

Shared Life

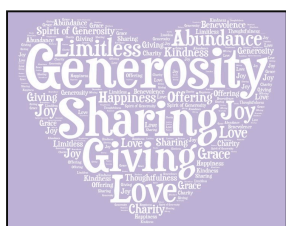
The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

June 2017

Maggi's Musings

One of the marks of Old First Presbyterian Church is generosity. We are generous in our welcome, our time, and our funds. Yet, what stands out for me is our generosity to others, to people who aren't members of our church, to folks that may never even hear the name Presbyterian Church (much less know how to spell it).

This generosity shows up in our mission budget, which we seek to increase ever year. When in lean financial times we haven't been able to increase it, it grieves us and we have committed ourselves to raising it again as soon as possible.



We also give generously in our special offerings, the four offerings annually made through the Presbyterian Church (USA). There are many churches that have stopped supporting some or all of these offerings, but not Old First.

Recently, the Reverend Larry Low came and talked to us during worship on Sunday, May 21. He spoke about the Self Development of People grants that we support through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering made at Easter. Larry is a pastor in Seattle and called me asking whether he could talk to us about the program when he was in our area. I have to admit people don't often call to ask "Can I come to your church and speak, to say thank you," – especially on Bay to Breakers Sunday! He came because of our generosity, and as Bill Campbell reminded the session recently, we are generous in our Easter giving: the "fish boxes" add up!

Old First's One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Raises \$3,000

Old First's One Great Hour of Sharing on Easter Sunday raised a stunning \$3,000, the highest total in at least five years. (We didn't check farther back than that.)

This annual Presbyterian Church (USA) offering enables the Church to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. It affords relief to victims of natural disasters, provides food to the hungry and helps to empower the poor and oppressed.

Thank you to everyone who collected pennies and to everyone who wrote large checks for this generous outpouring.

—Bill Campbell

Three thousand dollars is indeed a stunning amount. I brag about this to my pastor friends. Where does this generosity come from? It comes from knowing the love and generosity of God and, out of thankfulness for that knowledge, exuberant sharing with others.

Generosity, I believe, needs to be practiced and developed. We are trained by scripture with words like those of Psalm 37:27 “The faithful are generous and keep giving,” or stories like that in Matthew 25:35-45, where Jesus says “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to [cared for] one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

At this church we cultivate the joy in knowing that, when we put our funds together with others, we can be part of the love and care, the justice and peace, the hope and wholeness that can change the world. So get out there and cultivate your generosity. Peace, Maggi

Pentecost, Next Sunday, June 4

On Sunday, June 4, we will celebrate Pentecost, the fiftieth day after Easter Sunday, which commemorates God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the church. Wear a touch of red next Sunday as a symbol of the Spirit's presence in us.

Pentecost Offering Supports Ministries with Children and Youth, June 4

Our denomination's annual Pentecost Offering is devoted to ministries that support our young people during their "first third of life," the time from childhood through young adulthood. This third of life is a time when spirituality, emotional health, cognitive development and relationships take shape. This time influences life choices and actions well into the future. This is a time when we, the church, can nurture and guide children and youth by sharing with them God's good news and leading them on a path toward a bright and faith-led future.

Here's how the Pentecost Offering is used. 40% of the offering is used locally to improve the lives of children at risk, youth and young people. **This year, Old First's Mission Committee decided to donate this 40% to the International Rescue Committee's Oakland office. Half of the refugees that the IRC serves locally are children, and a quarter of them are five and under.**

The remaining 60% of the offering supports ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. 25% provides opportunities for young adults to serve in communities around the world and grow as leaders through transformative Christian service. 25% supports ministries for youth. Young people will begin to discover their path in life—learning more about their faith, finding fulfilment in serving others and growing in their relationship with God. Some will make lifelong friends. Some will deepen their commitment to Christ. Some will be called to their vocation. All will benefit from these faith experiences. Old First youth have attended the Youth Triennium, one of these vital young adult ministries. Finally, 10% supports ministries to improve education and provide a safe haven for children across the globe.

Pentecost Sunday reminds us of the Spirit's power to transform lives. We will receive the Offering on the day of Pentecost, **Sunday, June 4**. By sharing gladly, we provide opportunities for young people to forge a deep and lasting faith on which to grow and build their lives.

We were glad to share not only God's good news with you but also our very lives because we cared for you so much. —1 Thessalonians 2:8

Bill Campbell

Pictures for Photo Directory at Coffee Hour, June 4 and 11

Old First now has an on-line photo directory that members can access and edit. Come to coffee hour on Sunday, June 4, or Sunday, June 11, to get your picture taken for this directory and to learn how to use this resource.

Instructions were E-mailed in the last week of April. You can also contact the church office and Brad, our office admin, will forward the instructions to you.

For further or more detailed information about the directory, please speak with either Kim Pham or Chris Burt, who put the time and effort into setting the directory up.

Pastor Maggi on Pilgrimage, June 13 to 26

In June, Maggi will be a co-leader on a spiritual pilgrimage in France, “Portals to the Sacred.” (Visit www.portalstothepilgrimages.org for more information.)

She is flying out a bit early for vacation to visit Tala Jajour, the peacemaker who visited us a few years ago. Tala is now a professor at the famous University of Tübingen, Germany.

While Pastor Maggi is on the pilgrimage, there will be three guest preachers:

- June 11: The Reverend Floyd Tompkins, Center for Innovation in Ministry at San Francisco Theological Seminary: www.innovations.sfts.edu
- June 18: The Reverend Diana Bell, Interim Pastor, Mission Bay Community Church: www.missionbaycc.org
- June 25: The Reverend Diana Cheifetz, who led a series on spiritual practice for us last year.

All Church Work Day, June 17, 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm

Come on out for an afternoon of work and fun. Spend time sprucing up our church home. There are some rooms that need to have the paint freshened and walls to be washed. We don’t have bats in the belfry, but we do have odd bits of litter perched in the windows high above the street and air filters for the heater that needs to be changed. This will give you a time for wonderful fellowship and a chance to explore rooms in the church that you never knew existed. Contact Dana Nojima or Daniel Pearch for more information.

Refugee Immigration Learning Opportunity, June 18

To begin our celebration of World Refugee Week (June 18-25), we will have a Christian education class to explore the scriptural roots of sanctuary and to engage the current state of refugee resettlement in the US. In our changing political climate regarding US immigration, what should be our faith-filled response as Christians to refugees already resettled here? John Kramar will lead the discussion. Meet on Sunday, June 18, at 12:30 pm in the Munro Room.

Double Your Impact with Old First’s Gift Card Drive for Refugees, June 18 and 25

Instead of a Welcome Kit drive for newly-arriving refugees this year, we will give what the International Rescue Committee’s Oakland office tells us is most needed today: \$25 or \$50 Old Navy, Target and Safeway gift cards for refugees who are already here.

Gift cards put money directly in a refugee family’s pockets. After years of being denied freedom of choice, they can shop and buy what they need. Gift cards also can help them learn how to shop and to become educated consumers.

You can contribute gift cards or money to buy them, whichever works better for you. If you would like to have a record of your contribution for tax purposes, you will need to write a check. Either way, Old First will match your contribution to double our impact up to a total of \$2,000!

Please bring your checks or gift cards to church on June 18 or June 25, the Sundays closest to World Refugee Day, June 20. If you write a check, write “Gift Cards for Refugees” on the memo line.

Bill Campbell

Old First Leading “Helping Refugees Today” Briefing, June 21

Old First is leading a community briefing on “Helping Refugees Today: What We Need to Know, What We Need to Do” on Wednesday, June 21, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Executive orders and federal court orders are changing the landscape for refugees who seek safety and freedom in the US. Speakers from US Citizenship and Immigration Services, the International Rescue Committee and Jewish Family & Community Services-East Bay will address refugee processing procedures, including vetting, an overview of the asylum program, how their organizations are responding to the situation they face today, and how we can help in the new landscape.

The briefing will be held at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Heritage Hall, 1111 O’Farrell Street (at Franklin Street) on the day after World Refugee Day. Attendees may donate to the International Rescue Committee and Jewish Family and Community Services- East Bay at the briefing and sign up to volunteer to help refugees. Refreshments will be served.

Interfaith Welcome: Bay Area Refugee Support is the event sponsor, with member congregations Old First, St. Mark’s, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Congregation Emanu-El, Grace Cathedral and Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church.

Please save the date! For more information or to volunteer for the event, please contact Sally Spencer or Bill Campbell or email welcome@oldfirst.org.

Bill Campbell

Let’s March in the Pride Parade, June 25

We are asking to discover if there is interest to march in the Pride Parade this year. Talk with new elder Virginia Webb-Pekelnicky and watch the bulletin for more information.

Officers Retreat, July 14-15

Church officers – both deacons and elders – will gather Friday, July 14 for fellowship and dinner, and Saturday, July 15 for a meeting. Mark your calendars now and finish reading the book, *Real Good Church*.

Session Meeting Highlights, April Meeting

- A petition was sent to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to establish the "Discover Polk Community Benefit District."
- Inquirers/New Members Classes were conducted on April 30 and May 7.
- Elders reviewed the new on-line directory of members and friends and agreed it looked great. Thanks were extended to Kim Pham and Chris Burt.
- Session agreed to participate in an educational event on World Refugee Day.
- The Operations Committee reported continued work on the broken rain pipe and wall damage.
- Elders agreed to hold a spring cleaning on June 17.

Tom Culp, Clerk of Session

New Members for Old First



Old First Presbyterian Church received new members on May 7. From left to right: Bennett Hall; Pastor Henderson; James (father), baby James (son), and Anne Marie Milliron; Eva DeLair

Musical Notes

Bill Staines (born 1940), an American folk musician and singer-songwriter from New Hampshire, composed the music and wrote the lyrics for a wonderful song that can be readily applied to virtually any choir.

This is the first verse:



*All God's Children Got a Place in the Choir,
Some sing low, some sing higher,
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire,
And some just clap their hands, or paws,
Or anything they got now!*

June Choir Rehearsal Experiment: Trying a New Thing

Indeed, these words hold true for the Old First Choir, who is going to conduct an experiment on the four Sundays in June and first two Sundays of July: **June 4, 11, 18, 25 and July 2, 9.** There will be only a Sunday morning rehearsal from **9:30 to 10:30 am.**

Many of you have said that it's simply too difficult with hectic work, family and other important activities to commit to attend the Choir's usual Thursday night evening rehearsal in addition to Sunday mornings. A significant number of our members have said that they would seriously consider joining if everything could happen just on Sunday morning. And we've listened!

So here's the deal: Sunday morning rehearsals will be in the Sanctuary Choir Loft from 9:30 am to 10:30 am-ish and include the music for the Sunday of the rehearsal, in addition to lightly practicing anthems for the following Sundays. And we'll practice far enough ahead that attendance on every Sunday isn't mandatory. In addition, Larry can easily make mp3 files of any part and E-mail them to you. It's a win-win opportunity for everybody!

Won't you come and join us at **9:30 am on Sunday, June 4?** As the song says, you got a place in the choir! Please contact Larry Marietta, larrymarietta@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

All Church Retreat: “Best Laid Plan,” October 20-22

Announcing the Theme for the All Church Retreat October 20-22, 2017 Retreat at Mt Hermon Conference Center, Scotts Valley: “Best Laid Plan.”



Our speaker will be Nancy Lammers Gross, a professor on the faculty of Princeton Theological Seminary, and she will address something we all think about – tomorrow. How do we handle the next day? Or, next year, or ten years from now or maybe just this afternoon? Are you a planner with contingencies to cover “any” unexpected twist or turn the future may throw at you? Or are you a “go with the flow” type? How is your crystal ball working for you?

However we think about our next steps, it can be anxiety producing. No matter how hard we plan, there can always be some odd zinger headed for us from left field. And what really happens with The Flow? Mostly it’s filled with dead fish. How many of us have experienced the dreaded, “Not to Decide is to Decide” consequences – thanks, Jean Paul Sartre!

There is a Yiddish adage, “Man Plans – God Laughs.” But Paul’s letter to the Ephesians tells us that God’s Best Laid Plan is in Jesus Christ and it intimately involves every single one of us, and our life together in a faith community.

Come and experience the Best Laid Plan! Registrations will start in July and continue in earnest in August. Start planning ahead in Faith and Hope!

Jeanne Kirkwood

Trees

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth’s sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.



Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918), Sargent, 165th Infantry, AEF
Killed in the Second Battle of the Marne

Lost but Not Yet Found...



KitchenAid Mixer

Has anyone seen the KitchenAid mixer? Often folks use items in the kitchen and put them in a different place and forget that lots of folks use the kitchen when they are not there. Many cooks have been missing the mixer and want to know where it is. Can you E-mail Brad with the information or simply put it back in its “usual” place, please?

Old First Sign

We are looking for the Old First Sign made out of foam board with a white stick. It may be sitting in someone’s closet or being stored in a mystery place in the church. If you have seen it or might have it, will you return it to the church office please?

Old First Family and Friends

Prayers for Healing and Wholeness

Larry Payne, Karyn Payne's brother, undergoing chemotherapy
Tony, Lorraine Bellesi's friend, undergoing chemotherapy
Mary Lou Wilson

Prayers of Mourning

Oliver Spencer, who died May 7, 2017
Grant Russell, Mary Russell's father, who died May 22.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Bear Daniel Lancelle Seitchik Sebastian, John and Pam Sebastian's grandson, born May 9

Dates to Remember

June 4	Sunday	Pentecost: Wear a Touch of Red!
June 11	Sunday	Deadline for July/August issue of <i>Shared Life</i> Board of Deacons, 12:30 pm
June 17	Saturday	OFPC hosts Interfaith Food Pantry, 9:00 am All Church Work Day, 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm
June 18	Sunday	John Kramar on Refugees and World Refugee Day, 12:30 pm
June 21	Wednesday	Helping Refugees Today: What We Need to Know, What We Need to Do? St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street, 6:30 pm
June 27	Tuesday	Session, 7:00 pm
June 30	Saturday	Saturday Community Dinner, 5:30 pm

Dates to Save!

Annual-All Church Retreat, Mount Hermon, October 20–22, 2017

OFPC Officers

Session

Class of 2018

Chris Burt
Kristi Hoerauf
Dana Nojima

Class of 2019

Tom Culp, clerk of session
Robin Currier
John Kramar
Lori Yamauchi
Priscilla Yu

Class of 2020

Bill Campbell
Hsiaochien Chuang
Linda Reyder
Daniel Pearch
Virginia Webb-Pekelnicky

Board of Deacons

Class of 2018

Nina Berg
Alfred Martin
Randy Smith
Sarah Taber

Class of 2019

Riley Kramar
Mary Russell
Emily Olson

Class of 2020

Beth Arnaoot
Courtney Blake
Cindy Burt
Glen Potter
Jian Wang