

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

October 2017

Church Website: www.oldfirst.org

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Maggi's Musings

When I introduce myself at meetings, it is always quite a mouthful in to say “I am the Pastor at Old First Presbyterian Church.” I often ponder that “old” and “first” might not be words held in as high a regard as they once were, and that folks may not even know what “Presbyterian” is.

You may have heard folks occasionally playing with our name by adding a “b” and making us “B’OLD First.” I like that because it reminds me we have often been bold in our care and compassion for the community: helping start Edgewood Center for Children and Families for children over one hundred years ago (<http://www.edgewood.org/>), launching Larkin Street Youth Services (<http://larkinstreetyouth.org/>), hosting one of the largest – and first interfaith – food pantries in the city. I like “B’OLD” because, though change is often difficult, we step forward in faith and take on new ventures when we hear God’s call.

This fall two things highlight this for me: First, we listened and heard God’s call to hire Seminary Intern Liz Zupp when it wasn’t planned or budgeted. We decided God would help find the way to do this and the church will step up in there giving to make this happen. Liz will bring to us her vision, insights, and her life-long Presbyterian background. We will help shape her, teach her, offer her experience as she seeks to minister in the 21st Century.

Second, we are B’OLD in hearing a challenge to support the Pam Byers memorial LGBTQ archive at the Presbyterian Historical Society (<http://www.history.pcusa.org/>). It honors our beloved Pam’s work with Covenant Network (<http://covnetpres.org/>) but also says we can learn from the struggles and work of the past as we move into the future. The session heard the request and said yes, for we had to be a part of this venture. I invite you to read further about both of these steps forward in the text inside this issue of *Shared Life*.

Pray that God will help us be B’OLD to follow in the ways of Jesus and confess that love, compassion, risk, and justice are indeed ancient and primary life-giving attributes – old, first attributes that we need to step forward into God’s vision, God’s future.

Peace, Pastor Maggi

Meet our New Seminary Intern Liz Zupp

Hello, Old First! I am so happy and excited to be joining you this year! I cannot wait to learn from you and experience God with and through you all! I have truly fallen in love with your beautiful city of San Francisco over the past two years. I am currently in my third year at San Francisco Theological Seminary and have been anxiously awaiting my chance to take on an internship.

I am originally from a “small” town in central New Jersey, where my parents and the majority of my extended family still live. For undergrad I attended Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania (about 40 minutes northwest of Philadelphia) where I majored in Missions and Anthropology

(concentrating in Anthropology) and minored in Biblical Studies. While I was attending Eastern I spent three years serving as a Student Chaplain, the last two spent on the Student Chaplain Leadership Team.

Following college I took a year off to figure out where to go next. I served as the Young Adult Advisory Delegate for the Presbytery of New Brunswick at the 221st General Assembly towards the end of that year and applied for the Young Adult Volunteer Program. I was assigned to Chinook, Montana as my site for YAV where I served working primarily with older adults and spent time working with the youth of the town as well. While in Montana I joined Harlem Presbyterian Church, located in Harlem, Montana.

When I am not working or studying I enjoy reading mysteries, writing, jigsaw puzzles, knitting, spending time with friends and family, and hiking with my boyfriend Davin.

I hope to grow with you all throughout my internship here. I look forward to getting involved with as many of the various ministries and activities in your church life as I can. My career goals involve interfaith work and community outreach. I want my life and future career to be about helping people connect with each other, to grow together, to understand each other, and to love each other for all our human imperfections, struggles, and differences.

Liz Zupp

Pam Byers Memorial LGBTQ Collection

The historical legacy of the movement for full inclusion of LGBTQ Presbyterians in the life and leadership of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is being recorded in a new archive housed at the Presbyterian Historical Society, the oldest and largest denominational archive in the United States. The collection will be named in the honor of Pam Byers, the founding Executive Director of the Covenant network of Presbyterians and longtime elder at Old First, who played a critical role in helping to create a Presbyterian Church “as generous and just as God’s grace”.

The archive will comprise physical and digital records, including organizational records, oral histories and living history videos, photographs, and personal papers of movement leaders. The archive will be constituted and maintained by professional archivists, and Pam’s close colleagues, including her husband, Jeff, are seeking funding to support this project, as well as donations of papers and suggestions of persons who should be interviewed about their participation in the movement.

Old First’s session voted at their last meeting to support this project with a donation from Old First of \$5,000 to the Presbyterian Historical Society, and you can be a part of this \$5,000 gift by making a donation to Old First Presbyterian Church and writing Pam Byers Memorial Archive. Pam was an active and beloved member and elder of Old First; she died in 2014.

Lori Yamauchi

Congratulations, Megan Sue Belefonte: New Director of Doris Krauss Senior Center

The Senior Center Commission is happy to announce that Megan Sue Belefonte will officially become Director of the Doris Krauss Senior Center effective October 1.

Megan Sue has been serving as interim director for the past three months. During that time she has shown a passion for seniors and initiated activities and programs into every Monday. Activities include bingo, jewelry making, watching art in motion, movies, discussions, and coloring/decorating. Programs have included travel videos and helpful information on how to live a fuller and healthier senior life. Entertainment has included singers, guitarists and the incredible sounds of Larry and Dan. A nurse is available for blood pressures and health concerns twice a month. In addition, hot luncheons have provided a healthy and tasty conclusion to every Monday experience.

If you are 65 or older and haven't discovered the Doris Krauss Senior Center on Monday mornings at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall of Old First, you are welcome. It is not your average senior center!!

OFPC Stewardship Pledge Drive 2017: Live Generously

1 Timothy 6:18-19, 2 Corinthians 8:9

The theme for the OFPC Stewardship Pledge Drive 2017 is Live Generously based upon 1 Timothy 6:18-19, "They are to do good. To be rich in good works, generous and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they can take hold of the life that really is life" and 2 Corinthians 8:9, "For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich."

Stewardship is very much about financial resources. Jesus spoke about it often, in parables, sermons and announcements. He spoke of material possessions, use of money and meeting the needs of the poor and generous giving. The act of giving is central to the Christian gospel. We give freely of ourselves in time, talents, prayer and money – which brings us into line with the early Christians to whom Paul said, "Whoever sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully... for God loves a cheerful giver."

Everything belongs to God. All that we are, all that we have, we received from God. We are the trustees and managers of that which we have received. Freely we have received, freely we give. We are God's bank account. In managing our finances we give to God first, that is generous, cheerful and systematic. The faithful steward says, "I will give a generous portion of my financial resources as an expression of gratitude and trust in God's promises. This is the main principle to faithful stewardship."

The month of November 2017 begins the Stewardship drive at Old First. November 5, 2017 marks the beginning of our drive. We will have speakers each Sunday on Minute for Stewardship addressing their faith, commitments to service and stewards of generous giving.

On November 26, 2017 we will join together to present our pledge cards at Old First. We prayerfully ask you to make a response. Your pledge will enable us to make robust plans for the coming year. This is a symbol of our individual and collective witness to Christ's presence in our lives and support of our ministry and our Church. Give generously and you will be rewarded abundantly.

The Stewardship Committee: John Kramar, Riley Kramar, Sarah Taber and Priscilla Yu

OFPC Mission Committee

The Mission Committee hopes to recruit ten (10) Old First volunteers for this year's event, to be held on Saturday, October 14th, beginning at 10am. We will package 10,000+ bags of nutritious dehydrated meals. The event will be at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 25 Lake Street at Arguello, along with their volunteers and those from the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown. Lunch will be provided.

Please let the Mary Russell know if you - and family and friends - can join in; it's a fun assembly-line process! Here's a link to the organization, Rise Against Hunger:

<http://www.riseagainsthunger.org/get-involved/host-a-meal-packaging-event/>

Please see Mary Russell at coffee hour (or email at maryrussell24@yahoo.com), if you'd like to participate; thanks!

Lavender Pen Tour

Erwin Barron and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (SFGMC) will embark on October 7 on a soul-affirming, life-changing journey! The Lavender Pen Tour will share SFGMC's mission of community, activism and compassion throughout the South, supporting our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters and promoting acceptance and love through music. We will be joined by the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir.

It is our hope that the music will encourage LGBTQ people and our allies to come together, provoke conversations and action around civil liberties for all, while raising funds for local LGBTQ organizations. It is our intention to have the tour fully underwritten so that all monies raised stay in the respective communities.

Erwin and the chorus leave for Jackson, Mississippi on October 7, then traveling for seven days on eight tour buses to Selma and Birmingham, Alabama; Knoxville, Tennessee; Greenville, South Carolina; and Charlotte, North Carolina. We will sing in large concert halls, but also meet in churches, schools, and state capitols wherever we go. In each city, we will have an interfaith religious service of inclusion.

Your prayers and donations are greatly appreciated. And Erwin thanks all of you have so generously supported his fundraising to underwrite his participation. You can find more information and follow the tour in livestream at LPT Splash Page.

August Session Meeting Report

Jeff Byers made a presentation covering the Pam Byers Memorial Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Collection to be housed at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia. Jeff answered questions and requested that Old First Church support the collection with a \$5000 contribution.

Potential intern, Elizabeth "Liz" Zupp was introduced and explained a bit about herself and her education and background. There were several questions and she answered openly.

There was some discussion about the annual meeting.

Stewardship announced the theme this year is "Live Generously." Stewardship month will be November and Commitment Sunday will be November 26.

Bill Campbell reported on the International Rescue Committee Vision Project and announced the Global Pace and Witness offering will be the first Sunday in October.

Linda Reyder reported that the Worship Committee was scheduling Advent planning and that a coffee hour opportunity to conceive prayers for peace was being implemented.

The treasurer and Finance Committee are looking for a new bookkeeper and asked for any recommendations.

Planning Elder, John Kramar moved that Old First take advantage of the opportunity to contribute and support the Pam Byers Memorial LGBTQ collection with a pledge of \$5000. Robin Carrier seconded and the motion passed.

Chris Burt reported that the Community Building Committee had been refining communication with external parties, increasing the internet footprint, getting new postcards in the pews, developing some recent history and considering additions to the digital directory.

It was confirmed that the next regular Session meeting will be on September 26.

Tom Culp, Clerk of Session

San Francisco Homeless Resources: Daytime Resting Places

Homeless folks and neighbors seeking safety and rest can sleep on the pews in the sanctuary of St. Boniface Church each weekday from 6 am to 3 pm or St. John the Evangelist Church in the Mission from 6 am to 12 pm. No questions are asked when our guests walk into the churches; in an effort to remove all barriers to entry, there are no sign-in sheets or intake forms. No one is ever turned away; all are welcomed, respected and treated with dignity. The spaces are all ADA accessible.

St. Boniface Church: 1133 Golden Gate (between Leavenworth & Jones), San Francisco, CA 94102, Phone: (415) 861-5848. Hours of operation: Monday – Friday 6 am – 3 pm.

St. John the Evangelist: 1661 15th St. (@ Julian near Valencia), San Francisco, CA 94103, Phone: (415) 861-5848, Hours of operation: Monday – Friday 6 am -12 pm.

“He Gives Nothing” by James Russell Lowell (1819-1891)



He gives nothing but worthless gold
Who gives from a sense of duty;
But he who gives a slender mite,
And gives to that which is out of sight,
That thread of the all-sustaining Beauty
Which runs through all and doth all unite,--
The hand cannot clasp the whole of his alms,
The heart outstretches its eager palms,
For a god goes with it and makes it store
To the soul that was starving in darkness before.

Prayers for Healing and Wholeness

- For Bart Crosby recovering from shoulder injury.
- For Jim Fagler contending with kidney stones.
- For Jim Lewallen in care at SF Health & Rehab, 1477 Grove Street, SF CA 94117.
- For Glen Potter following knee replacement.
- For Betty Voris recovering from a heart attack.
- For AnnieScott Rogers following knee replacement.

Prayers for Old First

- For those members who will attend the All-Church Retreat at Mt Hermon October 20-22.
- For those who will gather to worship at Old First on October 22 with guest preacher the Reverend Keenan Kelsey.

Old First Needs You! and a Friend or Two...

Interfaith Food Pantry and Saturday Community Dinner, October 28

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, October 28, as Old First will staff both the weekly Interfaith Food Pantry in the morning and the monthly Saturday Community Dinner in the afternoon/early evening.

- For more information about the food pantry, contact Dana Nojima.
- Volunteers for the Saturday Community Dinner are welcome from 4:30 pm on.

All Saints: Remember the Saints of Old First, November 5

On All Saints' Sunday, November 5, we will remember church members, friends and loved ones who have died since All Saint's Day last year. To include someone's name in the remembrance, please let Brad in the church office know the name of the person, your relationship (sister, brother, friend, etc.), and the date of death. Notify Brad by E-mail (brad@oldfirst.org), by phone (415-776-5552), or by mail (1751 Sacramento St/SF CA 94109) - no later than **Monday, October 30**.

Dates to Remember

October 1	Sunday	The Reverend Samuel Akhtar in Conversation, 12:30 pm
October 4	Wednesday	Mission Committee, 6:30 pm
October 8	Sunday	Deadline for November Issue of Shared Life Board of Deacons, 12:30 pm
October 17	Tuesday	Worship Committee, 7:00 pm
October 20-22	Friday-Sunday	All Church Retreat, Mt Hermon
October 24	Tuesday	Session Meeting, 7:00 pm
October 28	Saturday	OFPC hosts the Interfaith Food Pantry. Saturday Community Dinner, 5:30 pm.
October 29	Sunday	"Interpreting the Reformation" with Brad Peterson, 9:30 am

OFPC Church 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