
The Weekly RAG

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

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Today is our CCU Closing Worship and End of Summer Service.

Happy Birthdays

July

Lolan Ho-Wong
Marcella Soohoo

August

Alvin Yu
Sarah Chuck
Wayne Eng
Jeanette Huie
Cindy Lee Gong
David Miller
Karen Jin Soohoo
Lindsey Sid Quock

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.

Help With Chairs

Please help stack and put away chairs after teatime.

Ed Sue Event

Ed Sue will be at Cameron House on Saturday, August 5th 1:30 - 4:00 pm to talk about the mural he painted at entrance to Culbertson Hall and his thoughts about Chinatown from 1850 - 1950's.

Come and enjoy the occasion to catch up with Ed and meet old/new friends!

Good News for the Pews

The latest issue of Good News for the Pews is available on the PCC web site.

The quarterly newsletter is published by the English-speaking worshipping community with information for all in our worship family. If you know someone who is not on our email list and might like to learn more about us, please forward this message to them.

Here are some highlights:

- . The Koinonia Retreat with colorful photos
- . Can our small sanctuary fire lead to new things or even new life?
- . Do you know someone on the Presbyterian Mission Agency?
- . What is the most recent count of babies in the Mandarin Worshipping Community?
- . Find some links to music that inspires

You can read the newsletter at:

<http://www.pccsf.org/documents/201708PCCNewsletter.pdf>

If you don't have the link handy, you can always navigate to the What's New page at www.pccsf.org You'll find a link there.

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.

7/30 Jeanine Lim & Greg Chan

8/6 Sabbath Sunday

8/13 Eddie & Peggy Kam

8/20 Marie Chin & Jon Chan

8/27 Mark & Barbara Fong

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

- 30 Genesis 29: 15-28
1 Kings 3: 5-12
Romans 8: 26-39
Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52
- 6 Psalm 17: 1-7, 15
Isaiah 55: 1-5
Romans 9: 1-5
Matthew 14: 13-21

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.

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!

College Bible Class this Fall

City College of San Francisco is offering this fall semester a survey class called "The Bible as Literature." It will meet at 6:30pm on Wednesday nights beginning August 23 at the main CCSF campus on Ocean Avenue at Phelen. The instructor is Erwin Barron, PhD, a Presbyterian minister who is also a City College English professor. 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.

Minute for Mission

When I retired from teaching in an inner-city high school in Fresno, California, I thought I was done with the local school district.

Twenty-one years as a teacher was enough for me. My retirement plan was to move to San Francisco and get a job with a nonprofit. But I could not get a job. I returned to Fresno and was at loose ends. What did I want to do with the rest of my life? More importantly, what did God want me to do with the rest of my life?

At lunch at a local church, I sat with a man who was a chaplain in a neighboring school district. I was intrigued by what he did and wondered if my local district had such a program. The chaplain worked at a school, offering care and comfort to students and staff, and he also worked with first-graders to build resiliency. He said he thought I would be very good at this, but I laughed. I loved the concept of social-emotional education and believed someone should be doing it, but not me.

Then I saw a notice about the Fresno Police Department Chaplaincy working with the Fresno Unified School District, the district where I had taught for 21 years. Again, I thought it was a good idea — for someone else. Then another notice caught my attention, only this time I saw the words "school chaplain." My interest was piqued.

I read that there were chaplains in Fresno schools and a need for more. I could hear God prompting me to send in the application. I really didn't expect to hear back. As an older worker, I'd been discouraged by my attempts in San Francisco to find a meaningful position.

But I went forward and filled out a 29-page application and met with some of the folks. Then silence.

"Lord," I prayed, "if this is what you want me to do, then you will make it happen; otherwise, fine."

But then, the office that does all of the background checks got a rush call for three chaplains. Within two weeks I had my ID, my uniform and an assignment. I am now officially a

Fresno Police Department School Resource
Chaplain assigned to Columbia Elementary
School in Fresno.

Two days a week I work with first-graders at an inner-city elementary school. I eat lunch with them, join them on the playground and read them stories in their classrooms to help them make better decisions as they continue through school. Although the lunches throughout the school district are free due to the high incidence of poverty, the first-graders were not eating the vegetables and were throwing most of their lunch in the garbage. I was so disappointed to see good food going to waste.

The school where I am chaplain sits in a food desert, with only one grocery store for the whole ZIP code area. I set out to convince the students how important it is to eat their fruits and vegetables. I started buying a school lunch each day that I was on campus, and I would sit with the first-graders and eat my lunch, talking about the various foods and what they did for our bodies.

The food, I found, was tasty! I started telling my friends about this and they wanted to see the lunches. I would take pictures of them and post them to Instagram. After a couple of weeks, more students were eating the vegetables and showing me that they had eaten them. They have written thank-you letters and mention how I want them to eat better.

Even though I'm retired, I have experience, energy and knowledge that should not be ignored but rather put to work in communities. God is still using me and my faith for important work