Chocolate factory and the Cadbury family donated land and all or a substantial part of the cost of building our church. Quakers themselves, the Cadbury's were very generous to other churches in the area.

I enjoyed your music very much and would like to thank your organist in particular and your choir.

If I can make one small suggestion – which is not intended as a criticism in any way, since I was warmly welcomed by many of your members – it is to mention that we always invite visitors to join us for coffee on an individual basis as well as with an announcement at the beginning of the service. We find people are more likely to do so that way.

The next time I find myself in San Francisco on a Sunday, I hope I will be able to join you in worship again. May God bless your worship and witness in San Francisco.

Cheryl Thornett, Church Secretary  
Weoley Hill United Reformed Church

Dear Cheryl,

Thank you for worshipping with us. We are a congregation trying to be a Christ-like presence in San Francisco.

It meant a lot to us that you took the time and effort to come to Old First Church when you were away from home. Your presence reminds us that together we are all God's children. We pray for God's presence in your life and work, and hope you have returned home safely.

Christopher Burt, Elder  
Old First Presbyterian Church

### Revised Common Lectionary for September, 2016

Date	Day	1st Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
September 4	16th Sunday after Pentecost	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 1	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
September 11	17th Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 32:7-14	Psalm 51:1-10	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
September 18	18th Sunday after Pentecost	Amos 8:4-7	Psalm 113	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
September 25	19th Sunday after Pentecost	Amos 6:1a, 4-7	Psalm 146	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31

### Dates To Remember

September 6	Mission Committee, 7:00 pm
September 11	Deadline for Submissions for <i>Shared Life</i> October Issue Board of Deacons, 12:30 pm
September 20	Worship Committee, 7:00 pm
September 25	Deacons' Ice-Cream Social, 12:30 pm
September 27	Session Meeting, 7:00 pm
October 1	OFPC hosts Interfaith Food Pantry, 9:00 am Senior Center <i>Fun</i> Raiser, time t.b.a.
October 2	Pastor Maggi Henderson Returns to Pulpit, 11:00 am Church Potluck Luncheon, 12:30 pm
October 14-16	All-Church Retreat

### Old First Officers

#### Session

Chris Burt, Community Building; Bill Campbell, Mission and Giving; Hsiaochien Chuang, Worship; Robin Currier, Personnel; Kristi Hoerauf, Finance; John Kramar, Planning; Harriet MacLean; Dana Nojima, Operations; Linda Reyder, Worship; Betty Voris, Community Building; Lori Yamauchi, Christian Education; Tom Culp, Clerk of Session; Greg Free, Treasurer; John Kramar, President of the Corporation

#### Board of Deacons

Bryan Nichols, Moderator; Nina Berg, Cindy Burt, Riley Kramar, Alfred Martin, Emily Olson, Mary Russell, Randy Smith, Sarah Taber, Jian Wang