
The Weekly RAG

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

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Today is Palm Sunday.

Happy Birthdays

March

Jeffrey Go
Joshua Hee
Marie Chin
Kathy Lee
Naomi Chun
Ryan Kam
Ruth Wu
Addison Kam
Claudia Sun
Neal Fong
Allison Lew
Caitlin Gong

A Very Special Offering

Share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world through One Great Hour of Sharing! This ecumenical effort provides relief to those affected by natural disasters, food for the hungry, and helps to empower the poor and oppressed. We will be taking collections on Palm Sunday and Easter. You can also donate online via pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/OG999999/ or give by phone by calling 800-872-3283. Please give generously.

Easter Lilies

If you'd like to purchase an Easter lily in memory of or in honor of someone, please bring cash or a check made out to PCC and give to Dave Miller. Lillies are \$10 each. Deadline to order lilies is March 26th.

Food Pantry needs

We need some clean and washed plastic containers for our pantry:

we can use any sizes : i.e., yogurt , sour cream, cottage cheese, soups and take out containers from the deli.

Easter Pancake Breakfast

The Chinatown YMCA is once again sponsoring an Easter Breakfast. Tell them you're with PCC and you'll get in for just \$10. Breakfast starts at 8 AM.

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday: We will be joining Seventh Avenue PC for their Maundy Thursday service. All are welcome to attend. The service starts at 7:30. Seventh Avenue is located at 1329 Seventh Avenue in the Sunset neighborhood of SF.
Good Friday: The Friday night club will be having their annual Good Friday service. Starts at 7:30 PM at PCC.

Easter Sunday: We will have a special Easter worship service at 10:45 AM with special music. Come and bring a friend!

Tea Time for March/April

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.

3/25 Doreen & Bruce Der-McLeod

4/1 Easter Sunday Teatime

4/8 Sabbath Sunday

If you're interested in providing treats, please sign up with Mary Wong Leong or on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. 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.

Lectionary Readings

March

25 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

Mark 11: 1-11

April

Acts 10: 34-43

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

John 20: 1-18

Minute for Mission

As a mission co-worker and cultural worker in the Philippines, sometimes I am utterly exhausted. There are periods that require quite a bit of travel related to meetings and theater-based trainings for children, youth, church workers, teachers, women and others. When I am in Dumaguete, days sometimes stretch into late evenings for rehearsals with our youth theater group or with Silliman University Divinity School students preparing for the annual church workers convocation. So a few years ago, when asked by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program if my husband, Cobbie, and I would consider reopening the Philippines YAV service site, we pondered, could we? Should we? Could we say no? Other considerations were also swirling in my mind then. How would North American volunteers, mostly coming out of universities, deal with the grinding realities of living in the Philippines? During the program's mutual-discernment process where I would interview prospective applicants, I sometimes felt like a casting director for the game show series Fear Factor. Can you deal with pesky mosquitoes, humongous cockroaches, armies of ants and other critters? Will you try a taste of exotic fruits like durian or the duck's egg delicacy called balut? What about prolonged periods of scorching heat and humidity? Bucket baths and spartan toilets? Frequent brownouts and, the potential deal breaker, weak or nil internet connections? The list goes on. The inclination to say no, however, began to shift to a yes as I got to know individuals who had been nurtured by a year of service in the Philippines — people like Jed Koball, who is

now a PC(USA) mission co-worker in Peru, and Richard Williams, coordinator of the PC(USA)'s Young Adult Volunteer program.

Cynthia Rigby and William "Bill" Greenway arrived in Manila in the summer of 1989 as the first yearlong volunteers sent by Princeton Theological Seminary with blessings from the PC(USA) to serve alongside the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP). The overall goal of the program, which was called Volunteers in Mission at that time, was for young people to develop a firsthand understanding of the church's ministry in the Philippines; then, upon returning home, they would be able to clearly and accurately communicate realities in the Philippines with their congregations. After two weeks of orientation, they moved to Cagayan de Oro in Mindanao, where the UCCP assigned them as assistant pastors. They also participated in Muslim/Christian dialogues in various parts of Mindanao.

Both Cynthia and Bill are now on the faculty of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

About his experience as a volunteer in the Philippines, Bill shares, "Now, many years later, I can say my year in the Philippines was among the happiest and most profound and formative years of my life. It is fair to say that my experience in the Philippines has and continues to inform every aspect of my teaching, writing and understanding, and that in such a way the goals of those coordinating the UCCP program definitely have been, and continue to be, fulfilled."

I could not turn away from the opportunity to be part of such an important ministry. How can one say no to a program that is proving to be transformative and instrumental in creating a new generation of leaders for the church and our communities?

Thus, here I am now, deeply involved as the Philippines site coordinator of the PC(USA)'s YAV program, fully committed to the knowledge and hope that lives are changed and leaders are made through the experience of international volunteer work.