

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

March 2017

Church Website: www.oldfirst.org

Like Us on Facebook

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

Maggi's Musings



The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of forty days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent, and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

This year you might try putting aside something that distracts you – that takes up too much of your heart and mind, and try focusing on what is essential: who you are as follower of Jesus, where your hope is to be found, and how to live as a hopeful and hope giving follower of the Jesus way.

- Some opportunities for developing a spiritual practice:
 - read and pray the print devotional *Living the Gospel Life* – get one from the ushers or by calling the church office,
 - use the daily on-line devotional at www.d365.org,
 - follow the PC(USA)'s daily readings for Lent at www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2017dlent.pdf,
 - sign up for San Francisco Theological Seminary's Lenten devotions at www.sfts.edu (just scroll down the home page).
- If it feels like you aren't hearing any word of hope in the news sources or on social media such as Facebook and Twitter, maybe you need to take Lenten break from them. How about looking for other sources of news, other ways to look at the world? Go to www.pcusa.org, and click on news and announcements or check out our mission year book that gives daily updates and devotions on the work of our church around the world, www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook.
- Pick up a colored marker and join in the spiritual practice of our coloring sheets. For many people of faith, it has become a spiritual practice, a way to center and even mediate. Find them in the chapel during worship and in the coffee hour on Sundays.

May this short word from Pope Francis inspire us: "Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy."

Peace,
Maggi Henderson

Coloring in Lent



This Lent you're invited to take up a new spiritual practice of coloring sheets! This is for people of all ages and experience. Many have found or rediscovered the satisfaction, the joy, the calming effects of coloring. It has come a long way from the crayons and coloring book of our childhood. For many people of faith, it has become a spiritual practice, a way to center, even to mediate. During Lent we will have coloring sheets with the Stations of the Cross in our chapel. You are invited to come up anytime during worship and join in this communal practice. We ask that during worship it be a silent process; for as you draw you will be listening and observing what is going on in worship. Each week the sheets will make their way down to

the coffee hour where you can join in and talk and share all you want. The community groups that use our fellowship hall as well as concert-goers will also be invited to join in this practice of coloring.

Ash Wednesday Worship, March 1

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1, with a joint service with the people of St. Luke's Episcopal Church at 6:00 pm *at Old First Presbyterian Church*. (In Holy Week we will join St. Luke's at their church for Maundy Thursday Worship, March 13, 6:00 pm.)

Book Discussion: *Waking Up White*, by Debby Irving, March 5 and 19, April 2

Our discussion of Irving's book will continue **on March 5**, March 19 and April 2. We will meet at 12:30-ish in the Munro Room following coffee hour.

For this session please read through Chapter 16. The chapters are short and go quickly. The discussion sessions will last one hour. You can get the book at a local book store, the library, or on Kindle.

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, April 9

Old First Presbyterian Church will hold a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 9, Palm/Passion Sunday to ordain and install elders and deacons elected to the session and board of deacons in February.

Holy Week and Easter, April 2017

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, April 9

Worship, 11:00 am

Maundy Thursday, April 13

Worship, 6:00 pm *at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Van Ness Avenue at Clay Street*

Good Friday, April 14

Worship, 8:00 pm

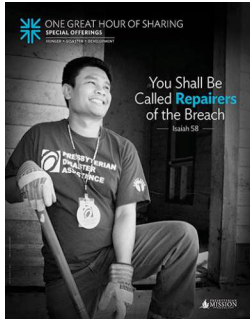
Easter Sunday, April 16

Pancake Breakfast, 9:00 am

Prelude: Organ, Brass and Vocalist, 10:30 am

Easter Worship, 11:00 am

OGHS Offering on Easter Sunday, April 16: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” —Leviticus 19:18



One Great Hour of Sharing is a Christian effort to empower, provide water, supply food, and give relief from disasters. Start saving your loose change now for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering collected in the fish coin boxes. They will be available the first Sunday of Lent, March 5, and will be collected Easter Sunday, April 16.

- Water Projects:** We currently have projects in over 20 countries.
Hunger Relief: See how we are feeding the hungry all over the world.
Disaster Relief: Not just immediate responses, but long-term commitment.
Empowerment: Helping men and women provide for their families.

Donations for Easter Lilies and Music on Easter Sunday

We invite you to add to our Easter celebration at Old First Presbyterian Church by making a donation toward Easter lilies for the sanctuary and special music for Easter Sunday worship. Your contributions can honor someone living, remember the dead or give thanks for a blessing.

- The suggested contribution for **each** dedication is Twenty Dollars (\$20.00).
- Submit your contribution and dedication to the church office by E-mail or US Postal Service.
- To be included in the Easter bulletin, all contributions must be received at the church office **no later than Monday, April 3.**
- For each gift of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00), please submit your name, your choice of **either lilies or music**, and **one dedication** to honor the living, to remember the dead, or to give thanks for a blessing.
- Lilies will remain in the sanctuary until after worship on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 23. At worship that day, the lilies may be taken home, shared with a friend, or planted outside.

Thank you in advance for your contribution to our Easter Celebration!

Save the Date: All-Church Retreat October 20-22, 2017

Check your calendars and save these dates. Old First Presbyterian Church will hold its annual all-church retreat at Mount Hermon on October 20 through 22, 2017.

Welcome from the Worship Team: Christ is Our Hope!

Welcome from the Worship Team! Our Scripture-inspired theme for Lent is “Christ is our Hope.” As we embark on a season of hopeful waiting for the Gospel message of Christ’s resurrection, we remind ourselves that hope takes work!



We may suffer and feel tested as we enter God’s kingdom through obedience to Him. Yet, “hope does not disappoint us!” (Romans 5:5a) It leads to a world of inclusion, not exclusion; to a world of hope not despair; and to an outpouring of love, not of hate.

Look for signs in the sanctuary to remind us that entering into God’s kingdom through faith in Jesus Christ often requires the uncomfortable feeling of leaving something else behind. Look for opportunities to share and hear personal testimonies of entrance into a new life of hope. As you enter your Lenten journey, pick up a daily devotional, “Living the Gospel Life,” which offers daily challenges so that you may walk with others on an outwardly-focused Season of Lent. *(Continued on next page.)*

Thank you to our inspired congregants who helped develop our theme for Lent. If you want to learn more, contact Worship Co-chairs, Linda Reyder or Hsiaochien Chuang. We are looking for art enthusiasts and eager helpers to contact Daniel Pearch at dspearch@yahoo.com to assist with Sanctuary artwork.

Old First's First 2017 Benevolence to Aid Refugees in the US

Refugee resettlement agencies say that refugees throughout the United States are reeling from President Trump's executive order that threatens their safety and the resettlement programs that they count on. The order, among many other things, suspended the Government's refugee resettlement program for 120 days and reduced the number of refugees that the US will accept in the current fiscal year from 110,000 to 50,000. Refugee resettlement agencies are losing federal funding, and some are being forced to close offices and lay off large numbers of experienced staff.

Benevolence to IRC

To help ensure that the International Rescue Committee's twenty nine resettlement offices across the US will be able to continue to support refugees who have fled violence and oppression, Old First's first 2017 benevolence gift was to the IRC for its work in this country.

What Else has Old First Done?

1. Offered John Kramar's three-part Christian Education series on Migration and Immigration, which included information and insights on Hebrew and Christian texts and traditions, this country's history of migration and immigration, U.S. laws concerning immigration, refugees and asylum seekers, historic and current immigration debates, and opportunities to help.
2. Confirmed the congregation's interest in helping refugees through an online questionnaire.
3. Interviewed refugee resettlement agencies and determined how to best help them help refugees.
4. Co-sponsored an educational program with other churches on Muslims and Islam, and some of us read and discussed *The Muslim Next Door*.
5. Conducted outreach and advocacy, especially within the faith community. This has included launching Interfaith Welcome and helping other congregations gain traction in participating.
6. Conducted a drive for welcome kits for six families that the International Rescue Committee resettled in Oakland.
7. Helped Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church and the San Francisco Village seniors circle make welcome kit drives.
8. Helped link our members with volunteer opportunities with the IRC's Oakland office and Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. (Catholic Charities is the leading Bay Area agency for foster care for unaccompanied refugee children and for young adults who aren't ready to be fully independent.)
9. Made significant monetary and in-kind donations for refugee relief and resettlement through our church's benevolence budget, special offerings at Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve services, as well as our church's share of our Peace and Global Witness offering.
10. Participated in the successful Interfaith Welcome crowdfunding campaign to buy and deliver teddy bears for 5,000 Syrian children in a refugee camp in Jordan, and, together, raised over \$20,000.
11. Led presentations in our presbytery concerning helping refugees, and also led an initiative to incentivize congregations to donate to the International Rescue Committee to support its work with refugees in Oakland. The Presbytery agreed to match congregations' contributions to the IRC up to a total of \$10,000. Between September and December, seven congregations donated about \$14,000, and the Presbytery added \$10,000 from its Peacemaking Fund.
12. Displayed our We Choose Welcome banner in our Sanctuary and at the MLK Jr. Day March.

Souper Bowl Sunday Success

Thank you all for the gifts of canned goods and \$78.00 collected by our youth for the SF Marin Food Bank. Our youth did a great job!

Almost \$24,000 for Refugee Settlement from SF Presbytery and its Congregations

Congregations of the Presbytery of San Francisco collected nearly \$14,000 in four months for refugee resettlement, the Presbytery added another \$10,000 for a total of almost \$24,000.

To support its congregations' efforts to welcome refugees and help them rebuild their lives, last September the Presbytery of San Francisco announced an offer to match local churches' contributions to the Oakland office of the International Rescue Committee (IRC). The presbytery's matching offer applied to contributions that churches made between September 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017, to an overall maximum of \$10,000. Six months before the deadline, Old First and six other churches quickly contributed \$13,589. The presbytery added its \$10,000 match.

While small compared with the total need, these contributions will provide real help to refugee families who are arriving in the Bay Area. Until President Trump's January 27 executive order temporarily suspending the refugee program, the IRC's Oakland office was resettling about 450 refugees a year, or about 75 families, and helping them start anew in Oakland. A quarter of these newly-arriving refugees are under the age of five.

Old First's IRC contribution was within the Global Response part of our benevolence budget. The source of the PSF match was the PSF Peacemaking Fund. This fund receives 25% of local churches' contributions to our denomination's annual Peace and Global Witness offering.

Bill Campbell, Mission Committee

Caring Words From Betty Voris, Retiring Elder



Just in case you are not keeping count, my six years as an elder on session is up this March.

My mission was to get members talking among each other and create a friendlier environment. My answer was to get people talking across the food table.

In order to do that, I began potlucks every other month in order to present a consistent program. In the past there were about two potlucks a year (and extremely successful at that). So I began the bi-monthly potlucks and I believe they fulfilled my goal by becoming very popular as well as creating an atmosphere of congeniality and friendship.

I could not have done it without this perfectly terrific committee! I deeply appreciate your help and your support and your encouragement. You are a special group and near and dear to my heart!!!!

A special shout-out as well to Brad, who kept the congregation perfectly aware of every aspect needed to participate and attend the potlucks.

Betty Voris, Community Building Committee

Women's March on Washington – A Time for Engagement and Action, by Lori Yamauchi

On January 21, 2017, I attended the Women's March on Washington, along with a million women, men, and children from all over the country and the world. I saw people of all ages, ethnicities, sexual orientations, abilities, faiths and politics. It was truly a historic event and experience for me. This is my report, and my challenge to you to engage and act, not because you can but because you must.

At 8 am, a sea of people streamed toward the March site, near the Mall and the Washington Monument, and people waited for hours to board the Metro trains to get to the March. Many had signs and posters, as well as pink "pussy" hats, to show their solidarity. My daughter, Jemma Fagler, and I, along with Jemma's friends and moms, stood among the crowd for four and a half hours, listening to and watching on monitors the dozens of speakers and performers who came to the March. There was a tangible desire to direct our energy, anger and fear to constructive action. Many couldn't get close enough to see or hear the speeches, but they felt compelled to be there like I did. It was all very peaceful without a single arrest. After most of the speeches were given, we marched toward the White House, shouting and chanting – "This is what democracy looks like", "No justice, no peace", among others.

Among the speakers and performers were political activists such as Gloria Steinem, Angela Davis and Michael Moore; singers such as Alicia Keys and Madonna; actors such as Ashley Judd and Scarlett Johansson; and members of Congress such as Kamala Harris and Maxine Waters. Leaders of various organizations spoke for civil rights, women's rights, reproductive rights, justice and peace, immigrants and refugees, workers' rights, religious freedom, environmental protection, actions to slow climate change, gun control, prisoners' rights, and political action and mobilization.

I was inspired and challenged as a Japanese American middle-aged woman of faith to:

- Connect with others, whether in person, through social media, by phone or email, to keep informed and take collective action;
- Stay informed, become educated and take positions about political appointees, proposed legislation, judicial cases, and executive or administrative actions, whether I support them or not;
- Discuss with and listen to others with different views about issues important to me;
- Call and write (not email) members of Congress, federal agencies, and the White House to express my views about specific Cabinet nominees or legislation or issues about which I care;
- Hold political parties accountable for their actions or inactions, by demanding change in leadership, policies and strategies to effectively counteract and impede the wrongful actions of President Trump and his administration;
- Consider running for office or actively supporting others for election or reelection to local, state or national office – including elected officials in other states;
- Express support for state officials who are standing up to the wrongful action of President Trump and his administration, through laws and actions;
- Challenge friends, family members, coworkers, and others to act, rather than sit on the sideline in anger, frustration and fear;
- Demand that members of Congress hold local meetings and attend those meetings to make your voice heard.
- Show up at peaceful events to protest wrongful actions and stand up for others' rights.

As events have evolved in the past month, I feel more strongly than ever that we must act collectively and individually, especially as people of faith, not out of fear, but out of hope and love.

Please join a discussion at **12:30 pm on Sunday, March 26, in the Munro Room**, about what we are doing and can do as Christians to counter the hatred and fear being spread with a constructive message of love and hope.

One Crown Not Any Seek



One crown not any seek,
And yet the highest head
Its isolation coveted,
Its stigma deified.

While Pontius Pilate lives,
In whatsoever hell,
That coronation pierces him.
He recollects it well.

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

Musical Notes

Francis Hall Johnson (1888-1970), a native of Athens, Georgia, was the son of an African Methodist Episcopal Church minister, who was also a college president. Johnson showed musical talent at a young age and grew up hearing his mother and grandmother (both born into slavery) sing spirituals.

Inspired by a violin recital given by Joseph Henry Douglas, the grandson of Frederick Douglas, he got one at the age of fourteen and was determined to master the instrument by using a self-instruction book. In 1910 he graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Pennsylvania.



Moving to NYC in 1914, he began a career as an instrumentalist in various orchestras, most notably that of Vernon and Irene Castle and that of the Broadway show *Shuffle Along* by Eubie Blake. He joined the Negro String Quartet in 1923, an ensemble that quickly gained critical acclaim for its interpretations of European classical compositions. In the fall of 1925 he formed the Hall Johnson Choir, which was hailed as one of the successes of the Harlem Renaissance. Hollywood beckoned in 1935, and Johnson and his choir stayed in California, appearing in many films and providing choral music for many soundtracks.

In 1951 the U.S. State Department chose the choir to represent America at the International Festival of Fine Arts, held in then occupied Berlin. Johnson's primary goal throughout his life was the promoting and understanding of spirituals. He put his thoughts to paper with the publication of *Notes on the Negro Spiritual*, 1965. Unfortunately, Johnson died in 1970 when his apartment caught fire. He was posthumously elected to the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame in 1975, and a plaque in his honor was placed in the Athens, Georgia, City Hall in 1976.

One of his most popular spiritual arrangements is "Ain't Got Time to Die." In the copies of the arrangement, he is quite specific about using the dialect as printed, especially singing it in a "clipped" style. Our Choir will sing this anthem in the month of March.

Session Meeting Highlights, January 24, 2017

- The 2017 budget was approved.
- A congregational meeting will be held on February 19 after worship to approve the pastors compensation package and to accept the nominating committee slate of officers, and another congregational meeting will be held on April 9 to ordain and install newly nominated deacons and elders.
- Mission Committee reported that the generosity of the congregation was amazing and extended thanks to the committee and volunteers.
- Current Operations Committee projects include installation of the new phone system including a communications server and a new voicemail system, drain and pipe inspection and flushing, and a leak repair most visible in the women's first floor restroom. It was noted that an upcoming annual maintenance may result in advice for changing the furnace controls.
- The Worship Committee has been reflecting on Advent, Christmas and Epiphany activities. The Star words photo collage has been uploaded to Facebook and the OFPC website. The "Living the Gospel Life" has been chosen as a devotional book, and Brook Scott will lead a Lenten scripture reading and art planning workshop on February 11.

Tom Culp, Clerk of Session

Strike a Pose! 2017 Star Word Photo Booth

Here are some of the photos of the congregation holding their new Star Word taken on January 1. You can see more on the OFPC Facebook page.

Committee

Hsiaochien Chuang, Worship



New Elders and Deacons at OFPC

Old First Presbyterian Church elected new officers of the church on Sunday, February 19. Seven elders and four deacons were chosen to serve the local church by taking their places on the session and the board of deacons.

Session

Bill Campbell, Elder (3-year term)

Bill and Marilyn Campbell joined Old First shortly after moving to San Francisco in 1970. They transferred their memberships from First Presbyterian Church in Metuchen, New Jersey. They chose Old First because it made them feel so welcome, it was involved in the community and the world, the preaching and worship service appealed to them, and Old First offered the opportunity to make a difference. Over the years, Bill has served multiple terms as an elder and in other roles in the church. He currently chairs Old First's Mission Committee.

Hsiaochien Chuang, Elder (3-year term)

Hsiaochien Chuang was born and raised in Taiwan and came to the States to attend design school in 2001. She joined OPFC with her husband shortly after they moved to San Francisco in 2004.

Hsiaochien previously belonged to Presbyterian Church in Chiayi, Taiwan where her family is still members.

She found Old First to be a diverse congregation that is both warm and inclusive. Her involvement started with the Fair-Trade Coffee Project, where she made friends by selling coffee and chocolate; later she also served in the Ushers team, the Mission Committee, the Worship Committee, the Planning Committee, the board of deacons, and the session. She is willing to serve again in the leadership position and continued to learn from others.

Tom Culp, Elder (2-year term)

Thomas F. Culp (Tom) is a native of San Francisco and first came to Old First Presbyterian Church in the mid-1960s. He and his brothers participated in all activities of the Old First Youth groups of that era including Sunday school, choir, retreats, camps and bell ringing. Tom became a youth deacon while still attending Lick-Wilmerding High School. After four years and graduation from U of Cal—Irvine, Tom moved to New York City where he worked in advertising, theater and philanthropy enabling him to hone skills for organization, verbal communications, and the written word.

Tom returned to San Francisco to be closer to family in 1983 and returned to OFPC becoming an adult member in the 1990s. In his quest for increased spiritual opportunities, he returned to the familiar church that he enjoyed in his youth. It was during this time that Tom was ordained as an elder and performed the duties of Clerk of Session for several years. Following in the footsteps of his father, Tom had become a banker and rose through the marketing and computer-related ranks of Bank of America and then Wells Fargo from which he retired in 2014.

More recently Tom joined the Board of Directors of Old First Concerts and became its president, he was married at OFPC, increased his attendance at services, and agreed again in 2016 to become Clerk of Session. Tom's long history in the Old First family, his dedication to fulfilling the role of Clerk, his organizational and communication skills, and his willingness to be of service as a leader are traits he brings to the congregation.

Daniel Pearch, Elder (3-year term)

Life-long Presbyterian Daniel Pearch moved to San Francisco in 1985, and joined Old First the same year. Owner of TEA FOR TWO EVENTS, Daniel's work occasionally consumes Sundays, so he might not be seen in his usual spot – pulpit side, next to the Joel passage stain glass window. Having served as a deacon an elder and as Interim Director for the Doris Krauss Senior Center at OFPC, Daniel looks forward in helping navigate the coming years, by continuing to listen to where the Holy Spirit leads us.

Linda Reyder, Elder (3-year term)

A cradle Presbyterian I have always been a part of a church family along with my grandparents, parents and brother. I came to Old First in the early 70's when I was stationed at the Presidio. Drawn to OFC by Dr. Bodo's preaching and Old First Concerts where I was a volunteer.

Rejoined OFC as my last Army duty station brought me back to SF where I became an ESL teacher. Appreciate the many opportunities to participate here, as a deacon, various mission projects over the years, one of the painters of the exonarthex ceiling, concert volunteer, teller, usher, teacher and as an elder sharing co-moderator the duties of the Worship Committee with Hsiaochien Chuang.

Virginia Webb-Pekelnicky, Elder (3-year term)

Virginia Webb-Pekelnicky was born in Arkansas and raised in Montana. Virginia has never been an official member of a church until OFPC. Raised in both the Methodist tradition and a small Evangelical church, her family history notes many Ministers and church founders - including an ancestor that was a Cumberland Presbyterian Minister!

She has been in the San Francisco Bay Area since 2010, moving to San Francisco in 2012. She started attending Old First Presbyterian shortly after moving to San Francisco and became a member in 2015. Pastor Maggi officiated at the marriage of Virginia and her husband Bob at OFPC in 2015.

Virginia was attracted to Old First for the church's great music program. She is a soprano in the choir. She also loves the church's historic mission to serve the community of San Francisco and taking the lead in aiding vulnerable populations - locally, nationally and on the international stage. Virginia seeks to support the church in showing Christ's love in this time and place, carrying on that historic mission to those in need that Old First has engaged since the church's founding. Virginia currently is a college administrator at California College of the Arts and hopes to bring her experience serving youth and life-long learners to the aid of the mission of Christ.

Priscilla C. Yu, Elder (2-year term)

Priscilla C. Yu was born in New York City and grew up in Los Angeles and San Francisco, CA. She has been a life-long Presbyterian, baptized at the Wilshire Presbyterian in Los Angeles at age 7. Following the family's move to San Francisco, she lived 10 years in the Bay Area. While in junior high, she participated in Old First Friday night Youth Activities and summer retreats; she even joined in the singing of the Messiah with the adult choir.

After graduating from Berkeley, she earned a master's degree in library science at Columbia University, New York. She returned to Berkeley and worked at the UC Reference Library while her husband, George, was studying for his doctorate. George and Priscilla were married at Old First and later moved to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) where she served as head of the Chemistry Library UNC and then head of the City Planning and Landscape Architecture Library at UIUC.

She and her husband joined the Presbyterian Church at Chapel Hill and the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, serving both as an elder as well as a deacon; she also sang in the choir. She and George retired in 2006, moved back to San Francisco in 2007 and returned home to Old First. Since re-joining Old First, she has served both as a deacon and elder. Priscilla is also a member of Presbyterian Women, has taught Sunday school, and has developed the Alberto Barrios Children's Library.

Priscilla has always enjoyed working in the Christian community. She finds a call to evaluate and find new ways for church programs, ministries, traditions, and practices to reach the next generation; as an elder, Priscilla hopes God will guide her in this mission. She has two married sons and four grandchildren.

Board of Deacons

Beth Arnaoot, Deacon (3-year term)

Beth Arnaoot, a widow since 1997, moved to San Francisco from Arlington, Virginia, in September of 2016. She attends OFPC with her sister, Elina "Liny" Adams, a widow since 1998, who moved from Houston, Texas, to join her. Beth has three children: Nabil, 46, who lives in San Francisco; Laila, 44, who lives in Rohnert Park; and Ramsey, 37, who lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Previously Beth belonged to Lewinsville Presbyterian Church in McLean, Virginia, where she served two terms as a Deacon/Stephen Minister. Beth and her sister were drawn to Maggi Henderson's preaching, to her openness to sharing her struggles to be a more faithful follower of Christ, and to her welcome chocolates to all those who enter the doors of Old First Presbyterian!

Beth is also strongly drawn to the community work the church is doing. She looks forward to more active service in Old First Presbyterian Church of San Francisco.

Courtney Blake, Deacon (3-year term)

Courtney Blake was born in Charlotte, NC, in Presbyterian Hospital. Until she was 25 years old, that was about as Presbyterian as she got. In 2015, she and her very-soon-to-be wife, Amberle Gallup, moved to San Francisco from New York City where they both worked as cooks.

While in New York, they attended Messiah Lutheran Church in Greenpoint (now Park Church Co-op) and before that Courtney was a member of Renovatus in Charlotte. They both joined OFPC in 2016.

Courtney first visited Old First in 2013 while on a working trip to San Francisco. The moment she walked through the doors, she felt welcomed and cared for. So, when deciding to make SF home, Courtney knew exactly where she wanted to attend church. Luckily for her, Amberle felt the same. They have been here ever since. Courtney feels that it is an honor to serve this congregation that is, in so many ways, becoming her family.

Cindy Burt, Deacon (3-year term)

Cindy Burt has been a member of OFC since 1974, coming initially for the music, both the choir and Old First Concerts. She joined the choir and became a concerts volunteer. She was married to Chris Burt in 1975 by John Bodo. Since then she has served as an elder and a deacon. She has been in a Monday night study group for about 35 years.

Her abiding interest is the Worship Committee. She's made banners and communion table cloths, and has enjoyed participating in many worship planning sessions. She's a retired registered nurse after 44 years of work. Now she checks blood pressures at the senior center and serves on its board. She volunteers for the community dinners, currently serves on the board of deacons, and sings in the choir. She says, "I think of Old Firsters as my extended family."

Glen Potter, Deacon (3-year term)

Glen was born into a Southern Baptist family in 1930, spending those early years in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He became more interested in the Presbyterian way during high school and joined a large Presbyterian church in 1948.

After attending the University of Tulsa earning a BS in accounting, he worked for various banks until 1977 - in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in St Paul, Minnesota and in San Francisco - focusing on computers and data processing. After accepting a position with Crocker Bank in San Francisco in 1971, he and his husband Steve moved into the same apartment in Noe Valley where he still lives. Glen and Steve owned and managed the shop ACCENT ON FLOWERS in Noe-Castro from 1973 to 2009 when they sold it and retired. His husband Steve of 50 years died in December 2016.

In San Francisco, Glen first joined Calvary and then the Mission Presbyterian Church. He joined Old First in 1986. Glen has served on the session for several terms and on the board of deacons for two terms.

Jian Wang, Deacon (3-year term)

Jian Wang is from Saitama, Japan. She has lived in San Francisco since April 1993. Old First Presbyterian Church is the only church of which she has ever been a member, and she enjoys it. She has been here for over six years, and it makes her happy to feel protected by God. Jian says she's learning a lot from the church, through volunteering with the community and making many friends.

"I decided to become a member of Old First because the church members are very nice to me. They always smile at me and provide any assistance I may need. Teddy Chiao has especially been of great service by providing me with a Bible that is both Chinese and English, and I appreciate that very much. I have a strong passion for helping people because I firmly believe we are all one under God. And *that* makes me happy. Thank you for this opportunity."

Old First Family and Friends

Prayers of Mourning and Comfort

Bob Fleming on the death of his husband John Hampel
Roger Lindahl on the death of his mother Barbara Lindahl

Prayers for Healing and Wholeness

Pam Free's mother, recovering from surgery
Glen Potter, recovering from a fall
Rose Marie Springer, recovering from surgery
James Uren, recovering from eye surgery
Mary Lou Wilson

Dates to Remember

March 1	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Worship Service, 6:00 pm
March 5	Sunday	Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> , Munro Room, 12:30 pm
March 12	Sunday	Deadline for April Issue of <i>Shared Life</i>
March 12	Sunday	Board of Deacons, 12:30 pm
March 12	Sunday	SF night Ministry Concert: "A Touch of the Irish," St Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street
March 13	Monday	Mission Committee, Munro Room, 6:30 pm
March 18	Saturday	OFPC staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry, 9:00 am.
March 19	Sunday	Confirmation Class, Library, 9:30 am
March 19	Sunday	Book Discussion: <i>Waking Up White</i> , Munro Room, 12:30 pm
March 25	Saturday	Saturday Community Dinner, 5:30 pm
March 26	Sunday	Women's March Follow Up, Munro Room, 12:30 pm
March 28	Tuesday	Session Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Church Officers

Session

Bill Campbell, Hsiaochien Chuang, Robin Currier, Kristi Hoerauf, John Kramar, Dana Nojima, Linda Reyder, Betty Voris, Lori Yamauchi, Tom Culp, clerk of session

Board of Deacons

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