
The Weekly RAG

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

Sunday, September 2, 2018

Happy Birthdays

September

Cynthia Joe
Liane Chan
Winchell Quock
Siu Ying Fong
Frances Ma-Siu Ping Low
Alton Chinn
Alena Wong-Ja
Ann Hotta
Kevin Toy
Lena Ami Chinn

Upcoming...

September 1 - Crafts Day
September 2 - Communion
September 9 - Pastor Kimberly's last worship with us followed by Sabbath Sunday lunch.
September 15 - DINKS & SINKS Toy Packing for Philippines
September 16 - Sermon and tea time presentation by Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta
September 22 - PW Horizons Bible Study at SFTS
October 7 - World-Wide Communion
October 27 - Women's Fellowship Retreat
November 4 - All Church Congregational Meeting

DINKS & SINKS

The DINKS & SINKS (Double Income No Kids/Single Income No Kids) will gather on Sat. Sept. 15, 2018 to pack boxes and send them off in time to reach the Philippines before Christmas. If you are available, please join the group in packing and dinner. They will begin at 4:45-5:00PM for sorting and packing. Ask Eunice or Gilbert for the address. They plan to have dinner out after 6:00PM and if you plan on attending, please RSVP so they can have a count of how many for dinner reservations. Afterwards, the group will return back to Eunice and Gilbert's for coffee, tea and dessert. Let's make it a potluck dessert. For more information or to RSVP, speak to Nancy Chee or Gilbert Lee.

Rides Needed

Cameron House Friday Night Club Members would appreciate a ride home if you are available to drive. Please contact Anson Ho if you are willing to volunteer.

Save the Date

Women's Fellowship Retreat will be on October 27, 2018. Mark your calendars and make plans to be there.

Tea Time for September

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.

9/2 Cindy Joe

9/9 Sabbath Sunday Lunch provided in honor of Pastor Kimberly's last Sunday

9/16 Mary & Dayton Leong

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

September

2

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9

James 1: 17-27

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

9

Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Isaiah 35: 4-7a

James 2: 1-10, 14-17

Mark 7: 24-37

Online Giving

Scan this to give on-line



Minute for Mission

It is simply inconceivable to the hardy band of Presbyterians who are the Presbyterian Mission in Camagüey that a denomination — whether it be the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba (IPRC) or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) — would close a church because it is too small. Though they are a small group of less than 25 in a large city — Camagüey is Cuba's third largest city, with a population of some 300,000 — the members of the Presbyterian Mission here consider their ministry vital.

The mission started in 1995 or 1996 — members aren't entirely sure — and has persisted in a city that is dominated by many large Roman Catholic churches. "We are special because of the attention we pay to each other," said Elier Perez, who joined the mission recently. "Most of the people live right here in the neighborhood, and so we are very connected to each other."

Though the mission has no pastor, it does not lack for leadership. Kenie Suarez, a professor of architecture at the local

university, and Reinier Rodriguez, who works for Camagüey's department of history, are a married couple who found the Camagüey Mission while they both worked at the university. Suarez grew up Methodist and Rodriguez Roman Catholic.

They have been part of the mission for six months, after trying the Episcopal church in town.

"We changed because of the Presbyterian form of government," Rodriguez said. "The Episcopal Church is a little closed, and we both wanted to pursue some theological studies and work." Rodriguez has been encouraged by the Rev. Edelberto Valdes, IPRC general secretary, to enroll in extension courses offered by the Evangelical Theological Seminary at Matanzas (the IPRC's seminary) to prepare for pastoral ministry.

"I *am* interested in becoming a pastor," Rodriguez said. In the meantime, he and Suarez help provide leadership for the Camagüey Mission. Services are held in a small room on a narrow neighborhood street, where the congregation has to compete with loud buses, motorcycles, yelling, talking, laughter and the clip-clop of horses pulling carts.

"[Worship] here is a special moment," Valdes said, "but it is not separated from real life."

Services are held regularly on Sunday mornings, usually on Friday evenings, and "whenever we feel the need," Suarez said. The service for a visiting delegation from the PC(USA) took place on a Tuesday at 4 p.m., with most of the mission's members present. The service included the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Worship and mission "on demand" seems to be a hallmark of the Presbyterian Mission in Camagüey. "We need to grow in faith and members," says one member, echoing sentiments voiced by many PC(USA) Presbyterians. "We don't want to be satisfied by what we have now."