



Good News for the Pews

August 2019

A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

Issue No. 20

Intentional about Interim Time

For my first contribution to *Good News for the Pews*, I want to write about how I understand interim ministry as a particular kind of vocation and reflect on some common trends in the field today. Interim ministry as a job title is kind of vague. The general concept is that an interim minister is a long term, temporary pastor that comes to do the regular pastoral duties in a church and support that church through the mission study and then the pastoral search processes. Many consider interims be like “substitute teachers,” kind of like place holders until the “real” pastor is selected and called.

Honestly, that is the opinion of the some of the people who do interim ministry as well. It is not uncommon for interims to be retired pastors, looking to be useful in service to Christ and the church, but also of an age and a temperament where they are not going to dig too deep in systems or structures, and who really just want to “love on” the people and get a little love back. Sometimes this is exactly what a church needs; they just need the pulpit to be filled and for there to be someone to do visitations and what not.

The second most common kind of interim minister is a person who is really looking for a called position. They wish to work in the church, but they have not yet found their installed position. For those kinds of interims, they may enter into their work with an agenda: they may even start their interim positions with a secret hope that they will somehow get installed by the church they are serving (unlikely, but not impossible). They then try to wow the church with their skill or their vision in hope that that will get the church to work to call them. On the other hand, interims who are really focused on being installed may do the work half-heartedly, as they begin to spend more and more time searching for their dream job. In either case, such folks are not usually of great help to the churches they serve.

There is another type, the intentional interim, (this is what I consider myself), and we tend to approach the work in a very different way. First and foremost we are simple human beings, women and men, ordained to serve the church and to serve Christ. But we tend to see ourselves
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Intentional about Interim Time (continued from page 1)

as Transitional Ministers, as people who come and work in a worshiping community or a specialized ministry during a season of concentrated transition. We do all the things a regular installed pastor would do; from preaching and designing worship to supporting standing committees and building relationships. In addition to the “normal” work of an installed pastor we are also guided to work on the five developmental tasks of interim ministry: helping a congregation come to terms with its history; helping the congregation to discover a new identity; making space for needed leadership changes; renewing ties with partner organizations and denominational bodies; and finally committing the church to a new direction.

Now each one of those tasks is complex, and each one could be explained in a detailed essay, but instead of focusing on what the interim tasks are, I want to highlight something very important: I want to point out what is *not one of the interim tasks*. Nowhere does it say that an interim minister will be the innovator or the originator of the new direction, new identity, or new ministries. “Transitional church leaders are [not] the promoters or managers of change in their congregations. Change is already and always happening in and around the congregation. The unique task of the theologically trained interim leader is guide the congregation in asking the questions, what is going on here, what does God have to do with it, and what do we do now?”¹

We all know that both the church and society have changed tremendously. What we also know, though we don’t usually reflect on it is that church and society *are always* in a continuous process of change. The relationships between PCC and our ministry partners; including Cameron House, CCDC, CYC, the San Francisco/Marin Food Pantry, and even the relationships between the English, the Cantonese, and the Mandarin worshiping communities are also in a constant state of change. Change is a consequence of living: all living things change. What we need to do at this juncture is really, deeply, and seriously begin to discern and to name God’s presence in our current situation. We need to begin to discern if there are new ways to express our faith for action now.

I want to remind you all that we are all part of this. There are many leaders in this church and many folks with vision, with drive, and with the confidence to share their opinions. But there are also a lot of people who tend to be reserved, or who tend to question if they have anything to add to the conversation. Let me say this: they do! In order for me to be successful as the intentional interim (or the transitional leader), I need your help and your input. I need your prayers and I need your support. I want to encourage each and every person in to be ready to stretch out of their comfort zone and to join the conversation. At one point, when we begin the mission study, we’ll be formal about doing this with small group and even congregational meetings. But for now I am sending out a general invitation: please come talk with me! As members of the Reformed tradition we can recall John Calvin when he writes “In Christ we are all priests,”² meaning we all have a

¹ Bendroth, Norman B. *Transitional Ministry Today: Successful Strategies for Churches and Pastors*. 2015., p 34

² Calvin, Jean, Henry Beveridge, and Robert Pitcairn. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Edinburgh: Calvin Translation Society, 1845. IV, xix, 28.

Intentional about Interim Time (continued from page 2)

role to play in service to the gospel and in supporting the work and witness of the church. I am eager to hear about your faith journeys, your reflections on recent church history, and your visions and dreams about where you think God is calling us to next. By working together, united by the Holy Spirit, but not uniform in our thinking or our visions, we can and we shall navigate this interim season to its successful conclusion.

With blessings,
Pastor Don



English Worshipping Community Nominating Committee
By Diane Go, Elder Representative

It's that time of the year again when our Nominating Committee is hard at work seeking our new leaders for the coming year.

This year we are searching for a minimum of 2 Elders, 3 Deacons, 2 at-large member representatives for the Personnel Committee and 1 at-large member representative for the Nominating Committee.

Elders serve for 3 year terms and Deacons serve for 2 year terms, which is new as a result of the change to our Presbyterian Church in Chinatown Bylaws, approved last year at our annual churchwide meeting in November. The Bylaws change allows each Worshipping Community to set its own length of term for its Deacons. As always, the committee seeks those church members who wish to actively nurture and lead our community, especially as we begin the tasks of reviewing the mission of our Worshipping Community and searching for a new pastor.

Our 2019 Nominating Committee includes Barbara Fong, Pamela Jang, Sing Quan, Kathy Tong, Jojo Woo, Eddie Kam as Deacon Representative, and Diane Go as Elder Representative.

Please keep this committee in your prayers. Please also keep your hearts and minds open to hear God's call to you if you are invited to serve!

CHRIST HAS RISEN!

by Pam Jang



Christ has risen! Terry Chan, Rene and Ian sacrificed some sleep on Easter morning to wake up at the crack of dawn and attend sunrise service at Mount Davidson.

Then they headed over to the annual Easter Breakfast at the Chinatown YMCA for the delicious jook and all you can eat pancakes. Thank you all for supporting the Y's Community and Teen programs.



When my friend, Satsuki Ina, shared the protest action she was helping to organize at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, I felt really excited about the possibility of joining her group...it was summer and I didn't have to teach school. Only, I forgot that my family had a father's day hike that we re-



scheduled once already. I usually don't back out of family commitments and so felt torn. I checked with each of them before jumping in. I got Carolyn's, Benji's, and Amanda's blessing so I proceeded with a flurry of arrangements.

The group of 24 Japanese Americans from across the US and myself gathered in Lawton, OK (where Ft. Sill is located) to speak truth to power about the government plans to hold asylum-seeking children from the southern border.

Why are so migrants coming from Central America? El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala are among the world's worst for gang violence. Some of this violence was caused by past US policies that backed wealthy land grabbers who were often military officers. Add to this, drought and crop failures and we have an extremely serious situation that drives individuals and families to risk the perils of a thousand-mile walk.

There are reports of 11,000 children being held in federal facilities, many separated from the relatives who accompanied them on their journey north. Just recently, immigration lawyers reported seeing children as young as 5 months old living in filthy, overcrowded conditions without adequate food or water at a border patrol facility in Texas.

We protested at Ft. Sill because it was the site of a concentration camp in which Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II and Geronimo and a band of Apaches were imprisoned in the 1890s. Everyone except myself were survivors of the camps or descendants. The group was called Tsuru for Solidarity...tsuru being the Japanese word for crane and for us tsuru is a symbol of hope.

I was amazed at how fast and how well the organizers pulled this together...10 days! They brought thousands of paper cranes folded by supporters across the country. Someone else

Clinton Joins Protest in Oklahoma *(continued from page 5)*

donated the printing of two dozen posters and large banners. They used social media to invite other local groups (Oklahoma and Texas) as well as the press. The ACLU provided legal support and the YMCA provided chairs and benches.

On Saturday morning we held a press conference outside the gates of Ft. Sill. We were led by six survivors of the camps in their 70s and 80s, who remembered their own trauma, and were willing to risk arrest to speak out for the children of today's "camps." Satsuki Ina, 75, from the Bay Area said, "we're here today to speak out, to protest the unjust incarceration of innocent people seeking refuge in this country. We stand with them and we say, Stop repeating history."

A military police officer kept interrupting, "You have to move right now, today...what don't you people understand? It's English!" Still, the survivors calmly continued with their statements. No one was arrested.

Afterwards, the group moved to a local park for a rally that drew 200 or more supporters. Local native American tribal leaders and a Buddhist minister lead opening prayers and the American Indian Movement provided security for the event. Groups involved in Japanese American redress and reparations, immigrant and refugee support (Dream Action Oklahoma), Black Lives Matter, and many others came together.

I got to be a part of Team Tsuru, the group that did the early set-up at the park. We took turns supporting the rope, on which survivors and other people at the rally hung strands of paper cranes. This became the backdrop for the speakers. At the end we invited individuals to get a hand rolled with red paint and place handprints around the borders of a large banner that had the image of two children of the camps with the words, "stop history repeating itself." When I was rolling the paint onto the hands of kids and adults I felt a connection with another who was choosing to speak out against injustice...to stand up for asylum-seeking children who don't have a voice.



The organizers were amazing at getting national and local media to do the story and publish it online and in print. Google, "Democracy Now June 24 2019" for a great video piece. You'll also find articles in the NY Times and LA Times.

I felt re-empowered by my choice to join Satsuki's action. I hadn't done something like this since my days of anti-nuclear protest out at Diablo Canyon and Livermore. One of my favorite memories was sharing what was happening with people in restaurants where we were dining or in the hotel, asking what was happening. It isn't often that they saw a large group of Asians in Oklahoma.

Tsuru for Solidarity is planning to do another action on July 20 in Oklahoma and one next May in Washington DC, in which paper cranes will be hung on the White House fence. You can make a difference...find a local action and join it...search, "close the camps." Go see the free "*Then They Came for Me*" exhibit at the Presidio, through September 1.

The Mandarin Worshipping Community

by Amy Feng

Dear PCC Brothers and Sisters,

Church life with the PCC-M seems to be on auto-pilot since the beginning of this year.

Every month, when there is a 5th Sunday, we have been taking the congregation for outings...the past Sunday, we took a group, willing, able-bodies, to Lands End for a picnic lunch and a walk. The weather cooperated, for it wasn't breezy, but just perfect! The iconic Golden Gate Bridge with some fog covering it, so representative of San Francisco!



Don't you want the GGP as your background? Asked the tourist who took the picture for us.... Neah...we are here to enjoy each other's company...not the scenery...was our reply! Bless us!

The Mandarin Worshipping Community *(continued from page 7)*

Not pictured are Pastor Israel and family together with other young adults and families, as they were already exploring the caves below! Left are us: able bodies, willing, yet physically good for a stroll-kind-of-activity! Lands End, S.F. 6-30-19

Nurturing is our main goal this year, as members continue to dwindle, and age-factor playing a strong role. We are excited to hold our Annual Retreat this Labor Day's Weekend back to our favorite Zephyr Cove Presbyterian Conference Center! Pastor Israel and wife, Cathy, are our speakers. We will also have Pastor Fred Chan to introduce and teach us Chinese paint brush paintings as one of the afternoon activities! The theme will be: "A Church According to God's Will"

We continue to hold strong-fast of our belief in Christ, quality Church life, not quantity. This is our time to retreat and teach our leaders to discern, to reflect, dig deep into our own lives to seek God's Will. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt 6:33

Daily Bible reading and questions/discussions through We-Chat, 4th Friday of the month prayer night, and monthly fellowships are on-going. We also are taking part once a month with the food pantry...our 'middle-aged' fellowship are eager to help with this meaningful outreach to our neighbors in need. (...though we are still strategizing how to reach-out to them with the gospel.)



Youngest Food Pantry helper,
CC at age 2 yrs 8 mos.

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The Mandarin Worshipping Community *(continued from page 8)*

July 4th, Pastor Israel also experienced how we celebrate it with a traditional July 4th BBQ, inviting a few families to his newly moved in townhouse in Fremont.



Poppers and pull-string “pao’s” for the young un’s are always most popular and welcomed.

We are also very excited that the English Commission has called Rev. Don Hammond as your interim pastor! We (I should say , “I”) bluntly asked him to come upstairs for a short 5 minutes to give us a ‘quickie’ introduction at our worship service last Sunday in June...without any prior notice! Pastor Don, thank you so much for your flexibility! Our members were happy to be able to greet and meet you, though through such an informal meeting! (I personally apologize for the lack of planning ahead!)

We will report back with our Retreat and more happenings with the Mandarin Brothers and Sisters!

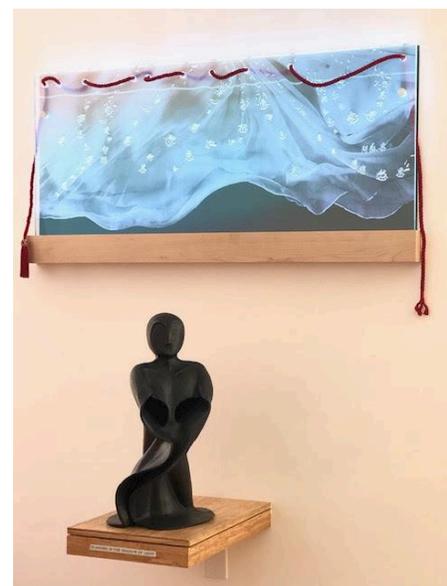
By now most of the CH/PCC community know about the many male victims of clergy sexual abuse harmed at Cameron House from the 1950s through 1970s. Few however know that, in addition to seeking healing for the victims of that abuse, the Cameron House Healing Task Force brought together a support group for the wives and partners of these victims. Here, in a safe and sacred space, women were able to process their fears and confusion, anger and grief, loneliness and vulnerability, helplessness and exhaustion. Here, they were not alone. For far too long, the pain and struggles of these women have remained hidden and unvoiced.

On June 2nd, the Healing Committee and Women's (Spouses') Group gathered the community together to dedicate 'Held by the Light'—a new art installation in the Cameron House healing chapel that honors the courageous and loving work the "Women's Support Group" has done - and continues to do - to heal themselves and their families from the wounds of clergy abuse. A beautifully-etched glass piece, 'Held by the Light,' was created by the women together with the artist, Christina Amri. The piece is filled with symbolism that gives expression to their journey into healing.

Over 60 people came to witness the dedication of this art piece and learn more about the struggles secondary victims face when clergy sexual abuse occurs. For abuse not only impacts individual victims, it also sends out ripples that impact spouses and families, congregations and local communities. While the healing of victims is, of necessity, a top priority, these many secondary victims—particularly the spouses and partners of these victims—bear a painful burden as wounds are brought out into the light for the first time. When their relationships began, spouses were usually unaware that they had fallen in love with men who had endured the great injustice of clergy sexual abuse. Indeed, until the reality of the abuse was openly named, their partners may not have known themselves that what they experienced was sexual abuse.

A translucent curtain of light, 'Held by the Light' complements and arches over the survivors' sculpture created by Noel Chun, 'From Darkness into Light.' The waving curtain of etched glass expresses the movement from relative darkness on the right to golden light on the left. This captures the way that healing work is dynamic as the story of abuse moves out of secrecy into the open. A series of small stitches across the top of the curtain represents the work of women in mending and stitching the lives of their families and communities back together again.

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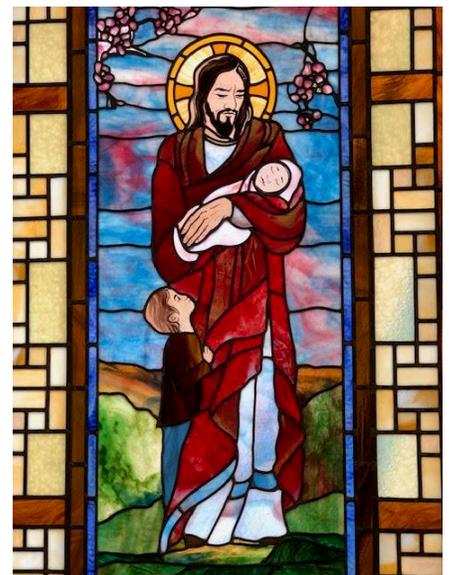
'Held by the Light' Art Dedication *(continued from page 10)*

Etched into this curtain, an abundance of Chinese characters tumble down unsorted and disoriented. The eight strokes basic to Chinese characters at the top slowly coalesce into words as they near the bottom of the curtain. Thus the jumble of characters portrays the process that the women experienced of gradually growing into consciousness with an increased ability to articulate their experience as they shared with each other. The words formed all have the Chinese character for 'love' or 'heart' at their root. These characters span a full range of emotions, both painful and healing, for example: Distress, Sadness, Endure, Suffer, Anger, Fear, Worry, Lament, Witness, Forgive, Wisdom, Listen, Sex, Gratitude and Love—to name only a few of the words rooted in the character for 'heart.'



A red silk rope winding through the top of the waving curtain symbolizes the ancient Chinese proverb known as the 'Red Thread' or 'Red String of Fate.' In the proverb, people destined to meet and share a major life story together are tied together with an invisible Red Thread. Challenging everything people have been taught about love as "happily ever after," a red thread couple is destined for a relationship that may be rocky and tested by difficult circumstances. Because their lives are bound together for all eternity, though the Red Thread may become tangled, contracted or stretched, it will never break. Through-out their lives, the relationships endure as couples adapt to the many changes that come their way. Because their journey—and that of the CH/PCC community's decades-long healing process—is still on-going, one end of the rope remains unfinished.

With this piece of art, the Women's Group has found a way to honor the many challenges they have faced. In their journey into healing, they have become courageous and self-aware truth-tellers. The Healing Chapel at Cameron House has become an inspiring, sacred space to acknowledge past wounds and express gratitude for the many ways healing continues to move forward. Thanks to the Women's Group who have so beautifully and courageously given expression to this movement toward healing for the whole community. The chapel is also now enhanced by a beautiful stained glass window depicting Jesus with children in honor of the healing work of four women: Lorna Logan, Florence Logan, Mae Wong, and Tien Fu. If you haven't visited the chapel recently, you should plan to do so soon!



The weekend after Independence Day, from July 5th to July 7th, we, as the whole Cantonese congregation, decided to spend our yearly retreat by Lake Tahoe to explore this year's theme: *Take Up Your Cross*. Staying in Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center, we were treated with a perfect view of the sunset by the sandy shores behind the mountain range. For the two nights, we lodged by the Morning Star cabins complemented by its extravagant size and comfort. Most of our sermons, worship, and singspirations took place in the Morning Star conference room.



For the first day, we spent most of the time travelling by car, where views of the Bay Area slowly transformed to the mountainous heights by the Nevada border. We made it for dinner just in time at the Zephyr Point dining hall and completed the night with some singspiration and free time taking pictures of the sunset by the shore.

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Cantonese Worshiping Community *(continued from page 12)*

On the second day, we began with an early viewing of the sunrise following up with a fulfilling breakfast at the dining hall to prepare for the singspiration and Bible lesson constructed by our guest pastor Joshua Ng. Focusing on “taking up our crosses”, Rev. Ng discussed about utilizing our community to develop our faith and make new disciples. To actively engage in the lesson, we separated into groups to discuss and produce a group takeaway from the lesson.

Although there was intense traffic, we spent the remaining afternoon sightseeing Emerald Bay Park, having the chance to stop by the Balancing Rock and take pictures of where the lake and Eagle Falls meet. The night ended with games of charades and S’mores by the Tallac Center campfire.

Preparing to leave for the last day, we grouped up again to see the Lake Tahoe sunrise one last time before we ate a satisfying breakfast and packed up our luggage. We did singspiration one last time and participated in morning worship service before we drove back home. On the way, we decided to take a break by Sacramento for lunch at the China Buffet. After filling ourselves up again, we got ready to go through rush hour traffic before returning back to San Francisco.



Sunday service of worship

*Matthew is Eleanor’s son. He just graduated from Westmoor High School. He's going to college in mid-August and will be attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute at Massachusetts and majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

“Are we having a family retreat this year at Westminster Woods?”

“I miss the s’mores!”

“We want to go and be with....”

After missing Family Retreat last year, a few inquiries came from not the adults of our community but from the younger ones. It was heart-warming to hear how they missed it from the year before and hoping that we might have retreat this year.

What we had in small numbers we made up in a great weekend of the “The Five F’s - Faith, Fellowship, Fun, Family and Friends!” It was a time to get away from the distractions and grind of our everyday lives and getting back in touch with each other (as the kids would attest to), slowing down to catch up (with sleep, a good book), catching a breath (of the fresh air of the redwoods) and reconnecting with our community in Christ.

While there was no set agenda but there were choices for people to fill their time. Some of us were led in a study of “Fierce Women” of the Bible. Amazing the strength some of them had and the leadership they brought in their times (and how some of the women in our community mirror their strengths). Fellowship including times of singspiration, break out sessions with fellow agers, sharing the joys and concerns and feeling the power of community!

And boy did we have FUN! What do you remember doing at camp? There was making music (ukulele instruments, playing, singing), cooking (yum and thanks to Sabrina’s lesson on making gyoza), early morning tai chi, art & crafts, late night board and card games (the kids outlasted the adults in staying up late) or was it the sugar from the s’mores that they made around the campfire keeping them up? And what fun and laughter as we share in multi-generational activities like Mad Lib skits (from as young as Jordan Wong to Mei Yee)?



While it was fun to be with our biological families, it was certainly amazing to see the bonds of friendship and “family” that have grown over the years. What a heart-warming sight to see the youth around the table talking like “little adults” while playing boards and card games (no electronics). Just when you think the kids are shy, put them in a group and they can be just as chatty as adults!

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Memorial Day Weekend Family Retreat 2019 *(continued from page 14)*



While we might see our church family often only on Sundays, it was such a breath of renewed energy to be able to see and enjoy one another in a different space which God has given us. A quiet moment walking the labyrinth praying, listening to the gurgling stream of God's voice talking to us, the gentle wind through the trees as God's breath strengthens us and enjoying the blessing of God's gift of nature and life around us.

P.S. If you miss this, we've renewed our spot for Westminster Woods for 2020 and looking forward to see you all there next year!



Photos by Stuart Go

Community



Mad Libs



Older Generation



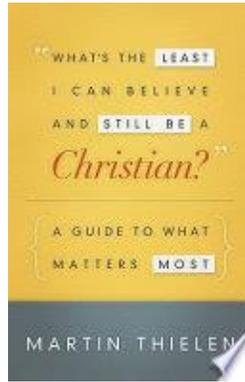
Younger Generation

Updates and Improvements to Our Church Building by David Chan

Since the last fire repair work was completed the following are a list of projects that have kept me busy around our church building:

- A projection screen and projector for the Mandarin Worshiping Community has been installed and hooked up in the back of Sanctuary.
- There was an upgrade to the computer system in the Sanctuary with a secondary monitor to make managing the projectors easier.
- The mixing board has been replaced with a larger system that allows us to monitor, control and adjust sound from the center of the sanctuary. This is a Wi-Fi Network attached mixer.
- All the outdated (3 units about to be outlawed by FCC) microphones in the Sanctuary, have been replaced with new frequency wireless microphones.
- A monitor and new remote wiring has been put in place to allow better recording of the worship services. Video camera has been moved to a more central location to get a better vantage point and less obstruction. All worshiping communities have started using the new system to record some or parts of their worship services.
- Curtains and sun shades have been installed (experimental) to see if they will allow for better use of the video projector in the sanctuary. (So far it seems to be helping a lot). Knowing that this is very helpful, we can begin thinking about how to control light in the Sanctuary better and come up with a more "aesthetically pleasing" solution that will allow easier control of the light, and still have the views we want when we are not using the projectors.
- Several of the paper towel dispensers have been replaced with bamboo/wood dispensers that do not require a key to open. The new dispensers seem to keep 10-12 paper towels slipping out when you pull one. They also allow for easier refilling and if you do need multiple towels, you are able to take them out the top.
If they work out well we will replace several more of the dispensers in the near future.
- Several times I've had to repair tiles on the front portico, not sure why they keep getting popped off but luckily none of them have been cracked or damaged so there were no problems in re-installing them.
- Several of the old thermostats have been replaced with the network controlled programmable thermostats. Currently, there are 4 in the Sanctuary and 2 on the main floor. One thermostat from the main floor was moved to fellowship hall so we can have programming there, and the 2 in the basement will be replaced with the other spare programmable thermostats but not network attached.
- Recently, we have consolidated our fire extinguisher maintenance contract to Exxel Fire Systems (the same company that maintains the kitchen fire suppression system) so only one company will be responsible for maintaining all the fire suppression equipment.
- A motion sensor in Speer Hall that has been causing false alarms has been replaced with a new sensor.
- No trespassing (city ordinance 25) signage has been put up on front of church.
- Parts have been ordered for freezer and refrigerator to replace door seals. Will be installed later in July to resolve condensation and constant running of compressors.

On Sunday, June 23, 2019, the Wednesday Night Bible Study group started a new section for worship service titled ‘What Matters Most’. The aim is to reach out to the youth and young adults and to focus on the book: *What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still be a Christian? - A Guide to What Matters Most*, by Martin Thielen. The first ten chapters of the book, under the section the Ten Things Christians Don’t Need to Believe, will be presented as a sermonette during what was formerly the Time with the Children.



people of faith have doubts of whether or not God hears them. Abraham and Sarah prayed for many years hoping to have a child; Moses prayed in frustration when he wandered about leading his people out; David prayed to God when he was being chased by his enemies; and even Jesus prayed at the garden of Gethsemane that he be spared and even when he was on the cross asking why God had forsaken him. Sometimes God answers our prayers in ways that we don’t expect. Abraham and Sarah had their child, at 100 years; Moses lead his people to the edge of the promised land; David escapes his enemies and becomes a great king; and Jesus is not forsaken but rises from the death to his resurrection to save us all. Doubt is not the enemy of faith but part of faith.

On June 9, Terry Chan preached on ‘God causes cancer, car wrecks and other catastrophes’. He introduced the goals of the WNBS group for the summer and lead off in his sermon regarding events that happen to us and whether or not God causes these events. God does not cause tragic events, God can and does bring good results out of tragedy.

Rev. Bradford Woo led off with the message, ‘Bad People will be left behind and then fry in hell’, where he emphasized that one should challenge questionable ideas put out by crazy ‘Christian’ ideas (the BS) and find methods to filter out those things. Question why God would punish someone for eternity (a *very long* time) even for someone that rejects God in their lifetime. The punishment of eternity (in hell or wherever) is very disproportionate and that means many would be forever alienated from God’s love.

Nancy Chee talked on ‘Good Christians don’t doubt’, when she had everyone in the room raise their hand if they ever had doubt. Many people of faith have prayed to God about their concerns and challenges, many

Diane Go talked about ‘Everything in the Bible must be taken literally’, where she introduced us to a few of the different versions of the Bible she brought in. The Bible inspires us but we have to realize that the Bible was written by humans. Stories we read from the bible are often written metaphorically and often inspired by God but generally should not be taken literally.

In the next few weeks, we anticipate hearing sermonettes on ‘It’s OK for Christians to be judgmental and obnoxious’, ‘True Christians can’t believe in evolution’, ‘Women can’t be preachers and must submit to men’, ‘God cares about saving souls but not about saving trees’, ‘Jews won’t make it to heaven’, and ‘God loves straight people but not gay people’.

Meanwhile, if you missed any of these sermonettes, they can be viewed on online videos at pccsf.org (<https://www.pccsf.org/worshipinfo>) click on the more video link.

My name is Ian Chan and I attended this year's Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. The Youth Triennium is a gathering for high school age youth from the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church that occurs every three years. This year's event was July 16 - 20, 2019, and the theme was "Here's My Heart". The delegation from Presbytery of San Francisco included 20 youth and 6 adult chaperones. We met a total of four times to build a sense of community, and later joined the delegation from the Presbytery of the Redwoods and traveled together from the Oakland Airport to the Chicago Airport, and then a bus ride for 3 hours. It took a long time to get there, but I was thankful to arrive safely to our location.

I had mixed feelings going into this trip. On the one hand, I wanted to try something new and it didn't matter to me that I was the only one going from our community. But when I got there, there wasn't much diversity, and it wasn't as easy getting to know other people. Even the roommate I was supposed to have got moved to another building because he was going to be involved with the drama team.

Highlights and learnings? The food at the university's food hall was really good; being in the small group that I was in was chill, and getting to know the new youth from the Redwood delegation was good. We played basketball and ultimate frisbee, and got to know each other by asking each other a lot of questions (The small group also seemed to enjoy talking about race cars).

I am very appreciative of the chaperones from the SF and Redwood delegations, who took the time to supervise and help the youth get to the designated locations on the large campus. Going into this, I wanted to avoid making assumptions of others, so I tried to be humble, respectful, and present for others, by attentively listening to their stories. I am thankful for meeting people who have different perspectives of culture and religion than I have. I am also thankful for the community we have here at PCC. Sometimes it takes going away to come to appreciate what's right in front of us. Thanks for your support in sending me to the Triennium!



**“An Authentic Public Witness Requires An Authentic Community Existence.
The Love, Care, Justice, and Peace We Desire In the World
Must Also Be Practiced Among Ourselves”***

by Deacon Jeanine Lim

Every year like clockwork, someone from the Nominating Committee asked me to consider serving as an elder or a deacon. For various reasons, I declined. Maybe it's because when I had previously served as an elder, I was still working full-time, commuting back and forth from the East Bay to the City, was assigned to chair two church committees, and had to attend more meetings than I cared to count. I was tired! However, after the resignation of Pastor Kimberly, I reconsidered. I thought our worshipping community needed people to “step up” during this transitional period. Since I am now retired (no more daily commuting, yay!) I was in a position to serve. So I volunteered to serve as a deacon, and am now serving the first year of a three-year term.

I have to admit that I was curious about the role of a deacon, and I would bet that many of you wonder, too. From my observations, deacons are the ones who wash dishes after teatime and Sabbath Sunday meals. They help during memorial services and receptions, and they organize potlucks. They make sure there are ushers for worship, and prepare the elements for Communion. Deacons send cards of sympathy and encouragement, and they maintain the prayer lists that are distributed regularly and that you read in the Rag Sheet. They get asked to do special projects, and always deliver with competence and consideration for all the niceties. The many other tasks performed by deacons, like making sure there are adequate pantry supplies and that dirty kitchen towels are washed, are too numerous to list here.

When I found myself observing more closely and as I began to serve, I concluded the following: **BOY, THE DEACONS HAVE TO WASH A LOT OF DISHES!!!!** I further observed that we Deacons were not attending to one of the principal tasks I thought that deacons were responsible for, and that is the calling, visiting, and provision of comfort and support to the members of our worshipping community. We were so busy with the chores, special projects, and day-to-day stuff, that we forgot one of the principal responsibilities set forth for deacons in the Book of Order. And the lack of calling and connection seemed to me to be particularly acute, since for several months we were a worshipping community without a pastor.

The Deacons are now in the process of reframing our goals and objectives. In May, we had a retreat during which we explored a ministry of calling, visitations, outreach and connection with our worshipping community's members. We invited Pastor Gerald Chinen of the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, which has a robust care ministry (and 30 deacons!), to lead us in training.

Your deacons are in the process of creating an organized and intentional caring ministry. Yes, there are only seven of us, so we can't be too ambitious. Watch for further details in the Rag

(continued on page 21)

“An Authentic Public Witness..... (continued from page 20)

Sheet, the PCC website, and e-mail blasts. And please consider whether you might feel inspired to fill one of our vacancies, and serve as a deacon!

As for me, one of the joys of retirement is having more time to read. Here is a quote from a book I recently re-read:

The greatest need in our time is not simply for “kerygma,” the preaching of the gospel; nor for “diakonia,” service on behalf of justice; nor for “charisma,” the experience of the Spirit’s gifts; nor even for “propheteia,” the challenging of the king. The greatest need of our time is for “koinonia,” the call simply to be the church, to love one another, and to offer our lives for the sake of the world. The creation of living, breathing, loving communities of faith at the local church level is the foundation of all the other answers. The community of faith incarnates a whole new order, offers a visible and concrete alternative, and issues a basic challenge to the world as it is. The church must be called to be the church, to rebuild the kind of community that gives substance to the claims of faith. (*The Call to Conversion* by Jim Wallis, P. 112)

*Quote from *The Call to Conversion* by Jim Wallis, P. 127



Upcoming Events

by Dave Miller and Linda Lee

Sunday, August 4 Service of Worship: The End of Summer Service and Sports Season

Tuesday, August 27: Presbytery of SF at First PC, Hayward

Sunday, October 6: World Wide Communion Sunday

Sunday, November 3: Annual Congregational Meeting for the whole church

Tuesday, November 12: Presbytery of SF meets at PCC.

Stay Tuned! Thanks to those who responded to the inquiry, a one-day Fall study retreat is being planned by the Worship & Nurture Committee. The results of the quick poll taken in July indicate interest in a Saturday (either Oct. 19 or Nov.9) gathering for study and fellowship. Please watch for an announcement in September.



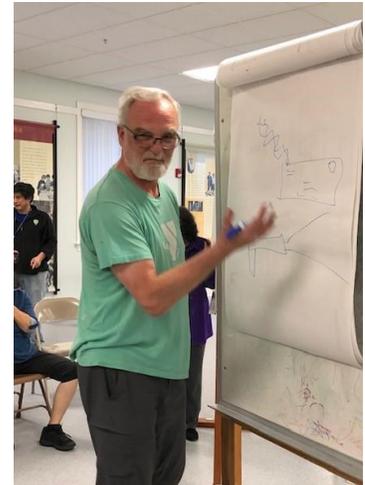
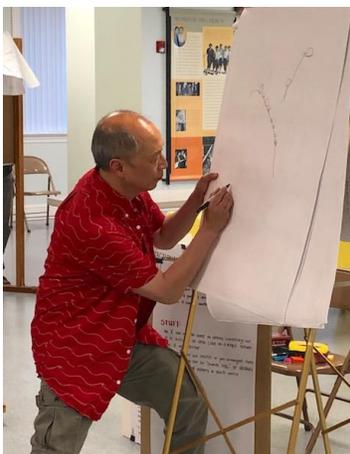
Meet and Greet Potluck

by Pam Jang

We formally welcomed Pastor Don on June 22 with a potluck. And as usual, our fabulous cooks contributed to another successful meal and many tummies were well fed!

***“So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”
1 Corinthians 10:31***

After eating all of that food, the almost 60 people broke into 4 teams to play Pictionary! There were a lot of clever minds working to guess the key word(s) from the drawings of their teammates. It was a real fun activity. Thank you to Belinda, Ed and Alex for time and effort organizing the game.



Meet and Greet Potluck *(continued from page 22)*



**A special thank you to the clean-up crew for washing the dishes!
Shar, Jojo, Jeanine, Dayton, Jerrick & Stuart**

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We have many young people graduating from High School and College.

These are the Seniors that graduated from High School:

- Ian Chan graduated from John O'Connell and is heading to San Francisco State in the Fall. His interest is Computer Science.
- Rene Fong graduated from St. Ignatius College Prep. Rene will be attending Santa Clara University and her interest is Business.
- Samantha Hum graduated from Lowell and she will be attending UC Davis.
- Dean Shin graduated from Fusion Academy and will be attending UOP; he is interested in Computer Science.

CONGRATS
CLASS OF
2019

Here are our College Graduates:

- Robert Hee graduated from Sacramento State University. He is interested in Physical Therapy.
- Alex Hum graduated from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He studied Applied Math. In the fall he will be attending a Pilot school in Dallas.
- Irene Ng's youngest granddaughter, Meredith, graduated from Cornell University with a B.S. in Computer Science. She is going to Brown University in Providence to pursue a Masters Degree.

• Congratulations to Desmond Ng. Desi married Jennifer Yoo, a college class mate from UOP. It was a beautiful wedding on July 5. They had an outdoor wedding with 200 guests. The wedding took place at the Ritz Carlton in Half Moon Bay right next to the golf course. Chris Chan officiated the quick ceremony. Chris did a good job.

• Mark and Barbara Fong and family took a cruise to Alaska. They all had a great time on their excursions.

• I went on a British Isles cruise with Princess Cruise Lines. We flew to London to get onto the ship. We visited Ireland and Scotland. Weather was a bit cool. When we had our last tour to Normandy it was over 90 degrees.

• Brad Woo and Kathy Tong were on the same cruise. Kathy found a good deal on the internet. I'm sure they had a good time.

• Irene Ng walked the Camino de Santiago during her trip to in Northern Spain and Portugal. She began the journey in Roncesvalles and ended at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.

• Ruth Wu and Mildred took a nice trip by Rick Steve Tours to Eastern Europe.

• We want to support Laurene and Corey Chan at this time as they are doing a selfless task of taking in three sisters. I'm sure they are still making adjustments each day. We wish them all well.

