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# The Weekly RAG

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

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## Sunday, October 29, 2017

We welcome to the pulpit today Norman Fong. We are commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

## Happy Birthdays October

Whitney Lauren Chan  
Timothy Riki Go  
Tad Hopp  
Linda Lee  
Bryce James Linden  
Carl Jew  
Jacqueline Lim  
Kimberly Ann Tom  
Benson Toy  
Harriet Hall  
Doreen Der-McLeod  
Ian Jacob Chan  
Jonathan SooHoo  
Aleisha Grace Lew  
Keith Choy

## PCC Annual Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, November 5, PCC will have its annual Tri-Lingual Congregational Meeting. The meeting will begin at 11:30 after a shortened worship service. We will elect officers and approve the terms of call for all 3 worshipping communities. Please make plans to attend. Also, Communion will be served on November 12th instead of November 5th.

## Cameron House Guild Farewell

All are Invited! Please come to the Cameron House Guild Farewell. Celebrating 50 years of Service.  
Monday October 30, 2017

11:30 AM Welcome, Registration and Sign in  
11:45 AM Lunch : Chinese Food  
12:30. PM. Speakers: Doreen, Shar and Mary

Cost of lunch: \$15.00.

Payable to: Cameron House Guild.

Checks to Pat Chan

Questions? See or speak to Pat Chan or Mildred Hall

## 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:

- . Introducing the Adaptive Leadership experience supported by our Presbytery
- . CCU Sports Wrap-Up
- . Cantonese Worshipping Community's Annual Retreat
- . Welcome new members!
- . Rise Against Hunger

You can read the newsletter at:

<http://www.pccsf.org/documents/201711PCCNewsletter.pdf>

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

## Light the Night

Light the Night, a ministry of Cameron House, is open to the public every 3rd Sunday at 2pm at Cameron House.

- 11/19

- 12/24

We are also looking for clean socks, beanies, mittens or monetary donations for snacks as well. To donate or sign up or for more info, contact: [lightthenightCH@gmail.com](mailto:lightthenightCH@gmail.com) for more info.

## Reformation Sunday

This year Presbyterians celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses. The theses, which criticized the sale of indulgences by church officials, are considered the opening salvo in the Protestant Reformation—a movement that emphasized individual relationships with God and salvation through faith alone.

Luther is also celebrated for a second piece of writing: his translation of the Bible into German. After Pope Leo X excommunicated Luther in 1521, the reformer took refuge inside Wartburg Castle. There he completed his translation of the New Testament, based on Erasmus's 1516 Bible text. First printed in September 1522, the "September Testament" does not include Luther's name on the title page, an elision meant to limit church reprisals.

The Old Testament translation proved more difficult, owing in part to Luther's struggles with Hebrew and his insistence that the text be accessible to all Germans. "The translator must not be led by the Hebrew words," Luther wrote. "He should make sure that he really understands the sense and ask himself: 'What would the German say in such-and-such an instance?'" His editorial philosophy required inventive interpolations. For example, he replaced the word "chameleon," which would have been unknown to sixteenth century Germans, with "weasel."

It took Luther and a team of fellow scholars twelve years to translate the Old Testament, which was printed in 1534 together with Luther's New

Testament. Despite criticism for the way he valued certain books of the Bible over others and for editing passages to fit his own theology, Luther's Bible was an immediate and lasting success; one Wittenberg publisher alone printed 100,000 copies between 1534 and 1574. Many Germans regarded it as a work of literary genius, the way English readers would revere the King James Bible in the century to come.

Parallel to events in Germany, a movement began in Switzerland under the leadership of Ulrich Zwingli. These two movements quickly agreed on most issues, but some unresolved differences kept them separate. Some followers of Zwingli believed that the Reformation was too conservative, and moved independently toward more radical positions

After this first stage of the Reformation, following the excommunication of Luther and condemnation of the Reformation by the Pope, the work and writings of John Calvin were influential in establishing a loose consensus among various groups in Switzerland, Scotland, Hungary, Germany and elsewhere.

## Online Giving

Some great news for our congregation. You can now make a gift online to support your church community! Click on the "Give Now" button at the bottom of the PCC home page [www.pccsf.org](http://www.pccsf.org) or go directly to the donate page:

<https://www.presbyterianmissionexchange.org/dash-board/make-a-grant?orgId=312d1f8e-74e3-4990-b51d-44decf0d7c44> You select how you would like your gift to be made and which worshipping community you would like it to go toward. You can add a note if you want to dedicate the gift to someone special. For questions about how to give, see Tad Hopp. For questions about your gift, see Dave Soohoo or Winchell Quock.

## Tea Time for October/November

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.

10/29 those who made donations toward refreshments to share

11/5 Annie & Peter Wong

11/12 Sabbath Sunday

11/19 Doug Clark, Luke Lyu & Diane Go

If you're interested in providing treats, please sign up with Mary Wong Leong. If you'd like to make a monetary donation towards tea time, see Dayton Leong. We also are in need of volunteers to help clean up after Tea Time. If you are available to help, please stay after Tea Time.

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## Our Theme & Readings

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### October

29 Deuteronomy 34: 1-12

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18

1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

Matthew 22: 34-46

### November

5 Joshua 3: 7-17

Micah 3: 5-12

1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13

Matthew 23: 1-12

## Minute for Mission

When I ask women church leaders in Africa about important issues, the need for women to be able to support their families always comes up first. Closely tied to this concern is the need for education, as it is the surest way for people to be able to get ahead. Education can take on many forms at different ages and stages.

Primary and secondary schools are operated by most of World Mission's partner churches in Africa. One area of concern of the women's leadership in many churches is the ratio of male to female high school graduates. Church partners see a fairly even number of boys and girls entering school, but only half as many girls graduating from high school. In

the near future, partner churches will be working on some creative ways to keep girls in school. IMA World Health, SANRU (a rural health organization) and local medical staff have been working in tense situations. Personnel have had to be evacuated from various towns numerous times and have had to negotiate travel through areas held by either militia or government forces to get supplies to health facilities. Vehicles from the Access to Primary Health Care project have been carjacked four times recently. (All have been recovered.)

Community schools were developed as an outreach ministry when congregations noticed orphaned or vulnerable children of school age who were not in school in their communities. At present, there are 30 community schools of the Zambia Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian.

Higher education is also considered critical for the future of the church and the country. Many partner churches have or are in the process of opening universities in response to the growing need for higher education. In the countries in which I work — Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia — only about 32 percent to 40 percent of the universities' students are women, and the gender difference is even greater in theological education. The Women's Department of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus has started an initiative to support more women in theological training. Each woman in the church is asked to contribute 8 birr (34 cents) to support the theological education of women. Currently, 32 young women are in school thanks to these contributions.

World Mission partner churches have found many creative ways to work toward making education attainable. They are seeking God's guidance in facilitating the way for more women and men to receive the education that is their right and their hope.