
The Weekly RAG

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

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Today is the Second Sunday after Christmas. It is also Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord Sunday. We will be baptizing and confirming Max Hum in worship.

Please stay after worship for an update from the Adaptive Leadership Team about what they have been up to the last few months.

Also, if you're available to stay after Tea Time and help put away the Christmas decorations, please do.

Happy Birthdays

January

Sabrina Shin
Jonathan Tracy Huey
Jeannette Tam
Clinton Huey
Nelson Ng
Sharlene Hall
Jerrick Woo
May Ho
Joel Lym
Rene Fong
Jean Chin
Samuel Kao
Richard Jann
Alisa Ho
Tony Tam
Irene Ng
Corinthia Tong
Laurene Chan

The Adaptive Leadership

Adventure

The English Commission has decided to participate in an educational discernment process that will be sponsored by our Presbytery. The process is being led by two Presbyterian Pastors--Rev.

Jim Kitchens and Rev. Deborah Wright, who have formed an organization called "PneuMatrix". PneuMatrix's goal is to help churches adapt to changes that are taking place in many Christian arenas so that they can respond more effectively to God's call.

San Francisco Presbytery has agreed to work with PneuMatrix for one year and PCC was approached by one of the leaders to participate in this program.

Some highlights of this program are:

-Eight churches are participating together for one year

-Each church has its own Adaptive Leadership team of eight to ten members, including two active elders.

-Each team is being led by one of the PneuMatrix consultants and will meet once a month except for Christmas and Easter for a total of ten meetings. The first and last meetings are being held with the other church teams.

-The team is reading the book "**Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory**" by Tod Bolsinger. **Anyone who is interested is also encouraged to read the book along with the team.**

-There will be three phases to this process. The first phase lasts over 3 months and includes learning what the concept of Adaptive Change are all about. This phase is structured to allow sufficient time for reflection and discernment about the life of our congregation.

-We will be receiving more information concerning the content of the middle and last phases but we anticipate that we will be able to generate some concrete goals to share with and to consider together in our Worshipping Community.

The initial launch and orientation happened on September 6th

Our English Worshipping Community team members include Ed Chin, Eddie Kam, Josh Chuck, Mark Fong, Norma Chan, Rachel Wong,

Sing Quan, Pastor Kimberly Elliot, and Diane Go. Our consultant is Jim Kitchens. So far, we have had meetings as follows: September 6th (Launch meeting), October 22nd, November 13th.

The cost for the program is \$1,000, which includes having Rev. Kitchens and Rev. Wright available for consultation during the second year after completion of the ten sessions. Please join us for our update on January 7th during Sabbath Sunday lunch. Please continue to be in prayer for our team.

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. 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 January

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.

1/7 Sabbath Sunday

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.

Our Theme & Readings

January

- 7 Genesis 1: 1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19: 1-7
Mark 1: 4-11
- 14 1 Samuel 3: 1-10
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6: 12-20
John 1: 43-51

Minute for Mission

The heads of Christian churches in Zimbabwe issued a pastoral message to the nation in November, urging calm, prayer and national dialogue. The ecumenical statement was released just hours after four armored personnel carriers rolled into Zimbabwe's capital, Harare, and military officers reportedly seized control of the state broadcaster and placed 93-year-old President Robert Mugabe under house arrest.

Most observers characterized the events as a coup d'état, though the military denied taking power — perhaps in part to forestall intervention by the African Union, whose members are committed to preventing unconstitutional changes of regime.

The church leaders saw the events as a “moment of truth” heralding “a new chapter in the history of our nation.”

“We see the current arrangement as an opportunity for the birth of a new nation,” the statement reads. “Our God created everything out of chaos and we believe something new could emerge out of our situation.”

However, the statement warns that a favorable outcome would depend on properly identifying the source of Zimbabwe's political malaise. The statement attributes it to a loss of trust in the legitimacy of national institutions and a lack of sufficient separation among the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

The clerics' statement does not blame politicians alone for these failings but argues that all sectors were accountable.

"All of us at some point failed to play our roles adequately," the statement says. "The church has lost its prophetic urge driven by personality cults and superstitious approaches to socio-economic and political challenges. Civil society over time has become focused on survival and competition and lost the bigger picture of the total emancipation of the population."

In response, the church leaders have called Zimbabwe "to a moment of prayer for repentance, deep reflection and ... collective and individual discernment on what should be the next direction for us as a nation." The statement urges people to remain calm, and reminded the Zimbabwe Defense Forces of their responsibility to ensure respect for human rights and dignity.

The statement also cites the need for the establishment of "a transitional government of national unity that will oversee the smooth transition to a free and fair election." At the same time, the denominational leaders said there was a need for a "National Envisioning Process (NEP) that will capture the aspirations of all the sectors of society."

"The church alongside other stakeholders in the private sector, academia, and other spheres can establish this NEP as an inclusive space to enable Zimbabweans from all walks of life to contribute towards a democratic transition to the 'Zimbabwe We Want,'" the leaders recommend. "God has put the church in the nation so that it can be a conduit for the healing of the nation," the statement concludes. "We can either take the current situation as a mere crisis to be resolved by a winner-takes-all mentality or we use this as an opportunity for us to find one another to build something that is permanently healing for our nation. The first option spells disaster for us and future generations. The second option allows us to embrace our situation as a Kairos, an opportunity given to us by God to dream together that another Zimbabwe is possible!"

Tens of thousands of Zimbabweans took to the streets last fall to demand that Mugabe step down after 37 years in power. The following day, the ruling party, ZANU-PF, voted to remove Mugabe as its leader, replacing him with former Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa. According to Jacob Mudenda, Zimbabwe's Speaker of Parliament, Mugabe resigned Nov. 21, shortly after lawmakers initiated impeachment proceedings.

Cautious optimism has been tempered by uncertainty about the military's role. It is unknown if the military will act impartially to facilitate national dialogue and democratic elections, promote a particular candidate or secure a lasting influence over government and policy.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) global partners in Zimbabwe — the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa Presbytery of Zimbabwe and the Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian Harare Synod — have invited Presbyterians in the U.S. to join Zimbabwe's ecumenical leaders in praying for justice, peace and inclusive democracy.