
The Weekly RAG

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

Sunday, May 13, 2018

Today is the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

Happy Birthdays

May

Kimberly Elliot
Adam Lam
Desi Ng
Mildred Hall
David Chan
Justin Wong
Heidi Wong
Pamela Jang
Stuart Go
Lianne Leong
Pauline Hee

Norman Fong to receive Distinguished Alumni Award

Rev. [Norman Fong](#) will be awarded the San Francisco Theological Seminary Distinguished Alumni Award of 2018 during the Commencement Exercises

Commencement Exercises

Saturday, May 19, 2018 • 9:30 am

First Presbyterian Church
72 Kensington Road
San Anselmo, California

Dear family & friends,

I've been selected to be the 2018 Distinguished Alumni of San Francisco Theological Seminary where I got my "Masters of Divinity" to become a minister of the Presbytery of San Francisco. It is a real honor for me to be recognized by the church for my work in the world. If you're busy, please don't bother but if you're free, come as I share this honor with so many of you, my colleagues & friends in community & the church.

Regional Presbytery Gathering

Our next gathering of the Western Region of the Presbytery will be held on Wednesday, May 30th at Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church in SF. The gathering will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Dinner will be provided but we ask for a \$5 donation to cover it.

Please RSVP by May 25th to office@sflppchurch.org or by calling (415) 751-1140.

Do you have a passion you are willing to work on? Join us as we form working groups based on regional passions. Groups will develop projects/programs to implement.

Some regional funds will be used to support these projects/programs.

If you are unable to attend, let us know what your passion is so that we can add your name to one of the groups being organized.

Living Water World Missions

Mission and Evangelism organized a mission team to install a clean water system in Guatemala with Living Water World Missions (LLWWM) in 2015. We had a wonderful experience working with the project leaders and the people of San Marcos, Guatemala. This year LLWWM seeks to raise funds to continue their work to provide clean water. Mission and Evangelism asks church members to Celebrate Mother's Day by donating to LLWWM.

Set aside the money that you would spend on beverages other than water from May 1st until Mother's Day May 13th, and donate that money to Living Water World Missions

Or make a donation of any amount that God leads you to give in honor of all of our mothers.

Please write checks payable to PCC with LLWWM on the memo line. M&E will collect this offering on Sunday May 13, 2018

PCC Crafting Day

Calling all crafters and interested bodies!

Needing some way to unwind this Memorial Day weekend. Want to serve and play?

Then join us for an afternoon of crafting at PCC Saturday, May 26th from 2:00 to 5:00 in Fellowship Hall.

Activities we plan to have are rubber stamping, card making, origami folding, bearing and jewelry making, coloring, ladder yarn necklace making (crocheting), and board games for those who don't craft but want to hang out with us.

We will have snacks during the afternoon.

If you are interested in coming, please RSVP to Diane Go by Sunday, May 20th.

Please also contact Susie Wong if you are interested in helping with Food Pantry as well on the 26th.

Doors Open

Join us on June 23rd for a special musical presentation in our Fellowship Hall. We will be presenting Doors Open, an original musical written by Mark Teagle of Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose. The show is about coming out, the LGBTQ Christian experience and coming out as an Asian person. There will be a pre-show reception at 6:30 with the show to follow at 7. The show is powerful, provocative and relevant and will be a good alternative to the other festivities happening during Pride weekend. Make plans to join us.

Tea Time for May/June

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.

5/13 David Chan

5/20 Marie Chin & Birthday Cake

5/27 Jojo & Jerrick Woo

6/2 Sabbath Sunday

If you're interested in providing treats, please sign up with Mary Wong Leong or on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to make a monetary donation towards tea time, see Dayton Leong.

Lectionary Readings

May

13

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5: 9-13

John 17: 6-19

20

Acts 2: 1-21

Psalm 104: 24-34

Romans 8: 22-27

John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15

Women's Fellowship

Meeting Monday, May 21 at Cameron House. Please rsvp to Mary Wong Leong for dinner. Dinner at 6:30, Program at 7:30.

We will continue our Bible study "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews" with lesson #8 - Community in the Household of Faith. If you don't have the study guide you can read Hebrews 3: 1-6, and 13: 1-6. Even if you've not come to earlier lessons, this study will engage you in discussion of what it means to be God's faithful community as a household.

Minute for Mission

Off the grid, nonexistent, outcasts. Those are some of the words used to describe a tribal group in southern India struggling to survive with little food, no homes and little opportunity for improvement.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) recently traveled to the country to assess how the people are living after years of struggle following the 2005 tsunami. The government of India has no records on the tribe. The group travels from community to community, working fields and taking what little they can get, moving on to the next community and opportunity.

Luke Asikoye, PDA's associate for international response, says many of the group's problems stem from the fact that they have no place to call home. "These people have no bedding and are sleeping on the dirt floors. They are the outcasts of outcasts," said Asikoye. "But despite their extreme poverty, they shared with us what they had. There is a high illiteracy rate among the tribes, and they have no

hope of breaking that chain unless they are able to settle somewhere.”

Asikoye says the children don't go to school because they don't stay in one place long enough to find one. “We are dealing with a group that is living way below the caste system. They live as scavengers,” said Asikoye. “They don't own anything and move from place to place, working the fields. They collect leftovers of food that people give them and they also have no documentation.”

PDA's partners are working with the tribal group in hopes of providing them with opportunities to build homes and form a community.

“We're working on a housing project that would allow them to settle down and hopefully, send their children to school,” said Asikoye. “The continuous travel with little or no money, clothes or food has left the children malnourished because they are not eating properly.”

Part of the ongoing strategy includes providing entrepreneurial opportunities for the people.

“PDA supports the region's efforts to build new homes, with hopes it will lead to providing a livelihood for people. For instance, we are working to train them to make their own bricks versus buying them,” said Asikoye. “We're also working to bring groups together to learn how to be contractors or buy tools and supplies like scaffolding and rent it out for income.”

Asikoye says the Indian government is trying to help by providing water to encourage them to grow food. PDA partners are also working to provide documentation for the people.

“The women marry at very young age. I saw women, 17 years of age, who were already married and had children. The system is not working with them,” said Asikoye. “If you are born in a particular caste system, you have no hope of getting out of it unless you leave the country. We are trying to empower people to get an education and seek a better life. They are very depressed and have accepted this as their fate.”

PDA is working with its partners on housing opportunities and a watershed development program. As part of disaster risk reduction, partners are working to encourage people to leave homes built in

flood areas and build new homes on higher ground. Infrastructure development and maintenance are part of the plan. Low-level areas have been raised and drainage repairs are being made, which will help to stop the flooding of villages and provide an agricultural water supply. In addition, work continues to help the Indian government establish records for tribal members.