
The Weekly RAG

For the United Ministries of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown and Donaldina Cameron House

Sunday, May 14, 2017

We welcome back to the pulpit Pastor Kimberly after two weeks away.

Happy Birthdays

May

Kimberly Elliot
Cuzamil Solis
Adam Lam
Desi Ng
Mildred Hall
Dave Chan
Justin Wong
Thompson S. Lee
Ernest Lew

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will meet MONDAY, MAY 22, 7PM in the Library. As we review the PW purpose, we want you to come share thoughts and ideas on how we carry out the purpose in all that we plan to do, looking into the future:

*Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:
To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
To support the mission of the church worldwide,
To work for justice and peace, and
To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.*

All women are welcome to participate in this time together while sipping tea and enjoying dessert! No RSVP required; but if you have questions, please contact Mildred at mildredhal@sbcglobal.net.

Homeless Supplies Needed

It's that time of the year when Deacons are replenishing items for the homeless. If you have: white tube socks (not too thick), backpacks, pop up can goods and granola bars, we'll gladly accept them. A large bin will be available at Tea Time for your donation.

Tea Time for May

The Deacons would like to give special thanks to the following people for taking the time to provide treats for Tea Time for everyone to enjoy.

5/14 Dayton & Mary Wong Leong
5/21 Monthly Birthday Cake; David Chan & Nancy Chee
5/28 Terry & Lianne Leong

If you're interested in providing treats, please sign up on bulletin board in social hall. If you'd like to make a monetary donation towards tea time, see Dayton Leong.

Our Theme & Readings

May

- 14 Acts 7: 55-60
Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2: 2-10
John 14: 1-14
- 21 Acts 17: 22-31
Psalm 66: 8-20
1 Peter 3: 13-22
John 14: 15-21

Koinonia Retreat

Save the Date for our Koinonia Retreat (formerly Memorial Day Weekend Retreat)!

Come join us for a weekend of fun, relaxation and community in the beautiful surroundings of Westminster Woods. We will be exploring this year's theme of "Plugging into What's Important: Disconnect to Connect" during the Memorial Day Weekend, May 26th-29th. For questions, information and registration, contact Diane Go (phone 650-992-1678) or email go_diane@yahoo.com.

Trouble hearing in Worship?

Some worshippers have trouble being fully engaged in worship because they can't hear everything clearly. If you have trouble hearing, try one of the Telex headsets from the box in the back row. If you're a reader, be sure to speak slowly with enough volume

Chinatown Rising Documentary Film Seeking Support

Harry Chuck and Josh Chuck are currently producing a documentary film, called 'Chinatown Rising.' Through interviews with activists on the frontlines of advocacy efforts, along with never-before-seen film footage captured by Harry throughout several decades, they tell the story of activism in 1960s and 70s San Francisco Chinatown. If you would like to watch a three-minute trailer, find out more about this important project, and how you can support, please visit:

<http://kck.st/2pCqaLP>

Also, checks can be written to 'Donaldina Cameron House' with 'Chinatown Rising' in the note section. Thanks!

Minute for Mission

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a struggling economy along with the deteriorating effects of time and tropical weather make even basic health care inaccessible to the vast majority of its citizens.

Presbyterian World Mission co-worker [Dr. Larry Sthreshley](#) is one of many people working to make health care more accessible in the region. He serves as Congo Country Director for [IMA World Health](#) and oversees the Access to Primary Health Care Project (ASSP), which provides basic health care to 10 percent of the health zones in the Congo. The aim is to better address care for ills such as malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea, malnutrition, obstetric and neonatal care, family planning and immunizations, along with water, hygiene and sanitation.

As a health liaison, Sthreshley assists with the development of the health ministries of churches and their role in the health system of Congo. He works to design and manage comprehensive health programs that work from the community level up through the ministry of health.

The ASSP project, funded through UK Aid, is so successful it was recently praised in a report to the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

“We are particularly impressed with the implementation of the ASSP program by IMA World Health,” the report said. “This program displays all of the major factors that we have identified in this inquiry as being important to successful aid projects in fragile and conflict-affected countries such as DRC—flexibility, a long-term focus with strong local partners, and resilience.”

Two other Presbyterian mission co-workers are working with health care in the Congo,

although not with IMA or the ASSP program. [Dr. John Fletcher](#) serves as a surgical consultant, treating patients and helping build capacity of medical staff in the eight hospitals of the Presbyterian Community of Congo hospitals. [Dr. Martha Sommers](#) is assigned to the Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai (IMCK) to assist in expanding and enhancing training of Congolese doctors in family medicine.

Inge Sthresley is also part of that ASSP team. She helps direct the nutrition program, which introduced a specially designed clean burning and fuel efficient stove that promises to reduce respiratory problems and lessen the impact on the environment.

In addition to the toll on the environment from deforestation, the smoke from the cook fires takes a toll on people's health, particularly women and children who are around the fires daily. The problem is even more exacerbated when the cooking is done inside the home, which is frequent. The smoke is a contributing factor to developing respiratory diseases such as pneumonia, which is responsible for 19 percent of the deaths in children under 5, outranking malaria and diarrhea as the top contributor to child mortality.

The [gasifier stove](#) is loaded with small pieces of wood that burn in a low-oxygen environment, igniting wood gases and thereby producing very little smoke once the fire gets going. The end product is charcoal or biochar that can then be used either to cook another meal or used as a soil amendment in fields and gardens.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a founding member of IMA World Health, a faith-based organization based in Washington, D.C. The organization's mission is to

build healthier communities by collaborating with key partners to serve vulnerable people. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a country roughly one-quarter the size of the United States that has been ravaged by conflict throughout its history. The havoc wrought by 32 years of dictatorship under Mobutu Sese Seko followed by multiple wars and continued pockets of militia fighting have kept this resource-rich country from developing its potential.