



Good News for the Pews

February 2020

A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

Issue No. 22

From Pastor Don

In the ancient church there were many movements that taught people to retreat from the world into lives of prayer and contemplation. We may vaguely remember stories of the Desert Mothers and Fathers who lived alone in caves or tents in the wilderness and who practiced a kind of ascetism and essentially renounced the world for a life of the spirit. Their work was simple: prayer, study, simple chores. Those ancient monastic traditions are largely gone these days, and where they exist, they are connected almost exclusively with the Roman Catholic or the Eastern Orthodox churches. We modern people often forget that they, the mystics and monastics of old, lived this way to increase their connection to God, by disconnecting from the world.

In the Protestant movements, active engagement in the world was prioritized. Protestant believed that there was work to be done in the world, and it was the duty of the Christian faithful to do this work. Protestants were clear, in most traditions, that works were not done to earn rewards or to vouchsafe salvation, but instead were to be undertaken as a response to the gifts of salvation that God had given. In an effort to live into this theological understanding, the mystical, internal, contemplative life was no longer prized. By the middle of the 20th

century Mainline protestants in the United States began to talk about a “social Gospel,” a faith centered on action, that over time became ultimately pragmatic and far less mystical. Transformation was seen primarily as something that happened externally, as a process of perfecting society, and far less as the individual’s own transformation. The monk’s cell and the monastery were left in the past. The church became the center of the spiritual world, and the social programs that the church in engaged in became the focus.

From time to time, however, we remember that church is far more than its social programs. Church is first and foremost a spiritual entity: the *incarnatio continua*, or “continuing incarnation,” of Jesus Christ. Indeed, in our Confessions we hold that the church is the Body of Christ, (Book of Confessions, 5.130, 6.054, 6.186). For the church to be an effective agent of transformation in the world, its members must first be transformed in Christ. When we come together corporately we seek to be transformed in Christ, but this process doesn’t just happen on Sundays between 10:45–11:45. No, you see the worship we

(continued on page 2)

from Pastor Don (continued from page 1)

celebrate together each week is meant to be a continuation of the transformation we all undergo personally as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Contemplative discipleship is the fruit of contemplative discipline: an interior awakening to Christ in all. The Christ who dwells within, and of whom we are an extension, is the same Christ we serve in all. The two cannot be separated. Contemplative discipleship is the fruit of prayer, action born of interior stillness, speech born of silence. To forget this is to mistake Christian discipleship with social activism.

To see Christ in all is to see Christ not only in all people, in all times, in all places, and in all things, but to also see Christ in ourselves. Every moment, anywhere has contains a fertile seed that has the potential to give life. A regular commitment to solitary prayer and to intentional contemplation tills the soil of our hearts to better prepare us to receive the life-giving seeds of the Spirit. Part of that work is to weed out our fears from our hopes, to clear out the stones of mistrust and of doubt that block growth and instead carefully cultivate openness and love. Our words become important. Every criticism we give, no matter how well-meaning, becomes like a scythe that cuts down new growth in others. If we lived in monasteries, in silence, we would be safe from the cutting remarks made by others, but we would also be bereft of words of love and support.

With the soon expected announcement of the Mission Study team we are about to enter into an important work. In this work we will examine what we do and how we do it. Some people will be focused on “why we do things.” When we focus on “why” we can quickly fall into judgement. We all know that judgement is dangerous territory. We often use the question of “why” to mask an opinion. Sometimes a sharply spoken “why” is a mask covering dissent or displeasure with something. We ask “why” because it seems polite, but what we are really communicating is “you need to justify something to me, something that I am signaling my opposition to.” So instead of judgement let’s keep in mind that we will be better served if move into discernment.

In discernment, instead giving critique and marking our disagreements in our common experiences, we look for Christ’s leading, Christ’s calling, and for Christ’s transforming work. A thing is worth doing if we see its connection to Christ. Because the first action in discernment is searching ourselves for our connection to Christ and then we seek those things outside of ourselves which also resonate with Christ. Each time we engage this we are transformed by our connection to Christ. Christ is the head and the church is the Body. As members of the Body, through our actions, and through our words, we become incarnate prayer.

With blessings,
Pastor Don

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS by Pam Jang

Crazy Rich Asians Potluck

We may not be crazy or rich (in the sense of the movie). But we are Asian and really know how to throw a fabulous potluck! On October 26, the pre-dinner activity for the evening was a dumpling making session lead by Sabrina. After dinner, we watched the movie, "Crazy Rich Asians." It was a real fun Asian themed evening. A special thank you to Jackie, Sabrina, Mei and Belinda for making the dumpling session happen.



Mildred, Sabrina and Annie showing off the homemade, pan-fried dumplings using the fry, steam and flip technique.

Farewell and Good Luck to Jeannette and Jim

We must bid farewell to Jeannette Wei and Jim Caldwell as they start a new life in San Antonio, Texas at the end of January. We have been truly blessed to have Jeannette and Jim attend worship just about every Sunday for decades. If PCC were to give out attendance merit pins Jeannette and Jim would have a whole drawer full. The fellowship hall was packed for their farewell luncheon. The program started with four custom written songs by Gordie. One of the songs went like this...

(Sung to the tune of Dinah Won't You Blow)

*Caldwells as you GO – to the AlaMO
Keep your hearts in things you KNOW-OH-OH
Forget the status QUO;
Glad tidings you will SOW
T'share with fam'ly, friends or FOE.*

News from the Deacons *(continued from page 3)*

Jeannette's son, Joe, shared some interesting history about his mother and Shar added a wonderful send-off message. There was laughter and tears, and good old Chinese food (which we are sure Jeannette & Jim will miss while in San Antonio) that included a whole roast pig for good luck. We wish Jeannette and Jim all the best for a safe and smooth move. Most of all, we send our love across the west to the Lone Star State.



Thank you to Pat Chan (potluck photos), Joe Tanizawa (J&J luncheon photos), Gordie Jeong (song lyrics). For more photos please visit our website at www.PCCSF.org.

Deacon Cards

In the near future you will notice yellow cards inserted into the weekly Order of Worship. These cards are for you to fill out if you would like one of the Deacons to pray, to listen, to share, to provide comfort and to support you. This card can also be used for comments. If you fill out a card, simply fold in half and place in the offering pouch. If you do not need to fill out a card then please return to one of the ushers when you exit the sanctuary. Any information you provide will be confidential between the Deacons and the Pastor, and no information will be shared with the larger worshipping community. We want you all to know that we are here to support our loving community.

The Cantonese Worshipping Community

by Glen Choy

Let us praise God for the new year! Much has happened even before the new year began. As we begin another chapter of the ages, let us look back and review these past few months.

Back in November, we celebrated Thanksgiving with a meal. Our members gathered this day, some new, some returning, and some we haven't even seen in a while. With such a joyous occasion to be had, we gave our thanks to God for the food and friends we've made.

Every December, we celebrate a hearty Christmas and last month was no different. It was Jesus' birthday, after all! Our fellow community members and even guests from outside our worship, gathered together to celebrate this special day. Many groups performed for us, including a karate performance by several karate students and a song sung by our elders. We even had members of the English worship community join us in this celebration. Reverend

Hammond was able to give us a speech and pray with us while several members of the English community grouped together and played a wonderful song for us. Finally, we wrapped things up with a gift raffle, where we passed out gifts provided by our own members to lucky winners. With these activities and performances, we had a fun, exciting, and successful Christmas celebration.

Right after the new year began in January, we held our 2020 current elder ordination ceremony. During this event, Reverend Kaan announced our elders for the year of 2020. Everyone in our worship knew of our elders before, so we were more than welcoming to them.

Thanks to our Lord, we've had a wonderful past year. With the new year, we will have yet another year to good health and family, and another chance to give praise to God.



Christmas celebration, Youth Karate class



Christmas worship and celebration



Year 2020 Cantonese Elders
Ordination/Presentation

Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

The Resource Committee is seeking approval of the Building and Finance Committee to purchase 3 AEDs (automated external defibrillators) to be installed on each floor of our church. For the safety of our church members, guests and worshippers, having an AED on site can greatly increase the odds of a person who suffers a heart attack / Sudden Cardiac Arrest surviving.

What is an AED?

An AED, or automated external defibrillator, is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It's a sophisticated, yet easy-to-use, medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm.*

Why do we need AED?

Sudden cardiac arrest is among the leading causes of death in the United States. In fact, more than 350,000 people will suffer a cardiac arrest this year. Currently, the only way to restore a regular heart rhythm during cardiac arrest is to use an AED.*

Of course, you can and should request the assistance of trained medical professionals. However, because the average response time for first responders once 911 is called is 8-12 minutes, and for each minute defibrillation is delayed, the odds of survival are reduced by approximately 10%, having access to and AED and knowing how to use one, is critical.*

Here are some numbers from the AHA (American Heart Association)**

- In the event of cardiac arrest both physical and brain death can begin to occur in as little 4-6 minutes.
- The average response time for EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) in the US is over 12 minutes.
- For every minute between the onset of a cardiac event and defibrillation your chances of survival drop by 7-10 percent

If you are interested in more information or would like training in the use of AEDs, feel free to contact any Resource Committee member.

* American Red Cross

** American Heart Association

The Mandarin Worshipping Community started the new year with elders' ordination and installation for the Class of 2022. We are happy to be able to fill the 3 vacancies with Elders Li Oi Long, Di An Chen, and brand new ordained Elder Grace Hsu.

We are especially happy for Grace for her willingness to serve, as her father Elder Yi Chun Hsu was a long time elder of our church!

We used Matthew 19:26 "With God, All Things Are Possible" as encouragement to all officers serving this term. Active and non-active elders, for the first time in Mandarin Worshipping history were each called to receive a 'little something' –a plaque with their names engraved: "Glorify God, Benefit His People, 2020." And to reciprocate, we also presented Pastor Guo Hao, and Cathy Hao the same, to emphasize that we are a team, working together for His Kingdom! We recognize that the pastor's wife, Cathy, plays such a vital role supporting her husband and also as part of our team! Happiest was Elder Miao our pianist/organist... "This was such an insightful and well-planned gift! Most meaningful!"



Our prayer: We will not be discouraged; we look unto the Lord, and together, With God, All Things Are Possible in year 2020! New Vision, New Hope! Each Sunday, Pastor Hao's sermon has been challenging us, one thing a week to be more like Jesus! What is your challenge for this New Year?

Thanking Those Who Serve

We are ringing in the new year by welcoming newly elected officers onto Session and the Board of Deacons. We want to thank Elders, Linda Lee and Susie Wong and Deacons, Pat Chan, Desmond Ng and Jerrick Woo, who have served faithfully and whose terms are up.

Ed Chin and Jeanette Huie (2nd term) are our new Elders and Commission members, class of 2022.

Irene Ng and Ruth Wu are our new Deacons, class of 2021.

Ruth Wu, Deacon

In September of this year, I will have been a member of PCC for 40 years. I am a retired RN and live in the city in a retirement community. Music is an important part of my life. I have never been a Deacon before and I look forward to learning what I can do to be helpful to our community and its members.



My sister and me (R)



A visit to the Linden Centre with Jeanee, Wendy, & Isabel

Bloom Where You Are Planted

by Irene Young Ng, Deacon

I was born in Chicago, moved to Seattle, and then to S.F. When I was in the 9th grade I joined the Cameron House program. Thanks to the spiritual guidance of my leader, Low Chan, I was baptized at PCC when I was high school junior.



I graduated as the valedictorian at Poly High, went on to SF State, and majored in elementary ed. In 1958 I taught school in Hunter's Point. By saving my salary, Dave and I had just enough money to get married in June, joining 9 other couples who were married in our church that year!

Dave graduated from SF Theological Seminary in 1959 and became Youth Director at C.H. and collegiate pastor at our church. Son, Steve, was born in 1960. In 1962, Dave was called to be the pastor at the Mendocino P.C. Our youngest son, Andy, was born in Ft. Bragg as Mendocino did not have a hospital.

Three years later Dave was called to work at the Presbyterian national offices in Philadelphia in the Youth Division. We bought our 1st home in Swarthmore. I worked in a nursery school coop in Wallingford. We were active at FPC Swarthmore. Being an introvert by nature, I was amazed when I was called to be its Director of Children's Education. The two pastors encouraged me to "bloom where you are planted."

Presbyterian national headquarters moved to NYC. We moved to Ridgewood, New Jersey and I became the Director of Christian Education at FPC, Englewood.

Dave was called to be a seminary professor at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, so we moved again. I served as an elder at

Trinity P.C. and became the director of its Child Development Center.

Dave answered the call to work at the National Council of Churches of Christ in Manhattan. I served as the Director of Christian Education at FPC in Brooklyn Heights where we purchased a coop apartment which overlooked the esplanade, the East River and Manhattan! I found work as a secretary and then became the Associate for Women's Programs in the Northeast. My youngest sister, Amoena, called that my most glamorous job. She was right. I love NYC; it's a magnificent town!

We returned to California in 1988 when Dave was called to be the professor of Christian Education at San Francisco Theological Seminary. I had several jobs until I became the office administrator at FPC, San Anselmo. Dave died suddenly and unexpectedly when I was 60. I will always be eternally thankful for the staff and church members at San Anselmo who helped me through the grief process. I learned how, and am still learning how, to live when a loved one has died.

Being planners, Dave and I planned for retirement. We seriously considered the continuing care retirement community in Greenbrae. Steve and Andy were now married and on their own, and I was living in a 3+bedroom home in Sleepy Hollow by myself. Encouraged by Dave's sister, Enid Lim, and Amoena, I decided to move to San Francisco, to The Sequoias in 2003. At The Sequoias, I was elected to its Board and chaired the Food Committee. I volunteered to be its bi-weekly newsletter editor, now going on my 13th year! This retirement community has turned out to be an excellent choice for me; being here is a gift to my sons and to me.

I scouted for a church home and became a
(continued on page 11)

Save the Date!
Church Clean-Up Day
Saturday, February 8, 2020
9:30 am – 1:00 pm
@Presbyterian Church in Chinatown
Sign up with David Soohoo (dsoohoos@gmail.com)

Irene Young Ng, Deacon *(continued from page 10)*

PCC member in 2005. I put together the Sunday worship bulletins for 2 years, became an elder, class of 2010, and chaired the M & E Committee. I’ve been the editor of *Good News for the Pews* since its inception in 2014.

For fun, I go to Broadway musicals; out of 150 that I’ve seen, my favorites are *West Side Story* and *Hamilton*. At The Sequoias, we have an abundance of exercise classes; I love tap dancing and line dancing. Once a year I take an international trip; upon my return, I enjoy putting together a photo journal. The most fascinating people I know are my two granddaughters who are 26 and 21!

I am looking forward to new experiences and ministries of being a deacon, to bloom where I am planted.



In Indonesia with Muslim women

Jeanette Huie, Elder



I went to Sunday School at PCC for a short time in the early '60s and remember the comic book store across the street and an ice cream store nearby. I could hardly wait for Sunday School to end so I could go to the comic book store! We (me and my siblings) had to read fast because the owner would get irritated if he knew we weren't going to buy anything. That was one of my more vivid memories of Chinatown. Ten years later, I returned to PCC to worship at the evening service along with others I knew from Cameron House and got baptized in 1973.

The last 14 years I worked at Chinatown Community Development Center and retired in October! I look forward to some new experiences and am glad I don't need to commute from the East Bay to SF anymore.

I'm serving as an Elder for the fourth time and this year will be Co-Chair of the Mission & Evangelism Committee with Elder Ed Chin. Additionally, I'm the Elder rep to the CH/PCC Partnership Committee,

I volunteer for PCC's Food Pantry on Saturdays, and I produce the Ragsheet each week. For the Presbytery, I sit on the Western Region's Fund Your Vision Committee which will review grant applications from churches and local nonprofits.

In April I will be traveling to South Korea with a group of Presbyterian Women to learn about Korea's history, meet with Korean Presbyterian women and explore ways we can advocate for peace.

I'm thankful for our supportive church family. Being a part of this church and the work we do in the community has been important to me. Businesses have come and gone on the 900 block of Stockton Street but PCC has remained. Our work must not be done....may we be open to wherever God leads us.

Ed Chin, Elder



We each have a story of how and why we got here. This is mine. It's a story of grace, love, and gratitude.

There but for the grace of God, go I, saved by the love of God,

for which I am eternally grateful.

I joined the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown by letter of transfer in 1973, thus beginning a long journey of faith with the church family here and in Cameron House. My first experience with a church committee was the Envisioning Committee chaired by Jim Quan.

Even as a young child in first grade, I remember praying to God, though I really didn't know who God is, but I felt God's presence. My dad died when I was 10 and I was raised by my mom, who suffered from chronic depression. God was Father God, who watched over me.

It wasn't until I went to Cameron House that my experience with God began to get filled out. Volunteering at Cameron House as Sunday School teacher under the warm and friendly guidance of Jack Schaupp, I learned and experienced Bible stories in living, joyous fun through play, games, and simulation acting along with making friendships that have lasted to this day. I learned of Jesus, the Loving Presence, teacher of the "third way," In the Agape Fellowship and in the Evening English

Worship, I experienced true loving community and friendships that helped me to nurture faith through study, activities, and service. Through back packing with church family such as Al and Shar, I experienced the awe of God's creation.

At age 28, feeling anxious without clear direction, I remember looking out the window and praying to God about what will I do for work and the future. I will always be grateful to Sunny Hee who recommended me to the manager of the Chinatown Social Security office, where I found my career and calling in helping the disabled, seniors, widows, and others in obtaining benefits. Little would I have imagined those 40 years ago that I would be the Deputy Assistant Regional Commissioner for the Western Processing Center in SSA. All that experience working with staff and volunteers at Cameron House in daycamp, BDOW, after school program, and the church, helped me to understand and practice "servant leadership" in supervising and managing an organization.

As an Elder, I have fond memories of being part of the church's Christian Education Committee and teaching the children of the Cantonese congregation. I had served as the chairperson for the SF Presbytery's Peacemaking Committee which later became the Peacemaking Taskforce (but that's another story) where I developed a greater appreciation for our connectional church and developed friendships with dedicated people such as Linda Blagburn, who was the Hunger Action Enabler, where we got the \$500 grant to start "Super Sunday" with Chinatown CDC, and us making egg salad sandwiches for the SRO
(continued on page 14)

Ed Chin, Elder (continued from page 13)

tenants and families. Working with Rev. Norman in the Missions Committee, we started English Classes and other activities of community service and mission. I served in the Personnel Committee during the ministries of Cal Chinn and Kimberly Elliot. Most recently, I completed two terms on the Board of Directors of Cameron House, chairing the Personnel Committee. When asked this time to serve, I felt God tug at me to say Yes, it's time. I am grateful to God and the community for this trust placed in me to serve as Elder.

Upcoming Events



Saturday, February 8: 9:30am – 1:00pm, Church Clean-Up Day

Tuesday, February 11: Presbytery Meeting, Irvington P.C., Fremont

Friday, February 21: 6pm Winter Shelter Meal, First Unitarian Universalist Church

Wed. February 26: Ash Wednesday service in the evening

Sunday, March 8: Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday
Guest Preacher: Rev. Jana Childers, SFTS

April 5: Palm Sunday

April 12: Easter Sunday

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News from the Pews **by Pat Chan**

Happy New Year! Happy Year of the Rat!



Congratulations to Joseph Leong and Yumi. They had a Japanese wedding in October. Dayton, Mary and Sarabeth were able to fly to Japan to be with the couple and to spend time in Japan for 10 days.

Congratulations to Lindsey Quock; she married Zachary Palchick. They got married in Florida in November. They went to see Zac's grandmother.

Vivien and Kimball Wong's family is expanding. Son, Ryan and wife Chen, have a new baby boy name Ethan Micah; he joins sister Zoey. Daughter Chelsea and Andrew are expecting baby # 2 this Spring.

Mary Wong Leong and Linda Lee are visiting the Philippines. They were able to help Eunice's mother pass out toys to the railroad children. They also passed out jook. From the pictures I saw on Facebook they are eating some good food.

Gilbert, Eunice, Mary and Linda visited the UCCP churches and they had fellowship with the scholars and women's group. When they all return home we will have to ask questions like, "How is the farm doing?"

Kimball and Vivien were able to have a nice meal with them before heading off to their Medical Mission's trip. Last year both of them were on this trip. We will hear more when Kimball and Vivien return home.