



Good News for the Pews

May 2019

A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

Issue No. 19

Our New Interim Pastor!

Submitted by Linda Lee, April 11, 2019

Praise God that the Rev. Don Hammond will be joining PCC and our English Worshipping Community (EWC) ministry as Interim Pastor in June. His first Sunday with us will be June 16th. Official action by the Presbytery of San Francisco will be at the May 14th meeting on the consent agenda.

Don comes to us as fully trained and experienced in interim ministry with congregations that have experienced events leading to demoralization, confusion or trauma. He is equipped to walk with us on our work towards identifying a clear vision for our future, healing hurts that have occurred over the last two years, and moving into our Mission Study as we seek to call a permanent pastor.

Don's interim pastorates have been on the East Coast over the last 5 years. He earned his Master of Divinity degree at SFTS and has served on committees in the Presbytery of San Francisco. He has Committee on Ministry experience in the presbyteries of Long Island and Boston.

We are eager to welcome Don to PCC!

Your Sisters and Brothers in Christ- the English Commission
Nancy Chee, Diane Go, Jeanette Huie, Carl Jew,
Linda Lee, Winchell Quock, Dave Soohoo, and Susie Wong

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Welcome to our New Interim Pastor- Rev. Donald Hammond!

Submitted by Linda Lee

The English Commission elders worked with the presbytery Committee on Ministry to identify Rev. Don Hammond as pastor to step into this transitional time in our EWC ministry. We were moved by his leading us in a devotion on Nehemiah and how God calls the people to hard work in moving into the future. He comes to us with five years of interim ministry experience. Here are some excerpts from Don's bio which shed light on who he is and why he feels called to ministry with us.

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Welcome to our New Interim Pastor- Rev. Donald Hammond! *(continued from page 1)*



“I came to faith as an adult after finding no fulfillment in the ways of the world and in the philosophies that insisted that true contentment was predicated on material success and the accumulation of money and influence. . . . I searched for a different way. . . . I followed many spiritual fads as well as some ancient religious traditions. I looked at things with an open mind and hoped that through my search I could connect with some transcendent, Divinely inspired truth. It was in my 30s that I made the conversion to a charismatic Christian faith. . . .I attended a home-cell church which combined elements of the so-called “Prosperity Gospel” and Pentecostalism. Within a short time of my conversion I was traveling around East Africa, Mexico, parts of Europe, and the east coast of the United States as an itinerant preacher and evangelist.

“Within a few years I found that my natural affinity for social justice, hunger for the critical study of Scripture, and for mission projects that actually uplifted the whole lives of people and communities and not just their faith, was pulling me far afield from the goals of my original ministry partners. My Hippie childhood informed my progressive stance on social issues and politics. The ministry which I was a part of was unconcerned with the lives of people and focused solely on eschatological hope. They tended to equate faith only with charismatic gifts and understood justification to be a reward of faithfulness and not the free gift of God’s grace. I found a great disconnect as the ministry focused on love of God but ignored love of neighbor.

“I continued to study Scripture, to seek Christ, to understand the Gospel, and I wrestled with my faith and my limited understanding of the diversity of Christian witness. Sometime in 2004 I began to search for an environment where I could study the history and the traditions of the church and to examine questions of faith with critical tools in concert with the disciplines of reason. This led me to discover the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. I enrolled and affiliated with San Francisco Theological Seminary it was there that I discovered Reformed theology and was both surprised and gratified to find that it resonated deeply with me. It was after I enrolled in seminary that I embarked on a path towards ordination with the PC (USA). I was a member under care at First Pres Berkeley, a seminary intern at Calvary PC in SF, and through SFTS was blessed to preach and worship with many churches in both Redwoods and San Francisco Presbyteries. I was ordained by the SF Presbytery to a validated call at SFTS in the recruitment office. In 2014 I discerned a call to intentional interim ministry and transferred to the Boston Presbytery where I was the interim for two churches in succession. In 2018 I
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Welcome to our New Interim Pastor- Rev. Donald Hammond! *(continued from page 2)*

transferred to the Presbytery of Long Island where I took up my third interim position. In addition to the two weeks of interim training with our denomination, I have also taken additional continuing education with the Interim Ministry Network (www.imnedu.org), of which I am a member. I continue to consider my call to intentional interim ministry to be the right fit for me.”

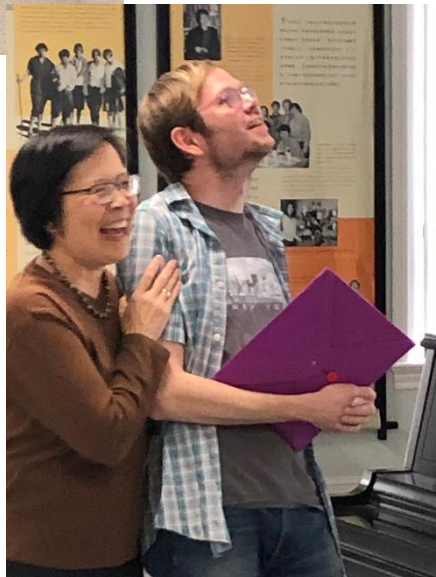
Pastor Don has previous work experience in graphic arts, web content, and other ministry experience working at SF Theological Seminary. He has been actively engaged at the presbytery level in his various positions of service. Come welcome Pastor Don at our worship together on Sunday, June 16.

Farewell to Tad Hopp

On Sunday, February 24, 2019, we bade farewell to Tad Hopp, who had been with us as Pastoral Assistant and Communications Coordinator. Susie Wong took a few photos while we presented Tad with gifts and feasted on a rainbow cake.



Grandmas & Grandpas Covenant Group: Rachel and Alan Wong, Ruth Wu, Irene Ng.



Elder Nancy Chee



Pam Jang, Deacon.
Dave Miller, Coordinator for the English Worshipping Community

As we approach summer, many of us dream of places we might visit while on vacation. Maybe we could go to Hawaii or maybe the island of Iona or maybe up to the beach at Point Reyes National Seashore.

These vacation trips might be thought of as excursions, not really a journey. A journey to me usually lasts longer and often has a clear purpose. For instance, several of my friends have walked the Camino de Santiago in Spain. For them the month-long pilgrimage was a journey where they could spend more time understanding themselves and their relationship with God.

In the past two months, we at PCC have been on a “Lenten Journey”. We didn’t necessarily leave home to be on the journey. We didn’t have to book hotels or travel. However, we did have an opportunity to move from who we were on Ash Wednesday to perhaps a new person on Easter Sunday. This year we focused on reducing the busyness in our lives in order to make time to connect with God and understand the plans God has for us now.

I admit that the prayer written by Jill Duffield is pretty accurate for me. “The ashes on my forehead long gone, my Lenten discipline exposed as more good intentions than realized practice, the cold days of winter beginning to give way to warmer afternoons, the center of Lent feels like a mix of blooming daffodils and bare tree branches.” I wanted to emerge from my Lenten Journey able to say (boast?) I spent more time every day in prayer, I read the Lenten devotions every day, I put my worries in the God box. Alas, my Lenten Journey was a bit more like a meander through the challenges and demands on my time.

I pray that your Lenten Journey was more direct than mine and that you made a connection to God through your discipline.

Thinking about my Lenten Journey frequently got me thinking about my faith journey. Where did I start on the journey? Were there some times during the journey when I really felt grounded and in touch with God? Were there some times during the journey when I wanted to abandon it altogether? Was there a moment on the journey when I felt transformed or, in the language of some faiths, when I was saved?

I haven’t had a major encounter like Paul did on the road to Damascus) but I have felt the presence of God and God’s people every step of the journey. When I lost my way, you and God were there to help me see the path laid out for me. When I felt lonely being a gay man in a denomination that didn’t think I should be an elder, you gathered round me to reassure me that God loves me as God created me. When you called me to be the “coordinator” for the English Worshiping Community during Kimberly’s sabbatical and between last September and now, you nudged me back on the path that God had wanted me on and gave me an opportunity to share my experiences and faith through worship planning and leadership.

Several people have mentioned to me how valuable it has been to share their faith journey with
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Journeys (continued from page 4)

others and how blessed they have been to hear others tell of their faith journeys. Maybe it's time that we were less reticent to talk about our faith. If the way is unclear, maybe it's time to allow others to guide us on our journey. Maybe it's time to inspire others because they hear of our own faith journey.

What has your faith journey been like? How will you share it?



A recap: I was elected to be the Racial Equity Members-at-Large representing Asian American. Other members are African American, Hispanic/Latin American, Korean American, Middle Eastern American, and Native American. We are now part of the Board of Directors. I was installed last August at the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville. I chose and am a member of three committees.

Instead of flying to Louisville in the month of February we did all our committee meetings through ZOOM. ZOOM is a great tool. We video conference our meetings. I had some technical difficulties with my provided Kindle. Thank goodness I had my Smart phone to use which enabled me to call in.

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee (CMOC) is the one where all the Presbyterian Women (PW) groups from all over donate monies to the two offerings that we take up each year: the Birthday offering in June and the Thank offering in December. People from all over the world would request grant money from PW, so this committee reads all these grants and decide which projects will get some of the money that PW collected.

The project readings were really time consuming. Of course all the projects sounded so good that you want to give money to them all. We spent two days to make our decisions. Each call lasted about 4 hours so I had to take time off from work to take these

calls. Most of the other members live on the East Coast, so I had a 2 to 3 hour time difference. We chose 18 projects out of 75: twelve domestic projects (USA) for a total of \$238,825 and six international projects for a total of \$152,987. The total for the Thank Offering was \$391,812.

I was able to push for one project in Southern California to get part of their requested amount. Another project that was chosen is in Portland, Oregon. All the others were spread out throughout the United States. I cannot tell you the names of the projects until it is published in the *Horizons* magazine; stay tuned.

The Board of Directors meeting met on February 20th. I was able to use the principal's office at one of my school sites to take part of the business meeting via ZOOM. Our next meeting will be May 30th. I will need to find a location or take a half day off from work to ZOOM into the meeting. I am looking forward to the next ZOOM meeting with all these hard working and dedicated Presbyterian Women.



Praise the Lord! This year so far has been most eventful for the Cantonese Commission.

On February 18th of this year, in order to celebrate the 165 year anniversary of The Presbyterian Church in Chinatown, we had a Bible Verses Recitation Competition, where 14 people, including Sunday school students, young and senior members of the Cantonese Commission, participate in this event. Thanks to the Lord, we were very successful in bringing everyone together to celebrate the anniversary of 165 years of service in The Presbyterian Church in Chinatown.

On March 27, Cantonese elder Laura Cu's daughter, Angela Trimh, gave birth to a baby girl on Wednesday, March 27th, 2019. Her name is Hazel and she was born at 6 lb and 3 oz.

Thanks to our gracious Lord, 2019 has been a good year for the Cantonese Commission so far. We are excited to see what God has in store for us next in the near future.



Verses Recitation –
Sunday School & Youth



Verses Recitation
Award Presentation

WHOA, WHAT'S HAPPENING?

(Life's Changes)

I'm turning the TV volume up louder these days,
Can only read the print by extending my arms in or out a ways.

I'm pausing more often to stop, walking uphill or upstairs,
The knees seem to buckle, walking down hill or downstairs.

Going in & out of the car takes much more time, patience and pep,
Getting up from the table means standing, waiting before taking a step.

"Resting my eyes" more often than not, when reading the papers or a book,
Not remembering why I went into that room to do or to look.

Forgetting to turn off the stove, microwave or toaster,
My blood pressure goes up and down like a roller coaster.

It takes awhile to think- where did I stash it away for safety's sake,
Seeing familiar faces, can't recall names, I try a friendly smile make.

Frustrated still for not knowing how to use the cell phone mounts,
Mixing up passwords and pin numbers for all the darn accounts.

Leaving dishes overnight in the sink to wash is not so bad after all,
Letting go of strict "to dos" is easier than making excuses to stall.

Getting cleaned- up, dressing and making the bed first are no longer a must,
The lightweight SWIFFER - cleans, mops and takes care of all the dust.

Priorities change as my body changes, adapting to life in the here and now,
Aches and pains come and go, as the rainy season yields flowering bough.

I am blessed and grateful for experiencing all of the above with a clear mind.
Thank you God, for friends and family sharing in love that binds.

Shar Hall
March 27, 2019

English Commission Resource Committee Stewardship and Responsibilities

Our English Commission has 6 standing committees. Each committee has its unique responsibilities to carry on the mission and ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown. The Commission's committees make-up includes the Worship & Nurture, Mission & Evangelism, Resource, Personnel, Nominating and Presbyterian Church in Chinatown/Cameron House (PCC/CH) Partnership.

The Resource Committee is charged with stewardship, resources and the "business" of the English Worshiping Community. Stewardship responsibilities, management and oversight of various functions are the driving force behind our committee. Members of the Resource Committee include Jonathan Chan, Wayne Eng, Stuart Go, Jackie Jew, Lianne & Terry Leong, Winchell Quock and David Soohoo.

Responsibilities and contacts include:

- **Budget & Finances** –Winchell Quock, Treasurer
 - 1) Recruitment & Assignment of Counters – David Soohoo
- **Stewardship & Membership**
 - 1) Active membership - Winchell Quock
 - 2) Board of Deacons – Jackie Jew
 - 3) Current Address roster – Winchell Quock
 - 4) Communion Servers – Terry Leong
- **Communications**
 - 1) News for the Pews – Irene Ng
 - 2) PCC Website (www.pccsf.org) – David Miller
 - 3) Ragsheet & Email Updates – David Miller
 - 4) Photography – Stuart Go
- **Building Utilization/Schedule**
 - 1) Food Pantry #1 (Saturdays) – Susie Wong
 - 2) Food Pantry #2 (Mondays) – Susie Wong
 - 3) Sabbath Sunday Lunches – Lianne Leong & Annie Wong
 - 4) Youth Basketball and Volleyball – Terry Chan & Stuart Go
 - 5) Office Volunteers– Annie/Peter Wong
- **Building & Finance Committee Liaison** – Winchell Quock
 - 1) Audio Visual – Dave Chan

As members or non-members, we welcome your participation in the life and ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown. Feel free to speak to any one of our committee members about volunteer opportunities.

Dave Soohoo
Resource Committee

The Presbyterian Women Synod of the Pacific 2019 Gathering met April 5th to April 7th, at the Mercy Center, Burlingame, California. It was a fantastic, informative, uplifting and inspirational meeting attended by 46 Presbyterian women from Idaho and Oregon, with the majority from California, which included the presbyteries of the Redwoods, Sacramento, San Jose, Stockton and San Francisco. Attendees from our church were Jeanette Huie, Ivy Yee-Sakamoto, Mildred Hall Phyllis Huey Tom, Linda Lee, me, and Pat Chan. Phyllis is formerly from our church, and now lives in Modesto, California. It was so good to see her!



The title of this gathering is “Hearts of Stone to Hearts of Love” led by Rev. Sharon Edwards. Presentations from members of each area were so informative to me. The presentations illustrated the wonderful work to help their church members (young and elderly), their community, and the people in need to know about Jesus Christ!

It was so heartwarming that many of our church members are so active as officers of the San Francisco Gathering! Mildred Hall was Vice Moderator; Mary Wong Leong, Secretary and Jeanette Huie, Treasurer. Linda Lee is presently the Vice Moderator/Historian, and coordinator of the PW Synod of the Pacific! Bravo and blessings, Linda!

It was wonderful to be a first timer going to the meeting. I encourage other women from our church to go in the future. It is great to have it so close, right at Mercy Center in Burlingame. Because Mercy Center is quite large and has many corridors I was lost making wrong turns from
(continued on page 11)

PW Synod of the Pacific 2019 Gathering *(continued from page 10)*

my bedroom to the meeting room, and to the dining room! I was told that it happens for almost all first-time attendees! The bed was comfortable, each person was in a single room and the food was yummy!

Mildred Hall announced that our next PCC Women's Fellowship meeting on Monday, May 20, will be a presentation of the "PW Synod of the Pacific 2019 Gathering." Those of us who attended will give more detailed information about that wonderful event we had at Mercy Center. Do come join us and learn more!

Blessings to all of you.



Having fun!

We Wang Chunged!

By Jackie Jew, Belinda Hum and Pam Jang

With the help of Deacon's Jackie and Pam, and our beloved Belinda, EWC had another wonder potluck on March 16. We Wang Chunged the night away (meaning everybody had fun that night). Kudos and thank you to all of our fabulous cooks who made this potluck amazing!



We enjoyed a variety of foods including Jeanine's decadent chocolate cake, Ivy's yummy Asian chicken salad, Richard's huge pot of corn chowder, Dayton's freshly caught steamed fish & pork hash, and not to mention the other delicious dishes. The highlight was Mei's black sesame soup, which is a dessert. But many could not wait and ate as their appetizer!

Our activity for the evening was a white Elephant Gift Exchange, also so cleverly renamed as WEGE, not to be confused with "a wedgie" (haha). Thank you, Jackie for coming up with the name. All of the gifts were wrapped in newspaper or paper bags to disguise what was inside. We had a blast. Approximately 47 gifts were picked and stolen...and stolen!



This photo courtesy of Ivy Yee-Sacamoto

Jeannette Wei was a gracious sport. Every gift she chose was stolen from her. Jeannette ended up bringing home the gift she brought, a magnifier with a light! The funniest gift we laughed at was a super gag gift that we all thought no one would steal. It was the Sumo Wrestler. For more details, you have to ask Norma who picked it first, or Dave Soohoo who stole it from Norma, or Dave Sakamoto who stole it from Dave.



These Photos courtesy of Gung Gung Jerrick

The cool surprise gift (and another gift we thought no one would steal) was a lighted turtle that projects stars on the ceiling. Jojo stole it from Dave S. and as you can see from the photo, Maddie must have played WEGE before because she couldn't wait to use the turtle and took it from Pau Pau Jojo!

We Wang Changed! (continued from page 12)



Yummy food!



It's the turtle!



Perfect gift – "Eat it!"



Friends and fellowship!

Which brings us to announce our next potluck event...

Our next EWC Potluck, "Summer Movie and Popcorn Night" is schedule for mid to late June. The exact date to be determined. We are planning to show the movie Crazy Rich Asians (PG-13), while we enjoy our dinner and munch on popcorn. We have one activity planned thus far: Mei Yee will be teaching us how to fold dumplings, just like in the movie! And if there is enough interest, we will host a table or two of Mah Jong. If you have an interest in helping with dumpling prep, Mah Jong, audio visual or arriving early to help set up then please contact Belinda, Pam or Jackie.

Hope to see you there! It will be another Wang Chung evening you won't want to miss!

Thanks to Stuart Go for the photos capturing a fun filled evening!

Summary of Recommendations of the Adaptive Change Team (2/10/19)

The Big Question: What are we called to do and be?

What we came up with: *We are called to foster intergenerational connection and growth within our church, through faithfully serving the wider world.* The future of our church calls for us to have a more focused identity, so people who come through our doors know quickly what we're about. We explored **many** avenues and ideas, and believe the suggested changes will strengthen us and set us up for decades of growth and development, embracing our core values and making best use of our current assets. This increased focus on intergenerational relationships and activities will truly be an adaptive change, refocusing our energy and resources. If we sincerely believe in possible changes being implemented over the next several years, we should listen to concerns, but do our best to spend our energy with our goals at the forefront.

Our detailed report was submitted to the English Commission and will be passed on to the Mission Study group for consideration. There were five areas that we recommended focus at this time of discernment:

MISSION FOCUS

Having a Mission Focus in various ways in our church will help engage people of all ages to help our local and global communities. This includes in worship, in mission trips, in outreach, in fellowship and personal and spiritual growth.

MUSIC FOCUS

Music is one of the universal ways to connect thought and spirit. It reaches to the depths of the heart where thought and emotion can connect and experience together in that spirit realm. Building a deeper relationship with God through songs/hymns, scripture, music will enhance areas of worship, fellowship (building the body of Christ), missions, and arts.

YOUTH & MENTORSHIP FOCUS

Youth leadership development through teaching and mentorships will help increase connection between youth and older adults—opportunity to learn new skills and perspectives and share our talents and skills to give a sense of purpose and engagement with each other.

UTILIZING OUR BUILDING FOCUS

Finding creative ways to utilize our building—one is rental considerations. We can further our mission and faith statement through providing organizations space. This will provide a source of funds to help with building costs, programming costs and increase staffing. This also creates an opportunity for the three worshipping communities to work more cohesively.

CENTRAL SUBWAY

This is an Adaptive Change that **is** happening to us and we must make this a priority. With the completion scheduled to be 2020, we need to plan, prepare and train our three worshipping communities what we as a church would like to do—ministry, care, security as we further our mission to spread the good news of Jesus Christ as well as support the benefits in our Chinatown community.

Adaptive Change Team:

Ed Chin, Joshua Chuck, Mark Fong, Norma Fong Chan, Diane Go, Eddie Kam, Sing Quan, & Rachel Wong

Upcoming Events

Tues May 14 SF Presbytery meets at Lafayette-Orinda PC

Mon May 20 Women's Fellowship

Tues May 21 English Commission

Sat-Mon May 25-27 Koinonia Retreat at Westminster Woods (all are welcome!)

Tues June 4 Mission & Evangelism and Worship & Nurture Committees meet

Sun June 9 PCC Session & Pentecost (wear red)

Sun June 16 Rev. Don Hammond in the pulpit!

Mon June 17 Women's Fellowship

Tues June 18 English Commission



Good News for the Pews is published quarterly
by the English-Speaking Worshipping Community of the
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San Francisco, CA 94108
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