



Good News for the Pews

November 1, 2016

A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

Issue No. 9

My CREDO Experience

by Pastor Kimberly

As many of you know, I had the opportunity to attend a CREDO conference the first week of October. For those of you who may not know, CREDO is a conference that is sponsored by the Board of Pensions of the PC (USA). To be eligible, you have to be a Presbyterian Pastor serving in a parish setting, be between the ages of 30-55, and have served in your setting for a minimum of three years. The conference is by invitation only and if you turn them down when your invitation comes, you will not be invited again. Each pastor is only required to pay \$500 of the costs out of their continuing education budget. The Board of Pensions generously takes care of the rest. There are four different sites across the country which are used for the conference (and you are required to choose one that is at least 500 miles from your ministry setting). The conference I attended was at Ferncliff Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock, Arkansas.



The Latin word *Credo* can be translated as “I believe’ but it also has a much deeper meaning, which is ‘a listening heart’. We were encouraged to listen for God’s voice with our heart and mind and spirit through the various conference activities. While that may sound a bit contemplative, we actually kept a pretty tight schedule. Our first session started at 8:30 am sharp every morning and evening sessions concluded by 8:00 or 8:30 pm. We were told that the parts of the schedule labeled ‘personal time’ were not to be confused with free time, but instead were opportunities to do the homework and reflection questions that had been given in plenary sessions that day. They were also times to attend optional workshops or schedule one- on-one consultation sessions with faculty.

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My CREDO Experience *(continued from page 1)*

My companions on the journey were other Presbyterian pastors in a variety of parish settings from all across the country (including two from Florida who had to cut their week short to fly back to be with loved ones due to the impending hurricane). Some were solo pastors, or associate pastors or heads of staff of large churches. Even with all these different settings of ministry, all of us were dealing with similar challenges, including shifts in membership or worship attendance. There just seems to be something ‘in the water’ so to speak in terms of mainline churches today (of all denominations, according to statistics). People do not have the same eagerness to join a church as they used to. This is part of the changing tide of Christendom that we all face.



CREDO did not seek to ‘fix’ this challenge, but rather to give us tools for sustainability in ministry despite modern challenges, as well as eyes to see the hand of God at work in spite of changing tides. How do we celebrate and value what *is* working in our churches (i.e. ‘appreciative inquiry’) as we affirm that ‘God is not dead’, but still very much alive in our midst?

While at CREDO, I had the opportunity to pray a prayer of gratitude for each of our members and for all the ministries of our church. Here are a few highlights from those prayers: I am very proud of our Food Pantry – which is newly underway. This is a concrete way for us to serve the community of Chinatown and it provides opportunities for others to be involved. We helped sponsor an important educational event called ‘The Muslim Next Door’ to seek to address the concern of Islamophobia. There was good attendance for the intergenerational movie event ‘God Is Not Dead 2’ in late September. The week long camp for Cameron House youth in August was vibrant and full of rich, soulful conversations as we explored the theme ‘Unplugged, Connecting to What Matters’. While attendance may be small, we do have a committed group of youth attending High School Fellowship each week and a faithful group of young adults attending fellowship once a month. It was a pleasure to connect with them in Scott and Susie’s living room in September. And I prayed a prayer of gratitude for each of you and your faithfulness as servants of God. I could go on, but those are just a few highlights that I held in my heart and am celebrating from the last few months.



During the CREDO conference, while we never left the conference grounds with the exception of one dinner excursion (I still have no idea what Little Rock is like, except for the airport and the view from the plane), we did have some moments of free time later in the week to explore the beautiful conference grounds. On one such occasion I took one of the canoes that were available for us to use and did a bit of paddling along the lake. I was inspired by the beauty of the surroundings and the calm, *(continued on page 3)*

My CREDO Experience *(continued from page 2)*

glossy water of the pond. There were trees in shades of green and auburn and yellow, the sound of babbling water from a small stream, and the beauty of the architecture of a bridge connecting two points of the camp. All seemed to be reminders of God's ongoing creativity – or 'greening power' as Hildegard of Bingen would say.

Even though there are still some concerns which can be addressed, God's creativity, compassion and 'greening power' are alive and well at PCC too. As we move into this season of autumn, may you be inspired to have your own Credo experience, and listen to God's voice from the place of your heart as we are mindful and thankful for God's many blessings.



Welcome Tad Hopp!

by Pastor Kimberly



If you have not yet had a chance to meet our new Communications Coordinator and Pastoral Assistant, his name is Tadd Hopp. His first Sunday with us was September 25th and we welcomed him with coffee crunch cake! (Which made him feel very special – as it should have!).

We are still figuring out exactly what Tad's exact duties will be, but you may see him at some of our committee meetings as he continues to 'get up to speed' and learn about our church. He is also working half time at the Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco and is very excited to be working with PCC as well.

His resume is on page 4 which includes a wide variety of experience as well as seminary training.

Please be sure to give him a warm PCC welcome if you see him on Sunday or at one of our church meetings. He is a blessing!

Thomas A. “Tad” Hopp

Education:

AUSTIN COLLEGE, Sherman, TX BA, May 2007

Major: English

Minors: French, Japanese & Communication Arts

- *Editor of the School Yearbook and frequent writer for the newspaper*
- *Secretary of the literary magazine*

San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Anselmo, CA MDIV, May 2015

- *Vice-Moderator of Student Body*
- *Earned Certificate in Worship Leadership*
- *Co-Moderator of LGBTQ Group*
- *Student Representative to various committees*
- *Awarded Community Service award by Student Body*

Work Experience:

St. Mary’s Medical Center, San Francisco August 2015 - May 2016
Chaplain Resident

- *Ran a weekly creative writing/theatre group on Adolescent Psych unit*

First Congregational Church, San Rafael June 2015 - August 2015
Summer Camp Administrator

- *Recruited teachers, volunteers and students*
- *Helped lead music and theatre classes*

Christ Presbyterian Church in Terra Linda August 2013 - June 2014
Pastor in Training

- *Created the Church Facebook and Yelp page and Twitter account*
- *Helped draft the Church’s Social Media Policy*
- *Helped recruit members to serve on Social Media Task Force*
- *Helped direct, lead, and act in various staged readings during worship*
- *Helped stage manage children’s music camp*
- *Sang in church choir every week*
- *Co-led youth group including planning and leading lockouts*

San Francisco Theological Seminary August 2012 - May 2013
Chaplain’s Assistant

- *Planned worship services for entire campus community*
- *Recruited worship participants from among faculty, staff, and students*
- *Helped with special services where needed*

Presbyterian Church, USA August 2010 - August 2011
Young Adult Volunteer – Working with Homeless Ministry, Chicago, IL

The Cantonese Worshipping Community held its annual retreat at Alliance Redwoods Conference Grounds on October 8 and 9th, two days and one night. We had thirty participants; some of them were first timers to our church. Alliance Redwoods was an awesome camp site where we could enjoy and feel close to God’s creation of nature. With food that was healthy, fresh and delicious in the gorgeous outdoors, we all had a wonderful time.



This year’s retreat topic was “My Family, Your Family and God’s Family”. With gladness, we invited Rev. Walter Leung to be our guest speaker. Rev. Leung currently serves as the director for the Chinese Christian Herald Crusades, region of Northwest Coast. There were two sessions discussed under the retreat topic. Rev. Leung talked about “Church and Family” at the first session. Subtitle A) Both church and family had three common traits – Unity, Love and Establishment. One example: in a family, a mother never complained about doing too much housework, and would willingly cook different varieties of food for her husband and children because she loved them. Similarly, in a church certain members could serve more than others by their abilities and graces given from God for the larger church family. Also it’s very important to get along with others in the church because unity is a priority with God. Subtitle B) There are two same clothing for church and family – Best robe (Luke 15:11-32) and Full armor of God (Ephesians 6:11-17). With these we will be able to stand firm in faith.



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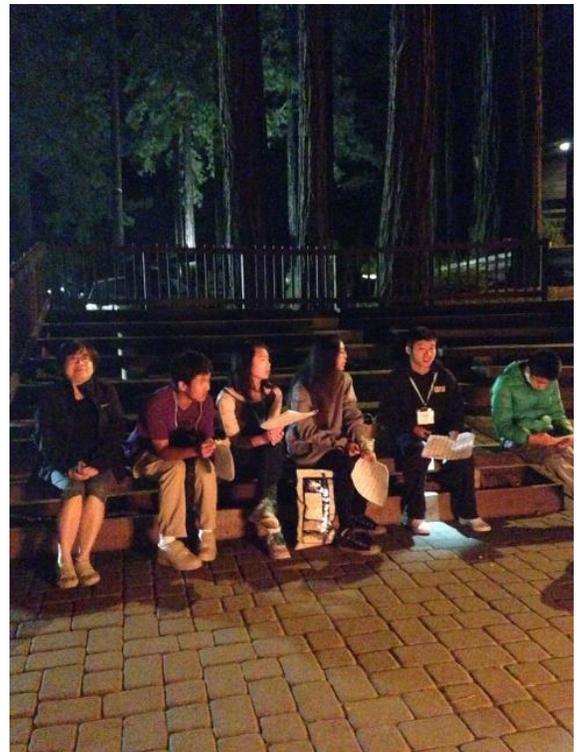
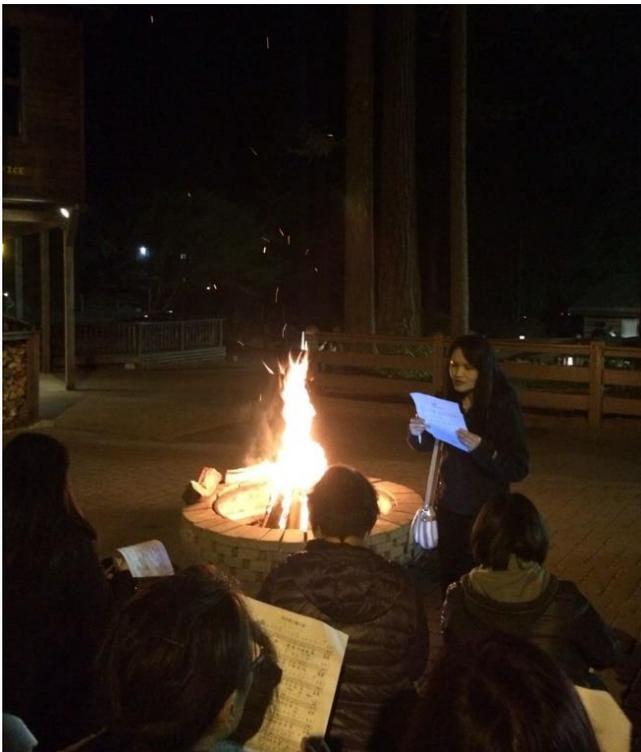
2016 Annual Retreat – Cantonese Worshipping Community *(continued from page 5)*

For session two, the main theme was how to build up a church and make it grow. Rev. Leung talked about the relations between churches and society. These were all involved with our own characters, values and contributions. Some of the missions were accepting outsiders, caring for people in need and less emphasis on self-esteem in our community. After Rev. Leung’s sessions, we had table groups sharing their thoughts and understandings.

Our youth group was led by Garrick Kaan with Bible studies and discussions on topics such as “One Through Christ” and “Healthy Church”.



Both adult and youth groups joined together with camp fire at night. Other fun activities were swimming, hiking, playing games and basketball.



Sunday we had our worship in the morning. Rev. Ronnie Kaan’s sermon was “Practice Action”. The choir sang special hymns together with the congregation to praise our Lord.

We are looking forward to having a two night, three days retreat next year at Alliance Redwoods Grounds again!

- Your church is in the midst of a spiritual crisis and the pastor is at his wits end or
- leading members are constantly talking trash about the minister but are not dealing with the roots of the friction or
- over the last year and a half our congregation is over spending the receipts by \$1,500 a month or
- we have no pastor, no vision, no money but we are a congregation that needs help or
- the church building is falling down around us and is in need of major repairs, we just don't know where our funds are going or
- membership is dwindling and money is tight and relationships are frayed and the congregation and the minister are at loggerheads...

Well the San Francisco Presbytery leadership might call the **Presbytery Associates**—a team of Presbyterian ministers (retired or currently making a living outside parish ministry) with extensive experience in church work as well as other walks of professional life—finance, community development, organizational development, management, accounting, music, mission work etc.

In essence, our **Presbytery Associates** team will live, breath, eat, worship, meet, cry, walk, run, party, mourn ...with the congregation and pastor (if there is one) for a period of 6 months to a year. The team's goal: **journey with the “stressed” congregation, be a caring liaison to the Presbytery and devise a plan of action that's doable, reasonable and practical.**

What the Presbytery Associates do...

1. build a trusting and credible relationship with the congregation and pastor;
2. establish clear expectations and hoped for outcomes
3. provide a pastoral audit (in the areas of spiritually, finance, the physical plant, strengths/weaknesses/threats/opportunities, a congregation's introspection and self-view, decision making and organizational structure/process, emotional milieu, self-identified problem areas...);
4. provide occasional preaching and brokering of expertise from other congregations;
5. utilize extensive interviews; observations of worship, committee meetings, Session meetings, sentient groups, mission projects, a sizable number of consultations and regular assessment meetings; group and town hall meetings;
6. develop an overall view of the stressed congregation and pastor in the areas noted above;
7. develop a plan of action, which is non-binding, with alternatives—including doing nothing (resulting consequences) and possible timelines for implementation.

Having been chair of the Presbytery Associates since the team was established about 5-6 years ago, our work is non-judgmental, non-binding but straightforwardly honest and, oftentimes, like a complete and comprehensive chiropractic examination that includes a financial audit and a spiritual inventory. Clearly, the team is not performing surgery, but the examination is extraordinarily thorough and with no holds barred in a pastoral way.

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How a congregation and pastor begin the process...

- A “stressed” congregation and pastor are self-identified or identified by the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry.
- Consulting with the Committee on Ministry, the congregation or pastor reviews what options might be available to reinvigorate or redirect or renew their community.
- If the congregation expresses an interest in working with the team of **Presbytery Associates**, a meeting of the Session and the **Presbytery Associates** is arranged.
- The Session’s first meeting with the **Presbytery Associates** involves a review of what might occur, what methods will be used and essentially, building a trusting and credible relationship. After this introduction the Session **and** Pastor decide whether or not to “green light” the work with of the Presbytery Associates’ Team.
- Either party can terminate the relationship in mid-stream.

Why the Chinatown Church should be gratified...



The team of **Presbytery Associates** has numbered anywhere from 4 to 7 retired ministers and/or ministers currently making a living outside parish ministry. Since the program’s inception, two members of the team hail from the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown, San Francisco—the Revs. Greg Chan and Bruce Der-Mcleod. So you might say the work of the Chinatown Church extends to providing a “chiropractic” hand to our inordinately stressed sister Presbyterian churches in San Mateo, Contra Costa, Alameda and San Francisco Counties.

A look at outcomes...

At the end of the entire 6 to 12 month process a stressed congregation will have experienced a real connection to members of the Presbytery, fellow Presbyterians pulling up alongside to thoroughly, deeply, keenly and profoundly understand what is occurring at this local church. The congregation will be provided an easily understandable set of alternatives that is not binding but will outline the possible consequences of inaction as well as the possible results of adhering to some or all of the recommended alternatives.

In the end, it’s the congregation’s and pastor’s self-sustainability and self-directed development that matters.

October 1, 2016 was our Mandarin Commission's one-day retreat. This year it was held at Bethany Presbyterian Church, a chance to take our members to go somewhere for activities. We have sixty two people participating in the retreat.



Bethany Presbyterian Church is a small church quietly nestled into a small hill in San Bruno overlooking the San Francisco Bay; their two parking lots are big. The church members have built a Memorial Mosaic Wall and a Healing Garden right outside of the church building to remember the disaster of September 9, 2010 when a PG&E gas pipe exploded. Among the dead were three members of the Bullis family who were members of the congregation. This beautiful art project involved the community working together; it was a

healing process to strength their faith. We could also meditate in the Garden in front of the Wall for healing of our wounds in an unexpected and miraculous way.

The theme of our retreat is "How Christians Face the Challenges of Our World Today". Our speaker is Brother Sau-Wing Lam who is a very popular and respectable financial advisor in the community, as well as a dedicated Christian volunteer for the Board of the Chinese Christian Mission, the Herald, the Chinese Christian Herald Crusades, the SOBEM, and speaker for Sunday worship services, Christian seminars, conferences and retreats. He was also the speaker of our last year's annual retreat at church. Brother Lam used the scripture in the Philippians 2:14-16 to illustrate his points:



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Mandarin Annual Retreat *(continued from page 9)*

“Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the world of life – in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.”

In the first session of his talk, he spoke about the importance of knowing the conditions of the end time we are living in as described in the scripture. He talked about how God’s grace enacted with people in Noah’s time, Prophet Daniel’s time, Jesus’ time and also our time today. In each period of such times, people sinned against God, and Brother Lam led us to understand how God manifested His Justice, His Mercy, His Salvation and Hope for His people in different times.

In the second session, Brother Lam spoke about how to be the salt and light in our time of darkness and evil; how to keep our purity before the second coming of Jesus Christ. Instead of despair, we need to live positively and vibrantly, keeping a close relationship with God, loving one another, evangelizing, pursuing holiness, giving generously to others (=saving in Heaven), and preparing to suffer for Christ’s sake. At the end of the sessions, we had an hour of questions and answers. The participants were actively asking questions as our speaker was well known for his excellence in tackling questions and answers.



Elder Billy Yu conducting a Q & A game



Elder Paul Li with son, Nathan



Elder Sabrina Cheng presenting gift to Brother Lam

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Mandarin Annual Retreat *(continued from page 10)*

Our retreat went very smoothly and fast. Everybody was happy to help, follow instructions and enjoy fellowship together. The participants felt they gained a lot in spiritual advancement. They also liked the food we ordered as it was abundant and delicious.

For myself, I learned a lot from organizing last year's and this year's retreats. I also learned a lot from Brother Lam's talks. I would like to share one special point I learned from this year's theme, that is God's Great Love. In the past, I thought that God was more just than love in Noah's time because he ordered floods to drown all the people in the world except Noah's family due to people's sin. Brother Lam pointed out that in Genesis 6:1-6, when men began to multiply in numbers on the earth, the sons of God (fallen angels) saw the beautiful daughters of men, married them and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. God saw the great man's wickedness on the earth, and his evil thoughts from his heart all the time. God gave time for people to repent but no one came forward. God grieved and decided to wipe out all such mankind by flooding the whole earth. The evils were all washed away and the world (or our hearts) was cleaned. Noah's family was saved in the ark. God's salvation for mankind was so deep and wonderful, certainly beyond our imagination.

May God's grace continue to be bestowed upon us so we are prepared, and have strength, faith and hope to face the challenges in our world today.

MY CHRISTIAN ROOTS

by Kimball Wong

This year I had the opportunity to visit Scotland since our daughter Chelsea is living there with her husband Andrew. Scotland is where the Presbyterian Church started and while our purpose for going was to visit our daughter and son in-law, I was intrigued with seeing so many of our Christian roots. I have to admit I am not the most versed in our history but thank goodness there is wikipedia to fill in the gaps.

Chelsea is working in a hotel while Andrew is working on his PH.D in Church history with an emphasis on Asian American Christianity. Will hopefully share some of his writing in the future. My historical perspective will be simplistic for all you academics. Actually many of the names I learned only because we had rooms at CH and PCC named after some of them.

1560 Scottish reformation, Led by John Knox, broke away from the Catholic Church. John Knox followed many of the teaching of John Calvin, a French theologian that was instrumental during the Protestant Reformation in the early 1500s

1572 King James VI, approved the acts of 1560, also later sponsored the translation of the bible that was named after him, King James Version. Believed there should not be bishop and archbishops.

1638 Church of Scotland established on a Presbyterian basis. Presbyterian government is ruled by councils of elders which rule over a distinct group of officers called deacons

While we were visiting Scotland, General assembly was meeting in Edinburgh and ended the week with service at St. Giles cathedral, John Knox is buried there on the grounds. We attended the service not knowing General Assembly was having their final service there which meant we had to stand during the service due to lack of space. Great attending service in a large Cathedral with all the familiarity of our Presbyterian services.

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MY CHRISTIAN ROOTS *(continued from page 11)*

This past Sept. we had the opportunity to visit my father's home village in Toisan, China. As many of you may have ventured back to where your parents or grandparents may have grown up, this was the first time anyone in my family has returned. We found my father's home where my Grandmother lived. We met the Goddaughter who lived in the same room. While we were getting ready to do the expected Chinese traditional customs of bowing, burning incense and leaving food at the gravesite, we were told we did not need to do many of those rituals because my grandmother was a Christian and she did not hold fast to those customs. That caused me to think about how she may have been introduced to Christ in China.

Here are some of the brief history I uncovered:

Early Christian Missionaries to China included several from the Presbyterian Church;

1848 One notable name, William Speer was a missionary to Canton, China, was fluent in Cantonese, and stayed in China until 1852.

1853 Settled in San Francisco and founded a mission that became PCC. Was a strong advocate of establishing schools for children, perhaps the reason the old sanctuary had sliding partitions to make small class rooms.

1859 A. W. Loomis, another Presbyterian Missionary that served in China from 1844-1852 came to SF to serve at First Chinese Presbyterian Church in SF (PCC)

1874 Presbyterian Mission Home (CH) established, led by Margaret Culbertson (not much written on Google)

1895 Donaldina Cameron, New Zealander of Scottish descent, joins Culbertson to teach sewing but later continues the work of Culbertson

1900 Donaldina Cameron becomes superintendent of Mission Home

1934: Donaldina Cameron establishes Ming Quong Home for Girls. Nancy Hall (my mother) lived in the Ming Quong home when she immigrated to the United States

It fascinated me to see the full circle of some of our Presbyterian and Christian roots, how some of our families were possibly introduced to the church, and why we continue to believe and share the message of Christ.



Upcoming Events by Ed Kam

- November 6: PCC Congregational Meeting at 11:30 AM in the sanctuary
- November 13: PCC Session meeting at 1:30 PM
- November 15: SF Presbytery Meeting
- November 27: Lent begins
- December 24: Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 PM
- December 25: Trilingual Christmas Musical, Praising service and baptism

“Someone to Love, Something to Do, and Something to Look Forward to”

by Gwen Jeong
photo by Stuart Go



Have you heard of “The Blue Zones?” This is a concept used by demographers Gianni Pes and Michel Poulain to identify demographic and/or geographic areas of the world where people live measurably longer lives. Intrigued by these findings, Dan Buettner, in a project for National Geographic, traveled around the world to have a closer look at those Blue Zones. He zeroed in on five hotspots and subsequently wrote books about his findings including “The Blue Zones-9 Lessons for Living Longer.”

Did you know that within Cameron House there is a “Jade Zone” being nurtured along the same philosophy?

(My assignment for this article is to write about my concern/passion for our earth, mission trips, the church renovation where I work, my job and thoughts on worship. I’m happy to do so but in the spirit of the Blue/Jade Zones.)

I’ve been told that Country singer, songwriter, actor and recording producer Kenny Rogers said the key to happiness and long life is “Have someone to love, something to do, something to hope for.”

Someone to love (Blue Zone/Jade Zone concept - Engagement in family and social life)

I’m engaging: “Black Lives Matter. All lives matter.”

Act I - This week I was at the Diamond Heights Shopping Center in San Francisco. I wanted to park between two parked cars. A black, slightly beaten-up Acura was parked on the right. The driver was still inside sitting while a tall African-American man was stooped over in otherwise oblivious conversation with the driver whom I later noted as young female. The man’s lower body angle was equivalent to having the car door ajar at 45-60 degrees. I was afraid that if I got too close to him, he would react negatively. If it had been a non-African American, I probably would have rolled down my window and said something. Seething, I spent many more minutes maneuvering my car in and left it parked in a strange angle. He never acknowledged my presence nor moved his body.

Act II - Ten minutes later I returned to my car to find the man still in the same position continuing with his conversation, still oblivious of my presence or need. I am still unhappy. After a breath or two, I decided to nicely ask him to guide me out of my space because I didn’t want to hit him. He said “You’re fine.” Then I said, “Black lives matter to me.” He suddenly perked up, smiled and said, “I like that phrase,” moved out of the way and guided me out. As I drove away, he went into the back seat of the car to continue his conversation. Imagine that!

Act III – I listen to KPOO Radio on my commute home from work. It’s a Poor People’s Radio Station and they play jazz, hip hop/reggae, rap, etc. Sometimes they have talk hosts who speak on matters very specific to the African American community. There’s been hosts who advise the black man on how to behave when stopped by the police, how to behave on public transportation and such things. I decided to call the radio station to share my parking experience.

One of the talk show hosts named Terry listened graciously even though my episode was really very simple. He then said that his daughter lives in Africa where crowds of people line up every day for things. None of them talk to each other. They don’t know each other’s names. “We have to talk to each other!” Think for a while about that and how we might work towards “Black lives matter. All lives matter.”

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“Someone to Love, Something to Do, and Something to Look Forward to” (cont. from p. 13)

Something to do (Blue Zone/Jade Zone concept - Life Purpose)

When I retired from my first career in the corporate world and second career in education, I had firmly decided that I would work until I drop. So I accepted a part-time position with flexible hours (magic words) at Community United Church of Christ in San Carlos. It started out as a secretarial position but immediately morphed into more and more responsibilities that became unattended. Acting as agent for the Trustees, taking on financial responsibilities and such. “I’ve taken care of it. Just sign your name here please, sir.” What freedom! What opportunities to exercise creativity! My title got changed to Church Administrator. Now it’s almost 14 years later.

My “jollies” come from freedom to express creativity. The church has now sold almost half of their real property. The old Sanctuary will be torn down and a new but smaller church and a parsonage will be built. The Church will need to be transformed, congregation and mission-wise. A developer will build three homes on the sold parcels. The opportunities for creativity abounds.

This week in early August, we will apply for a small grant from the City of San Carlos. As a component of the grant application, we will work to get the church main hall designated as a Secondary Temporary Disaster Shelter, and will be working with American Red Cross and the larger community from this point forward. Creativity, flexibility and stability will be needed.

Missing in Action from PCC - My time and energies have been absorbed down in Mid-Peninsula, even on Sundays when I attend Council meetings or church service that tie in with something else I need to do. I don’t get up to San Francisco Chinatown much anymore, not even to visit relatives as I use to do. I have not become a member of UCCSC (do not vote on any issue-my choice) and have no plans to do so. I am comforted that Presbyterian, UCC and Disciples of Christ are all part of the same Conference.

Something to hope for (Blue Zone/Jade Zone concept –Caring for the planet, caring for people) *Climate*, a local magazine, has a feature article this month about the good job that Recology is doing in removing the tons of waste from our sight. It is a very interesting read. I sent Irene Ng and Shar Hall each a copy in case anyone wants to read it. Public relations for Recology in that article aside, from the pictures in the article, it is about too much garbage. Out of our sight and out of our minds, but where does it all go?

On-line news from many part of the globe report the same problem world-wide. For example, in the squares and plazas of many parts of Rome, including the Vatican, are piles of refrigerators, doors from old closets, bidets, chairs, Starbucks cups, etc. “like a supermarket of garbage.” Same complaints were recently noted in Spain and Beirut on-line news. Locals and visitors all complain and city officials are pressed to make the problem go away. Go away where? What must we do to NOT generate so much garbage in the first place? Buy more things in bulk? Buy less anything? What about all the packaging for every purchase we bring home? On our enchanting cruises to faraway places, what they do with the garbage when the cruise is in port? This is one of the concerns in Cuba where I visited two years ago. My hope is that we will cultivate energetic, talented and concerned minds of the young and inspire them to find more sustainable way to live.

(Submitted to Shar Hall for her column, *A View from the Pew—featuring items from YOUR point of view*)

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Website: www.pccsf.org Email: ireneyoungng@sonic.net

Irene Ng, Editor

David Miller, PDF Assembler, Web Site Posting

Report from a Commissioner to the 222nd General Assembly June 18- 25, 2016 in Portland, Oregon

by Linda Lee

I was excited and honored to have been elected by the Presbytery of San Francisco to be a commissioner to this year's General Assembly of the PC(USA). Although I've attended a few GA's serving in other roles, I'd never been delegated with voting responsibility. Adding to my anticipation was the phone call from the Office of the Moderator asking me to serve as a Committee Moderator for Committee #13 BOP, PILP, PPC, and Foundation (we called it the committee of acronyms!) The committee hears reports and takes action on these four agencies of the PC(USA): The Board of Pensions (BOP), Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc (PILP), Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC) and the Presbyterian Foundation.



There are fourteen committees, each one with two commissioners assigned as Moderator and Vice Moderator; and assigned volunteer or staff as Committee Assistant, Parliamentarian, Resource Coordinator and Recorder. **My Vice Moderator was Teaching Elder Todd Wright from West Virginia.** All these leaders and resources gathered in Louisville for 3 days of training in April. We learned how the GA Committees functioned, the processes for acting on items that are

on our agenda, and how to organize and communicate with our committee members. Whew! It was a lot to learn but our committee team had time to get to know one another, develop an agenda, and meet with the representatives from the four agencies. Todd and I divided responsibilities, and our Committee Assistant, Jodi Craighow, developed a communication plan for us to bring our committee members into the work prior to arriving at GA.

In past years the GA had daily worship services. Now GA participants engage in daily Bible Study, as commissioners in our committees, and other assembly participants met together with the Bible Study authors. The curriculum was entitled "Messy Tables, Messy Mission" by Drs. Sung Hee Chang and Richard Boyce. We had a great opening worship with out-going Moderator Heath Rada preaching. On Sunday all participants chose to worship at one of the many local churches; buses were provided. I chose to attend the interfaith worship at St. Mark Presbyterian, joining with P'nai Or Jewish Renewal and Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. It was a service "in the round" with readings from the Torah, Quran and the Gospels, there was chanting, singing, and prayers in Hebrew, Arabic and English. This was followed by a Middle Eastern lunch.

Once committees were finished with work and we were on to the plenary sessions, we had meaningful worship led by various church leaders, with a focus on honoring our diversity and hearing the Word through voices we might not have experienced, such as our former Vice Moderator, Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia, the Rev. Alice Ridgill, and Bishop Reginald Jackson, AME. Choirs from the area were formed and our friend Pastor David Mote sang in one, and sends his love to all of us!

One of the early orders of business for the GA was the election of Co-Moderators. The 2014 change in our Form of Government (nFOG) allows for the nomination of Co-Moderators, and there were two teams standing for election. In an historic moment we elected our first Co-Moderators, two women teaching elders (ministers) Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston. Photo and article at the following link: <http://www.pcusa.org/news/2016/6/19/history-made-pcusa-elects-co-moderators-first-time/> (cont.)

Report from a Commissioner to the 222nd General Assembly (continued from page 15)

There were two other historic moments that were celebrated with cheers, applause and some tears. First, the election of our first African American Stated Clerk, the Rev. J. Herbert Nelson. This was upon the retirement of beloved Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons. The other historic event was the addition of the Belhar Confession to our PCUSA Book of Confessions, the first one we have adopted that comes from the global south (specifically, South Africa) out of a particular climate of oppression, injustice and violence. There are study guides available if your group wants to dig into this great confession!

Those were some of the exciting moments in the GA plenary (when all the commissioners are on the floor). What happened in Committee #13? When our leadership team met in April we decided that in addition to the business items we had to act upon for the four agencies (approving their minutes, recommending the election of directors to the plenary), what we wanted for our commissioners was to hear the “good news” of these agencies to take home to share. This is some of what I learned about these agencies:

PPC- They produced the new *Glory to God* hymnal without using any GA funds, and it has sold about half a million pew editions so far. They are partnering with Austin Theological Seminary to produce (starting in 2018) a new 9 volume commentary series called “Connections” that will tie Biblical commentary and analysis with contemporary context, art and music. They will be publishing (in 2017) a series of children’s books on Jesus’ parables, by Sandy Sasso and Amy Jill Levine.

BOP- Introducing a new plan for 2017 Open Enrollment that will allow church employees who are non-clergy or non-installed to have menu options for health coverage. I also learned that seminarians can enroll in the BOP healthcare plan at half cost and have time in seminary count toward their pension vestment upon ordination.

PILP- As we at PCC know, they offer low-interest rate loans to churches to help with energy efficiency, like our solar panel purchase. For those of us who want a place to invest our money, they offer term notes at competitive rates that we can feel good about because they are used by churches for construction, remodeling and restoration. Learn more: <https://pilp.pcusa.org/investment-options/>

Presbyterian Foundation- They manage funds entrusted by donors or churches, developing ministry and mission that continue the wishes of the funds. One of these is Project Regeneration, repurposing buildings or assets that are no longer used, here’s a link to this work:

<http://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/Resources/Ministry-Resources/Videos/Project-Regeneration.aspx>

Another exciting investment that the Foundation is making is Transformational Investment in projects in Israel/Palestine that can lead to peace, economic stability and training for jobs, read more at this link:

<http://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/Our-Services/Faith-Based-Investing/Transformational-Investing.aspx>

For me the “good news” was experiencing the PC(USA) as a living body, the body of Christ moving through both the mundane and the exciting work that is the future of the church. Presbyterians are “family” and I reconnected with folks that I have met at prior Presbyterian Women events, Peacemaking Conferences, and presbytery meetings. If you care to step outside the local PCC congregation you will meet caring and loving Christians who are serving Christ in a variety of places and ministries. It’s inspiring to know that we are related to such folks. The 223rd GA will be in St. Louis, June 16-23, 2018.

On October 6, I participated in a panel at Stanford University on “How China Aims to Achieve Environmental Sustainability.” It was a very exciting discussion and we made many new connections for our future sustainability work with China. It has my picture and bio along with those of my fellow presenters:

http://asia.stanford.edu/?page_id=7017

We learned that China is working hard to collaborate with us on clean energy projects and looks forward to working more closely together. They are making significant progress, and are eager to speed it up through collaboration and mutual benefits. We explored new technologies and projects in green buildings, smart cities, solar energy, smart and green transportation and Smart Electric Grid management.

On October 13, I attended a workshop at PG&E’s Pacific Energy Center, 851 Howard Street, San Francisco. I learned about many resources they offer to help residents, real estate investors and businesses to reduce their energy use and energy bills, while making their buildings more comfortable while saving money in construction and operation. They offer courses, documents and free consulting and they will even loan tools for building owners and planners to use to measure and document their energy use as well as plan the most efficient ways to improve energy use. They will even help building owners to apply for incentives and loans that will be repaid with energy savings.

California already prides itself on using the least energy per capital of any state in the USA. PG&E does not make money by selling energy but by making energy more efficient. They can then reduce the need to build power plants as users use renewable and clean energy to produce power which PG&E can buy during peak hours. Demand (customer) side resources can be automated to Conserve, be efficient and comply with all codes and standards. Even without installing these, users

can log onto the PG&E website and measure how much energy they use on weekends, etc. to discover where they can save more. Their librarian and reference manager, Marlene Vogelsang, can tell you about resources available, including: Classes and training, consultation, building design tools and their tool lending library. Bring in your building team for training and assessment. One very useful tool is called “universal translator” converts all kinds of energy data to equivalent, comparable numbers.



We can get free help from them to optimize our energy use at PCC, at work, in volunteer organizations and at home. I hope our members will be able to benefit from the help and resources they provide!

Moving forward, I will continue to work on Smart Buildings and Smart Cities in several projects and organizations. The next big project is an international conference in Richmond, California, on October 25-27th, where Smart Cities and technology providers from around the world will compare notes and learn from each other on how to make their cities more resilient and healthy economical, socially and environmentally by engaging city governments in holistic analysis to encourage collaboration among all sectors — including NGOs, schools, businesses, transportation, city departments, job training programs and start-up companies.

<http://conference.cityminded.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Meeting-of-the-Minds-2016-Brochure.pdf>



There's much to tell about Harry. Harry has always stood out as a leader when we were growing up. Harry answered his calling and served, and is still serving, it well. How fortunate for us in the Grandmas and Grandpas Covenant Group that Harry agreed to guide us in our studies.

We Grandmas and Grandpas are forever grateful for Harry's commitment, devotion, and leadership the past ten years. He kept us connected, thinking, helping us find Christ in our midst and in each other while we journeyed together in our lives and on our spiritual paths.

On a personal note, Harry helped me through the hardest chores I faced with Roger's death, helping our family when we were engulfed in grief. Harry has a way of taking the sting out of memorials. He softened the occasion with his warm

memories of Roger at his memorial service. At the graveside service at Greenlawn with the family, he asked friends and relatives to describe Roger in one word, a wonderful way of inclusion and remembrance.

Harry has helped the Chinese community in San Francisco in ways beyond our imagination. Now, Harry wants to devote his time to telling **The Story** of the Chinese Americans in San Francisco through a film documentary covering the period between 1968 to 1982. Harry is the one who can do it, and he will now be able to devote his attention and time to this important task, his legacy.

We wish you much Enthusiasm, Happiness, Peace, Joy, Satisfaction, and Lots of Energy, Harry!

Have you ever kept a secret for a whole year? Well some of us ladies at church had to. We helped Marie Chin with the invitations for Wayne Eng's 60th birthday. We got together and helped make the invitations last summer. Wayne's birthday party was on July 30 and it was down in Foster City Community Center. A very nice venue. One of his coworkers was a D. J. and he played nice background music. Close friends of Wayne shared stories how they met Wayne, shared about their friendship; some met him at school and some at Cameron House. Some interesting stories were shared. We had a Chinese buffet dinner with two kinds of cake for dessert. We had a nice time mingling with people we haven't seen in a while.

Lindsey Quock is studying to be a lawyer. She is attending Law School in Berkeley. Lindsey been quite busy these days. She hopes to work on Housing and Anti-displacement issues in the Bay Area. She has helped tenants in Oakland organize tenant meetings. This is with the East Bay Community Law Center Housing Program. Lindsey's older sister Lauren is student teaching this year. So we want to wish the Quock sisters well in their studies and work.

If you did not know this Jeannette Wei has a grandson who is a New York fashion designer for women. Joseph Altuzarra is 33 years old. He started his own design in 2008. Michelle Obama and Kate Middleton (Duchess) have worn his dresses. On October 17 Joseph had a fashion show at the Asian Art Museum to celebrate their 50th Anniversary. Collection was presented by Saks Fifth Avenue. The show was his resort and spring collection for 2017. I know Jim and Jeannette have gone to New York many times to

see his other fashion shows. I know Jeannette is so proud of Joseph.

Many of our church members: Laurene Chan, Linda Lee, Mary Wong Leong, Richard Jann, Elaine Chan-Scherer, Jean Chin, Brad Woo, Sabrina Gee-Shin, Jeanne Choy Tate, along with Amoena and Jim Quan and their friends went on a visit to the Linden Centre. Jeanee and her husband Brian's place is in Xizhou, the Dali region, Yunnan Province. We need to ask them about their wonderful experience. I saw some nice pictures through Facebook. Looks like everyone was having a good time.



Northern Yunnan by the source of the Yangtze River, just before Shangri-La