
The Weekly RAG

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

Sunday, July 23, 2017

Happy Birthdays

July

Dayton Leong
Nancy Chee
Jeanette Chan
Pansy Lew
Lolan Ho-Wong
Marcella Soohoo

End of Summer Service and CCU Closing Worship

Next Sunday, July 30, we will hold our worship service and tea time in the Cameron House Main Yard. We will celebrate with the many youth who participated in the Cameron House summer programs as well as honor the youth who played in CCU games. Since the worship service will be outside, depending on the weather, you might want to dress in layers, bring a hat and sunglasses, or whatever else will help you be comfortable.

Confirmation Class

Pastor Kimberly and Tad have begun teaching a confirmation class for our youth. In this class, the youth will learn more about what it means to be a Christian and a Presbyterian and at the end of the summer, those who are interested will officially join the church. Classes will go every week from 12:30 to 1:30 through August 20th.

College Bible Class begins this Fall

Have you ever wanted to take a real college Bible class? Now's your chance! City College of San Francisco is offering this fall semester a survey class called "The Bible as Literature." Community and church members are encouraged to

join the class. It will meet at 6:30pm on Wednesday nights beginning August 23 at the main CCSF campus on Ocean Avenue at Phe-len. The course will briefly cover all of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, studying them using historical-critical and academic methods. The instructor is Erwin Barron, PhD, a Presbyterian minister who is also a City College English professor. For city residents, beginning this fall, all City College classes are FREE! If you're interested or want to find out more information, brochures are available in the church office, or you can search for English 48K at the website, www.ccsf.edu.

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.

School Supplies Requested

In preparation for the school year, the Mission & Evangelism Committee is collecting school supplies for students who live in SRO housing. This year, we will be collecting for high-school students, whose needs are somewhat different from the supplies we provided in previous years for younger students.

On Sunday, July 23, we will be distributing tags for the school supplies we have been requested to provide. Please stop by and pick up at least one tag for this worthy cause. Make your purchases and bring them back on Sunday, July 30.

We will be sorting the school supplies into 205 separate bags on Sunday, August 6 after teatime. If you can help, please let a member of the Mission and Evangelism Committee know.

The bags will be distributed to 205 high school students who live in SRO housing, prior to the first day of school in August.

The M&E Committee thanks you for your generosity!

Tea Time for July/August

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.

7/23 Birthday Cake

7/30 Jeanine Lim & Greg Chan

8/6 Sabbath Sunday

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

23 Genesis 28: 10-19a

Isaiah 44: 6-8

Romans 8: 12-25

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

30 Genesis 29: 15-28

1 Kings 3: 5-12

Romans 8: 26-39

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

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

Minute for Mission

Just as robins are commonly recognized as harbingers of spring, "Pastor Robyn" is widely acknowledged in Fort Worth, Texas, as a harbinger of new beginnings — especially for the city's homeless men and women.

Pastor Robyn — who is better known as the Rev. Robyn Michalove, associate pastor of Mission and Family Ministries at [First Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth](#) — has long been the church's primary organizer behind the city's Project Homeless Connect. The event, which has been sponsored by the city since 2007 and held by First Presbyterian for the past six years, provides ways for the homeless to connect with social services and supportive help as they seek to move off the streets.

In 2018, the leadership of the event — which has been shared by the city and the church — will be transferred entirely to First Presbyterian with the city continuing as a partner.

"It is so amazing to see the church energized about this ministry," Michalove said of the mission, which garners tremendous volunteer support. "Our church members love this day — and not just our church, but other church communities come too. They love it because you're able to have a conversation with someone. You're able to see even small transformations right here on our campus. They're also proud to be members of a church that's open."

Held this year on April 27, Project Homeless Connect offered upwards of 450 homeless women and men the services of barbers, optometrists, physicians, veterinarians, social workers, potential employers and — new this year — municipal judges. Representatives of the Tarrant County Court worked with guests to do on-site reconciliations of past tickets in an arrest-free zone.

Also new this year was an on-site food handler license training class, which helped prepare one guest for his new job at Waffle House, which was recruiting at the event.

"One of our guests got a 40-hour-a-week, full-time, \$10-an-hour paying job as a result of the

connections he made here,” Michalove said. “That’s huge. It’s also very exciting. He just started coming to the Wednesday night Bible study that I teach at our [Community Crossroads Outreach Center](#).”

Michalove said that the event’s many volunteers — “who do everything from greeting guests when they arrive, to serving lunch, to giving directions, to handing out numbers for the haircut lines” — also do an evaluation at the end of each event.

“Volunteers sit down with our guests and look them in the eye and ask them what was the best thing about the day — ‘What would you like to see for next year?’” she said. “That’s meaningful for people because that’s the relational connection, not just a piece of paper necessarily.”

According to one of this year’s evaluations, a highlight of the event was the pet services. Many guests brought their animals for free on-site microchip placement, vouchers for spaying and neutering, food giveaways and on-site pet-sitting. Michalove estimated that up to 25 dogs attended the event with their owners.

“Just having a companion, someone to care for, means a lot to folks who maybe don’t have family and don’t have a place to direct that caring and compassion,” she said.

Another success story was the Women’s Boutique, which — similar in nature to the National [“Support the Girls”](#) campaign — offers bras and feminine hygiene products. Guests at the boutique were also invited to choose a special item from among scarves and jewelry, “things to make you feel better about yourself,” Michalove said.

The Women’s Boutique also benefited from the volunteer efforts of teenage church member Rebecca Galloway, who enlisted the Feminist Club at her school, Paschal High, to contribute to the event by conducting a drive for bras and feminine hygiene products.

“This is the kind of event that other churches could easily get involved with because it is part of a national movement,” Michalove said. “If you don’t have one, start one. That’s how we got

involved with the MLK Day of Service. I heard about it on the radio, saw that Tarrant County didn’t have one, and said, ‘We could totally do this!’ So now we have a big ecumenical MLK Day of Service. That’s how it works!”