



Good News for the Pews

November 2022

A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

Issue No. 33

From Pastor Don

Very soon, sometime after our annual English Congregational Meeting, we will gather together again, officially, to elect our Pastor Nominating Committee, or PNC. That small group will have a rather big task ahead of them, that being to search for, interview, and then provide a finalist candidate to come and meet the congregation before being voted upon as the EWC's next pastor. Before they begin their interviews, the PNC will be spending time reviewing the Mission Study Report, not because it contains the search criteria for the next pastor, it doesn't, but because they will need to keep the Envisioning and Goals section of the report top of their minds as they review applications, called Personal Informational Forms (PIFs). Eventually, they begin their interview process.

Then the PNC, working with the Personnel Committee and the English Commission, will produce an online profile of our worshipping community that will also express what we are looking for in a new leader. This is called a Mission Information Form, or MIF. There is an online database which helps to match MIFs with PIFs. Now most of you are past the point in your lives where you are using online dating apps to find new relationship partners, but this process is actually quite similar. Matching MIFs to PIFs is how things start, but the potential candidates will be doing more than just reading. The potential candidates will be making use of something called *theological imagination* to see if they can envision themselves here and envisioning themselves to help the EWC achieve its goals. Kind of like dating (if you remember), they will be thinking of the EWC and trying to imagine themselves here.

So what does that mean? In addition to reading the online MIF, candidates will be looking at our website and looking to see if we have a social media presence. They will be looking at our Mission Study Report and they will be praying and trying to discern if they see themselves helping the EWC achieve the things listed in the Envisioning and Goals section. They will be trying to imagine themselves in this place and with this community. If they can see their own gifts and skills adding to, and helping the EWC to achieve its goals, they will be motivated to enter into relationship with this community.

(continued on page 2)

Pastor Don *(continued from page 1)*

But the English Community will be making a mistake if we do not begin to also use our theological imagination and see how God is calling us to achieve these goals—*regardless of who the next pastor is*. We know they will be a factor in our success, but not the only factor. The EWC needs to be discerning ideas now. One of charisms, or gifts, of this community is its leadership strength. There is nothing that should prevent any member of the worshipping community from engaging their own theological imagination, to dream dreams and to see visions (Acts 2:17). Not about who is going to lead us, but about what the congregation is called to do. I would like to encourage everyone to review the Mission Study Report. Study it, learn it, talk about it. Try to internalize the goals. A new pastor will be instrumental, but it is the work of the whole congregation to take the dreams of theological imagination and make them into a reality. Together the EWC can make real the promises of the gospel for the people outside these walls. We can help to change lives by manifesting the hope of Christian faith for a world which truly hungers for it.

With blessings,
Pastor Don



Minute for Stewardship – EWC Nominating Committee

by Nancy Chee

*Good morning!

I come today after a milestone has been achieved this year with the completion of our English Mission Study. The study is meant not to be just a guide to recruiting a future pastor but more importantly it defines our purpose as we all move forward into the future together as a community of faith. A pastor is important to shepherd us in our journey but having strong, ongoing leadership and nurturing of our community is vital to supporting our current and long term “Mission”.

To support this, the Nominating Committee is tasked with searching for members in our community to serve in various works of our church. This includes those in the offices of Elders and Deacons.

If I were to ask people, would you remember what roles and responsibility they carry?

What’s an elder? In the Book of Order, the work of ruling elders is in discerning God’s Spirit and governance of God’s people - “lead the congregation in ministries of personal and social healing and reconciliation in the communities in which the church lives and bears its witness” (G-10.0102g). From our new Mission Statement, this affirms this ministry being “*committed to bearing witness to Jesus Christ and sharing his love and justice, starting with the San Francisco Chinatown community and extending out into the world.*”

(continued on page 3)

Minute for Stewardship – EWC Nominating Committee *(continued from page 2)*

What does it mean to be deacon? The work of Deacons are those called to the ministry of “compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress” (*Book of Order*, 2009–11 version, G-2.0201). Sound familiar? We affirmed this in our Mission Statement of “*building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. We strive to nurture and support our members through every age and season of life.*”

Not everyone may feel they are cut out to be an elder or to be a deacon. But I am sure we all have unique gifts that might be used to serve God’s “Mission” in other ways. This is where you might think to serve on other committees like those of Worship and Nurture, Mission and Evangelism and Resources. You do not need a committee to recruit you. This was done a long time ago when you made a commitment to Christ who recruited you to his service. And in your life, Christ has called you to act faithfully in the spirit of Micah 6:8 “*to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God*”. No kindness or service is ever too small. So if ever an opportunity knocks, think about it and try opening the door to a new experience.

The Nominating Committee is extremely grateful to those who have accepted nominations and the call to serve as Deacons or Elders for this coming year. It will be an exciting time of change for all of us moving forward. You, as the community, will be entrusting them to guide us, making decisions that equip and strengthen our community. It is not all for us to just elect them, but to support them fully and when called, to work together as one in Christ.

We will be presenting these Deacons and Elders, and voting for their acceptance in our Annual English Worshipping Community meeting on October 30. Please come to meet and support them.

Thank you for the work of Nominating Committees of years past, current and for the future. Your work shapes our community. Your Nominating Committee for this year includes Mary Wong-Leong, Jerrick Woo, and myself, Jeanine Lim as the Deacon Representative, and Carl Jew as your Elder Representative.

Please pray for all those who will guide us as our community moves forward in our “Mission.” We are your humble servants.

Thank you.

* Given at the Worship Service on October 2, 2022

The Deacons started with all nine members on board, reviewing the duties and responsibilities of being the caring arm of the church along with the ruling elders and Pastor Don.

We examined our Deacon's Manual and discovered items done by individuals that continued as they became Deacons but really are not the Deacons' role. Those duties that aren't, may be picked up by the other committees or worshipping communities.

The Deacons+ group was formed in the Spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 shut-down of the church. That was our way of keeping in touch with each of our members. Members were glad to hear a familiar voice on the phone or receive a note from the church. When the church re-opened for in-person worship, the Deacons+ group was phased out in July but ready to be back in action if needed again.

As the "caring arm" of the church, we call, send cards to members celebrating birthdays, retirement, and notes and cards to those dealing with health issues, death and other needs. We make visits to members in hospitals, rehab facilities, or homes with Pastor Don.

We made 4 double-fleeced prayer blankets with written notes on top and gave them to members recuperating from illness or surgeries this summer. Care packages filled with treats were recently sent to 11 college-agers studying away from home.

Prayer requests are followed up and given to Pastor Don and the liturgists; we respect those requests by obtaining permission if they're to be made public or to remain private.

The COMPASSION FUND established in September of 2020 during the COVID epidemic, was used recently to help individuals who had financial needs due to loss of income from illness/job. Donation envelopes are available for your donation to replenish funds that have been spent.

Class of 2022—Eunice Behar-Lee, Terry Chan, Max Hum
2023—Ed Kam, Jeanine Lim, Carole Chinn-Morales
2024—Jackie Jew, Rene Fong, Shar Hall

In August, four members of the PCC community were identified as needing our prayers and support. The Deacons organized a Prayer Blanket project for our friends. For two Sundays during Teatime as well as during a Saturday Food Pantry, family, friends, and people who care were given the opportunity to tie the knotted edges and send their prayers and good wishes via the blankets. The congregation was also given the option to send their messages to the Deacons via email for transcription onto the blankets. The blankets were given to family members or delivered by Deacons+ during the first week of September. Our prayers for comfort, strength and healing are ongoing for our friends.



(continued on page 6)

Deacons Corner (continued from page 5)



The Care Package program for our college agers has been revived. Eleven care packages were sent out in October.



PCC sent our college-agers off with our prayers and good wishes (and snacks) for a safe, happy, and productive year in school: Cody, Tristan and Tully at University of Hawaii, Ian at SF State University, Samantha at UC Davis, Mari at Chico State, Rene at University of Santa Clara, Caitlin at Vassar, Ella at UCLA, Justin at UC Irvine, and Jeff- our post grad at USC.

**S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS of
CHURCH PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION**

by Carl Jew

<p>(S) STRENGTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longevity • Our Financial Health 	<p>(W) WEAKNESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Written Personnel Policies
<p>(O) OPPORTUNITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Envisioning Goals from the Mission Study 	<p>(T) THREAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of Housing • Minister Burn-out

This Minute for Stewardship focuses on personnel administration using a method of planning called S.W.O.T. Analysis to identify our worshipping community’s Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.

For example, we are set apart from other congregations by the **Strength** of our:

- Longevity – Our church is the oldest Asian-serving Protestant church in North America that formed under the leadership of only four members and the Rev. William Speer.
- Financial Health – We pay our bills on time. We have a well-funded budget to support our ministries and offer fair compensation to our pastor while maintaining healthy financial reserves. Our community is generous in giving of time, talents, and treasure. It’s easy to imagine why a future minister candidate might be drawn to serve a church known for its longevity and financial strength.

In the second box entitled **Weakness**, “Doing all things decently and in order” is a trademark of Presbyterian church leadership. However, it is worrisome to know that we have few personnel policies written down. It will be a priority of the personnel committee to develop new policies to create order and ensure fair employment practices.

The third category is **Opportunity**. The Mission Study presents four, new Envisioning Goals for us to embrace and implement. We have an opportunity to ask and answer how will we invest our time, talents, and treasure towards these goals. Who will be called to pastor this church and partner with us as a “both/and” church that is dedicated to missional work and demonstrating God’s reconciling love for our neighbor?

Regarding the fourth box, **Threats**,

- An ongoing external threat is the high cost of housing. Economic pressures can’t be ignored as we prepare to recruit, call, and retain the next pastor.
- Pastor Burn-out – A recent article published in the New York Times reported on a nationwide survey of ministers during the pandemic and discovered that 2 out of 5 pastors surveyed, 40%, have seriously considered quitting full-time ministry in the past year. The main reasons cited were “the immense stress of the job,” and “feeling lonely and isolated.” This is a stark reminder that the work and profession of minister is far more taxing than we may think. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/28/opinion/pastor-burnout-pandemic.html>

This brief demonstration of a SWOT Analysis as it relates to personnel work reminds us that it is by God’s grace that we came from humble beginnings in 1853 and continue to assemble for worship after 169 uninterrupted years. We strive to be the faithful Body of Christ while recognizing that we possess a particular set of strengths and weaknesses and are faced with present-day challenges in the form of new opportunities and persistent threats.

Members of the Worship & Nurture Committee want to share with you what we do and how your support for us makes a difference. Members are Gwen Jeong, Mildred Hall, Terry Chan, Ed Kam, Nancy Chee, Pastor Don and myself, Dave Miller.

Our goal for worship is to provide you opportunities to celebrate God's love and grace. While this might not happen every week, we hope that you often experience God's presence while you're at worship either in the sanctuary or at home.

We depend on your feedback. What about our worship brings you closer to God? What makes you feel more distant from God than you'd like? If you join Sunday worship via YouTube and you live locally, what are the conditions under which you'd want to worship in-person rather than on-line?

One of our biggest challenges over the past two years has been supporting Tea Time. We know that pre-pandemic Tea Time was a time of fellowship, of food and of study. We know that Tea Time over Zoom isn't as satisfying. As more and more of you come to worship in-person, Tea Time in Fellowship Hall will give you opportunities to visit and learn. But, we still want to provide a time of fellowship and learning if you're not able to come in to Chinatown. We'll be trying to have more presenters and more questions to discuss. Give us feedback about what works best for you both in-person and via Zoom.

Our other responsibility is to ensure that our church provides opportunities for people of all ages to study, renew and enhance their faith. We have scheduled study sessions with Rev. Leslie Veen and an examination of the Confession of 1967 led by Pastor Don. We encourage and support the School of Discipleship, Women's Fellowship, East Bay Covenant Group, the Wednesday Night Fellowship, DINKS and SINKS, and Pickleball.

You can help us provide you with study opportunities and fellowship opportunities by letting us know what you need. What aspects of faith trouble you? What could help you better withstand the struggles you are going through? Should we form an additional fellowship group?

We'd love to welcome you to participate in our committee meetings, the first Tuesday of the month at 7 via Zoom. We love new ideas and the perspectives additional people bring to our meetings.

Please talk with any of us on the committee. Give us your positive as well as negative feedback. Give us your ideas about how we can strengthen our ties as a community. We depend on you!

Dave Miller

Chair, Worship & Nurture Committee

2022 天山退修會感受：

三年後的今天，我們再一次舉辦了退修會，主題：《在拆毀中悔改，在重建中更新》

參加人數 29 人，其中有五位第一次參加我們的退修會，三位慕道友。

1. 悔改：認出自己的不對，全然徹底拆除，謙卑自我，向主認罪悔改
2. 重建：在主裏，求主賜我們力量，重建活在主裡的我。與主的關係再次和好，委身於主
3. 更新：舊事已過，都是新的了。將纏勒我們的種種的種種，主已釋放，腦海裡，心裏，全然 let go! 再活的不是我，乃是主在我裡活著！如何回應？主啊！我在這裡，請差遣我！請用我！
 - 最高興是看到以往的青年人已經是有家有孩子的 young families...然而幾家的感情永固，大人孩子都相處融洽，就是“一家人”。其他年輕人也快了……
 - 這次的退修會也大多數是由年輕人主持多數項目，年輕人哪！你們就是現在的教會……不只是以後的……you are not only the future of the church, you are the NOW! 主有否感動你，不要再推辭，站出來，說，主啊，我在這裡，請用我！
 - 經過恩悅師母，再是郝牧師所傳達的信息，聖靈在每個人的心中，動工……有的是激動痛哭流淚；有的反覆思想，主的話語打觸到心底……台上台下都收穫滿滿。是的，主啊，我們向祢懺悔認罪、悔改。我們要在祢的話裡重新建造。求祢更新我們，活在主的旨意裏，走當走的道路，讓我們成為別人的祝福，我們所做的是討祢喜悅，榮神益人！將一切頌讚、榮耀都歸於祢，三一之神！阿門！

Heavenly Hills Christian Camp 2022 Retreat, My Thoughts and Feelings

Three years since the pandemic, we once again held our ‘annual’ retreat. Our topic: “Repent in Demolition, Renew in Rebuild”. Speaker: Cathy Wang, Pastor Hao’s wife.

In attendance: 29 people. Of the 29, 5 are first timers to our retreat, and 3 are non-believers. 5 children, 9 older adults, 15 young adults.

We went back to the basics of the 3 R’s: Repent, Rebuild, and Renew: a summary of what I learned and took with me from the retreat.

1. Repent: I need to acknowledge my faults, totally demolish my wrongs, humble myself before God, repent to God.
2. Rebuild: In God and with God, ask God to give me the strength to rebuild my life within Him, rebuild that relationship with God, submit my all to God.
3. Renew: Old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new (2 Cor. 5:17) Let go of all those weighing me down, God has already freed those burdens from me. Let go of those worries, troubles, heavy heart...He has

(continued on page 10)

set me free. He lives in me, and I live for Him! “Lord, Here I am, please send me, use me!”

I was most grateful and happiest to see:

1. Our youth we nurtured are now young adults, many married and with families, their children....It is so delightful and with a grateful heart to see them grow in God.
2. More than half of the attendees were young adults! This is so promising to see! Youth: you are not just the Future of the Church, I say, you ARE the Church! Don't hesitate, don't push back! No more excuses, “Lord, here I am, send me!”
3. God's words, through Cathy, have touched all of us, some in tears, others contemplating in their hearts, like needles, pricked through our hearts, awakened our indifferent attitude! Lord, help us. We kneel before you and repent, please rebuild our faith in You once more, rebuild that relationship with You, and renew us once more, so we may be used by You!

May we be a blessing to others, our lives to be one to Glorify You. Praises Be to the Lord! Amen!



Youth

(continued on page 11)



The Women



The Group

Submitted by Amy Feng
Mandarin Worshipping Community

A New Hymn

“Presbyterian pastor and hymn writer, the Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, has written a new hymn, *O God of All Creation*, after Hurricane Fiona brought devastation to Puerto Rico and other islands in the Caribbean before turning toward the Maritime provinces in Canada.

“This new hymn was written after severe storms caused massive flooding and damage in Pakistan, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and other places” Winfrey Gillette wrote. “It is written in a general way so that it can be used in the future after other hurricanes, typhoons, and cyclones, which are unfortunately becoming more severe due to climate change.”

The new hymn is set to Samuel Sebastian Wesley’s “AURELIA,” the tune for *The Church’s One Foundation*. Winfrey Gillette grants permission for churches to use the lyrics in worship and in support of relief efforts.

by Mike Ferguson / Presbyterian News Service

O God of All Creation

O God of all creation, as ocean waters warm,
we grieve the devastation that comes with violent storms.
We pray for people struggling — who need your help and grace
on every flooded island and in each flooded place.

We pray for all your children, so dearly loved by you,
who know such great destruction as winds and rains crash through.
We pray for all those hurting, who grieve for what is gone —
for neighbors, friends and siblings who struggle to go on.

We pray, O Lord, for churches that help to build anew.
We pray for rescue workers and all the good they do.
We pray for those with vision who serve as they restore —
who make homes more efficient and stronger than before.

O Christ who calmed the waters and stilled the stormy seas,
You teach us: “Love your neighbors!” and “Humbly care for these!”
Now lead us by your Spirit to gladly lend a hand —
on every struggling island and in each hurting land.

Submitted by Irene Ng

By the Rev. Ronnie Kaan

(The English translation follows on the next pages).

自 2011 年七月一日，正式投入三藩市中華基督教長老會，參與粵語事工服事，轉眼十一年了！*[我拿甚麼報答耶和華向我所賜的一切厚恩]* 詩篇 116:12。

2011 -

七月一日粵語信徒舉行半天退修會，參加人數十九人。於今天疫情前三年，參加粵語信徒三天兩夜退修會，人數達四十餘人。每年訂立不同主題，邀請特約講員，以聖經真道教導信徒，能使信仰融入日常生活。

2012 -

進入區會考驗期。雖早已受按立為改革宗牧師，但因著必須深層了解和認識美國長老會，按規章修讀禮儀、體制和教義。但不知可因？時間卻被拖延了，經過得到黃長老追查後，獲得資深牧長莫牧師的細心教導，結果在區會四位牧長監察下，順利通過了考試。上帝帶領於十二月二日，在三堂的會友和長老見證下，由區會委任李凝金長老主持就職聖禮。

[靠著愛我們的主，在這一切的事上，已經得勝有餘了] 羅馬書 8:37。於九月十二日上午辦公時間，被一名卧在大門外非裔露宿者闖入後，當天值日長老竟登記簡牧師偷取露宿者一百元，幸有堂會及督會澄清事實，甘卓劍長老註消記錄。

[當將你的事交託耶和華，並倚靠祂，祂就必成全] 詩篇 37:5。剛到教會上任不久，便發生了小插曲：經區會 COM 金牧師以區會印信，簽署核准後，可在粵語堂主持會議、並執行各項聖工及禮儀，但竟被指責冒用區會印信與金牧師之簽名，幸得金牧師認證，那委任信出自於他個人簽署核實。

2013 - 2017

[無論做甚麼，都要從心裡做，像是給主做的，不是給人做的，因你們知道... 你們所事奉的乃是主基督] 歌羅西書 3:23-24。趁著 CYC 青年中心借用本會作為暑期活動場地，藉此機會向他們青年人招手，以教授唱歌、鋼琴等音樂等免費課程，先後吸引了青少年二十餘人進入教會，開展了青年(靈潔)團契、詩班、頌讚小組及青年夏令退修會。於 2013 年十二月懷著「不做不知道，要做便知道」的心態，嘗試設立靈友(美鄰園)團契，徵得美鄰園同意後，在該交誼廳開始每月一次的聚會，由粵語堂耆英團契主領，後來日子也因人數不如預期，暫停了兩年；至今年疫情大流行過後，亦應美鄰園邀請，已於 2022 年一月重啟「靈友團契」月會。

傳福音不是靠著口才，乃是要使聽的人得看見：小學補習班、華埠街頭派發福音單張、成人英語會話班、少年空手道班、耶穌愛華埠、健康營養班等，一系列福音外展事工，都是蒙上帝憐憫，因著我們願意去做，祂將得救人數加給我們。

2016 - 2019

[在人是不可能的，在上帝凡事都能] 馬太福音 19:26。 在這三年間，青少年漸漸成長。他們不少人要離開三藩市，有進入大學的、也有進入社會尋求工作的；但上帝給我們看見祂另有預備，除了每年舉辦三天兩夜信徒退修會外，於每年暑假期間，舉行了：教會領袖研習會，目的是加強造就教會領袖，裝備信徒成為基督精兵，以強內拓外的信念，才可以堅固教會聖工。

2019 - 2022

[因為，耶和華賜人智慧；知識和聰明都由祂口而出] 箴言 2:6。 肺炎疫情大流行在這數年間，教會聖工停頓，崇拜也停擺了；粵語堂長老們在上帝恩賜下，曉得運用 WhatsApp 作為主日崇拜、小組查經、主日學校等等的活動和會議。

當踏入 2021 年十一月，督會通過重啟主日崇拜，粵語堂開始實體崇拜外，同時透過視頻網站伸向外界接觸。時至 2022 年，我們藉著網上直到今天，吸引了渴慕福音的新朋友前來教會，參加了每主日的粵語崇拜。

回顧快將完結這十一年，有人說，若懂得在教會拖著太太下樓梯，他就是好牧者？可是，我從沒有拖著師母在教會下梯級。另有人說，我們這部是老爺車，不要駕駛太快，很容易車毀人亡？但當要負起粵語堂事工的第二年，我已全速行駛，第三、第四年更是超速駕駛，幸好仍是平靜安穩，感謝上帝！

或許有人再問，你人矮膽小無學識，甚至問題多多，憑甚麼？配得嗎？
[在罪人中我是個罪魁，然而，我蒙了憐憫，是因耶穌基督要在我這罪魁身上，顯明祂一切的忍耐，給後來信祂得永生的人作榜樣] 提摩太前書 1:15, 16。 一位資深牧長曾經分享：聖經中的大衛，自小就被耶和華揀選，他一生中經歷了大大小小的試煉和試探，上帝一直帶領他、眷顧他，在他軟弱失敗的事情上，憐憫他、赦免他，最後以色列的後裔也從他而出。

「11」從新數上是 1+1 結果才是十一，只要前面的 1，以上帝為一生主宰，後面的 1，我還怕甚麼！
[你當剛強壯膽！不要懼怕，也不要驚惶，… 耶和華你的上帝必與你同在] 約書亞記 1:9。 願將一切榮耀頌讚，歸予我們在天上的 父，阿們！

Eleven Years of Ministry Journey

by Rev. Ronnie Kaan

It has been eleven years since July 2011 that I have officially been called to serve in the ministry of the Cantonese Worshiping Community of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown.

“What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?” Psalm 116:12.

2011 -

On July 1st, 2011, the Cantonese Community held a half-day retreat with nineteen participants. Compared to the one held three years ago prior to the pandemic, there were more than 40 participants to join the 3-days, 2-nights retreat. We have different topics and invite special speakers every year to teach members the truth from the Bible, integrating faith with daily life.

2012 –

I was into the studying and testing period from Presbytery. Although I have long been ordained as a reformed pastor, it was a must for me to have a better understanding of the American Presbyterian Church by-laws, rituals, and doctrines per the regulation. However, due to some reasons, my ordination was delayed. With the help from Elder Wong and the guidance of Senior Pastor Mo, I successfully passed the test by a testimony committee consisting of four pastors. Led by God, an ordination ceremony was held on December 2nd, 2012, in the presence and witness of the members and elders of the three worshiping communities. Appointed by the Presbytery district committee, Elder Linda Lee officiated at the ordination ceremony.

“In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.” Romans 8:37.



Rev. Kaan's ordination ceremony, July 2012

(continued on page 16)

In the morning of Sept. 12, 2012, when I was working in my office, the front gate was broken in by a homeless man who accused me of stealing a \$100 bill from him. The elder on duty that day recorded this in the church logbook. Since this was a false statement, our co-pastors and elders clarified the facts, and Elder Edward Kam modified the logbook by removing it.

“Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.” Psalm 37:5.

Another episode occurred when I started serving in the church. I was approved by Rev. In-Ho Kim, COM of Presbytery District Council, that I was able to hold commission meetings, as well as serve Holy Communion. However, I was accused of fraudulently using the District Council approval document and Pastor Kim’s signature to wrongfully perform these services. It was then clarified by Rev. Kim that all these were recognized by him.

2013 – 2017

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that...for ye serve the Lord Christ.” Colossians 3:23-24. Taking the opportunity of the CYC Youth Center using our church site for summer events, we attracted teenagers to join our church by establishing off-school courses such as singing, piano and other music related subjects.

There were more than twenty youth who participated in the Cantonese Worshipping Community. They attended Sunday worship, Youth fellowship, choir, hymn praising group and the Youth Summer Retreat. In December 2013, I was led by the old saying "You wouldn't know if you don't do it, but you will know if you do it," in trying to establish a fellowship for seniors from Mei-Lun Yuen with the consent of the Mei-Lun Yuen official. These monthly gatherings lasted for a few years until the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the request from Mei-Lun Yuen, the monthly fellowship reopened in January 2022 after the two-year closure.



Youth summer retreat 2014

(continued on page 17)

Evangelism is not about eloquence. It is all about making it visible to those who listen. We have had serial outreach ministries, such as, after school tutoring, passing out Gospel leaflets in the streets of Chinatown, offering adult English conversation classes, Junior Karate Class, Good Health Nutrition classes and co-organizing “Jesus Love Chinatown” evangelism events. With God’s guidance on our outreach ministries, we were able to bring new believers to our church. When we are willing to spread the Gospel, God will increase the number of people being saved.



Cantonese Worshiping Community 2015

2016 – 2019

“But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26. In recent years, we have teenagers gradually growing up. Many of them are leaving San Francisco, some attending colleges, and others working, or looking for jobs.

But God showed us that He has other plans. In addition to the “three days - two nights” retreats for our members every year, we also hold special conferences like “Christian Leadership Training” which strengthens our leaders’ passion in Mission, Ministry and Leadership. This training allows us to be equipped to carry the Good News across all the communities.

(continued on page 18)



*Rev. Kaan's doctorate degree
graduation ceremony 2018*

2019 – 2022

“For the Lord giveth wisdom; out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.” Proverbs 2:6. The pandemic outbreak has forced the closure of churches. With God’s blessings, the Cantonese Worshiping Community continues our Sunday worship, Bible study and Sunday school, using on-line platforms such as WhatsApp and Zoom.

The church building was re-opened in November 2021. The Cantonese group returned to the church with its Sunday Worship in person, as well as broadcasting online. By 2022, our reaching out to the community through YouTube has attracted Christians and non-believers to join online worship as well as coming to our church to praise God together.

In looking at my eleven years of serving, someone used to say: “If one gives his spouse support while she walks down the church stairway, would he be considered a good shepherd?” But I’ve never helped my wife down the stairs at the church. Someone also mentioned this: “Our car is a very old car. Don’t drive too fast. A fatal accident can easily occur.” By the second year of my ministry with the Cantonese community, I was driving at normal speed. During the third and fourth years, I was speeding, but was still safe and sound. I give thanks to our God!

Someone may ask again: “You are short, timid, ignorant, and have numerous issues, why? Based on what? Are you worthy?” “...and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in Him and receive eternal life.” 1 Timothy 1:15, 16. A senior pastor once shared the Bible story of David, who was chosen by God when he was a child. Although he had experienced great trials and temptations in his life, he had always been led and cared for by God. The Lord showed great mercy and forgiveness to David in times of his weaknesses and failures. Ultimately, the descendants of Israel came from him.

"11" in the new number means: 1+1. As a result, it is the number eleven. For as long as we place God as the first 1 to reign in our life, we, as the second 1 following, have nothing to be afraid of!

“...Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9. May all glory and praise be given to our Father in heaven! Amen!

Dinks and Sinks – Pipit – Packing Toys and Children’s Books by Gilbert and Eunice Bejar-Lee

PCC has supported a toy drive to the Philippines for over 20 years through donations of toys, books and school supplies. On September 24th, the DINKS and SINKS packed 24 shipping boxes and through the Pipit Fund contacts, the boxes will go to two provinces, including Laguna, where Eunice's family grew up. Two Pipit Board members, college graduates, Maravic Asunción and Zhara Alegre, help to distribute to two church parties and a street giveaway at a squatter settlement with about 200 children.

The second site is Quezon province on the Pacific coast, where Rev. Nat Romaquin (Laguna pastor 2004-2008), our 3rd Pipit Board member, has connections to five United Church of Christ Philippines in Quezon. Each church has 20-50 kids and he drops off 1-2 boxes to each.



Dinks and Sinks – Pipit-Packing Toys and Children’s Books *(continued from p. 19)*

Packing the boxes at Gil and Eunice's garage actually only took an hour. Soft stuffed animals go on bottom, packed by hard toys, then a few dozen children's books to squash the whole load down. Need not worry, the soft toys will be re-fluffed up by the women's fellowship there. The shipping truck arrived to load up our boxes and will be transferred to the wharf and then shipped, as it takes about two months to arrive, hence our early Christmas drive.



The DINKS and SINKS had dinner at Kirin Restaurant and later returned to the house backyard to enjoy dessert, fellowship, and sharing in our coming and goings in the last year. Some celebrated the joys of retirement while other shared in the challenges of caring for aging family members.

It has been a blessing, as often when we are in the Philippines for Christmas, we will see banners at churches there thanking PCC. Thanks to everyone for sharing your abundance and helping to spread Christ's joy during these Holy Days!

Blessings!

Gilbert and Eunice Bejar-Lee

**Presbyterian Church in Chinatown
Volunteer Acknowledgements 2022**

In light of the pandemic, we continue to be thankful for the services and contributions that our volunteers add to our church's ministry and mission, giving their time and service to their faith and their community.

Thank you from the English Commission!

General Church Responsibilities

Annie & Peter Wong
Irene Young Ng - Newsletter editor
Jeanette Huie - Ragsheet editor
David Miller - Webmaster and Email
Winchell Quock - English Treasurer
Linda Lee - Clerk of Session
David Soohoo - PCC Treasurer
Stuart Go - Photographer
Rev. Donald P. Hammond
Rev. Norman Fong
Rev. Greg Chan

Mission Study Team

Nancy Chee
Eddie Kam
Chris Chan
Mark Fong
Cynthia Joe
Laurene Chan
Eleanor Wong
Di An Chen
Jeanine Lim

Tea Time Hosts

Sabrina Gee-Shin
Diane Go
Linda Lee
Rev. Greg Chan

Worship & Nurture Committee

David Miller (Chair)
Eddie Kam
Mildred Hall
Terry Chan
Gwen Jeong
Norma Chan

Personnel Committee

Carl Jew (Chair)
Terry Leong
Cynthia Joe
Rene Fong

Mission & Evangelism Committee

Ed Chin (Co-Chair)
Jeanette Huie (Co-Chair)
Susie Wong
Jeanine Lim
Doreen Der-McLeod
Sharlene Hall
Cynthia Joe
Clinton Huey
Carole Chinn-Morales
Gilbert Lee
Eunice Bejar-Lee
Whittney Tom
Heidi Wong

Resource Committee

David Soohoo (Chair)
Wayne Eng
Stuart Go
Max Hum
Jackie Jew
Terry Leong
Winchell Quock
Annie Wong

Nominating Committee

Nancy Chee
Carl Jew
Mary Wong Leong
Jeanine Lim
Jerrick Woo

Elders

Mildred Hall
David Miller
Annie Wong
Heidi Wong
Ed Chin
Jeanette Huie
Carl Jew
Winchell Quock
David Soohoo

Deacons

Ed Kam (Chair)
Jeanine Lim
Carole Chinn-Morales
Jackie Jew
Rene Fong
Sharlene Hall
Eunice Bejar-Lee
Terry Chan
Max Hum

Deacons+ Members

Pat Chan
Terry Chan
Norma Fong Chan
Wayne Eng
Marie Chin
Sharlene Hall
Richard Jann
Dayton Leong
Mary Wong Leong
Joanne Woo

Sanctuary Decorations

Jean Chin
Nancy Chee
Susie Wong

Worship Production

David Chan
Nancy Chee
Joe Tanizawa
Terry Leong
Norman Proctor

Liturgists

Eddie Kam
Linda Lee
David Miller
Marie Chin
Laurene Chan
Rev. Norman Fong
Susie Wong

**Presbyterian Church in Chinatown
Volunteer Acknowledgements 2022**

Worship Planners

David Miller
Linda Lee
Diane Go
David Chan
Nancy Chee
Norma Chan

Musicians

David Miller
Mildred Hall
Gordon Jeong
Josh Hee
David Chan
Laurene Chan
Caitlin Gong

Readers

Scott Barlow
Susie Wong
Eunice Bejar-Lee
Chris Chan
Rev. Greg Chan
Jonathan Y. Chan
Liane Chan
Norma Chan
Terry Chan
Elaine Chan-Scherer
Carole Chinn-Morales
Ed Chin
Marie Chin
Josh Chuck
Naomi Chun
Douglas Clark
Wayne Eng
Mark Fong
Rene Fong
Diane Go
Stuart Go
Tim Go
Mildred Hall
Sharlene Hall
Josh Hee
Clinton Huey
Samantha Hum
Max Hum
Pamela Jang
Gordon Jeong
Jackie Jew
Keith Jew
Eddie Kam
Lauren Kam
Ryan Kam
David Kono
Dayton Leong
Jeanine Lim
Winchell Quock
Lindsey Quock
Sabrina Gee-Shin
Kyle Shin

Readers (continued)

David Soohoo
Joe Tanizawa
Whittney Tom
Kathy Tong
David Wong
Heidi Wong
Jordan Wong
Kimball Wong
Vivien Wong
Mary Wong Leong
Jerrick Woo
Jo-Jo Woo
Ruth Wu
Jim Caldwell
Jeannette Wei

Food Pantry Volunteers:

Kathy Amendola
Scott Barlow
David Chan
Jeanine Lim
Jonathan M. Chan
Jonathan Y. Chan
Pat Chan
Nancy Chee
Jean Chin
Marie Chin
Mark Chung
Collins Dubois
Wayne Eng
Amy Feng
Sherman Gee
Caitlin Gong
Cindy Lee Gong
Rev. Don Hammond
Pastor Guo Hao
Benji Huey
Clinton Huey
Jeanette Huie
Eddie Kam
Lauren Kam
Peggy Kam
Ryan Kam
Rev. Ronnie Kaan
Thomas Kong
Loi La
Michele La
Alson Lee
Linda Lee
Terry Leong
Debbie Leung
Vivian Leung
Matthew Lew
Jasen Lo
Jamie Lue
Jeremy Lue

Food Pantry Volunteers (continued)

Xin Zhen Luo (Jenny)
Oy Ling Mah (Raina Choy)
David Nguyen
Carrie Phillips
David Sakamoto
Ivy Yee Sakamoto
Cuzy Solis
David Soohoo
Ivy Truong
Ella Vo
Shirley Wing
Annie Wong
Eleanor Wong
Jingkey Wong
Johnny Wong
Kimball Wong
Vivien Wong
Darren Wong
Susie Wong
Julie Yu

Safety Monitors

Scott Barlow
Marie Chin
Pat Chan
Norma Chan
Terry Chan
Wayne Eng
Cindy Lee-Gong
Max Hum
Gilbert Lee
Debbie Leung
Susie Wong

**Presbytery, Synod,
General Assembly**

Diane Go
Ruth Wu
Linda Lee
Rev. Greg Chan
Pat Chan
Mildred Hall

Building Work Crew

Wayne Eng
Winchell Quock
Terry Leong
David Chan
Scott Barlow

Congratulations to Diane Go and Pam Jang. Diane Go retired from her job as an Occupational Therapist in July. Pam Jang retired from MUNI in mid-September.

Baby news: Congratulations to Lindsey Quock and her husband Zach Palchick. On September 10 their daughter, Wren Calderon Quock Palchick, was born. Jeanne and Winchell are first time grandparents and Lauren is an Auntie. A few of us got a chance to see a picture of the baby during Zoom tea time. Winchell shared a picture from his phone. Baby is cute and Grandpa Winchell was all smiles.

Lianne and Terry Leong's three youngest grandchildren are in Kindergarten this year and they are enjoying school.

Josh Chuck just got back from Chicago. He was presenting *Chinatown Rising* to college students and elementary school students. He also was at Galileo High School at an Ethnic Studies class. Film is well received everywhere.

Church families been traveling the past few months.

Susie and Scott finally made it to Honolulu this year.

Cindy Joe and a friend from the Sequoias went to Prague, Slovakia and Budapest in late August.

Kathy, Brad, and some friends traveled to Spain and Portugal.

Sabrina and husband, Jung, went to New York to catch a show or two. They did some sightseeing and eating some good food.

Linda and Naomi went on a cruise. They stayed a few days in Amsterdam before they got on the cruise ship. Ask Linda about Norway and the Fjords.

Cindy Lee Gong updated that her daughter, Caitlin, is adjusting well to college life at Vassar. She is participating in many activities and making friends.

I finally went to join the Pickle Ball group. Thank you to Belinda in giving me a crash course with the rules and how to score. It's pretty fun. Thank you to Diane for letting me try her two paddles. Who knew there are different types of paddles. Now, I am on the hunt to buy some court shoes. I think it will help me from not tripping and my knees and feet will be happier. Stay tuned for more Pickle Ball stories.



Sunday, November 6, 2022:

Trilingual Worship Service
Congregation/Corporation Meeting
Retirement Luncheon for Rev. Ronnie Kaan

Sunday, November 13: Hunger & Homeless Sunday
PCC Session Meeting

Sunday, November 20: Harvest Home Sunday

Monday, November 21: Women's Fellowship

Sunday, November 27: First Sunday in Advent

Monday, December 19: Women's Fellowship

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve Service in PCC Sanctuary

Sunday, January 15, 2023: Race Relations Sunday

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