

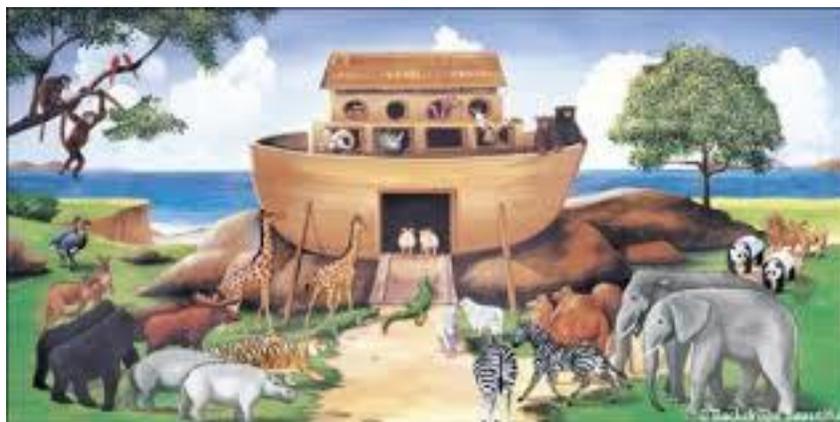


# Good News for the Pews

August 1, 2017

A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

Issue No. 12



## The Promise of New Life

*“God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the domestic animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided; <sup>2</sup>the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, <sup>3</sup>and the waters gradually receded from the earth. At the end of one hundred fifty days the waters had abated; <sup>4</sup>and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.*

*<sup>6</sup>At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made <sup>7</sup>and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; <sup>9</sup>but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. <sup>10</sup>He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; <sup>11</sup>and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth”.*

*Genesis 8: 1-12*

This story of Noah and the ark reminds us of how God took care of Noah and his family and all the animals during the time of the great flood. I am sure they all had to have a lot of patience. It must have been crowded in that ark with all the animals! I am sure they wanted to find dry land as soon as possible. But it took time for the water to recede in stages – and in God’s time, the dove came back with the olive branch, signifying that the waters had subsided enough for the dry land to appear.

*(continued on page 2)*

## The Promise of New Life *(continued from page 1)*

Perhaps our recent situation at the church with our small sanctuary fire and subsequent flood damage may help us appreciate this passage in Genesis even more. Our routine has been disrupted, certain things about our schedule and location have changed, and our flow together is a little different than it was before. So far everyone has been patient and helpful, and that has been a wonderful reminder of God's presence with us! I can also imagine that at some point, it would be natural to feel a little restless and we may need to recall this passage again, remembering that everything happens in God's time. I remain grateful to the Cameron House staff for their gracious hospitality in hosting us while we are displaced from our building, and to our amazing building and finance crew who are doing an excellent job managing the details of the situation.



As I read this story again, it also occurs to me that this is one of the passages where God's 'wind' (*Ruah*, in Hebrew which also means 'breath' or 'spirit') and water coincide. Other passages include the waters of creation in Genesis 1, Moses parting the Red Sea and the Israelites crossing the Jordan. In each one of these passages, God is about to create something new – something new is born after the wind and waters subside. Now, if we have ever been on a boat at sea when the wind picked up, we know that wind on the water can create a bit of chaos! But at the end of the chaos, new life can emerge. The trick is to keep our eyes searching for what new thing God might be creating in the midst of the turbulence.

I was reflecting on this when I was reminded recently of the fire that the First Congregational Church of Berkeley encountered. They suffered more fire damage than we did, which in addition to affecting their main hall (which is still under construction) they were also displaced from their sanctuary for eight months. On Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017, they were finally able to return to worship in their own sanctuary. Their theme was 'Church on Fire!' symbolizing the fire of Pentecost and how the presence of the Holy Spirit was helping them through this transformation in a positive and creative way, helping them reclaim their fiery passion for God's work in the world.



*(continued on page 3)*

## The Promise of New Life *(continued from page 2)*

It is too soon for us to tell how long our building remodel will take. With the replacement of the sanctuary floor, it may take until the end of the year. But in this transition time, I wonder what new thing God may be creating in our midst? It may be subtle, so we may have to pay attention. It may be a slightly more relaxed feel to the worship service after worshipping in Culbertson Hall. It may be a greater appreciation for the Cameron House staff, and more awareness for all that they are doing within the Chinatown community given that PCC folks are around mid week to interact with staff and programs. It may be a renewed desire to support programs like Presbyterian Disaster Assistance that helps congregations who have suffered much greater losses than ours. It may be a whole host of things that we are not fully aware of at this time. But I invite us to keep our eyes and ears tuned to the nuances of the Spirit using the metaphor of the story of Noah, looking for the olive branch that was brought back to Noah from the dove. What symbol of new life might God's Spirit reveal to us if we continue to pay attention, trusting that everything will be revealed in God's time?

Let's continue to pay attention, looking for signs of God's spirit at work among us.

May the peace and presence of Christ continue to be with us.

*Pastor Kimberly*

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### **Sabbatical** by **Linda Lee**

**Sabbatical (sə-băt'ī-kəl):** A leave of absence with pay, usually granted every seventh year to a minister for travel, research or rest.

Last year, Pastor Kimberly discussed with the English Commission and the Personnel Committee the idea of taking a sabbatical. Both groups approved of the idea in principle and this was included as a possibility in the Terms of Call for 2017. Pastor Kimberly is in the envisioning stage of a sabbatical, and the information below is to help us envision what this might mean for her as well as for our worshipping community. A small team is developing plans for implementation.

Sabbatical leave is an extension of the biblical concept of the Sabbath Year of renewal. It is both an act of faith that God will sustain us through a period of reflection and an occasion to renew vital energies. The goal is to allow the minister to return to her responsibilities of the parish with renewed energy, spiritual vision, and effectiveness. In granting a sabbatical the congregation honors the theological rhythms of rest and renewal, encouraging the deeply spiritual cycle of "work" and "not-work", and time for rejuvenation. During this time a congregation, too, can join in exploring spiritual renewal.

*"A sabbatical gives the pastor a way to continue in the same congregation while re-examining the work/life/soul balance. . . .Most pastors . . . find that they return to their churches physically refreshed and spiritually renewed in ways that a normal vacation cannot provide. Open-ended time to read, study, create, pray and reconnect with others, self and God provide the opportunity for a reawakening of the soul and a rejuvenation of one's call."* This is excerpted from a helpful article from *The Presbyterian Outlook* magazine: <http://pres-outlook.org/2017/07/healthy-practice-pastoral-sabbaticals/>

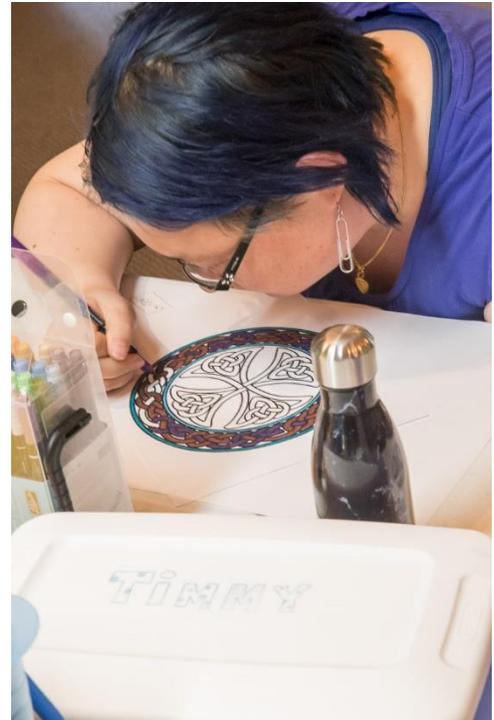
What's more fun than sitting in the sunshine? Unplugging yourself from all your electronic tech-y devices and sitting in the sunshine on the deck outside of Boxcar at Westminster Woods in the company of your fellow Koinonia Retreat attendees!

That's what 35 of us did as we communed together for the Memorial Day weekend event now dubbed The Koinonia Retreat. With the new retreat name came a new format for the gathering. Following the theme of "Plugging In to What's Important: Disconnect to Connect", we signed up for session activities including "Survival 101" with Dave Chan, "a Study of Hope" with Linda Lee, "Korean Street Food" with Sabrina Shin, "Stone Soup" with Nancy Chee and Marie Chin, and Tai Chi with Ed Chin, Sabrina Shin and Norma Chan. We also participated in some of our favorite activities, like free time and crafts, archery, paracord jig making, Zentangles, and making s'mores around the Creekside Campfire. Our campfire fun teams included Tad Hopp's Improvisation Group and our favorite game host couple, Marie Chin and Wayne Eng.

Catching up with our peers was another highlight of the weekend, and this year's generational breakout groups allowed us extra time to share and brainstorm ideas not only to support each other but also to help promote awareness of PCC's presence in the Chinatown community.

We ended our weekend with our circle affirmation time and also with our agape feast led by Pastor Kimberly Elliot. Our time together at Westminster Woods helped to energize us as we plugged back into our daily lives, hopefully with renewed spirits and renewed faith.

Thank you to the Retreat Team of Chris Chan, Clarence Chan, Dave Chan, Josh Hee, Marie Chin, Nancy Chee, Norma Chan, Stuart Go, Terry Chan, Tim Go and Wayne Eng for making this retreat extra special.



*(continued on page 5)*

**Koinonia Retreat 2017** (continued from page 4)



**Photos by Stuart Go**



## What is the Presbyterian Mission Agency? by Jeffrey Joe

I believe many of us are aware that Greg Chan and Cindy Joe's nephew serve on some National level Presbyterian committee, but maybe do not know much more than that. That is why Irene asked me, Cindy's nephew (aka Jeffrey Joe) to write this article for the newsletter on the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

First, Greg and Jeffrey serve on the *Board of Directors for the Presbyterian Mission Agency*, and like any other Board of Directors, we provide oversight to and govern the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Here's a picture of Greg (background on the right) with a few other elected Board members at our last PMA Board meeting.



Having said that, the much more interesting story to share is about what the *actual* Presbyterian Mission Agency does.

Very simply, the Presbyterian Mission Agency, or PMA, is the mission arm of the national Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Building on Presbyterian's 200 year legacy of mission work, the PMA is the 'group' that does mission work today, and they do this through inspiring, equipping, and connecting members of the church to do mission, with an emphasis on doing mission in one of four areas:

- Compassion, Peace & Justice
- Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries
- Theology, Formation & Evangelism
- World Mission

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## What is the Presbyterian Mission Agency? *(continued from page 6)*

That is, even though the PMA is a national church agency, they partner with congregations, mid-councils, worshiping communities, mission networks and many other groups to nurture and support Christ's disciples wherever the Holy Spirit leads and the General Assembly directs them.

For example, helping refugees is just one mission area that the PMA has been focusing on recently. Here are two photos: one showing PMA staff welcoming Syrian refugees in Louisville, KY, and the other showing how PMA worked with some Presbyterian seminary students as they participate in the #WeChooseWelcome campaign.



PC(USA) staff greet the Al Ramli Syrian refugee family in Louisville, Kentucky. (Photo provided by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.)



Students from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary joined together at an immigration rally with PC(USA) 'We Choose Welcome' signs to promote efforts to reach out to refugees and displaced persons seeking new homes in the U.S. (Photo by Mark Koenig)

To give a sense of how much mission work the PMA does, the 2016 budget for the PMA was about \$72 million. I cannot summarize all of the great work the PMA did with that money in a short newsletter article, but you can read the PMA's 2016 annual report by clicking the following link:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterian-mission-agency-publishes-2016-annual-report/>



PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY  
Annual Report 2016

It is truly impressive, and inspiring, to me to see fellow Presbyterians live out their faith by answering God's call to serve others, and by doing so in a way that emphasizes fiscal responsibility. I am honored and blessed to be able to do my small part by serving on the PMA Board of Directors.

*Jeffrey Joe has served on the PMA Board of Directors for nearly 3 years, after applying for the position and asking others to write letters of recommendation on his behalf. He was elected to the Board at the 2014 General Assembly and looks forward to serving out his 6-year term. Jeffrey lives in Idaho Falls, ID with his two lovely daughters, Elise and Adele.*

*Order coming up!*

- One 3-year old ~ Nathan
- One 9 months old ~ Cecelia
- One 7 months old ~ Jonathan
- One 4 months old ~ Margaret
- One 2 months old ~ Natalia

*Order(s) Received!*

Bundles of Joy, I really mean B.U.N.D.L.E.S...

Above is our most recent count, and our youngest generation! **The Mandarin Worshipping Community** is so blessed and excited to see them every Sunday...strollers and all, marching into Culbertson Hall for Sunday morning Worship!

We are so fortunate to have Missionary Hao to start the conversation, and planning for our Sunday School Program. A small group of us are excited to share how and what we want to see for this generation, planning according to do God's Will, to Glorify Him!

Now, we feel like bees buzzing, busy and ready to begin this new chapter of our Worshipping Community! Husband and wife team, Israel and his wife Catherine, are so devoted to our church! Praise be to God! Catherine has now taken the role to help lead our Children Ministry. She is doing research, since she is a brand new mom herself (the 9 month old) and will be a great asset with her own personal experience helping her daughter as she helps other infants/toddlers and Moms at the same time! She is quiet, but knowledgeable. We have had the opportunity to hear her preach on Mother's Day. We truly are blessed, as Israel and Catherine both have the gift for preaching.

Well, here they are!



Elder Paul Li with son Nathan



Jonathan Xie



Israel, Catherine and Cecelia Hao  
Finally, a family portrait!  
Taken Mother's Day 2017



Tom Feng and Margaret Chen



Nathan and baby sister Natalia

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. 3 John 1:4  
*Joyfully submitted, Amy Feng*

**The Presbytery of San Francisco:** *Our mission is to Celebrate, Nurture and Serve our communities by our life together in Christ.*

A presbytery is a mid-council level made up of the congregations in our area (69 churches, 2 New Church Developments) and the minister members (275) in the area. Our presbytery stretches from Woodside on the peninsula up to SF, on the East Bay side from Fremont to Richmond, and from Discovery Bay to Livermore/Pleasanton. It's a very diverse swath including urban/suburban/rural, and many language and ethnic groups of worshippers.

Every congregation elects commissioners to attend and vote at the presbytery meetings, held 4-5 times a year. PCC has a total of 4 elected spots (1- Mandarin, 1- Cantonese, 2- English), and our two called pastors that can vote at the meetings. Visitors and guests are welcome to attend, and workshops often are geared to certain church seasons. The Presbytery has several committees whose members are ruling or teaching elders, and a few working groups where any PCUSA members can serve. One which we at PCC have often contacted is COM (Committee on Ministry), which assigns a liaison for each congregation. Our liaison is Rev. Maggi Henderson. COM reviews our Mission Statement, assists in a search for new pastor, and can provide guidance for session as needed.

Many PCC members are currently or have previously served on Presbytery committees, commissions or working groups, here are some names if you are curious with questions: Cynthia Joe, Doreen DermLeod, David Soohoo, Laurene Chan, Ruth Wu, Jeannette Wei, and Linda Lee.

Officers/staff of the Presbytery have also provided some recent valuable services to PCC. The Rev. Jeff Hutcheson, Presbytery Pastor for Mission & Vision, led our English Worshipping Community in a process to develop and explore a Mission Statement [remember it? *Empowered by God's love through Christ, we welcome, celebrate and serve our community.*] The Stated Clerk, Rev. Kathy Runyeon, assisted our session to understand how our three commissions could live within the PCUSA Constitution upon the approval to elect and ordain LGBT members as Elders. Kathy Runyeon will be resigning from the Presbytery staff in September, and a farewell to her will be held at the September 9 meeting.

A new way of 'being presbytery' is the three regional gatherings which are held a few times in the year, for the West (that's us), the Central region (East Bay), and Far East (past the Caldecott Tunnel, into the Tri-valley area). These gatherings are for fellowship, sharing, and discussing information. Lately discussions have focused around what mission we'd like to see in our area, and how to manage funds that the presbytery is providing each region ("the buckets") for mission. Several of our members have attended these gatherings and even helped in hosting the gathering at another church location.

I personally have been enriched by participating and serving in the Presbytery through the relationships and contacts made with a variety of church elders and pastors. The exposure to different congregations, worship styles, and physical locations has expanded my appreciation for the Presbyterian Church and our governing system. I encourage you to pray on whether you'd like to volunteer to serve.

Here are the remaining 2017 Presbytery Meetings if you are interested in attending:

Saturday, Sept. 9 (10:00 am – 4:00 pm) focus on Anti-racism organizing and training led by Crossroads at the First PC of Newark.

Tuesday, Nov. 14 (3:00 pm – 9:00 pm) at First PC Concord.

## Food Pantry Re-Opens and Expands!

by Susie Wong

I read the email with shock. A fire at PCC? Scott and I were in Malaysia visiting our daughter, Alena. It felt so helpless to be so far away. We worried for our church and when we could re-open. We worried for the seniors who relied on our food pantry. But very quickly, we learned that Norman Fong and the staff at Chinatown CDC would help us. They made available their program office at 663 Clay - where the pantry had originated. We were back in full swing on June 17, with only one missed weekend!

The space was much smaller than Speer Hall, but the Chinatown CDC staffperson who ran the pantry there before, was kind enough to show us how to make it work. And she stuck around to trouble shoot and lock up when we were done. Each weekend after that, a Chinatown CDC staffperson has taken turns doing extra duty on a Saturday to open up and lock up for us. It's a very tight space, but all the church volunteers are making the best of it, working together to iron out problems and keep it fun! I've included a few pictures to show what our current pantry looks like.

Before the fire, we hoped to start expanding our food pantry on July 8th. We had learned that there were hundreds of people on the Food Bank's waiting list. Many of these folks were waiting 2-3 years to get into a Chinatown food pantry. Our pantry was already serving about 120 seniors a week, so we planned to start taking up to 60 more Chinatown seniors from the waiting list. In order to do this, we would go from a "closed pantry" only serving residents from 6 Chinatown CDC buildings, to an "open pantry", and include other seniors who live in Chinatown's Single Room Occupancy Hotels. This change would allow our pantry to offer more food choices, adding a full dozen eggs and chicken. The Food Bank staff had been working for two months to lay the ground work for a successful launch. Well... you know what they say about "best laid plans"? With the disruption from the fire, many of us thought it would be wiser to postpone till we were back at PCC. But God said otherwise. And within a few weeks the Spirit moved us - we all felt that we could take on more. So on July 8, we welcomed 11 new seniors to our food pantry for the first time. Each week we will be adding more. We hope we can be back at PCC soon, but with God's help, we know we will continue to provide our vulnerable seniors with nourishing food.



Big pallets of groceries are unloaded onto the sidewalk and are swiftly unpacked and moved inside.



Whew! Set up all groceries and now for a quick break.

*(continued on p.11 )*

## Food Pantry Re-Opens and Expands! *(continued from page 10)*



Volunteers of all ages are welcome!



And here's what makes it worthwhile - good food going to Chinatown seniors!



It's been a big adjustment, but we still have fun. God is good!

I am constantly amazed and delighted at how much music exists that helps us praise God, contemplate our relationship with God, and go forth to share God's love. We have inspirational music dating from the 9<sup>th</sup> century in Gregorian Chant all the way up to today with music performed by praise bands.



God's Spirit works to inspire composers and it works through all of us when we're singing / performing and just listening.

Most of you know that my musical tastes lean heavily to what might be called classical whether it's centuries old or written this year. But I don't limit myself to just classical. Think of all that I would be missing if I didn't explore a wide variety of inspirational music.

In this article, I'll mention a few of my favorite inspirational pieces. I hope you'll be able to listen to many of them either on YouTube or on a music service like Spotify. Maybe you'll even want to purchase and download music from iTunes so you can easily listen to it again and again.

At the end of this article, I have included links to the songs I mention.

The Songs of David are such rich, inspirational poetry, I wonder what it must have sounded like when they were first sung. Unfortunately, we don't have any documentation of the sound. We do have composers from all ages who, inspired by the words of a psalm, wrote music that inspires.

When I need to be reassured of God's presence in my life, I am inspired by Bobby McFerrin's version of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

We have Gregorian Chant from the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries. Being in a cathedral or in a monastery listening to monks singing transports me to another dimension and deeper faith.

The pinnacle, for me, of a composer expressing his faith through music is J. S. Bach. A piece like the St. Matthew Passion makes the story of Christ's crucifixion come alive. Interspersed are wonderful reflections on the Gospel. I can see God's guiding hand throughout the music of Bach whether it's in major works like the B-Minor Mass or in smaller works like the over 100 cantatas he composed.

Many of you are familiar with the great music of Hillsong United. We've sung the song "Oceans" several times. On YouTube, there's a playlist of the "Best of Hillsong United" that has 40 praise and worship songs they have written and perform. Much of the music is very inspirational and it's even more inspirational to see the large audiences expressing their love of God along with the singers and players on stage. If you don't know Hillsong United, the YouTube "top 40" playlist is a great way to see and hear music that inspires.

In the German Requiem, Brahms chooses powerful texts from the Old Testament. One of my favorite texts is "How lovely is Thy dwelling place" and Brahms' setting of it makes me yearn to dwell with God. When I'm feeling down about violence in our world, I listen to Mark Miller's "I Choose Love". He wrote it to give himself strength in response to the news of the terrible shooting at a church in Charleston.

*(continued on page 13 )*

## Music that Inspires *(continued from page 12)*

In 1997, Morton Lauridsen composed Lux Aeterna. The first movement gives me goose bumps every time I hear it. I've had the joy of singing it and letting the music infuse every cell of my body.

I also listen to music from a group of composers in the U.K. Their website [resoundworship.org](http://resoundworship.org) lets you listen to songs by different composers and also read the words to the songs. One song that especially inspires me is "High in the Heavens" by Judy Gresham. If you create an account, you can listen to all the pieces and see all the words for free.

The contemporary classical composer Howard Goodall inspires me, too. He mixes Latin text with more contemporary poetry. I especially love the way he arranged the hymn "Lead, Kindly Light" in his piece "Eternal Light".

I'm sure you have your own favorite inspirational hymns and songs. Let me know what they are. Maybe we can set up a PCC blog where we can share favorites and thereby be exposed to new inspirations.

Links to music:

Bobby McFerrin 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9fzWq-d8jU>

Gregorian Chant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiRpXsWIZK4>

Gregorian Chant ( 20<sup>th</sup> Century approach)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWdSi0Xw4u0>



JS Bach "O Head full with blood and wounds" from St. Matthew Passion (chorale in response to seeing Christ on the cross with his crown of thorns)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fItXabgpL\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fItXabgpL_0)

Hillsong United "Top 40 Greatest Hits"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQWFzMvCfLE&list=PLWvahZRXLnLPV5ECCHvmLuus6Tjmv4Oir>

Brahms "How Lovely Is Their Dwelling Place" from German Requiem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YSo2uEMvKw>

Mark Miller I choose Love

<https://soundcloud.com/choristers-guild/i-choose-love-mark-a-miller-cga1491>

Morten Loridsen Introitus from Lux Aeterna

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NVe13LN-7w&list=PL1vrDGD\\_5wDxFBKOoj0B8GCYEWAVV8aP5](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NVe13LN-7w&list=PL1vrDGD_5wDxFBKOoj0B8GCYEWAVV8aP5)

High in the Heavens by Judy Gresham on Resoundworship.org

<https://www.resoundworship.org/song/high-in-the-heavens>

Howard Goodall Lead Kindly Light

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pWodDpP\\_Gs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pWodDpP_Gs)

## Women's Fellowship (WF) -- Presbyterian Women (PW)

Over half the year has gone by. It has been unfortunate that in June our venue (PCC Fellowship Hall) became unavailable. Our church experienced an electrical fire and had water damage in the building. But we are in good hands with several church members monitoring the process of arranging for repair work. Worship services are currently at Cameron House (Culbertson Hall) until we can return to the church.

WF also met at a different location. Our June gathering was at The Sequoias, where several of our members live. Thanks to Cindy Joe arrangements for a meeting room was made to enjoy our brown bag dinner and to view a DVD. We saw *The Good Lie* – a 2014 film about young Sudanese refugees' difficult survival during a long trek out of Sudan and later adjusting to life in the USA. The refugees in the film were actual Sudanese siblings. Watching this film was in connection with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s observance of World Refugee Sunday, June 20.

Upcoming events and dates to note for your participation:

**Saturday, September 23, 2017.** Plan to register and attend the **Horizons Bible Study at San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS)** in San Anselmo. The cost to register is \$40 and lunch will be provided. Many of our women, along with PW from the Synod, have attended this event in past years. Bring your copy of *Cloud of Witnesses—The Community of Christ in Hebrews* by Melissa Bane Sevier. If you want to purchase a copy of this study guide, go to [www.pwpcusahorizons.org](http://www.pwpcusahorizons.org). To register, ask Mildred ([mildredhal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mildredhal@sbcglobal.net)) for the link and she'll forward it to you.

Here are details of the day with the author:

*Spend the day learning and preparing to lead this magnificent study which invites you to explore The Letter to the Hebrews is a significant book of the Bible, and is also significantly different from every other book in the Bible. It consists of thirteen chapters, all of which are packed with theology, metaphor, comparisons, and spirituality. Therefore, I've decided to approach the letter thematically, not sequentially. We will explore nine major themes, relate those themes to other parts of our faith tradition, and tie them together with the overarching motif of community. The community for which the letter was written interacts, in a sense, with all the communities of which you are a part, because you bring those groups with you wherever you go—they have helped to form you into the person you are. The community in which you study and worship, your family and friends, social and therapy groups . . . all are part of you.*

*Our prayer is that the study of community in Hebrews will help us strengthen our own communities.*

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Melissa Bane Sevier is a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) who, after more than 23 years as a pastor, chose in 2015 to leave the pastorate and focus on her longtime ministry of writing and photography. Melissa has a degree in elementary education (King College), an MCE from Reformed Theological Seminary, an MDiv from Louisville Seminary, and a DMin from McCormick Seminary. She lives in Versailles, Kentucky, with her husband, Jerry.

### Saturday, September 30, 2017. Women's Fellowship Retreat.

Come spend the day with women of the church at this retreat – includes study, discussion, food and fellowship. Carole Chinn-Morales, Ruth Wu and Mary Wong Leong are the planners. Read the details from Carole's article on the next page.

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**Women's Fellowship (WF) -- Presbyterian Women (PW)** (continued from page 14 )

**Saturday, October 7, 2017. PW of the SF Presbytery (PWP) will meet at Broadmoor PC in Daly City.** The gathering will begin at 9:30 am with registration and coffee time, program and lunch included in your donation. This is a good opportunity to participate and connect with other women from churches in the SF Presbytery. Details to come closer to time.

An advance calendar date to note:

**August 2-5, 2018. Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come!**

It's the 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville, KY. Go to this website for information: [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org). We hope you plan to attend this nationwide gathering of PW. Women's Fellowship as well as PWP has scholarship funds to help you. Just need to apply.

Watch for news about Women's Fellowship and Presbyterian Women in your email, in the weekly PCC ENews, and the Ragsheet in the weekly worship bulletin.

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**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP RETREAT: "How Well Has Your Faith Aged?"**  
**by Carole Chinn-Morales**

SAVE THE DATE.... All Women Welcome!

All of us can describe how faith first impacted our lives. Can we also describe how well our faith has aged as the years have gone by?

Does faith still enrich your life? Is it meaningful in a different way?

Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest who directs a meditation center in New Mexico, says in his book, *Falling Upward*, that there are two parts of our spiritual journey--a spirituality for the first part of life, and one for the second part. Does this square with our experiences?

Come gather with us to reflect on how your faith has evolved as you've aged. Share with others to gain insights on where we've been and where we're heading.

Date: Saturday, September 30, 2017

Time: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Facilitator: Cal Chinn

Location: The Sequoias, 1400 Geary Blvd.

Parking: Very little on site parking, some street parking, Japan Center Garage, Muni

Look for a sign up form and price next month. We'll have bento box lunches, yum!

For more info, please contact Ruth Wu, Mary Wong Leong, or Carole Chinn-Morales

# Cameron House (CH) Parking Lot Policy and Guidelines

Submitted by Jeanette Huie

Introduction: Below are updated parking guidelines for the Cameron House parking lot. If you park your car in the lot occasionally, please read this!

The goal of the *Cameron House (CH) Parking Lot Policy and Guidelines* is to help create a common understanding around expectations and responsibilities as we use this wonderful resource together. We would like all users to practice these things when using CH parking spaces:

- Be courteous
- Practice two-way communication
- Practice patience
- Be appreciative

The CH Parking Lot and Side Yard are for the purposes of CH programming, staff and events hosted at 920 Sacramento Street. Parking for events and activities at the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown can be requested and we will accommodate when possible. Access to the parking lot for all users is a privilege and not a right.

CH programs and related-events will take priority over other requests that are routine, one-time, or otherwise. CH programs and events can happen any day of the week, including weekends. When different groups or individuals of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown would like to request parking spaces, please follow these steps:

## How to Make a Request

1. To increase the chance of request approval, please inquire at least 10 business days before your event/activity.
2. To make a request, contact the CH Office and Operations Manager, Nolan Chow, at [nolan@cameronhouse.org](mailto:nolan@cameronhouse.org) and at (415) 781-0401, ext. 101.
3. Include the date, time frame, number of spaces, and the event or activity on your request.
4. Note: Routine PCC Parking Lot Use on Sundays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm is a standing agreement and does not require additional requests. There may be Sundays when the lot will be unavailable for PCC use. If so, PCC representatives would be notified as soon as possible.

## Your Responsibilities When Parking:

- Park in slots first, keeping all parts of your vehicle (tires, side view mirrors...) between the painted lines. Back your car into the parking space, if at all possible, for more ease when exiting.
- Please reserve the handicap parking spots when at all possible. If you are parked in the handicap parking spot or the one next to it by the fence, and someone with a blue or red handicap parking placard arrives, you might be asked to move your car.
- If all slots are filled, you may block other cars. Park at the rear (west) end of the lot first.
- ALL vehicles in the lot must have a clear and legible note on their dashboard listing:  
Name and Cell Phone Number

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## **Cameron House (CH) Parking Lot Policy and Guidelines** *(continued from page 16 )*

- If called, you need to come up to the parking lot within 5 minutes - so that means your phone needs to be kept on, and you will need to pick-up the phone and answer.
- You are responsible for moving your car, or having your car moved. Please do not leave your keys at the Front Desk.
- If your vehicle makes impact with another vehicle or CH fence/gate/pole, please contact the owner (driver or Cameron House) before leaving. If the owner cannot be reached, please leave a note with your name, contact number, time and date of incident, and any other relevant information on the other vehicle, or in the CH mailbox located on the front door.
- Even though everyone tries their best to adhere and follow this policy and guidelines, there will be instances where your car will get stuck in the lot, and you won't be able to move your car out of the lot when you need to. Please take this into consideration each time you park in the lot.
- Before parking at CH, consider that you you might be asked to move your vehicle in a timely manner at anytime, and this could take anywhere from 5 - 20 minutes, which could impact the activity you are involved in.
- Closing/Securing the Joice Alley Gate: On Sundays by 3pm, the gate should be closed regardless of the number of vehicles in the Lot. Please open the two lights (switches are located on the west wall) before you exit; then close the gate.
- Closing/Securing the Side Yard Gate: For safety and security reasons, please close the gate during the hours of 9:00 am - 3:00 pm; last driver out should close and lock the gate.
- Parking in the lot is at your own risk. This means Cameron House and its staff are not liable or responsible for:
  - Damage to your vehicle (including but not limited to collisions or break-ins)
  - Damaged, lost, or stolen property as a result of using the parking lot
  - Inability to exit the lot in a timely manner
- Please note in regards to Sunday parking lot situations, that CH staff - even though staff might be present - are not expected to take care of parking lot issues.

*\*Drivers found to repeatedly take advantage of this parking privilege and not follow this policy and these guidelines will lose parking privileges on the premises for a period of time.*

### **Reporting:**

- In the event of an emergency, call 911.
- For non-urgent issues, please contact the CH Office and Operations Manager, Nolan Chow, at (415) 781-0401, ext. 101 or [nolan@cameronhouse.org](mailto:nolan@cameronhouse.org)> He will get back to you as soon as possible.

***Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!***

May 22, 2017

## A Family Trip by Glen Choy

Is it really even summer over here in San Francisco? It's *so* cold. I can wear a sweater and still not shed a single drop of sweat. They call this place Chinatown but the weather doesn't even compare to the actual China. You can sweat buckets there. I happened to make the mistake of wearing a long-sleeved shirt the first day of my trip there (the airport was *really* cold, OK?). Needless to say, the shirt ended up soaked throughout the rest of the day. With temperatures reaching over 38° C (that's over 100° F!), even San Francisco's highest 80° F feels like a breeze. Of course, you didn't pick this up to read about temperature, so let me get right into the *cooler* stuff of my family trip to China.

There's a lot of places to visit in China, especially since we haven't been there in a while. Ever heard of Guangzhou? You know, the third largest city in China? It's a pretty nice place. The Canton Tower, a pretty well-known monument, is located there. Most tourists who go to China tend to visit it. We weren't part of this group of "tourists" this time around though. Instead, we visited my grandma's apartment, my favorite landmark of China and where my dad was raised. You see, it's been seven years since the last time we've been to China, so my grandma was overjoyed to see us. Her smile really lit up the place. Oh, and there was air conditioning! We visited all our other relatives too. Most of the time I was struggling to communicate with them though. I need to take some more Chinese language classes. Then there was also Guangdong Province. This was where my mom grew up in. It was from this place that I realized how many relatives I had from my mom's side. It was the first time I was introduced to them. Let's just say the next time we go to China, we'll have to visit a lot more places.



Guangzhou

Macau was the next place we went. I watched a lot of Chinese dramas beforehand that took place in Macau, all of which involved gambling, so I was expecting a Las Vegas vibe. I didn't get that though since we never went to any casinos. Not that we should anyway. Gambling is bad and I'm also too young. The main attraction came from a play we watched. Named "The House of Dancing Water," the play was about a charming hero trying to rescue his lover from the clutches of an evil pirate queen. We came in late though so that was all I could gather from the context. Nevertheless, it was a great play and I enjoyed everything that I could watch.

Lastly, we visited Hong Kong right before returning back to America. We had relatives to visit there too. I'm not trying to advertise but the hotel we stayed in has a wonderful buffet. Of course we had to treat them to that. The food was delicious and dare I say, much better than the food here. In addition, we found a Christian bookstore from which



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bookstore from which we bought several books and CDs. Hong Kong has a reputation as a shopping paradise after all.

You were reading this whole article probably expecting that “cooler” stuff I promised at the top. If family stuff isn’t cool to you then I can’t really help you there. Joking aside though, my family trip was a great experience. We were able to see so many relatives again, as well as meeting some for the first time. I’ve never seen so many family members together. This trip truly was a *family* trip.



Zhongshan Congregational Church



Zhongshan City



Glen’s family in Guangzhou

Glen Choy is a junior at UC Merced, member of the Cantonese Worshipping Committee, and the nephew of Eleanor Wong.

It's been a busy summer for some of our church family.

David Chan and Nancy Chee joined Dave's father Clarence and Dave's siblings and family to Iceland. I saw some beautiful scenic photos on Facebook. I'm sure Dave won't mind showing all his photos.

Harry Chuck and Linda Lee took daughter Sarah, husband Kelvin and children to Alaska on one of the Disney Cruise ships. Linda and Harry had a fun time riding an electric bicycle as one of their excursions off the ship. Grand children Tristan, Logan and Addi all had a good time on the ship and in Alaska. They had breakfast with some of the Disney characters. A few weeks later Sarah and family went to Hawaii for a week. What a wonderful trip for all.

Terry, Norma, Liane and Chris Chan went to New Orleans along with Mildred Hall and Claudia Sun. All had a good time despite the heat.

I was in Japan with Elvie Owyang a member of Covenant P.C. in early June. We stayed in Kyoto. We visited with one of Elvie's friends who lived in Nara. They took us to a place call Akame Waterfall Park. Very beautiful place. Not quite like Yosemite but a nice peaceful place to hike around. We visited the Osaka Castle, Hiroshima Atomic Bomb site, had a rainy day in Kobe. I can't get over how efficient Japan is with their train and subway systems. People are so polite. Japan is so clean too.

I can't wait to hear about the Cameron House Senior Commission's Mission trip to Orlando Florida. I'm sure they will give us a presentation before they all take off to college.

I just got back from a cruise with 9 other people, July 9 to the 16th. This time we were on the ship Royal Caribbean the Oasis of the Seas. This ship is so huge that it can hold over 6,000 passengers. This ship has two rock climbing walls and a zip line. Three dining rooms and about 5 specialty restaurants. I couldn't get over that they even have a Starbucks. You have to pay extra for their drinks. There were a lot of activities if you don't want to sun bathe or go swimming. On my last day I got a chance to see the musical *CATS*. It was done well.

I'm sure there are other church members that went somewhere or are planning a trip soon.

Our very own Deacon Desi Ng started his first year of Dental School here in the City in July.

Jeannette Wei's granddaughter Lily Kwong is a busy young lady. She earned a degree in Urban Planning from Columbia, and is working on indoor landscape in New York. She wants to reconnect people with nature.

I am still collecting items for Covenant Presbyterian Church's program called To Love and Care, a program that serves mentally challenge adults who live in group homes in the Bay Area: Small stuffed toys, stickers, cute and useful trinkets. Slightly used is okay. Simple puzzles and puzzle books, costume jewelry, playing cards, key chains. No breakables.



## Upcoming Events

by Linda Lee and Cindy Joe

- Sunday, August 6 Assemble the school supplies after tea time at Knox Hall and/or St. Paul's, Cameron House
- Sunday, August 20 Welcome youth & young adult members through confirmation and baptism
- Report back from youth experience at Westminster Woods
- Sunday, August 27 Special PRIDE worship recognizing LGBTQ sisters and brothers. Preacher: Ellen Tanouye
- Sunday, October 1 World Communion, Tri-lingual worship. Time & location TBA



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