



Good News for the Pews

November 2023

A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

Issue No. 37

“Now What?”

It didn't take very long after the Special Congregational Meeting on October 29, where the members of the English Worshipping Community voted to call me as the Designated Solo Pastor before someone asked me, in a rather blunt and direct manner, “What is the first thing you are going to do now that you've been elected?” At the moment my first thought was “finish my lunch?” because I was sitting at a table at the R&G Lounge, and I had only been elected about an hour before. I looked thoughtfully into my tea and considered more carefully what I was about to say.

This question is not uncommon between church members and newly called pastors. In my long experience on the Committee on Ministry, as well as my personal experience of starting new interim pastorates, I know that church members look toward pastors as the chief executive of the church society, much as people look towards a president or a CEO. While it is true that installed pastors take on a leading role, and that designated pastors are installed, it is important to remember that our understanding of church leadership is not based on the concertation of power within the hands of one person, be they in the pulpit or not. I'm not going to suddenly move us in a new direction based on ideas in my own imagination. My work as an installed pastor is to work *with the* ruling elders to review and implement the goals laid out in the Mission Study Report.

The Mission Study Team wrote “The EWC is committed to ... evolving to meet the needs of PCC members and the surrounding community towards spiritual formation and growth, and a just and loving world. In this extraordinary historical moment, we move forward into transformation. We shall allow ourselves to adapt, equip, and take risks, while being grounded in God's grace, united in spiritual fellowship, and faithful to our call to discipleship. We strive to be the visible and active body of Christ that brings hope to those in need. “Behold, I am doing a new thing. Can you perceive it?” (Isaiah 65:16-17)” They went on to elucidate four goals, *in no particular order*, for the next season of ministry.

These goals are: to strengthen the EWC's identity and work as a Matthew 25 community; build stronger relationships with the PCC Cantonese and Mandarin communities; continuing to engage in missional action, beginning in Chinatown and extending out into the world; and building and investing in a hybrid model of church which is both in-person and online. Each one of those ideas

are then broken down with a number of *suggested* ideas or initiatives. Not to be too political, but you can think of the goals as the *platform* and each of the ideas a one of the *planks* within it.

My work as the designated pastor will be to work with the Commission to help to lead and guide the whole church community toward the realization of this platform by implementing the various planks. It will require strategic planning, including making decisions about what to prioritize and when. We cannot do everything all at once, but if we work on goals strategically I believe we can build out the structure envisioned by the Mission Study Team, (MST), And remember, the MST didn't just come up with the ideas in a vacuum: the goals outlined in their report are reflective of *your* input. The report was written after extensive townhalls and meetings with church members and with Fellowship groups.

But there is now an elephant in the room: *building stronger relationships with the Cantonese and Mandarin* worshipping communities. There can be no ignoring that our relationship with the Mandarin community is currently under tremendous strain. It will be a priority to discern the full impact of our current schism, to determine what are the paths toward reconciliation, *if there are any*, and to discern the best course of action that allows us to move forward with our other goals. Fundamentally this may very well involve reorganizing our church structure. It will be important that should this be a task the Session undertakes, it does not hinder the English Community's work on the Mission Study goals.

This is a daunting task, and because of my personal stake, it will be very important that the commission and I work carefully on this issue. But we can't neglect work in the other areas either. There is little doubt that we'll call upon help from the Presbytery, but this has to be done in coordination with the other two commissions and at the right time. Right now, I want to call on everyone to reflect on the English Commission's call to prayer from our email to the community on September 12. We all need to lean into our faith and recall what the Mission Study Team wrote in their report: "Behold, I am doing a new thing. Can you perceive it?" (Isaiah 65:16-17)." I believe that we are being called to act by the Holy Spirit at work in our midst. So the answer to "what now" is this: With sober attention and with serious resolve I am hopeful that we will adapt and transform according to God's call and that we will live into the *prophetic* call of the Mission Study to "become a vibrant Asian American Presbyterian church that practices radical welcome and inclusion, called to preach and practice Christ's healing, hope and abundance in all seasons of life."¹

Yours in faith and hope,
Pastor Don

¹ 2022 Mission Study Report, p 29

“The Call Process”

By the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee

Presbyterians like to do things by committee. We like to do things “decently and in order.” The national PCUSA has a long and circuitous process which congregations must follow when hiring a new pastor. One of the first steps is to form a Pastor Nominating Committee. Earlier this year in April, you elected the members of the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee, to work its way through the process of discerning and calling a pastor nominee.

Our committee members included Heidi Wong, elder representative; Jeanine Lim, deacon representative; Nancy Chee, from the Mission Study Report team; Clinton Huey and Whittney Tom, at large; Eleanor Wong, representative from the Cantonese Worshiping Community; and Amy Feng, from the Mandarin Worshiping Community, until resigning in August.

To choose a designated pastor, our committee began meeting in May, and we had a standing meeting every single Thursday night through September, except for two Thursdays.

At our first meeting, we were guided by Rev. InHo Kim, staff at the San Francisco Presbytery. He gave us the online handbook entitled *On Calling a Pastor*, all 45 pages of it. We were also assigned a liaison from the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry (COM), the Rev. Janet Bower, who attended many of our meetings and provided valuable guidance and advice throughout our process.

First, a note about confidentiality. We were guided by policy set forth in the handbook, *On Calling a Pastor*:

Maintaining confidentiality within the PNC is of the utmost importance. Maintaining confidentiality ensures that the identities of the prospective pastors your PNC is considering are protected. Maintaining confidentiality within the PNC is an issue of integrity, trusting God in the process, and spiritual leadership...This means that information about prospective pastors and all conversations, deliberations, and perceptions should not go beyond the members of the PNC, your presbytery liaison, and the EP/GP (Executive Presbyter).

The PCUSA *On Calling a Pastor* handbook sets forth a 21-step hiring, discernment and call process. In our deliberations, we were also guided by the 2022 EWC Mission Study Report and our status as a Matthew 25 church. Please note that the fact that we were looking for a designated pastor did not streamline the 21-step process, except to lessen the time that the position would be publicized. We still had to complete every single step of the process. The position was advertised from July 1- August 15, 2023.

Our first step was to write the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP). What’s an MDP? The Ministry Discernment Profile provides a narrative picture of the mission and ministry of the congregation and its sense of call. Prospective pastors read the form to help them discern whether God is calling them to serve our church. The MDP is used to express our ministry context,

demographics, history, theology, values, leadership needs, and expectations. If you are interested, you can view our MDP on your own, by going to the website at clc.pcusa.org

We fortunately had 3 members of the Mission Study Team on our committee. It only took us a couple of weeks to write the MDP, in which we were asked to respond in writing to questions such as:

How would you describe the congregation's specific vision for ministry?

What is the nature and context of the community in which your congregation lives out its mission?

How will you address the emerging needs that are impacting your community?

Provide a description of the skills, gifts and training the person you hope will become a part of your ministry must have.

What specific areas of ministry do you expect the person called to be responsible for?

When we finished writing the MDP, it then had to be reviewed and approved by the English Commission and the Committee on Ministry. After approval, we entered the MDP online with the Church Leadership Connection (CLC). What's the CLC?

The CLC is a national online system of the Presbyterian Church USA. It has a search feature which identifies and matches church professionals who meet the position type, experience level, salary requirements and geographical choice that congregations are seeking. Interested candidates file a PDP, or a Personal Discernment Profile, which includes responses to several in-depth questions and serves as a narrative resume of sorts within the CLC system.

In addition to the national CLC system, we also wrote a detailed job announcement, and publicized the open position on our PCC website and on the SF Presbytery website and newsletter.

We received and considered a total of 9 matches and referrals.

Based on our Mission Study Report, we established and were guided by certain criteria, which included:

Nature of work experience (urban, congregation size, etc.)

Experience with intergenerational groups

Alignment with Matthew 25 principles

Sensitivity/experience with BIPOC

Through the CLC online system, we reviewed and considered matched and self-referred individuals through their Personal Discernment Profiles (PDP). We invited those individuals who passed our consideration criteria to apply. For those who did apply, in addition to the above PDP responses, we saw and considered their personal information, Statement of Faith, and we checked references. In addition, SF Presbytery has its own parallel reference-checking process. Finally, we invited candidates of interest to a Zoom interview. *(continued on page 5)*

Each member of the DPNC contributed interview questions, which we then evaluated as a group to develop one set of interview questions we would ask each candidate. The interview questions covered such areas as approach to leadership, faith journey, alignment with Matthew 25 and diversity issues, ministering to the generations, problem-solving and conflict resolution skills, administrative abilities, and self-care.

After we completed the interview process, we prayerfully selected a nominee and extended a call. We then negotiated the terms of call, guided by the Presbytery of San Francisco’s Minimum Compensation Plan, and in consultation with our EWC Personnel Committee and Treasurer.

Our nominee accepted our call and the negotiated terms of call, and the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry approved them on October 5. Our DPNC reported this information to the English Commission, which authorized the October 29 congregational meeting for the purpose of voting on the following motion: **the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee moves that the English Worshiping Community approves its nomination and terms of call of The Rev. Donald P. Hammond to the position of Designated Solo Pastor for the English Worshiping Community of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown.**

Praise God! On October 29, the EWC voted to approve the above motion. We look forward to Pastor Don’s service as our designated pastor, and our journey ahead, guided by the Holy Spirit, discerning the will of God in prayer, and daring to move forward into transformation.

Submitted by Jeanine Lim

Thank you for the Target gift cards!



The Mission & Evangelism Committee collected generous donations from the English Worshiping Community and purchased Target gift cards for 145 elementary and middle school students who live in Chinatown SRO buildings. Chinatown CDC staff contacted the families to pick up their gift cards at PCC on August 12, right before the start of the new school year. All the families are appreciative of our support to help them buy supplies and anything else the youth need for school!

Jeanette Huie

A Story of the PCC Deacons+ and the COVID-19 Pandemic

By Deacons Jackie Jew and Jeanine Lim

Have you heard this joke? Question: “How old are you?” Answer: “70, but if you adjust for COVID, I’m actually 67.”

I recently read a story* in *The New York Times* which describes documentation of individual experiences of the pandemic as it unfolded. Called the NYC COVID-19 Oral History, Narrative and Memory Archive, oral historians and sociologists interviewed hundreds of people throughout the course of the pandemic. The researchers remarked on “the necessity of looking back at the pandemic with intelligence and care, while acknowledging that the pandemic is still with us... As we enter a fourth pandemic year, each of us is consciously or subconsciously working through potentially irreconcilable stories about what we lived through - or else, strenuously avoiding that dissonance, insisting there’s no work to be done.”

How did you cope with unsettled times? Was your fundamental sense of safety in the world changed? What can you imagine now, that you couldn’t imagine before the pandemic? Do you look on in horror as someone blows the candles out on a birthday cake, or cringe when someone sneezes when you are in a crowded, enclosed elevator? How did it feel to have so much of your social life converted into online interactions between people inside little two-dimensional squares on a screen?

Amid the isolation and uncertainty of the pandemic, there was hunger for any frame of reference. *The New York Times* article described our condition as “a society of anecdotes without a narrative.” However, I would submit that at the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown, we do indeed function within a narrative and a frame of reference. That is, we are Christians called to love our neighbor, and to live as a beloved community. Read the following story by Deacon Jackie Jew about one of PCC’s responses to the pandemic, and marvel at our resilience and creativity:

On March 6, 2020 Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency due to the threat of COVID-19. Thirteen days later, on March 19, all Californians were ordered to Shelter-in-Place.

On March 14, five days before Shelter-in-Place, the Deacons held their first emergency meeting with Pastor Don and any Elder who was available. We used this strange uncomfortable internet tool called Zoom. Some notations from that meeting say:

- The English Commission will meet on Tuesday, March 17 as planned, to evaluate this very fluid situation.
- The Mandarin Congregation decided to cancel their services for two weeks and resume worship services on March 29, thinking the pandemic would be over.
- The Cantonese Congregation had no decision since Pastor Kaan was in quarantine on a cruise ship after his vacation.
- The English Congregation was given a choice of attending in-person or via live-stream on March 15 since Dave Chan already made plans. Teatime was cancelled as was Lenten Soup Sundays.

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- The proposal was for the six Deacons to divide up the roster to reach out to every member of the English Worshiping Community to give out updated information regarding the church, services and our support.
- A follow-up meeting was set for 4 days later.

On Thursday, March 19, the day Shelter-in-Place was declared, the Deacons, under the able leadership of Pastor Don, met via Zoom to establish a ‘communications team.’ It was Pam Jang who suggested getting other people involved since the PCC Community Roster was 180 people strong. Another meeting was scheduled for just one day later and nine people had already stepped forward to be a part of the new Communications Team – Norma, Pat, Terry, Marie, Wayne, Diane, Mary, Dayton, and Jojo. They joined the 6 sitting-Deacons at that time – Pam, Jackie, Ed, Jeanine, Irene, and Ruth. The Communications Team was soon renamed the “Deacons+”.

Eight days into Shelter-in-Place, Deacons+ reported back on contacting 113 persons on our Community Roster. And more people were interested in being included on the roster, which grew from 180 to 204 during the pandemic.

For 28 months, the Deacons+ continued their work of disseminating information from PCC and to convey the love and care of God’s people for God’s people, completing their term of service in July 2022. Deacons+ provided a new and novel means of support to our community, during a time of the new and novel pandemic. We hope to never be in this position again. But Pastor Don says we will call the Deacons+ back to work if needed.

In July 2023, with COVID-19 rates at record lows, the Deacons hosted a Potluck. During pre-pandemic times, our Potlucks were popular PCC events, but these events had to be suspended during the duration of the pandemic. Things had changed. Some people are still hesitant to attend in-person church services; streaming and hybrid worship proved popular and convenient, but meant that fewer people were choosing in-person attendance. Resuming the Deacons Potluck was an effort to bring back embodied fellowship and connection within our beloved community.



At the event, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the Deacons+, with thanks and gratitude for their service during the isolated and confusing days of the pandemic.

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Certificates were given to:

Pam Jang, the Deacon who had the bright idea, plus in alphabetical order: Norma Fong Chan; Pat Chan; Terry Chan; Marie Chin; Carole Chinn-Morales; Wayne Eng; Rene Fong; Diane Go; Shar Hall; Richard Jann; Jackie Jew; Ed Kam; Jeanine Lim; Dayton Leong; Mary Wong Leong; Irene Ng; Jojo Woo; and Ruth Wu.



At the July Potluck, Certificates of Appreciation were presented

During the pandemic, PCC adapted all of our ministries to the reality we faced. Elders, deacons, pastors, and key church volunteers worked together in a collaborative manner to keep our church open and responsive to our worshipping communities. This process reinforced our sense of resilience and helped us grow and deepen our faith. And so, with the darkest days of the pandemic hopefully behind us, we move forward, always aware of God’s grace and how we are to respond to it in times of uncertainty, sorrow and joy.

God remains in our midst, offering comfort and solace, and challenging the EWC to examine anew what it means to minister, fellowship, and act as the beloved community. As set forth in PCC’s Mission Study Report, “We shall allow ourselves to adapt, equip, and take risks, while being grounded in God’s grace, united in spiritual fellowship, and faithful to our call to discipleship.” Let us acknowledge that we are living in changing, transitional times. May the Holy Spirit inspire us to discover new mission opportunities, transform patterns, behaviors, and activities that are no longer useful or relevant, and creatively engage in designing new visions and actions.

Behold, I am doing a new thing. Can you perceive it? (Isaiah 65: 16-17)

* What Happened to Us? By Jon Mooallem, *The New York Times*, Feb. 22, 2023

The Mandarin Worshipping Community by Amy Feng

Near fall weather into the Santa Cruz mountains, what a relaxing weekend to spend Labor Day in such delightful weather!

The Mandarin Worshipping Community had our annual retreat at Redwood Christian Park in Boulder Creek. The theme of the retreat: *From Weak to Revival!* We stayed in rustic cabins, but there were no complaints! We were grateful that within each cabin, there is a bathroom 😊. The age of attendees spread from over a year old, our Baby Benny, to a couple of members over 80 years old!

We again invited Cathy, Pastor Hao's wife as our speaker, as she delivers such strong messages, touching our hearts, year after year! Encouraging words, small groups, outings, fellowship times, and oh, meals times are all great ways to get away from the busy lives we all live, and just enjoy, relax, and be with nature! During free time we enjoyed visiting Mission Santa Cruz, and the majestic beaches of Santa Cruz. The messages also inspired some young adults to step up and answer God's calling and accept some challenges, commit more in servicing in the church! Praises be to God!

I believe pictures speak a thousand words, so here to share pictures with you all (some of the pictures you may have seen at our 170th year celebration slide show).



2023 Labor Day Weekend Retreat, 9/1-9/4/2023 at Redwood Christian Park, Santa Cruz

The Mandarin Worshipping Community *(continued from page 9)*



When the spirit moves you.....you want to sing praises to Him!

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The Mandarin Worshipping Community *(continued from page 10)*



Kids, Day and Night!





A typical day, morning devotion, messages, group sharing, having fun, or just plain relaxing!

Church Retreat Thoughts – by Brad Woo

Our MISSION STUDY – Tattoo it on Everyone’s Butt!

Usually, I never go to the Church Retreat, but this year I told Kathy we have to go. The two small reasons: (1) to support the hardworking Worship & Nurture Committee who was planning the event; and (2) after the COVID pandemic, I just felt we shouldn’t take for granted fellowship opportunities like this when we’re all getting so much older and older. How really fortunate we are to have a big community of so many friends we’ve known for 50 years (!) and to get to spend a couple of days together sharing and hanging out in a quiet, spirit-full retreat setting.

But, really, the BIG reason why I thought we should go is I thought this would finally be an intense opportunity for us to develop together a collective vision for our “future” as a congregation. Quickly I saw on the first night of the retreat that many others felt the same way and were also concerned we didn’t have a congregational plan or focused strategy for the years ahead. Even before the pandemic, everyone saw that the Presbyterian Church was a “dying” church and “something had to be done,” but we had yet to come together to identify a compelling vision or purpose as the English Worshipping Community. So it was my hope that we would make major, inspirational progress on this much-needed area during the Retreat.

To make a long story short, by Saturday afternoon, it was becoming evident that really wasn’t going to happen. There was a lot of nice personal sharing, but it did not look like any congregational envisioning or planning was going to happen. Which was very disappointing of course. As discouraged feelings were popping up around the room, though, there was suddenly an important moment (I felt) where Mark Fong was stirred to stand up and speak. At first with some indignation, Mark called everyone’s attention to the Mission Study report that had been written and approved by the EWC a year ago. Since Mark had been on the Mission Study Committee, which had put in A LOT of time and effort creating that report, he reminded us that the Mission Study had identified many important goals and needs for the church and the report was just sitting there waiting to be used. In fact, Mark said there was an “Envisioning and Goals” section in the Mission Study that he wanted to share and read aloud to everyone.

Personally, I definitely appreciated and was impressed by what Mark then read. Yes, I had seen the Mission Study when it came out in July 2022, but I hadn’t really thought or heard about it ever since. Which seemed to peeve Mark too, because he wondered why the Committee did all that work and “nothing” was ever done with the Mission Study.* I thought Mark had a good point. It was clear to me that the “Envisioning and Goals” section of the Mission Study really had inspirational and pragmatic power, but it was unfortunate it was just sitting there. (*“Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel.”*)

As the Retreat ended that day, we wondered how the elements in the Envisioning and Goals section of the Mission Study could be prioritized, highlighted and activated within the EWC. It wasn’t even clear if the English congregation felt any real ownership of the Study. Obviously, on a broad, congregational level, envisioning statements are useless if they aren’t energized and reinforced on a day-to-day, week-to-week level and are *lifted up* in front of everyone’s eyes. The

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“Vision” of any collective body only has inspirational power when it is known and energized by everyone. This, I guess, is the challenge for us ahead.

*Hooray, in fact, the Mission Study Report was definitely valuable and at least used by the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee in their important work this year.

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Read the Mission Study Report!

by Dave Miller

We hope everyone will be interested in reading the Mission Study Report that was released in July of 2022. It was the core document used by the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee in producing materials with which to evaluate potential candidates to be Designated Pastor for the EWC. The first part of the document provides an excellent overview of PCC, its history and current programs. Then, it gives us a clear mission statement followed by four major goals. Underneath each of the goals are possible ways we could meet those goals going into the future. Even if you read it when it first came out, you should reread it now as we embark on a new era with Pastor Don as our designated solo pastor.

Access the Mission Study by going to the English home page (www.pccsf.org/english) and scrolling down to the Mission Study Report button. Or, go to the Who We Are page (www.pccsf.org/whoweare) and click on the quick link to the right.

Labor Day Retreat

On September 1 and 2, forty of us met at the Mercy Center in Burlingame for an overnight retreat. The Rev. Leslie Veen led the retreat. She had worked with the Worship & Nurture Committee to develop a theme for the retreat “Building a Tabernacle Together in the Shifting Sands of our Present”. The theme was based on Exodus 35 where the Israelites came together to build a temple. Everyone pitched in. The committee chose the theme because PCC and the EWC are at a point in time where we may need to all pitch in to build a firm foundation for Christ in Chinatown and San Francisco.

The ukulele band led us in singing. Rev. Veen led us in Morning Movement Prayer. We split up into groups of four or five to discuss questions such as “What do we like about our church?” and “What do we hope our church will look like or be in 5 years?” We talked about what gifts we each have



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Labor Day Retreat *(continued from page 14)*

that could be brought to building our new “tabernacle”. And, we advised the English Commission of short-and long-term goals they should consider.

While it might seem like we were very serious, we did have a wonderful time with each other on our first big gathering since the Pandemic started. Meals were excellent. We had chances to visit in deeper ways than we do at Tea Time. And, we got to laugh!

Dave Miller
Photos by Stuart Go



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| November 5 | 170th Church Anniversary |
| November 5 | All Church Worship and Communion Service |
| November 5 | Annual PCC Congregational & Corporation Meeting |
| November 12 | Hunger and Homelessness Sunday |
| November 19 | Stewardship Sunday |
| December 3 | First Sunday of Advent: Communion and Sabbath Sunday |
| December 3 | Communion and Sabbath Sunday |
| December 25 | Christmas Day |

Year 2023 Annual Retreat – Cantonese Worshiping Community by Eleanor Wong

Three years later, after the Pandemic impact, the Cantonese Worshiping Community held its annual retreat in the church for two days from September 2nd – 3rd. The retreat theme was *Be a Brave Christian* based on Joshua 1:9 “Be strong and courageous. For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go”.



There were 32 participants joining the retreat and entering into a deeper relationship with our Lord. We had time together sharing our joy, and stories with members and friends. We had fellowship, Sunday worship, hymn singing, prayer and reflection. A movie and sharing time took place Saturday afternoon. Dinner in “Garden Seafood Restaurant” was prepared for us after the movie.

Rev. Ronnie Kaan was invited to be our guest speaker. The teaching was scheduled for both Saturday and Sunday. Four key Bible verses about being brave were picked for the introduction. They were: Acts 4:29-31, Acts 19:8, Philippians 1:14 and Hebrews 4:16. We concluded that courage comes directly from our faith in God. We should be brave like Jesus to love one another. We should pray, reach out to our community and spread the Good News bravely. Most important of all is to imitate God by obeying His laws and worshiping Him because of what He is and what He does. *(continued on page 17)*



At the movie sharing event on Saturday, we viewed the Christian film, *Love is Plan B*, produced by The Media Evangelism Association (USA). It won remarkable awards in 2022 at the Christian Film Festival: Best Drama, Best Feature film, Best Producer, Best Actor, and Best Supporting Actress. The movie was based on a true story of hope and love. It tells the audience that to truly love somebody is to build a bridge of hope, and to cross that bridge with each other when they are needed the most.

We are looking toward to planning our retreat at Zephyr Point Conference Center next year!



Sunday worship

Where Have All the Chinatown Families Gone?

by Jeanette Huie, Mission & Evangelism Committee

For over a dozen years, the M&E Committee has advocated for Chinatown SRO families and we've partnered with Chinatown CDC to connect us with these families. We first started with providing a meeting space and childcare for young mothers to meet once a month in our building. Currently, the English Worshiping Community and friends donate toys for Christmas and Target gift cards for school supplies. Your participation has made a difference!

In 2018, the Committee provide information about Proposition C and at the November general municipal election in San Francisco, the majority of voters approved it! The purpose is to create a dedicated fund (the Our City, Our Home Fund) to support services for people experiencing homelessness and to prevent homelessness.

A portion of the Our City, Our Home Fund provides families living in single-room occupancy (SRO) buildings with rent subsidies to move into more suitable apartments. It took a few years of planning, but the Fund has finally started to help many families.

Chinatown CDC was selected in 2022 to administer the subsidy program. Before the pandemic, there were more than 500 families living in SRO buildings in Chinatown and other San Francisco neighborhoods. A typical room measures about 100 sq. feet and the residents have to share the kitchen and bathrooms.

As of this date, 37% of the families (185) have received housing vouchers or a rental subsidy and moved into suitable housing throughout the city. Another 16% have moved out on their own which leaves 240 families still living in SROs.

To help make the move successful for the families, Chinatown CDC created a case management component to this program. The staff assist the families with translation, identifying apartments for rent, completing applications, explaining the lease agreements, attending meetings between landlords and families, and whatever else is needed. The moving and new furniture expenses are also covered. The case management is ongoing, even after families settle into their new apartments, to help with any issues that arise and to ensure they never return to an SRO building.

Chinatown CDC has accomplished an amazing feat of relocating 185 families in one year's time. By June 2024, they anticipate relocating 76 more families.

If you have any questions or know a landlord who would be interested in renting to an SRO family, please contact Jeanette Huie.

Minute for Stewardship Nominating Committee by Jerrick Woo

I'm Jerrick Woo and is currently the chairperson of the Nominating Committee. The committee is comprised of:

Carl Jew
Jeanine Lim
Susie Wong
Diane Go

The Nominating Committee is given the responsibility of identifying members of our English congregation who we feel can best serve our Church Community for the important roles of being a Deacon as well as being an Elder. In addition, we seek individuals to serve on the Personnel Committee and the Nominating Committee as well.

Our process began in the early summer and has continued to meet via Zoom on a monthly basis. We will be completing our process shortly to present our slate of candidates to the English Congregation and eventually to the entire Church membership.

For those who have been asked and have accepted, we are especially grateful and blessed that you have agreed to serve. For those to be asked, we hope you will give sincere and thoughtful consideration to serve God in these important roles of our Church.

Thank you.

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Irene Young Ng, Editor
David Miller, PDF Assembler/Web Site Posting

I'm Eddie, and co-chairperson with Jackie, of your Deacons. Looking up one perspective of stewardship, the question I asked was how are we, your Deacons being obedient with your offering in carrying out our ministry as Deacons that is a ministry of caring, love, compassion and prayer.

When members like Doreen who suffered from a heart attack and needed assistance in the form of meals, groceries or shopping, and Bruce, concerned about getting her home, many of you, including us Deacons, made or purchased meals and brought it to their apartment, connected and prayed with them. If an email was sent to the English Deacon's mail address, Shar made sure get-well cards were sent to others having physical health issues, and with their permission, she informed Pastor Don, Deacons, the liturgist, and Jeanette Huie, who updates the weekly Ragsheet, so that we and all of you were aware of this and could visit them and pray for healing, recovery, and strength during their time of need.

The same applied to aging members of our EWC who were very sick and close to death. A few representative Deacons visited them, as well as their family members to let them know we're there and praying for comfort and strength in this difficult time and were there to support them at the time of the passing of their loved one.

Terry, who took over from Rene, sends the email birthday greetings, and seasonal Christian celebrations to all of you via Blue Mountain. Please excuse us if a glitch occurred and you didn't get a greeting. I think we recently got this ironed out.

Eunice purchased a whole bunch of goodies and assembled a box -- A College Care Package -- and mailed the boxes to 14 college agers to let them know the EWC is thinking and wishing them well while they're away from home at college. All were very appreciative and thankful for the treats and the thoughtful gesture.

Back in 2020, we established the Deacons' Compassion Fund of PCC for the purpose of meeting a member, of any of the three WC, basic needs per request from their pastor. Thanks to those of you who have contributed to the Deacon's Compassion Fund. An envelope will be inserted into your offering envelope box for 2024.

This year, money from our budget, plus additional funds from M&E, will enable us to buy oyster sauce to give as a gift to each of our Food Pantry clients for Christmas, like we did last year during Chinese New Year.

And finally, this year, we had an appreciative lunch at Original Joe's to thank each of our Deacons & Deacons Plus members.

Our Deacons for 2023 are Eunice Behar-Lee, Pat Chan, Terry Chan, Carole Chinn-Morales, Shar Hall, Max Hum, Jackie Jew, Jeanine Lim, myself, and Pastor Don, who joyfully attends all Committee meetings. Three of us are ending our term this year and if a member of the Nominating Committee calls you, we hope you'll be willing to accept the call to become a Deacon and be part of this wonderful team. Thanks for your prayers and support.

Minute for Stewardship Personnel Committee by Carl Jew

The season of interim ministry may soon be ending as a special congregational meeting is called for October 29th. As such, the work of the personnel committee will begin to ramp up and provide support to the future designated pastor.

In 2018, the Elders were granted temporary authority by the Book of Order to select and sign a one-year contract with an interim minister, a contract that has been renewed four times.

As we end this chapter of interim ministry, we want to acknowledge and express our gratitude for the work of the 2018 Elders (led by Linda Lee and Susie Wong, and Nancy Chee, Diane Go, Jeanette Huie, Sing Quan, and Stan Wong) joined later by the 2019 Elders (Winchell Quock and Dave Soohoo) who developed the job announcement, screened the applications, conducted the interviews, and selected the candidate for interim pastor; a process that led Don Hammond to leave his post in New York, return to the Bay Area, and unite with our community as Teaching Elder.

Throughout this five-year transitional period, the Elders performed many of the functions ordinarily assigned by the congregation to the personnel committee such as conducting performance evaluations and developing the terms of employment.

Now that our congregation is on the cusp of leaving interim ministry time and voting on the recommendations of the DPNC, the Commission is ready to pass the baton and the personnel work back to the congregation's elected representatives (Terry Leong, Nancy Chee, and Mark Fong).

Once again, we're reminded that seasons come and seasons go, as our time of interim ministry winds down and moves into a new and uncharted time with a designated pastor. The wisdom of the book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven."*

Minute for Stewardship 2023: Mission and Evangelism Committee by Ed Chin

Our Vision (Who We See Ourselves As)

The English Worshiping Community of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown is a community of faith, biblically grounded and acting faithfully in the spirit of Micah 6:8 “to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.”

Our Mission (What We Do)

*We are a Matthew 25 worshiping community, committed to lifting up the three priorities identified by the PC(USA): 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. We are 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.**

**Excerpted from 2022 Mission Study*

Hi, I am Ed Chin from the Mission and Evangelism Committee. I would like to share with you about the Mission and Evangelism Committee.

First, I want to thank you, the congregation, for your faithful support through your donations, prayers, and participation.

The role of the Mission and Evangelism Committee (M&E)

Our role is to empower members to engage in mission (both personally and corporately) and to help the church share the Gospel of Jesus in building God’s beloved community in Chinatown and around the world by responding to human need through loving service and to transform unjust structures of society, M&E is guided by our 2022 Mission Study.

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities.

Do Justice

- Participate in marches, demonstrations, pilgrimages, interfaith worship, or letter writing campaigns in support of issues of conscience.
- Collaborate with community groups such as CCDC, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Cameron House, Safe House, SF Night Ministry, Tsuru for Solidarity, etc.
- Researching the feasibility of opening a study hall in our church during evenings to middle school and older students due the need for wifi and space to study as the Chinatown Library is due for renovation next fall and the ending of a program for free hotspots for students at the end of this year.

(continued on page 23)

Demonstrate Loving Kindness

- Join in the weekly food distribution at our food pantry for about 300 Chinatown SRO participants, including families, with home delivery to frail seniors and disabled.
- Preparing and serving dinner for the homeless through the SF Interfaith Coalition's Winter Shelter Program which is planned for February 16, 2024.
- In collaboration with CCDC, donating to Kids School Supplies Drive and Christmas Toy Drive for children who live in SROs.
- Go on a mission trip to help build a water filtration system with Living Waters World Missions to Guatemala from October 19-26, 2024.
- Forming a PCC EWC Accompaniment Team in participation with the IM4HI Nueva Esperanza Accompaniment Teams program.
- In collaboration with the Lions Club, holding a Free Vision Clinic at our church in March 2024.

Walking Humbly With God

- Promote the Special Presbyterian Offerings of the One Great Hour of Sharing at Easter; Peace and Global Witness Offering at World Communion; and the Christmas Joy at Christmas.
- Invite organizations to Tea Time, such as Safe House, SF Night Ministry, IM4HI, CCDC, Tsuru for Solidarity, etc.
- Financial contributions to non-profit organizations and special projects, such as with Asian Women's Shelter, Safe House, San Francisco Interfaith Council, the Pipit Fund, SF Night Ministry, Cameron House, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Tsuru for Solidarity, the UCCP Women Worker's Fellowship, etc.
- In collaboration with the Worship and Nurture Committee, participate in preparing worship around PCUSA special emphases Sundays of Racial Justice; Gifts of Immigrants; and Hunger and Homelessness.

Who are we:

Jeanette Huie	Cindy Joe
Carole Chinn-Morales	Clinton Huey
Whittney Tom	Kevin Feeley
Susie Wong	Ed Chin, Chair

You are invited to join our committee, participate or lead in volunteer activities or projects, or share your ideas and contacts with us, just as Lesley did with the Free Vision Clinic from the Lion's Club or when Eunice Bejar Lee brought to us the Request for Support from Rev. Ivie Apole from the United Church of Christ in the Philippines Women's Workers Fellowship for Ministry to Political Prisoners and Victims of Red-Tagging and Trumped up Charges

Our committee meets on Zoom the first Tuesday of each month. Please feel free to contact or talk with any of us. We welcome you, your support, and your prayers. Thank you.

Worship & Nurture

Minute for Stewardship by Dave Miller

I'm Dave Miller, the Chair Person for the Worship & Nurture Committee. Serving on the committee are Mildred Hall, Terry Chan, Pat Chan, Gwen Jeong, David Chan, Ed Kam and Rene Fong.

While we're ultimately responsible for all things "worship," there's a lot that gets done by others to support worship, however.

- David Chan, Terry Leong and Joe Tanizawa prepare slides, choose music, assemble everything into a script that includes camera views and microphones and sound files. Without their help each week, we wouldn't have such a good stream for folks at home or slides on the front screen for folks here in the sanctuary.
- A team of people including Diane Go, Mildred Hall, Linda Lee, Pastor Don, and myself gather to choose themes for worship and develop whatever needs to be created to enhance the theme.
- We have wonderful scripture readers and fantastic liturgists who lead us in worship each week.
- Each week, after Terry Leong has put together the slides we use in worship, people like Carole Chinn-Morales make sure all the components for worship are in place and we haven't made any typos that would interrupt your worshipful mood.
- Mildred Hall, Gordie Jeong, Laurene Chan, David Chan, and I provide live music for worship.
- Pastor Don crafts the basic liturgical elements each week in addition to providing us with great food for thought in his sermons.
- And, Nancy Chee and David Chan make sure we have the elements ready for our celebrations of communion.

In our committee meetings, we address whatever didn't go quite as we would have liked and suggest remedies. We express joy for those things that really worked well and try to achieve something similar in the future. We look forward in the church calendar to make sure we're ready for special Sundays and seasons. We discuss how to make worship more vital to all of you and how we might encourage more of you to join us in person on Sunday mornings.

As a committee, we also keep tabs on the fellowship groups as part of our nurture responsibilities. We get reports from each of the groups and offer assistance if needed. We follow School of Discipleship, Wednesday Night Fellowship, Women's Fellowship, Young Adults, Dinks and Sinks and even the pickleball ministry many of you participate in. It's clear that these groups bind us together and equip us in our love of God and our service to bring about God's reign on earth. If you're not part of a group, we encourage you to join one. If none of the existing groups quite fit, consider forming a new group. We on the committee are ready and willing to help.

This year, our committee planned and pulled off a wonderful Labor Day retreat led by the Rev. Leslie Veen.

We're always looking for feedback. If something really moves you in worship, let us know. If something in worship pushes you away from a close time with God, let us know. You can talk to any of us on the committee.

And, we're always looking for help. We'd love to have you join our committee. We meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm via Zoom. We'd love to have you help implement ideas to enhance our worship. If you have any technical skill at all, we'd love to train you to run the worship scripts. Please don't wait for us to ask you to help, let us know what you can do and how you'd like to contribute.

Presbyterian Church in Chinatown
Volunteer Acknowledgements 2023

We continue to be thankful for the services and contributions of our volunteers who gives meaning to our church's ministry and mission.
We're grateful for their time and service in their faith and for our community.
Thank you from the English Commission!

General Church Responsibilities

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

**Designated Pastor Nominating
Committee**

Heidi Wong (Co-Chair)
Jeanine Lim (Co-Chair)
Nancy Chee
Clinton Huey
Whittney Tom
Eleanor Wong
Amy Feng
Rev. Dr. Janet Bower

Tea Time Hosts

Mary Wong Leong
Dayton Leong

Worship & Nurture Committee

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

Personnel Committee

Carl Jew (Chair)
Nancy Chee
Carole Chinn-Morales
Mark Fong
Terry Leong
Heidi Wong

Mission & Evangelism Committee

Ed Chin (Chair)
Kevin Feeley
Jeanette Huie
Clinton Huey
Cynthia Joe
Jeanine Lim
Carole Chinn-Morales
Whittney Tom
Heidi Wong
Susie Wong

Resource Committee

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

Nominating Committee

Jerrick Woo (Chair)
Diane Go
Carl Jew
Jeanine Lim
Susie Wong

Elders

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

Deacons

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

**Presbytery, Synod,
General Assembly**

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

Sanctuary Decorations

Jean Chin
Nancy Chee
Susie Wong

Worship Production

Carole Chinn-Morales
David Chan
David Miller
Joe Tanizawa
Terry Leong
Norman Proctor

Liturgists

Eddie Kam
Linda Lee
David Miller
Marie Chin
Diane Go
Nancy Chee
Rev. Norman Fong
Susie Wong

Worship Planners

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

Musicians

Caitlin Gong
David Miller
Dave Chan
Diane Go
Eddie Kam
Linda Lee
Mildred Hall
Gordon Jeong
Laurene Chan
Marie Chin
Wayne Eng

Presbyterian Church in Chinatown
Volunteer Acknowledgements 2023

Readers

Scott Barlow
Susie Wong
Eunice Bejar-Lee
Chris Chan
Rev. Greg Chan
Jonathan Y. Chan
Liane Chan
Norma Chan
Pat Chan
Carole Chinn-Morales
Ed Chin
Marie Chin
Naomi Chun
Douglas Clark
Wayne Eng
Barbara Fong
Mark Fong
Rene Fong
Diane Go
Stuart Go
Mildred Hall
Sharlene Hall
Clinton Huey
Max Hum
Pamela Jang
Gordon Jeong
Carl Jew
Jackie Jew
Keith Jew
Cindy Joe
Eddie Kam
Eunice Bejar-Lee
Gilbert Lee
Dayton Leong
Mary Wong Leong
Jeanine Lim
Winchell Quock
David Sakamoto
Ivy Yee-Sakamoto
Sabrina Gee-Shin
David Soohoo
Whittney Tom
Kathy Tong
Anthony Wong
Heidi Wong
Kimball Wong
Vivien Wong
Jerrick Woo
Joanne Woo
Ruth Wu

Food Pantry Volunteers:

Kathy Amendola
Scott Barlow
Huan Gin Cai
Cindy Chan
David Chan
Jonathan Chan
Pat Chan
Lukas Chao
Nancy Chee
Enlin Chen
Ed Chin
Jean Chin
Marie Chin
Chinese Congregational Church
Mark Chung
Cornerstone Trinity Excelsior
Wayne Eng
Amy Feng
Sherman Gee
Susan Go
Yukiko Diane Go
Caitlin Gong
Cindy Lee Gong
Allen Guan
Kevin Hu
Dahou Huang
Hui Rong Huang
Zhong Huang
Benji Huey
Clinton Huey
Jeanette Huie
Ann Hum
Carl Jew
Jackie Jew
Robbie Jew
Shellie Jew
Eddie Kam
Lauren Kam
Ryan Kam
Jabez Kingsly
Thomas Kong
Lesley Kraechan
LDS Church
Chiu Mei Lam
Kelvin Lee
Linda Lee
Mary Wong Leong
Terry Leong

Food Pantry Volunteers:

(continued)
Debbie Leung
Matthew Lew
Jiaquan Liang
Jammie Lue
Jeremy Lue
Justine Lue
Jared Lue
Xiu Zhen (Jenny) Luo
Lizhi Luo
Project by Project
Cuzy Solis
David Soohoo
Faye Taam
Becky Tan
Shu Qin Tan
Helen Thach
Ella Vo
Shirley Wing
Annie Wong
Darin Wong
Johnny Wong
Kimball Wong
Susie Wong
Vivian Wong
Andy Wu
Alex Yee
Laverne Young
Julie Yu
Huan Yi Zhen

Building Work Crew

David Chan
Scott Barlow

Safety Monitors

Scott Barlow
Jonathan M Chan
Pat Chan
Diane Go
Stuart Go
Max Hum
Gordon Jeong
Gilbert Lee
Debbie Leung
Kathy Tong
Susie Wong
Bradford Woo

Presbyterian Church in Chinatown
Volunteer Acknowledgements 2023

Communion Servers

Terry Chan
Norma Chan
Pam Jang
Keith Jew
Shar Hall
Mildred Hall
Cindy Joe
Ruth Wu
Winchell Quock
Annie Wong
Jean Chin
Richard Jann
Jackie Jew
Carl Jew
Brad Woo
Kathy Tong
Mary Wong Leong
Dayton Leong
Pat Chan
Dave Soohoo
Kay Wong

Preparing Communion Elements

Dave Chan
Nancy Chee



News from the Pews from Deacon Pat Chan

Happy Fall. Looks like we are getting cooler weather after a warm September and October.

Here are some updates with our College Agers and Young Adults.

- . Justin Wong, son of Heidi and Anthony is attending U C Irvine. He is studying Biology.
- . Tully Chan son of Laurene and Cory is attending U C Irvine after being in Oahu for two years. He is studying Economics.
- . Ian Chan is over in Taiwan for one year.
- . Samantha Hum, daughter of Belinda and Ed graduated from UC Davis and she is teaching English in Taiwan.
- . Josh Hee son of Jon and Pauline is a teacher at Washington High School. He is teaching math to 9th graders.

We have some happy news.

- . Liane Chan and Neal Fong are engaged. Parents are Norma and Terry Chan and Barb and Mark Fong. Liane and Neal recently have a new puppy. Just ask Terry to show you some pictures.
- . Congratulations to Jerrick Woo. He recently join the retirement club.
- . Congratulations to Jik and Josh Chuck. They have a new baby daughter named Mikayla. Big brother is Jacob. Grandparents are Harry and Linda; Carole and Angel.