



# Good News for the Pews

August 1, 2016

A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

Issue No. 8

## Worship Conversation

by Pastor Kimberly

I would like to share a story that comes from church consultant Eric Law in his book *Holy Currencies*. It is a story of growing up around the dinner table of a Chinese American family.

“Toward the end of dinner, there was always something left in the middle of the table. Everyone would be staring at it, especially when it was a piece of meat, which was a special treat. But no one would make a move to take it. Then someone would say, ‘Why don’t you take it, Grandma? You are the oldest.’” But my grandmother would say, ‘No, I’ve been eating this stuff all my life. Give it to the little one. He is the youngest and needs nourishment to grow up big and strong.’” Now all eyes were on me, the youngest. But I, who learned this ritual would say, “No, not me. I am completely full because I have the smallest stomach. Give it to my older brother. He has an exam at school tomorrow.” The ritual would go on around the table; each person would find an excuse not to take the leftover piece of food. While we offered it to each other, we also affirmed each other’s worthiness in the family. As a result, the leftovers became a symbol of each other’s worth.” (*Holy Currencies*, page 15)

What I love about this story is that each person is mindful of the other members of the family. Each person is not only thinking of their own needs, but is making sure the needs of other family members are being met. Because everyone is doing this, from a place of respect, all members of the family are affirmed and ‘fed’ with a kind of spiritual nourishment.

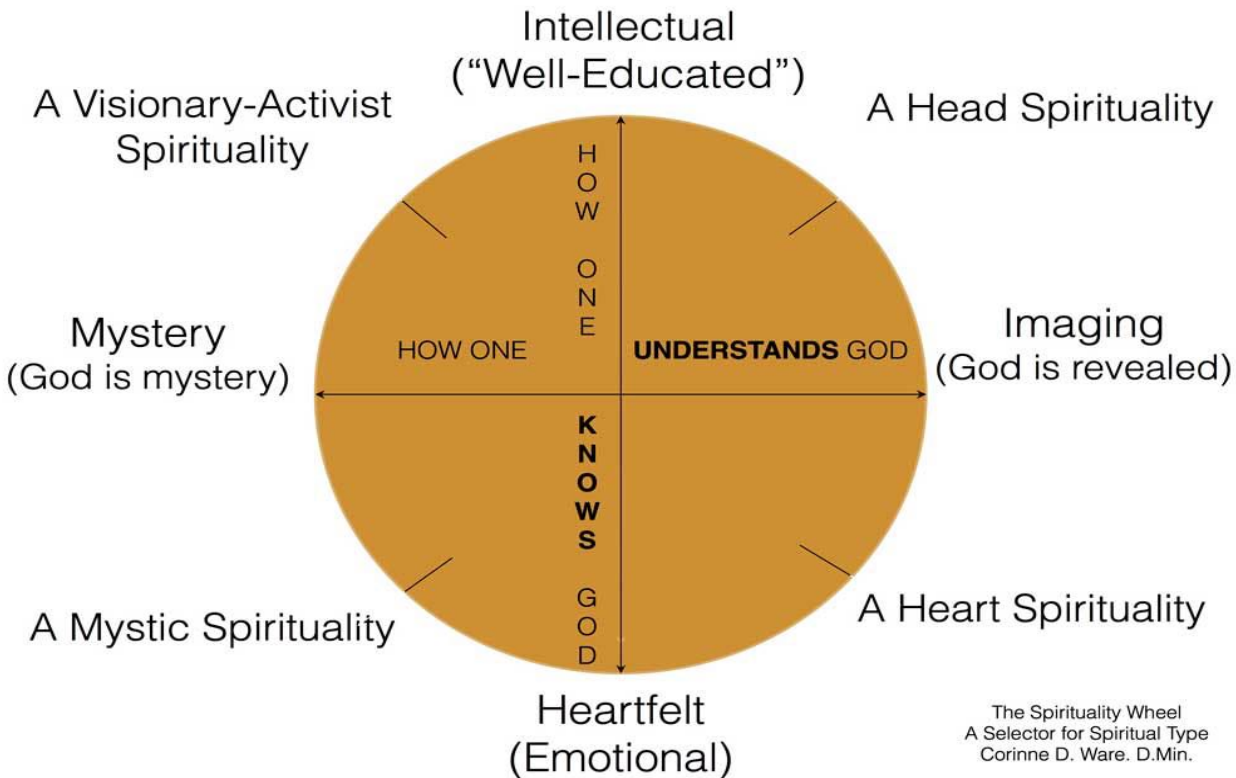
At first glance this may seem like an odd story to associate with worship, but I do believe the metaphor is applicable. When we come to worship we do so as a church family with different needs and even different worship preferences. One person might prefer music from the organ and another from the guitar. One person might relish the words of a carefully chosen prayer or litany, while another person is moved by the emotion that is shared when something seems to be spoken from the heart where no script is necessary. One person might feel most engaged when they are allowed to feel the spirit of God in an embodied way and another might feel that they can best hear God while being still, quiet and reflective.

Which one of those preferences is of God? I believe they all are, and that one style is not more ‘correct’ than another as a means of worship. Yet when we encounter a style that may not be our preferred style, it can be easy to simply focus on our own preference, and forget the needs of other members of our church family who may have a preference that is different from our own.

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**Worship Conversation** (continued from page 1)

This is where I feel the diagram of the wheel designed by Corrine Ware, and featured in her book *Discover Your Spiritual Type* can be particularly helpful. When we look at the balance of this wheel we see that it is a holistic model, one that affirms that we may fall into different quadrants because we are different people – but that all of them are valid means of worshipping God.



The Worship and Nurture Committee is in the process of preparing for a conversation about worship (for our English Worshipping Community), date to be announced. We will guide the conversation with various questions and try to facilitate a process where we can hear from everyone. It is our hope that through this dialogue we will come to a place where we can become more aware of the needs of the members of our own community and come to respect our differences, as we affirm that all four quadrants of worshipping styles are created and blessed by God – even if they may be different from our own personal preference. We hope that this will lead to greater vitality within our worshipping community as we find ways to truly respect and support one another.

In preparation for this worship conversation, we invite you to reflect on the thoughtful questions submitted by Shar Hall that are also included in this newsletter on page 13. These may help us all have greater awareness about what worship means to each of us as we continue to be the family of God.

**Amy Shoemaker, Pastoral Support and Communications Coordinator**  
**by Pastor Kimberly**



We have exciting news!

After much prayer and searching, we have hired an outstanding person for our pastoral assistant position, and her name is Amy Shoemaker! She is seminary educated (although not ordained). She is very well qualified and has served other churches in a variety of capacities. She is also very knowledgeable about communications and organization. As her duties will be broader than that of secretary, we have shifted the title of the position to Pastoral Support and Communications Coordinator. She will still be doing some basic, administrative tasks – as well as looking at the area of church communication. Amy has shared that in her previous experience of working in a church. It is often true that when a person has the title of ‘administrative assistant’ or ‘secretary’, the position, unfortunately, is not always treated with respect. While we might not think that would be true at a progressive place like PCC, we want to honor that and honor the breadth of the skills she brings.

Why an emphasis on communication?

In our fast paced world today, it is hard to keep up with the vast array of media styles that are used to communicate information. Some things are shared via email while other people prefer Facebook. Some people look to Teatime announcements or the Rag Sheet, while other information surfaces during committee meetings or in informal circles. But even with these mediums, some information still does not reach everyone. We are hoping to build in some ‘information architecture’ – that will hopefully assist both the sharing of information internally – as well as enable us to be more intentional about how PCC is viewed by the outside world and be attractive to people who might find us for the first time via our website.

One of the things I love about Amy is that not only can she be creative, and ‘right brained’ oriented, she is also very intelligent in some very ‘left brained’ ways, and she is very competent and savvy about church leadership. She has been exposed to churches of different styles and structure in various denominations from a variety of areas of the country. She also comes with a great deal of enthusiasm, and a desire to support the vitality she sees at PCC so that it continues to be vibrant into the future.

Here is an excerpt from a document she shared with the Personnel Committee that explains her interest in applying for the position.

“My experience in both the religious and tech sectors uniquely position me to provide so much more than simple administrative assistance to a congregation.

After graduating from seminary at Pacific School of Religion (PSR) in 2008, I found I needed employment that would help provide some financial security. I found myself in a Project Manager role at a web development agency in downtown San Francisco. In that role, I learned the process of web development as well as advanced digital marketing, social media marketing and online

*(continued on page 4)*



## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN -- Women's Fellowship** *(continued from page 4)*

Presbyterian Women of the Synod of the Pacific (PWS) have two events in September, and Women's Fellowship will not have its regular September meeting. Instead, I encourage you to consider attending both or at least one of the events listed here.

The PW Horizons Bible Study Day at San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS) is on Saturday, September 10, 2016. Judy Yates Siker, author of the 2016-2017 Bible study magazine *Who Is Jesus?* will be present to review the study. If you are a subscriber to PW's *Horizons* magazine, you have already received your copy of this study. The event is open to everyone. You can read the details and register to attend by going to [www.sfts.edu](http://www.sfts.edu) and click on Horizons Bible Study. The registration cost of \$40.00 includes lunch. Bring along your copy of the study.

*"Out of the Darkness ... Into the Light"* a Synodwide Gathering for PW in the Synod of the Pacific will be held at Mercy Center in Burlingame on September 23 - 25, 2016. (Accommodations at Mercy Center include single rooms, linens, and meals.)

This 2016 Synodwide Gathering overlaps with the PW USA Mission Experience and we will share the Saturday program with the USAME team members and PW Staff.

Registration deadline: August 15, 2016.

Costs: \$230.00 Full-time Attendee; \$125.00 Commuter Attendee.

Scholarship information: contact Cynthia Joe ([cjoefunston@juno.com](mailto:cjoefunston@juno.com)).

You will find copies of the PWS Registration forms available on bulletin boards at church. Contact Doreen Der-McLeod ([ddermcleod@gmail.com](mailto:ddermcleod@gmail.com)) or Mildred Hall ([mildredhal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mildredhal@sbcglobal.net)) if you have any questions.

We hope to see you at these events.

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### **A VIEW from the PEW**----*featuring items from YOUR point of view*

Share what's on your mind with the readers of **GOOD NEWS for the PEWS**

Have you read a good book or seen a great movie?

Where do you stand on current immigration issues?

How do you feel about the BLACK LIVES MATTER movement?

What are you doing about the hungry and homeless?

Are children learning respect, work ethics and culture these days?

Is a college education in your future or what's next for you?



**Tell your story and share your thoughts --- we want to hear from you!**

Submit your item to [shar.hall@comcast.net](mailto:shar.hall@comcast.net)

**Deadline for your submission is October 10.**

## MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND FUN!

by Diane Go  
photos by Stuart Go

One of the fun church events to participate in every year is the Memorial Day Weekend Retreat. Originally started as a fun opportunity for families to get together and enjoy the beauty of Westminster Woods, it is now a chance for all to revel in God's beauty while fellowshiping with our English Worshipping Community.



*Creative juices flow during intergenerational mass activity*

This year's theme was *Come and Play: Listening for the Heart Beat of God*. Forty-nine of our members and friends came together May 27-May 30 to move, play, and create. We were introduced to the concepts of InterPlay by Amy Shoemaker. Many of us got to make cajon drums designed by Clarence Chan, Dave Chan's father, who has been creating and teaching us how to build all kinds of fun instruments, from flutes to kalimbas. The college agers and young adults took an evening hike while sharing fellowship and thoughts about the top five regrets of hospice patients. The high schoolers prepared a wonderful soup that we shared after family campfire, an all-around favorite. Swimming, ukulele playing, qi gong warm ups, basketball, volleyball, parachord bracelet making, and card making were other activities to enjoy. And of course, catching up with each other either under the warm sun or huddled over snacks and adult coloring designs is always on the list of fun things to do.

*(continued on page 7)*

**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND FUN!** (continued from page 6)



*Making a cajon (drum)*

As we close the retreat each year, we spend time affirming all who attended the retreat. Affirmations are often written, but this year, Josh Chuck led us in a circle affirmation when individuals receive their affirmations anonymously by a gentle tap on the back. The circle affirmation was a wonderful way to send us back into our daily lives, knowing that we had the loving support of our weekend family to send us off into the world, spiritually renewed and rejuvenated!



**The National Asian Presbyterian Women**

**by Jeanette Huie**

The National Asian Presbyterian Women held its triennial retreat, *Empowering Christian Women in Leadership* one April weekend at Mercy Center.

Women from across the country attended - Seattle, Kansas City, Baltimore, Houston and Southern California!

From PCC, Cindy Joe, Linda Lee, Doreen Der-McLeod and Jeanette Huie participated.



*(continued on page 8)*

## The National Asian Presbyterian Women *(continued from page 7)*

I flew to Houston, Texas in April 2013 for my first National Asian Presbyterian Woman (NAPW) Gathering and I was so inspired by the speakers and the other Asian Christian women I met that I decided back then to try to attend the next NAPW Gathering which was scheduled for April 2016. The Gatherings are planned by regional chapters of NAPW and the 2016 Gathering was planned by the Northern California chapter and took place at Mercy Center, Burlingame.

The theme, *Empowering Christian Women in Leadership*, resonated in the keynote addresses, workshops, music and worship service. We examined the thoughts and actions of women in the Bible including Esther, Queen Vashti, Ruth, and Naomi and the risks they took to exercise their leadership and make a lasting difference. There was much food for thought as we reflected in small groups about God's gift of leadership and how we use this gift.

I participated in a workshop, *Queen Esther's Conversions*, led by Rev. Dr. Young Lee Hertig, Executive Director of the Institute for the Study of Asian American Christianity (ISAAC). She advised that as leaders, we need to carefully discern when and how to speak out and act and to keep our "love tank" full before dealing with a toxic situation.

I took another workshop led by Rev. Laura Cheifetz on how to write for prayer and publication. Laura is the editor of *These Days*, a devotional booklet published by the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. She advised us to get in the practice of writing on a daily basis, like in a personal journal, and it will help in the process of communicating our thoughts on paper.

The afternoon only allowed time for selection of two workshops. The other two I couldn't attend were *A Walk Through Church Polity* led by Linda Lee and *Let Women Lead: 1 Timothy*, led by the keynoter, Rev. Grace May of New York.

The Gathering was especially meaningful for the women who worship in churches with few Asian members. The Gathering was only 43 hours long but feedback included, "the conference was very enlightening. I had no idea that there were so many Asian churches." "I met some really amazing Asian church leaders." "We need to continue to share beyond this conference with an on-line connection".

The next NAPW Gathering will be in 2019 and planned by the Southern California chapter. Let me know in a few years if you'd like to attend!

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### Farewell, Rev. Arnold Chan on July 10, 2016

by Sabrina Cheng



Rev. Arnold Chung-Fong Chan has been helping our Restaurant Workers Fellowship (or known as Ling Huo Fellowship) for more than a year. His last day with us was July 10, 2016, on which we had a farewell party for him. Our members did not want him to go, but we could not hold him back because he was going to re-unite with his wife and daughter who have moved to the Modesto, California area waiting for him to transfer his USPS job there.

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**Farewell, Rev. Arnold Chan on July 10, 2016** *(continued from page 8)*



Ms. Woo presenting a gift

Our farewell party was simple but full of thankful spirits. Our members took turn to express their gratitude for his spiritual guidance. A few even came with gifts for him.

The following were some of their comments:

“Thank you for helping us, I feel my spirituality has improved quite a bit.”

“Your Bible-study guide is a tremendous help for me to keep me disciplined in reading the Bible daily.”

“Thank you for transporting members home after the fellowship meeting. Transporting is a needed ministry by itself.”

“I am grateful to Rev. Chan because he prayed for me when I am depressed and sick.”

“I am grateful to hear that Rev. Chan will come back to see me when I decide to accept Christ or go for baptism at church. I am sure I will let him know beforehand.”

“Rev. Chan welcomed new people walking in to the Fellowship group, counseled and prayed for them. He responded to all our prayer requests.”



Rev. Arnold Chan is a quiet person, but he answered our cries for help promptly when our Fellowship was in need of a pastor after the previous pastor had left. He not only contributed his time but also monetary contribution, understanding that the Restaurant Workers ministry is an important outreach program but is self-supporting. The Core-3 Bible Study Program he introduced to the Fellowship will still continue. We were paired up into two's or three's to study the Bible according to a course sheet. We shared our thoughts about the Bible passages over the phone at a certain time each day.

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**Farewell, Rev. Arnold Chan on July 10, 2016** (continued from page 9)



Rev. Chan said he would certainly come back to visit because:

1. His mother and siblings are living in the Bay Area;
2. He has promised Ms. Woo, a Restaurant Workers Fellowship member to see her on her day of baptism or when she decided to accept Christ;
3. He will give out new Bibles to everyone in the Fellowship who has completed the Core- 3 Bible Study Program by the end of this year.

Rev. Arnold Chan has also been helping our Youth Group on Friday nights. We all wish him good health and good family life in a new area. May God bless him and use him wherever he goes.

Our Fellowship members are looking forward to seeing Rev. Arnold Chan again; but moreover, we are yearning to know the future of our Fellowship. Will there be a pastor who will fit in and be able to meet the needs of our Fellowship members? The Restaurant Workers Fellowship is a special ministry of our church. Let's pray to God for His continual spiritual guidance.



As summer winds down, unfortunately so do the CCU Sports Leagues. There are plenty of great things to take from this season between our CCU Volleyball team or three CCU Basketball teams (Silver, Gold, Platinum).



The theme was Legacy and the umbrella verse that the league followed was Colossians 1:10...“so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.” The Committee selected the theme to be Legacy because this is the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Christian Union Ministries. Hence, it is a very special summer.

*Chris Chan going for a layup*

Throughout the summer, participants for our PCC-CH sports teams bonded and developed an understanding and relationship with their peers, as well as with the coaches and people they wouldn't normally associate with at practices. There was a lot to offer from one team to another and there was always that nurturing touch when there were learning opportunities available. For example, being a part of the PCC-CH Platinum team as a player as well as a Co-Coach for Silver with Derek Pham, there were plenty of times at practice where we'd have the Platinum Team spend the time of practice to be more of coaches and to spread the knowledge of the game of basketball to the Silver and Gold teams. In those moments, we shared what we knew and could offer, and in return got the same type of feedback. We built bonds and realized that there's something greater going on in our community beyond the basketball/volleyball court. We realized that these things that have happened on the courts at practice or at the games are going to stick with these participants, young or old.

What happened this summer, whether the end result was where they hoped to be or not, will leave a significant mark that they will be able to look back on and remember. And we pray that because of this experience, they do continue to come back and listen with open ears and share with open hearts. This is what the theme of Legacy is all about. It's not about winning or losing, it's not about which team is ranked higher or which team we should look up to or listen to. In the end, it's all about the experience and the community that can be built. The realization that each and every individual has something to offer to everyone that they're around, and that no matter what, there's going to be a mark left one way or another, a legacy to look back on. Hopefully, it will be something that they can be very proud and appreciative of. And I pray that we can continue to brew these kinds of relationships not only within the teams, but throughout all of PCC, all of Cameron House, and everything in between. *(continued on page 12)*



*CCU Volleyball kids leading fellowship*



*CCU Volleyball Team*

**LET’S TALK AND LISTEN TO EACH OTHER ABOUT WORSHIP**

In anticipation of the FALL FORUM being planned by Worship & Nurture, here are some questions that might prepare us to listen and to hear what’s being shared:

What is your idea or definition of a worship service?

What are your expectations?

What do you bring to or get from worship?

What part or parts are most meaningful to you? What’s not?

What, if any part(s) would you change to have a meaningful worship experience?

We Presbyterians are “PEOPLE OF THE BOOK” that is the *Bible first* and then The Book of Order.

Quoting The Book of Order---“Christian worship joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power to the triune God”.

The Church is always re-forming to see the vision of its mission and to lead its people to act with love, justice and walk humbly with God.

Worship styles change and are still changing. Likes and dislikes between generations are challenging to all, as we participate in worship together.

So let us take time to think about and pray for the discussions/dialogues on worship.



**Upcoming Events**

- Aug 8 M&E w/CCDC to distribute 200 bags of school supplies for students living in SROs
- Aug 7 – 12 Westminster Woods (Cameron House)
- Aug 14 Affordable Housing/Homeless Sunday; Norman Fong, preacher
- Aug 21 Westminster Woods reflections. Bless the back to school programs.  
Sherman Gee, preacher
- Aug 27 Presbytery Meeting
- Sept 18 Session Meeting
- Sept 20 Regional Presbytery Meeting



## **Stewardship, Conservation and the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown** **by Dave Soohoo, Building and Finance Committee**

In the Old Testament book of Genesis 2:15 **“The LORD God took the man (humanity) and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”**

We are then reminded what it means to be good stewards of all that God has created. We continue to be blessed with the fruits and resources God has given to us and in response to God’s grace and goodness, we work to care and manage for his creation.

Back in late March 2016, the Building and Finance Committee received a compelling presentation/solicitation on solar energy and the possibilities of harnessing the power of the sun for our church. The presentation provided suggestion for alternative energy sources and energy conservation measures. Also presented were financial options from which will make installation of solar system attainable for the church and reduce or eliminate our electrical bills for years to come.

There are many good reasons for adding solar panels to our church and they are exciting opportunities for church’s greening and conservation efforts. It will help us financially as a church by reducing our electric bills, protect against rising energy costs, protect the environment and demonstrate our commitment to sustainability. It also gives us the ability to take concrete action toward lowering our ‘carbon footprint’, and allows us to enact the principals of eco-justice – by consciously being good stewards of the gifts that God has given us. Other reasons for installing solar panels include boosting energy independence, increasing property value, creation of jobs and helping the local economy, use of underutilized space, less energy loss, improved energy efficiency and grid security.

In exploring funding options for the solar system project, there were 4 funding options identified and one that made the most sense:

1. The use of church’s budget and reserves (consisting of \$83,281 in bank funds and \$46,706 endowment funds) – Will have significant impact on day to day operations.
2. Generous donor(s) willing to funding the entirety of solar project – There were no takers.
3. Lease program – Some solar contractors were not interested in lease programs and interest rates & payments were significantly high. Ownership of solar system would be the property of the lessor.
4. “Green” loans from our Presbyterian judicatories (Synod of Pacific and Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program).

In seeking a loan within our judicatories, the Synod of Pacific had offered an interest rate of 3.5% and the Presbyterian Investment & Loan (PILP) of General Assembly has offered a loan with an interest rate of 2.5%. Loan application was submitted in April to PILP for \$75,000 at 2.5% for a term of 10 years. Monthly payments would be \$707.02 and will be lowered if the principal amount is lowered to reflect the solar contractor’s proposal cost of solar panel installation and limitation of roof space for efficient solar panels. (Currently, our loan amount of \$53,406 should reflect the cost estimate of selected contractor – this means that our monthly repayment to PILP will be \$503.40±)

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## **Stewardship, Conservation and the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown** *(continued from page 14)*

Loan application was approved by PILP & Church Loan Program (CLP) in late May. Promissory note, commitment letter and other required documentation with officer signatures had included congregation and corporate approval on June 26th. Resolutions, contractor's agreement and other requirements were submitted prior to July 13, 2016 deadline, to secure the 2.5% interest rate.

With the church's approval of the proposed loan by PILP, PCC would be able to reduce paying PG&E monthly and redirect those funds to repay the Church Loan Program from the budgeted PG&E payments (Repayment to CLP would be redirected from PG&E for 10 years). Again, there should not be any significant changes in terms of the bottom line on our PCC annual budget. Note: The PG&E bill will include gas charges and any additional fees (added charges for solar panel owners) which is not included in repayment schedule.

Running parallel with the loan application process for the solar project, 10 solar contractors were invited to provide proposals/estimates with site inspections. Of the 10, six contractors either did not respond indicated that the solar project was too small, did not do commercial projects or couldn't keep their appointment.

Four solar contractors had submitted proposals with **Semper Solaris** being selected as our contractor of choice with a system size of 12.4kw, 36 Sunpower (USA) 345w solar panels with micro inverters. The scope of work includes the installation package, plans, permits, Net Metering application with PG&E, and performance monitoring. Warranties - 25 years of manufacturer's warranties for solar panels and 10 years for workmanship. Their best discounted estimate came to \$53,406 is subject to change orders. (One of the conditions in securing the 2.5% loan includes evidence of a contract and contractor's liability insurance.) Any membership referrals to Semper Solaris will award the church \$500/referral.

As of this writing, Semper Solaris had completed their site survey/inspection and will be providing a recommended design/plan for the solar panels for our approval before proceeding with permit and ordering of supplies. They are looking at starting the project in late August (depending of permit approvals) with completion in 3-4 days. Installment payments (from PILP loan) will be made at the project start, completion and PG&E turn-on.

Throughout the solar system process, the Building and Finance Committee, the Session and interested members of our church were encouraging and very supportive. Each member was kept in informed of our progress, but I would like to acknowledge the following members: Deacon Stuart Go, for his professional advice as a solar expert and Mark Fong, JD, for his professional review of the contract agreement.

Other church conservation projects pending/completed:

- Cleaned and removed dust/dirt from condenser coils in church refrigerator/freezer – Stuart Go
- Installing new EXIT signs throughout our church – Dave Chan
- Replacing our old Compact fluorescent Integrated (CFL) with Light-Emitting Diode (LED) – Winchell Quock

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**Stewardship, Conservation and the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown** *(continued from page 15)*

If interested in participating in our conservation efforts, please contact any member of the Building & Finance Committee. If not interested, please remember to shut off lights, air condition, heating, audio visual units when rooms are not in use and report/shut off any water leaks from the bathrooms and kitchen. And remove any trash to the appropriate garbage, recycle and compost bins.

These and other conservation efforts will help sustain the mission and ministry of our church here in Chinatown.



**General Assembly 2016 as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate** by Rachel Wong

The role of a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) at General Assembly can be derived from the title itself, a young adult that advises the commissioners during General Assembly. Like commissioners, YAADs are assigned to committees. Each committee is given certain overtures (items of business) to discuss and vote on during committee meetings. The actions that are taken in committee are then brought to all the advisory delegates and commissioners at General Assembly in plenary. While YAADs have “voice and vote” in committee, they only have “voice” in plenary.

Going into General Assembly as a YAAD I knew I would have a voice that the commissioners would listen to, but I just did not realize how much influence I really had until I was in the committee and plenary meetings. The committee I was assigned to was Mid-Councils, and the night of the first meeting I met two Teaching Elders (or Ministers of the Word and Sacrament), Kimberly Stokesbary from the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and Adan Mairena from the Philadelphia Presbytery. They were wonderful to talk to when discussing overtures, and were great when I was asking questions about overtures or actions that I did not quite understand. When we were discussing overtures (not lobbying each other to vote a certain way) both Kimmy and Adan encouraged me to voice my thoughts, but I knew that the first time I spoke in committee would make an impression. As with most meetings in general, there are those people that really love talking, and for our committee some of these people were fellow YAADs. As a result of this, I only spoke in both committee and plenary when I knew my thoughts were ones that would benefit discussion, not drag it on longer. This thinking, along with some of the other San Francisco commissioners, motivated me to speak in plenary.



*Teaching Elders Kimmy Stokesbary and Adan Mairena after Committee 5 had adjourned*

*(continued on page 17)*



## General Assembly 2016 as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate *(continued from page 16)*

In addition to committee and plenary meetings, YAADs had separate meetings at the end of almost every night during General Assembly. I enjoyed meeting the other YAADs and the friends I made, which contributed to making General Assembly that much more fun. I am honored to have been the Young Adult Advisory Delegate for the San Francisco Presbytery and will always treasure the experience.



*Selfie with (from Left to Right) YAAD Nivin Lee, YAAD Luck Rasoanilana, Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson, Co-Moderator Jan Edmiston, and Co-Moderator Denise Anderson*



*At Voodoo Doughnuts with fellow YAADs (L to R) Luck Rasoanilana and Gigi Goshorn*



*Young Adult Advisory Delegates and Advisors*

**Clerk of Session Report: Eddie Kam** - Below are key PCC 2015 statistics reported to General Assembly

- Our total membership as of 12/31/2015 was 219.
- Only changes in membership was the Mandarin that will be reported in March 2016 Session minutes but retroactive for 2015 GA statistics. They had had 2 gains via baptism and 2 via confirmation, and lost 10 members.
- 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 2015 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.
- Between 2014 and 2015, our combined average worship attendance dropped by 31 attendees or 13.7%.
- 95.6% of our members are Asian
- The combined age distribution of members are:

| <b>Age bracket</b> | <b>Count</b> | <b>% of total</b> |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 25 and under       | 13           | 5.9%              |
| 26 – 45            | 33           | 15.1%             |
| 46 – 55            | 30           | 13.7%             |
| 56 – 65            | 52           | 23.7%             |
| Over 65            | 91           | 41.6%             |

- All are key indicators that we, like many Presbyterian churches across the nation, are losing members and that we do have an aging population. Each worshipping community needs to look at the mission and ministry to find ways to welcome and plan ministries that will increase the youth, young adults and families.
- As a reminder, I go off Session next year, so I ask each Commission to consider a replacement where I can train the person. I will help the next Clerk with the 2016 GA statistics.

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