



# Good News for the Pews

February 2024

A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

Issue No. 38

## Moment for Stewardship by Pastor Don Hammond

Hello! Before I left on vacation, thank you, I recorded this brief message as a Moment for Stewardship. As Winchell Quock mentioned last Sunday, my compensation package represents the largest single line-item in our annual budget.

I have many roles in our worshipping community: I am an *ex-officio* member of all our standing committees, including, Mission & Evangelism, Worship & Nurture, Resources, and the Nominating Committee. In each of those committees I work to make sure there is adequate coordination laterally between committees but also between the committees and the English Commission. Each committee is actually a *sub-committee of the Commission*, and their respective areas of responsibility are *delegated to them*. The Commission, in turn, is delegated its power from the All-Church session. The Session, and the elders on it are elected by the Congregation. Our structure is complex, and representative in nature. My role is to make sure the will of congregation, following the calling of God, is realized though the work of the elders and the standing committees. Meetings, preparing for them, attending them, and then following up from them, are a large part of my work.

I also work with volunteers to prepare our weekly worship services. I usually write a significant portion of the service each week, in addition to the sermon itself. I support the sermons with teachings and commentaries, often in the School of Discipleship, but also through theological expositions (as necessary) in regular committee meetings. I continue to be the main interlocutor between the leadership of the three language communities, even during this time of distance and uncertainty. I also prepare and facilitate education for Deacons and Elders in the performance of their ministries.

I do some administrative work for the English Commission, but often that involves my finding volunteers or assigning tasks back out to the committees.

I meet with members of the congregation regularly, for pastoral care and conversation. This often takes the form of table fellowship and take a few hours on a couple of days each week. I also engage with leaders of community organizations with whom we partner in mission and ministry. As we begin this new season of ministry together, I expect to continue with the work above,

You make all this possible with your faithful support. Thank you for all the ways you partner with PCC as we continue to provide our Christian Witness to Chinatown.

# Minute for Stewardship

## Stewardship and Infrastructure by David Soohoo

We, as members of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown and the Presbyterian Church USA are guided by God, the Book of Order, and the Book of Confessions. Our denomination's hierarchy regarding polity and governance lies with the (1) General Assembly, the highest governing body responsible for the mission of the whole church. (2) The Synod of the Pacific, the governing body that oversees the life and mission of PCUSA within our geographical region. And (3) the Presbytery of San Francisco, which has jurisdiction over sessions and minister members within their district. To give you some perspective we have one General Assembly, which meets biennial, 166 Presbyteries, 16 Synods, 8705 congregations and 1,140,665 members at the end of 2022. [https://pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/statistics/2022\\_stats\\_comparativesummaries.pdf](https://pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/statistics/2022_stats_comparativesummaries.pdf)

Locally, the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown's infrastructure is governed by our Session, which is made up of active and elected Elders from each of our three Commissions/Worshiping Communities with their respective pastors. Each Commission is and has been responsible for their programs, ministries and service. According to our current bylaws, we still are one "congregation".

Our English Commission and worshiping community rely heavily on the leadership of its Elders, Deacons and a multitude of volunteers. The English community structure includes the Worship & Nurture, Mission & Evangelism, and Resource Committees with the support of the Personnel and Nominating Committees.

Our **English Resource Committee** provides oversight, support and administration of the budget and finances, communications, membership rolls, and stewardship for our English Worshipping Community. Along with the Building and Finance Committee of the Session, we are actively engaged in the facility maintenance, security, and space utilization of our building. Those serving with me on the committee are Stuart Go, Max Hum, Jackie Jew, Terry Leong, Winchell Quock, Annie Wong, and Pastor Hammond.

Stewardship is an important aspect that contributes to a successful organization's infrastructure. Your participation and contribution, whether it's your time, service, donations and gifts continue to support our pastor's salary, worship, mission-driven programs, the church building, and the work of the church.

## 2023 Stewardship Minute

### Winchell Quock, EWC Treasurer

Hi, I am Winchell Quock, your English Worshipping Committee Treasurer, appointed by your English Commission to work with the Resource Committee to manage your Commission finances. I would like to take a moment to briefly outline the 2023 budget.

As you can see on the slide, our total budget is \$226,908.

It is broken down in several major categories:

Pastor Don's salary package of \$120,738, includes a 39% Board of Pensions contribution.

The Common building fund is our portion of common building costs for operations: including insurance, elevator and HVAC maintenance, utilities, janitorial service, garbage pickup, and costs to repay our loan for the solar panels.

Per Capita – is that amount paid to presbytery as an active membership tax,

Our mission giving comprises 13% of our budget. Local causes we have made contributions to include Calexo Methodist Church, Philippines churches, Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Rights, Tsuru Solidarity, Safehouse, Asian Women's Shelter, and SF Night Ministry.

The remaining 8% of the budget pays for zoom subscriptions and live streaming, worship planning materials, subsidies for retreats, pulpit supply honorariums, and committee expenses.

Your monetary contributions to PCC, whether by mail or on-line, keep our church finances in order. The monthly In-the Loop report from the Commission will keep you apprised of our finances each month. Thanks to you, our finances are healthy.

Thank you for your faithful and ongoing contributions in response to God's grace and love for each of us.

## 2023 PCC – English Worshipping Community Budget

**Total budget \$ 226,908      100%**

### **Pastor Don’s salary package (includes 39% Board of Pensions)**

**Salary and Manse              \$80,835**

**Board of Pensions (39%)    \$32,428**

**Reimbursable expenses      \$ 5,675**

**Pretax retirement              \$ 1,800**

**\$120,738                      53%**

### **Common Building Fund - apportionment**

**Based on active membership of 113              \$ 52,778                      23%**

**Per Capita (active members x \$28)              \$ 4,641                      2%**

### **Mission giving: General Assembly - \$ 18,000**

**Cameron House - \$ 7,500**

**M/E Committee - \$ 5,000**

**\$ 30,500                      13%**

### **Balance – various committees expenses**

**(includes temporary pulpit supply)              \$ 17,250                      8%**

*Winchell Quock*

## Kevin Feeley, Our New Church Member



I grew up in Chicago in a very traditional family with three sisters. My dad worked for the Chicago Teachers Union and my mom was a school teacher and a stay at home mom when my sisters and I were growing up.

I grew up in the Catholic Church and went to catholic school from elementary school through high school.

I moved to Long Beach, California in 2017 for a new job with the computer consulting company, Accenture.

Also in 2017 I married for the first time and became a step dad. My wife, Liuhong, and I moved to San Francisco in 2020 when I started a new job at the University of California at Berkeley computer department.

My son is in his fourth year of college at Purdue University in Indiana.

I started looking for a new church after moving to San Francisco. Looking for a church nearby that shared my theological beliefs and helping the community. I found PCC and started attending service shortly after in-person service started about 2 years ago. I joined the church by affirmation of faith on October 29, 2023.

I am on the Mission and Evangelism Committee and occasionally volunteer with the Saturday morning food pantry.

*Liuhong cross country skiing >*



In the winter I like to ski up in Lake Tahoe. The two photos are at South Lake Tahoe, Palisades Ski Resort.

*Kevin Feeley*





*(top photos) Sabrina delivering gifts she collected from her friends. Chinatown CDC staff and parents sorting gifts by age and gender.*

*(bottom photos) Santa handed out the gifts to every child while Pikachu and a Bear entertained the families.*

Mission & Evangelism Committee thanks everyone from the English Worshipping Community and friends of Sabrina Shin who contributed Christmas gifts for children who live in Chinatown SROs. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, Chinatown CDC hosted their annual holiday party at Gordon J. Lau School. Before the families arrived, Chinatown CDC high schoolers (Santa's elves) carried the bags of gifts from PCC up to the school. The families enjoyed lunch in the gymnasium and visited Santa Claus in the auditorium. One of the staff who helped organize the event said, "Everyone was happy that day – thank you for all the gifts!"

The families were also celebrating the City's rental subsidy program which provides an opportunity for many of them to move into a decent apartment with a bathroom and kitchen.

The holidays were a little brighter for these families through the sharing of time and resources from the gift-givers.

Greetings for the New Year and hopes this note finds you all keeping well. Another year has sped by, and I am amazed that each year the Cookie Project miraculous happens, and certainly because of the miracle of community. It has been over 25 years when we started this, and I have been asked on occasions how all this morphed into this community project?

Years ago as a Sunday School teacher, I always want to create teaching moments in which children can learn and remember from doing. The lesson was about gifts. It was easy for children to understand the anticipation of getting gifts at Christmas time but what about giving one? What better way than to share food? This cookie project started with 10 bakers, baking one dozen cookies each (making 12 bags with 10 assorted cookies). The children made the greeting cards, decorated the bags and on one Sunday, the kids filled the bags together. Ask any of the children from years ago and they'll tell how much fun it was, but it was torture to give the cookie bags to someone else. "Don't we get cookies?" By some miracle, there always seemed to be left over cookies. Was it a divine miracle or very generous bakers? With the left over cookies, the children were allowed to circle about the table with a Ziplock bag and choose from the left over cookies. "Just don't eat them all in one sitting!"

There was another lesson of delivering the bags; thank you to some of the parents who took their kids to make a visit with the bags to someone who need a little cheer and visit. That was a long time ago doing this from year to year, but over time as our kids have grown up (sadly they do have to grow up), we have had to ask the larger village to help with this project.

Fast forward in years to 2023. We have been blessed with more bakers in our community (24 this year) making three dozen cookies each (that's up to 36 bags). What a creative team of bakers, making many assortments of homemade cookies. Some cookies are classics and others are opportunities to try a new recipe. It's always GOOD! If you feel moved to bake, let me know!

We have a card making team that comes up with inspiring thoughts and images for the season; thank you: Diane, Marie, Jojo, Jerrick, and Maddie. Some of our young adults, Caitlin and Ella, come back during their college break to decorate and trim our cookie bags.

The project is not complete without our Deacons who have continued to work through the year in caring for our community. Thank you to Jackie for coordinating the Deacons in putting together the list of recipients, the organizing and packing elves on Saturday after Food Pantry (it was just like kids, hard to not want to eat the cookies ourselves). Distributing and coordinating deliveries and visits is another big ask in the project. Deacons and Deacons Plus have been so generous to make house calls to those in our community who have been faced with challenges this year and need of a little support and a caring visit - bringing the message from our community that they are remembered. There have been many moments of joy from those who received visits this year. I cannot say thank you enough to everyone!

*(continued on page 8)*

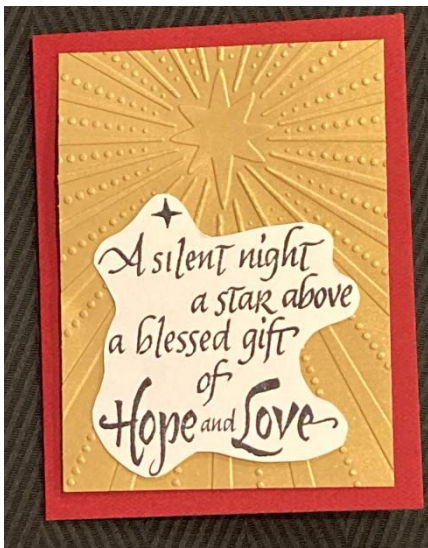


What a gift this has been in bringing a village together to support others in need. Anyone remember the book “Stone Soup”. Maybe we are not sure what we can do when asked, as we may not know what our gifts are, or have opportunities to give a gift. Let Christ guide your heart and hands. And from a catchphrase of the 1980’s - “I love it when a plan comes together!” (A-Team). When it comes together, it is a beautiful gift. From a simple Sunday School lesson of gift giving to a Christmas miracle. Christ was and is... the gift that God gave us and the miracle that we all need.

Blessings to all for this New Year of the Dragon!

Nancy

P.S. As always, a few photos to share....



Cookie Project 2023 Card



Cookie bags and cards



Assorted Cookies



Ella and Caitlin



Cookie packing elves

*(continued on page 9)*



**Christmas Cookie Project 2023** (continued from page 8)



Organizing elves



JoAnn and Alson



Lula and Dayton



Doreen and Bruce



Mary and Wayne



Noel



Pat and Ivy



Frances

## A Wonderful Christmas Party

By Kay Wong, Elder

The Cantonese Worshiping Community held an excellent Christmas party on Christmas Eve. The year of 2023 has been a challenge for us. Pastor Kaan retired at the beginning of the year and we were in the process to seek a new minister. At the party, the guest speaker Pastor Raymond Yee, encouraged us to be Christians, faithful, strong and brave, based on Isaiah 9:1-7: "Nevertheless there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. ... The people walking in darkness have seen a great light."



The Christmas party was held on the second floor of the church. The party was hosted by Elders Kay Wong and Eleanor Wong. Pastor Raymond Yee also joined us. All the participants received a Christmas gift, filled with candies, crackers and small gifts. After an introduction by the Elders, the Cantonese Community Choir led the congregation to sing hymns for celebrating Christmas, among them were *Silent Night*, *Joy to the World*, and *O Come, All Ye Faithful*.

Next came a talent show. Huyin Lei, a UC Davis graduate and a piano teacher, performed *O Holy Night*. The raffle drawing brought the party to a high level of enjoyment. A number of beautiful gifts were offered by Elders Rachani Liu, Raina Choy, Eleanor Wong, Kay Wong and Amy Yuan. All the people had a chance to draw and receive a gift. Following the raffle drawing was a lavish lunch, where people enjoyed three courses of delicious Chinese food selected by Elder Raina Choy. The party concluded with Pastor Yee's prayer.

(continued on page 11)



Let us all pray for the Cantonese Worshiping Community and our other worshipping communities, to be faithful and brave, and to overcome difficulties. "We have seen a great light".



## By Kathy Tong, Deacon, Class of 2025



I grew up in a family of 4 kids. Religion was not introduced to us until my older sister, Irene, started to take piano lessons from a woman who was a Seventh Day Adventist. Funny her name was Mildred too (not ours from PCC). At that time, we all trooped over every Saturday morning. Our Sabbath assignment church was located on the corner of Hyde & Sacramento, which has been demolished and is now located in the outer Richmond. Each week we memorized a certain scripture. Yes, we wanted those tiny gold stars next to our names.

As we grew older into our teens, we realized there were many rules in being a Seventh Day Adventist: NO to these: caffeine – coffee, tea, coke; dancing (that’s “showing off”); wearing jewelry or make up; going to the movies; eating pork or fish unless it has scales; home on Fridays before sunset; TV must be shut off from Friday night to Saturday at sunset. All should be worshiping on the Sabbath. As a teenager, these rules were impossible to follow! We stopped attending church.

Twenty years later, my children were enrolled at the Calvary Presbyterian Church Preschool. It was time to attend Sunday School. Interesting enough, kids from the Preschool were not necessarily attending Sunday school classes. I also didn’t feel the connection with the adults there. Rev. Donald Drummond (not Hammond) was the pastor at CUPC and invited me and the children to attend. We were welcomed with open arms and the congregation was full of young families.

Fast forward a few years. I met (Rev.) Brad Woo who was invited to our CUPC Family Fellowship Retreat at Westminster Woods as our visiting minister facilitator. He invited me to Sunday Evening Worship. What an energetic and exciting service. I kept on coming back with Brad. I’ve felt so loved and welcomed by everyone. They all continue to be my closest friends (Wednesday Bible Study group).

At CUPC, I served as Deacon for 6 years. At each church the duties of Deacons are very different. There were young families, young single adults and many Sensei. My main memory of being a Deacon was hosting parties (graduation, baby & wedding showers, annual Thanksgiving dinner & church bazaar & garage sales). Mrs. Don Drummond developed the “flock” system, where each Deacon was assigned at least 10 members and were responsible for “caring & connecting” with them.

At the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown, I’ve served 6 years as a Deacon with some amazing people, many are my closest friends. Now starting in 2024, I’ll be serving 2 additional years. I’ve been told the job description has changed completely from the time I served before COVID. I’m excited and challenged to see how I can help.



## My Faith Journey by Dayton Leong



*Striped bass, 7 pounds*

1954 My sister Edaine took my brothers Dawson, Dalton and me to the Nazarene Church. I learned a song, 'I will make you fishers of men if you follow me'. I thought if I followed Jesus, I would catch more fish!

1959 I joined the Algonquins boys' club at Cameron House. E.J. was my leader. I learned a lot from him.

1962 I joined a commission of my peers, Nora Der and Bob Kwong were my leaders.

1963 I joined the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown during Pentecost and taught 3rd grade for my first time as a church school teacher.

1969-71 I became a boy's leader for a group at CH called the Spartans. Gordie Lam was my director.

1974 I was asked to be a leader again by Gordie for the Disciples.

1975 I was a CH 1st grade Day Camp leader at the age of 29!

1977 The year I married Mary.

1981 We became parents to Joseph.

1985 We became parents to Sarabeth.

2023 We became grandparents to Mitsuki.

For many years, my vocation was in Food Service. I was a cook, sous chef, chef, dining room supervisor and food service coordinator at various jobs. My work experience gave me the opportunity to cook meals for Day Camp Leaders, Women's Fellowship and Presbyterian Women.

My theology is fishing for Jesus, making that cast, sharing Jesus' Good News of peace, love and salvation; sharing the news that the Holy Spirit surrounds us; listening for God's call in my heart, mind, and soul with strength; feeling His constant love and the Holy Spirit surrounding us.

In my daily devotions, I read scripture and the Upper Room and I have a prayer list of over 250 persons. I name and pray for each person and I write a page of prayer.

I thank God everyday for my faith, family, friends, future and focus to do His Work. With God's grace and blessing, we are never alone.

Fish On Jesus.

## Diane Go, Deacon, Class of 2024



My name is Diane Go and I am a new Deacon for our English Worshipping Community for 2024. While I have been a member of PCC since 1981, I may not be known by everyone in our community. So, I decided to do a quick introduction to myself using an “I am” approach

I am —

— a third generation Japanese American, or “sansei”. My maternal and paternal grandparents immigrated from Japan as young adults. They and their children were interned in camps during WWII.

— the youngest of 3 daughters. My oldest sister Lynne lives in Baltimore, Maryland and my middle sister Jane lives in Lafayette, California. We all have Japanese first names but are mostly known by our

English middle names (Kiyomi = Lynne, Midori = Jane, Yukiko = me). My mother’s name was Shizuko, but old friends called her Sue. My dad was the only one whose nickname “Mits” resembled his real name Mitsuru. Both parents’ spirits are now in the care of our loving Creator God.

— a retired Occupational Therapist. I finally tossed in the name badge in July, 2022 after almost 40 years of work (August, 2022 would have been 40 years). Granted 20 years have been per diem work. But I never thought I would enjoy being an OT for so long.

— living in Daly City and commuting in to PCC. Husband Stuart is still working but gets to work from home 2 of 5 days now. Younger son Timothy is living with us and commuting to the city of Richmond 5 days out of the week for work as a food scientist. He has commuter genes! Older son Jeffrey is living away and forging ahead in his anesthesiology residency in Los Angeles.

— keeping active outside of church. I still love crafty activities like paper crafting and jewelry making with friends from our church community. I also managed to get into a “jam band” playing electric keyboards. My flute is sadly waiting in the wings to be played, some day when I get my lips back into shape. And I have been trying very hard to learn to play pickle ball with our PCC pickle ball group! Traveling will hopefully happen when husband retires.

— continuing to make an effort to be an active member of our English Worshipping Community. I had been a Deacon in 2014 for 1 year, then served as an Elder from 2015 to 2020 for 6 years. I am currently a community-wide representative on our Nominating Committee. I will also be returning to our Worship and Nurture Committee. I am attending the School of Discipleship and the Wednesday Night Covenant Group.

— looking forward to being a Deacon again and to getting the opportunity to know and serve you and our Loving God in new ways!

## Kimball Wong, Elder, Class of 2026



I am honored and humbled to be called by God and our church to serve as an Elder. While this is my first time serving in this capacity, I have served 2 terms as a Deacon and a couple times on the Nominating Committee in the past. I have more recently served two terms on the Cameron House Board. I have been a long time member of this church, led here by my Mom who herself was a resident in the Presbyterian Mission Homes when she was a teen.

My Faith has been guided by service. Participating in mission trips within and outside of the church fosters the development of my faith. This began with a mini caravan, a California caravan, SE Alaska, teaching Vacation Bible School, New Orleans home building with Presbyterian Disaster Relief, Guatemala water project, and medical missions in the Philippines. While some projects are not necessarily Christian missions, I can say with certainty that my faith guides me.

I continue to work as a Chiropractor in my own practice. I am married to my wife Vivien, who shares in our medical missions. My son in law, (Chelsea's husband) is a pastor at Christ Church in Berkeley, an Evangelical Presbyterian Church while my son Ryan serves part time as a Pastor in the South Bay. My passions include time with my grandchildren, running, time outdoors and K dramas. I look forward to the challenges we will encounter over the next several years and ask for your continued prayers.

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- Saturday, February 10: Lunar New Year
- Wednesday, February 14: Ash Wednesday Service, Lent begins today
- Sunday, February 18: First Sunday of Lent
- Monday, February 19: President's Day Holiday Observance
- Sunday, February 25: Second Sunday of Lent
- Tuesday, March 5: Election Day
- Sunday, March 10: Daylight Saving Time Begins. PCC Session Meeting
- Saturday, March 16: 9am-3pm. Vision Clinic in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday
- Thursday March 28: Maundy Thursday Service
- Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday

## News from the Pews by Pat Chan, Deacon

We have some good news to share with our Church family and community.

A big congratulations to Mary and Dayton Leong. They are first time grandparents to a baby girl name Mitsuki Eleanor. She was born on November 30<sup>th</sup> in Japan. Son Joseph and wife Yumi are first time parents. Dayton and Mary will be seeing their granddaughter in March.

Max Hum, our medical student, had his white coat ceremony mid-January. His proud parents were present. Grandma Ann Hum stayed home. Ann is our faithful food pantry volunteer each Saturday. She is a lovely person to talk to. I get all the scoop from her about her grandchildren.

We want to wish all the best to Eunice and her sister Estela as they opened up the Williemac Beach Resort in the Philippines mid-December. They did have some guests. Check out the website. The resort looks gorgeous. Estela did all the decorating and Eunice hired all the employees and wrote a work manual for the employees to follow.

We hope all goes well with this new business venture.

Vivien and Kimball Wong are on a Medical Mission in Bayambang, Philippines with the Philippine Medical Society of Northern California. Kimball is working with the Chiropractic and Physical Team. Vivien is working with the intake team and helping out where she is needed the most.

We have a few church members traveling in January. Sabrina Gee-Shin, husband Jung and son Dean are skiing in Japan. I am sure they are doing some sight-seeing and eating a lot of good food. I'm waiting for Sabrina to post more pictures on Facebook.

Barbara and Mark Fong are traveling around Vietnam with some friends. They are sight-seeing and eating some good food. Mark is enjoying the coconut coffee. I can't wait to ask Mark about the taste of this coffee. I am awaiting more pictures for Mark to post on Facebook.

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**Installation of Rev. Donald P. Hammond, February 3, 2024**



*Anthem: Glory to God in the Highest, The Cantonese Worshipping Community Choir*



*Constitutional Questions of Rev. Donald P. Hammond by the Rev. Dr. Grace Kaori Suzuki*





Administrative Commission Members and Ministers



The Reception!

Photos by Stuart Go