



# Good News for the Pews

May 1, 2018

A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

Issue No. 15

Therefore, if anyone is in **Christ**, he is a **new creation**.  
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 1 Corinthians 5: 17



What does it mean to be a new creation in Christ?

Think of what caterpillars do on their way to becoming butterflies – they surrender completely and liquefy in the center – only to emerge at the end of the process transformed. They have to let go of their old form (that of a caterpillar) to become something new.

They need a lot of trust to be part of that process – and it seems to come from some natural instinct – the ability to trust in something larger than themselves.



We, of course, call that something God. In our own processes of transformation we are called to trust in the presence of God all around us – and in so doing to remember:

Remember that we are held in a larger fabric that we cannot always see.

Remember that God cares for us and wants the best for us – not only individually but as a community.

*(continued on page 2)*

Remember that if we stay in communion with God, that God is always guiding us towards rebirth and renewal – if we are open to that process.

In order for this to be complete, it is helpful to intentionally connect with God's presence in the process. To spend time in prayer – not just talking to God – but deeply listening as well. Listening from the heart for that still, small voice that speaks to us when we center our spirit and quiet our minds. Listening for God's guidance, remembering that God comes from a place of abundance rather than scarcity, wanting us to live and move and have our being in joy.

There is an interesting article by Rev. Diana Cheifetz about the power of prayer in community. It is about a church in the Midwest that was struggling and anxious about its future. The pastor began to introduce more regular prayer and encouraged the church members to pray for each other and include more regular prayer at home- such as the simple practice of saying grace at every meal.

Rev. Cheifetz writes: "The church noticed that there was unity at deeper levels. They started doing things through discernment (listening to the Spirit of God) rather than simple decision-making. Then they began to reach out into the community, especially to mentor at-risk-kids in the neighborhood. And then they realized that these children needed not only tutoring, but needed job skills too, and they started an apprenticeship program.

"There was no strategic plan for growth, no dazzling program, only lots of prayer and faithfulness, risk and courage. The church may not have grown in size, but they were experiencing the abundant love of Jesus Christ - and sharing it with their part of the world."

This church went through a kind of transformation of Spirit – and it started with drawing nearer to God. Spending more intentional time in prayer and reflection – that came from an orientation of trust in God's abundance and presence.



How might we be even more intentional about the power of prayer in our daily lives as well as prayer for each other and our larger community? How might we intentionally pray about an idea and also spend time in reflection, listening for how it seems that God is calling us to respond? Like the caterpillar, what might we need to let go of in the process of transformation in order for God to create something new in us?

May we continue to draw near to God as we seek new life in Christ in this Easter season.

Pastor Kimberly

## Clerk of Session Membership report for year-end 2017

**Interim Clerk of Session Report: Eddie Kam** - Below are key PCC 2017 statistics that was reported to General Assembly.

Our total membership as of 12/31/2017 was 236. Below is a breakdown for each Worshipping Community (WC) either through baptism, transfers or members returning back to the active roll and decreases were primarily a transfers out, members moved to inactive roll and 3 deceased members.

Worshipping Community	Ending 2016 Count	Increase	Decrease	Ending 2017 Count
Cantonese	40	4	3	41
English	136	3	4	135
Mandarin	53	15	8	60
Combined	229	22	15	236

- Between 2016 and 2017, our combined average worship attendance dropped an average of 7 attendee or 3.9% reduction in comparison, but worship attendance is not really accurate because attendance was not recorded frequently when we worshiped at Cameron House.
- 95.3 of our members are Asian
- The combined age distribution of members are:

Age bracket	Count	% of total
25 and under	17	7.2%
26 – 45	40	16.9%
46 – 55	31	13.1%
56 – 65	54	22.9%
Over 65	94	39.8%

Clerk reminded from a polity standpoint, as well as reporting the correct membership for Per Capita purposes, each Worshipping Community needs to report membership gains (baptisms, transfers in, confirmation) and losses (transfers out, moved to inactive roll, deceased) during Session meeting so that it's included in the minutes. Any additions in December can be captured retroactively in the November 2017 Session meeting minutes but Clerk needs to know by following year in January. Persons baptized but not considered a member, for Per Capita purposes, should not be reported.

## **Welcome to the Deacon's Corner**

**by Richard Jann**

We have eight deacons and one vacancy.

Deacons:

Chairperson, Dayton Leong

Pat Chan, Jerrick Woo, Stuart Go, Richard Jann, Desi Ng, Rachel Wong and Eddie Kam

Our Assignments are:

Readers: Eddie

Ushers: Richard

Tea Time: Dayton and Mary

Towels: Jerrick, Pat and Diane

Cards to Members: Pat

Tracking Members: Richard

Birthday E cards: Naomi

Visitors E cards: Rachel

Homeless Supplies: Stuart

Newsletter: All ( take turns )

Prayer Lists: Stuart

Communion: Desi and Rachel

Pantry Supplies: Jerrick and Pat

Committee Meetings Reps:

Mission and Evangelism: Dayton

Worship and Nurture: Pat

Nominating : Eddie

Personnel: Pat

Mary Wong Leong and Diane Go help but are not current deacons. They do deacon duties.

Anyone willing to help on deacon duties would be welcomed and appreciated. Church members and non-members are encouraged to call, write, text, etc. to current and past attendees to our church to express God's love and to reach out to our community and beyond.

Deacon's work can be done and shared by all. We want to be a working, worshiping, inclusive community with outreach. Deacons encourage wearing name tags to promote welcomeness and identifying us to the other congregations and guests each Sunday. This is good Stewardship.

## Edward Kam, English Worshipping Community Deacon 2018 – 2020

Do you know what inspiration my Aunt got when she named me when I was born? Well back in 1953, there was a Safeway coffee brand named Edwards Coffee; thus, my official name became Edward. My nickname became Eddie, because my mom like to call me Eddie-Spaghetti. And when I was 21, my mom used to call me at work and asked for “Eddie” of which my co-workers would joke, “Eddie, your **Mommy’s** on the phone”. Not liking to be thought of as a little boy, I changed my preferred name at work to “Ed” to make them see me as an adult. And because people call Ed Chin, “Ed”, I probably wanted to appear younger past my 60’s so I’ve accepted being called “Eddie” again, just joking!



On the personal side: Here’s Ryan, Lauren, me and Peggy Huey at the Ice Cream Museum enjoying a small ice cream treat. I am eligible to sign up for Medicare this year. I work at Wells Fargo Bank as a Business Systems Consultant in the HR Information Technology group and on tax day, it will be 44 years at the bank. I’ve been a SF Giants fan since the mid-60’s and glad to have witnessed 3 World Series, 5 49er Super Bowl and 2 NBA Warriors Championships. I like vegetating playing Sudoku or listening to Stephen Colbert’s opening monologue making fun of ‘45’, before going to sleep.

Anyway, I’ve been a member of PCC since I was a senior in high school back in 1970 and I think some time in the mid-80’s Terry Chan and I were naïve, gung-ho and maybe kind of stupid to accept being an Elder at PCC and Board Member at Cameron House the same time. We were elders during those tumultuous in-fighting years between the English, and the Cantonese and Mandarin congregations. I remember Terry and I wondered, “Aren’t we supposed to be loving and forgiving to work for the greater good of this church”? After the Session meetings at night which ended around 10:00 pm, the English elders would vent and decompress for another hour afterwards. If there was any saving grace, CH Board meetings were peaceful and cooperative.

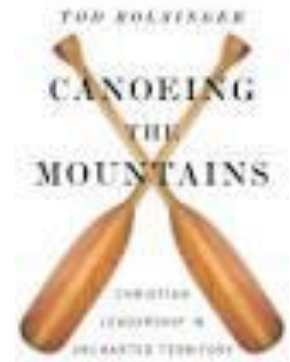
When my term as Elder was over, there was almost a 15-year hiatus of being an inactive Elder before Laurene Chan and Cal Chinn asked me to become an Elder again. I know I was reluctant and really felt there were many who were more qualified than I. After a lot of prayer and convincing by them, I accepted to be Elder once again, serving 2 terms, followed by serving as English Commission’s Treasurer and becoming Chair the Pastor Nominating Committee for 2 years. When I accepted to be an Elder again back in 2003, that’s when I started attending the Wednesday night Fellowship/Covenant group and I’m really blessed to be part of that group. After we accepted Kimberly as our pastor, I accepted the call to be an Elder and Clerk of Session when Kimberly became our pastor in 2009. So, 2017 was nice to finally get a break though I accepted to be on the Nominating Committee and stepped in as Interim Clerk of Session during Kimberly’s sabbatical. I also accepted to be part of the Adaptive Leadership Team that’s going to discern how the English Worshipping Community will be “Canoeing Our Mountain”. While being aware that in 2017, no one accepted the call to become a Deacon, I decided to try something new, go out of my comfort zone and answer that call to become a Deacon from 2018 to 2020. I also handle the Liturgist, Scripture Reader sign-up and step in as liturgist when the person assigned has a conflict. But I am blessed to be part of this loving, supportive and caring community!

## CANOEING THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO--A PCC ADVENTURE

By Diane Go, English Worshipping Community Elder

What would an adventure in San Francisco look like if we had to canoe our way around? Would that be possible? What stuff would we have to toss away to make this adventure work? What would we have to keep? What would we hold onto because, no matter what, those objects, ideas, and traits identified us as PCC--the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown?

Although our adventure has yet to be this extreme, the English Worshipping Community's Adaptive Leadership Committee has embarked on a journey to learn about the transformation that is needed by a Christian community to remain relevant and active in today's world. This journey is being hosted by the San Francisco Presbytery in partnership with PneuMatrix, an organization that helps other organizations to identify their adaptive challenges and to discern the processes by which these challenges can be navigated. We are using Tod Bolsinger's book, *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*, as a resource.



Our team consists of 9 members--Ed Chin, Norma Chan, Joshua Chuck, Mark Fong, Eddie Kam, Sing, Quan, Rachel Wong, Pastor Kimberly Elliot and myself, Diane Go. Our facilitator from PneuMatrix is Jim Kitchens. Our group from PCC is a bit unique in that we represent a congregation (vs. a church) and also in that we had our initial PCC only meetings while our pastor was on Sabbatical.

Our group began meeting in October after an initial meeting in September with all churches participating in this program. We have met for a total of 5 sessions with our group alone. Our initial meetings focused on identifying the "DNA" of our congregation, again unique because of our close relationship with Cameron House. Once Pastor Kimberly returned from her Sabbatical, we spent 1 session catching her up as we began to correlate some of our readings from *Canoeing the Mountains* with what we are discovering about our congregation. Our last session began to focus on what leadership skills and organizational culture will be needed to help move our congregation forward when we address the adaptive challenges that are unique to our congregation and the challenges that are faced by all churches of today.

For myself, being part of our Adaptive Leadership Committee has helped me learn so much more about our congregation, coupled with the blessing of our congregational meetings in December. I am encouraged as I sense that our congregation is being "primed" for the journey ahead, and I am looking forward to our next all-church meeting on April 23rd at the San Francisco Presbytery office in El Cerritos and also to the presentation by Tod Bolsinger on April 28th at the Presbytery meeting at Valley Presbyterian Church in Portola Valley.

I know that this discernment process will take time and will not always be neat, orderly and without potholes in the "road". I also am aware that our group does not yet have a lot to share from our meetings. But when the time comes, I look forward to venturing forward with you, my congregation!



## LET GOD'S GRACE ABOUND

by Spring Lo

(In memory of Kay's mother, Lai Wah Young Wong, and other mothers and fathers)

Mrs. Wong was a teacher in China. She offered to teach me Chinese so that I could serve the Lord our God well in the Cantonese Worshipping Community. I came to find her legacy though only when she passed on two years ago. I watched in my amazement, her two daughters, Kay and Eleanor; they carried on in the service of worship the following Sunday with the usual grace of God and the joy of salvation. In fact, I came to see the joy of the Holy Spirit in one of her sons-in-law because I prayed for him the comfort of the Holy Spirit as I saw that he was broken hearted. Thanks be to our Lord Jesus; He always does for His churches what we ask in brotherly and sisterly love for one another.

The service was carried on as always by the sisters, their families and the rest of the congregation who are as dedicated. I felt a loss and a little missed out for not undergoing the mentoring offered to me but I have always acclaimed the work of God through His Spirit and I look forward to shout about it like the psalmists. No doubt it is God's work in the spiritual realm and in our hearts and lives that this part of Christ's church in San Francisco goes on. I only pray for the group as I see a need but I always see God's working and loving kindness in the group over the last few years. I know the importance of prayers, of asking and communicating with God. There are many in the group and others around the Bay Area who dedicate themselves to prayer-meetings for all churches and people in San Francisco.

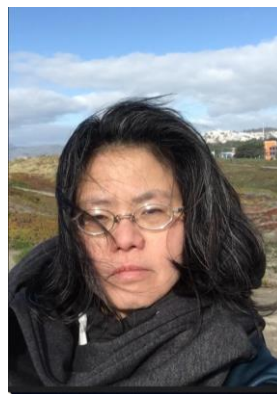
The scripture says that God's grace abounds the more where sin abound. But sin is anything and everything in us that is short of God's Perfect Standard. So we always want and need more grace as we carry on serving the Lord and living out our life in Christ as we grow in the grace and as we learn to submit to the disciplines of obedience. The point is that it's great to have in the natural and it's also great to have in the spiritual. When I was facing an upcoming surgery, I prayed to God if I should ask for spiritual healing, which I had never asked, that I may avoid surgery. God answered me with the visiting pastor's wife the following Sunday. Mrs. Kaan approached me and insisted on praying for my healing after I told her I was having pancreatitis. Glory be to God, I don't even need any more hospitalization. So, it's God's will to empower and to guide within us to carry us on to serve Christ and to live a life Christ commands; hence, we do not run out of loving kindness and we don't get weary with a hardened heart. So, let our prayers, in words / in songs, with gratitude / with groaning, in a song of deliverance / in a song of praise, be a reflection of God's grace abounding in our service and also in us individually, else we are void of God's grace.

I seek to be close to God; He answers. God answers.

Blessings...

*Spring,*

Cantonese Worshipping Community



*March 11, 2018:* What a Glorious Day it Was!

Let's have the pictures tell the story: they beat a thousand words! But, all in all, we would like to thank everyone for coming, for sharing and witnessing a wonderful day that the Lord has made! Glory Be to God! We are ever so thankful that God has led Pastor Israel Hao to PCC, to be the Commissioned Pastor for the Mandarin Worshipping Community and into the lives of our ministry!



Prep work in the kitchen, and, yes, it does take 6 to supervise one!



Choir sang "My Jesus, I Love You, Deeply Knowing I Belong to You!"

Not pictured: The Mandarin Youth sang: "A Humble Heart"

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Presenting bouquets of Thanks to Pastors Kimberly and Ronnie for their support, prayers and help all these years!



S.F. Presbytery, Moderator Enicia Montalvo, and Vice Moderator Karl Shadley presenting to Pastor Hao CRE Lay Pastor Certificate.

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*March 11, 2018: What a Glorious Day it Was! (continued from page 9)*



Mandarin Commission presenting to Pastor Hao a verse picked by each of the nine ruling elders, manually transcribed on the picture plaque...words of encouragements to live by daily.

Pictured are the five Administrative Committee members: Kamal Hassan, InHo Kim, Sung Kim, Enicia Montalvo, and Amy Feng. Plus Israel Hao and Billy Yu (provided Cantonese translation).

Photos courtesy of Catherine Hao  
Submitted by Amy Feng

## Water for Children

by Cindy Joe

The Mission & Evangelism Committee will support this campaign to raise funds to build clean water systems. PCC sent a mission team to Guatemala. They helped install a system in the San Marcos area back in 2015.

The green box below has the info to set aside money you spend drinking beverages other than water. PCC will collect this offering on Sunday, May 13, 2018. Please make checks payable to PCC with LWWM on the memo line.



*Guatemalan child*

### Help us celebrate Mother's Day!

You can do this in one simple way:

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

Or make a donation of any amount that God leads you to give in honor of all of our mothers. Above all pray for the people who will have clean water through the ministry of Living Water World Missions ... thanks to your donation.



*The 2015 PCC Team in Guatemala*



We have more Congratulations news:

Pastor Kimberly got engaged during her Sabbatical.  
She and Derrick do not have a wedding date set yet.



Clinton Huey announced that he is a Grandfather.  
His daughter Amanda gave birth to a healthy boy name  
Juno in March. Congratulations to Amanda and her husband Frank.  
Now, Benji is an Uncle and Carolyn is a Grandmother.

Kim Stevens and her partner Angel are expecting a baby  
late this summer. We can't wait to have a new baby in our church.

Kati Chan has a new job in Seattle. We hope it will become a permanent  
position. I know Jeanine and Greg are happy that she is in the West Coast now.

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I am still collecting small items for Covenant TLC program. These items are for prizes  
when we have games for them to play. Items can be: beaded necklaces, bracelets, coin  
purses, wallets, stuffed animals, craft items, tote bags, they love stickers of all themes,  
any non breakable items. Thank you to those who have given items in the past. Time to  
do some Spring Cleaning. See what you can find.

Questions: email me at [Patjchan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Patjchan@sbcglobal.net)

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## Upcoming Events

by Linda Lee, Tad Hopp and Susie Wong

**Every Saturday:** Food Pantry still going strong every Saturday at PCC. We always need volunteers to help. Come for set up from 10:30-12 and/or grocery distribution from 12:15-1:30. If you have a car, we need drivers who can to help deliver groceries to several frail elders from 1:15-1:45. Call or text Susie at [\(415\) 710-7242](tel:4157107242) or email [susiewong58@aol.com](mailto:susiewong58@aol.com) if you can help out!

**Tuesday, May 1:** Worship & Nurture and Mission & Evangelism Committees meet at PCC.

**Sunday, May 13:** Water for Children Fundraiser- Special Collection on Mother's' Day,

**Saturday, May 26:** Craft Day @ Fellowship Hall, PCC 2:00 - 5:00 pm. Fun crafts and games for all ages, fellowship and casual drop-in time together. RSVP to Diane Go by May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Wednesday, May 30:** West Region of the SF Presbytery meets at Lincoln Park P.C. 6:30 - 8:30, all are welcome

**\* Coming: possibly June 30:** *Doors Open*, a musical at PCC  
About *Doors Open* the LGBTQ-themed musical-comedy. Author, Mark Teagle.

Mel stands outside his church, unsure about about going through the doors. His daughter Shauna just came out to him and he is full of conflicted feelings. Darius wonders what this church might have to offer to a gay man like him. Condemnation? Rejection? The committee chair plans his argument. The pastor wonders how should our church react?

The characters in *Doors Open* wrestle with these issues with heartfelt songs and even a surprising number of laughs. Audiences around the Bay Area have loved this show. "It really put into words so much of what I had gone through," one parent remarked.

San Jose playwright Mark Teagle has had his musicals performed in churches throughout California. He studied music and theology at Seattle Pacific University and Fuller Seminary. He directs the Choir at Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose's Japantown and teaches Music at Carden Day School also in San Jose.

**\* Check with PCC's Weekly E-News for the exact date and time.**



**July 15-22:** Donation Drive for SRO Kids School Supplies