



Good News for the Pews

February 2022

A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

Issue No. 30

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

On November 28, 2021 I gave a Moment for Stewardship during worship. A few people had commented that it was helpful to hear a kind of overview of what I do as a pastor for the church. Irene Ng had asked me to forward the text to her for this issue of Good News for the Pews. This is the script I used for that presentation...

For the last 2 years, most of you have only seen me on your screens in the pulpit, but my work is so much more than that and a lot of it begins down here in my office. If it sounds a little noisy, that is because there is activity in the church. Like the Food Pantry, you can hear everything! It's not uncommon for folks to have a hazy idea of what it is the pastor does, but certainly you know (I hope!) that the role is so much more than crafting and delivering a sermon each week, or answering phone calls and opening the front door when people ring the bell.

I was engaged by the Commission to come and be your Interim Minister in 2019. In order for me to do that work, I needed understand all of the ministries, programs, and fellowship groups here in the English Worshipping Community. To that end each month I attend the Worship & Nurture and the Mission & Evangelism Committee meetings. I also attend the Resource Committee meetings, though more infrequently. To support and guide the leaders of the church I moderate the monthly Commission meeting, and attend the Deacons meeting. On months with a fifth Sunday I also convene the meeting of the Consistory. I lead Elder and Deacon training yearly, and a New Members class as needed. Of course I act as a consultant to the Mission Study Team, a big interim duty, but I have also engaged in the five tasks of interim ministry by helping the church: (1) come to terms with history; (2) discern “who we are now”; (3) summon and shepherd shifts in power and leadership changes; (4) (re-)engage presbytery and sister congregation linkages, and once all that is completed; (5) work to help leadership commit to the findings of the Mission Study Report. These five tasks are written explicitly into my contract with you. Of course over the last two years there has also been this whole ‘pandemic’ thing.

(continued on page 2)

From Pastor Don (*continued from page 1*)

I coordinate with my co-pastors, Rev. Sze Yan (Ronnie) Kaan, and Pastor Guo (Israel) Hao, to prepare our quarterly Session meetings. While we rotate moderating that meeting, a lot of the assembling of documents and details end up in *this office*. I have worked hard to build trust and relationships with my co-pastors and their Commissions. I was asked to be the Pastor Advocate for Guo Hao as he begins the process to seek ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament. I have been asked to moderate a Mandarin Commission meeting. I support Rev. Kaan and the Cantonese community Hongby, providing Pastoral care and officiating the Sacrament of Communion in Ronnie's absence.

I met every two weeks with Michael Lee, the Executive Director of Cameron House. Our meetings run the gamut from discussing the parking lot to envisioning the new ministries that our sister institutions might engage in. In addition to these strategic meetings, I also served on the Healing Committee until our last official business meeting. When invited, I participate with the YDL program in developing devotionals and Christian education lessons.

I have worked to build relationships with Malcom Yeung at CCDC, and Justin Hoover the Executive Director of the Chinese Historical Society. I've meet with the police at Central Station several times, and with pastors at other Chinatown Churches, including Rev. Sebastian Ong at Chinatown Baptist, and the new minster, Steve Hong at Chinatown Congregational Church on Portsmouth Square.

I lead the School of Discipleship on Monday mornings, and convene the monthly Young Adult Wellness check over Zoom. I stop in from time to time at the Wednesday Night Fellowship Group, the East Bay Fellowship Group, as well as DINKS and SINKS.

I've met with and/or been in contact with members of our community (as the pandemic has allowed) in times of family crisis and in periods of spiritual questioning and doubt. On average I have at least two meetings per week with individuals from the church community. These meetings often last much longer than a typical business lunch, and often involve hearing their stories and holding space for their deep emotions. It's not always grief and sadness though, as I have also been able to celebrate the joys of those who reach out to share.

Much of my personal volunteer time is expended at the Presbytery. I am one of the co-moderators of the Committee on Ministry for the West Bay and serving on the Mission, Vision, and Leadership Committee, what used to be called the Presbytery Council.

I said that these were all part of the duties of an Interim Pastor. They are. But actually, these are really the duties of a church pastor. Now I may not answer emails as quickly as some people expect, and I don't like after-hours texts, and it is true that I try to take Fridays and Saturdays off,

(continued on page 3)

From Pastor Don (*continued from page 2*)

but I understand my obligation to be available, anytime, day or night for pastoral emergencies. I have endeavored to keep both healthy and clear boundaries while (hopefully) not appearing to be aloof or unapproachable. While some don't want to invest too much into 'temporary pastor,' I've tried to authentically live into my call to walk with you as your teaching elder and I can't do my job without investing in you. Oh, and I almost forgot: Each week I write the liturgy, coordinate hymns choices, study the biblical text and then craft a sermon.

It's always a little awkward to look at our church budget and see the largest expense is me. I hope that my efforts to learn, sustain, lead, and grow the ministry here at PCC have been successful, but more importantly that in my time with you, I hope that you found me to be a pastor worthy of your support. As you consider your Stewardship plans for the coming season, if nothing else, I hope you can appreciate what I try to bring to the table.

With thanks for you and all you give to the church.

Blessings,
Pastor Don



Sunday, Feb 6 - Workshop with Rev. Leslie Veen
Saturday, Feb 26 - Mission Study Town Hall
Sunday, Feb 27 - Celebrate Gifts of Women Worship
March 2 - Ash Wednesday
March 6 - First Sunday in Lent
April 10 - Palm Sunday, Start of Holy Week
April 17 - Easter Sunday

M&E and W&N meetings on the first Tuesday of the month
English Commission on the third Tuesday of the month.

Our **English Resource Committee** provides oversight, support and administration of the budget and finances, communications, membership rolls and stewardship for our English worshipping community. Along with the Building and Finance committee of the Session, we are actively engaged in the facility maintenance, security and space utilization of our building. Our resources include volunteers and leadership, working together to support our mission and ministry.

Your donations, gifts and pledges continue to support our pastor's salary, worship, mission-driven programs, the church building and the work of the church.

The church building did not sit idle these past 2 years:

- We continue to house the food pantry every Saturday (even through the pandemic), we also provided space for the Cameron House summer youth programs. The pastors continue to have access to their offices and the church building. The sanctuary continues to stream and record our worship services.
- 3 Automated External Defibrillators (AED) were purchased and installed in each of our floors.
- COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies and storage cabinets are in place on each of our floors.
- Because of a failure to some of the solar panel micro inverters, replacements were installed under warranty.
- There was an upgrade to data & internet service to improve video streaming of worship services
- We had received and installed donated security cameras in and around our church building.
- We also upgraded our security system to state of the art.
- New locks were installed for our front and side gates.
- Our building crew did some important maintenance to the exterior of the building.
- We had purchased a new freezer to replace the one that failed in the kitchen
- A COVID-19 grant from the Presbytery of San Francisco was given to the church to purchase 5 air purifiers, a high definition camera and updated equipment for video streaming.
- Earlier in 2020, we had purchased and updated the main projector in the sanctuary.
- We also received donations of couple of pianos, a wheelchair, file cabinets and a clothing rack.
- During the pandemic we had an inspection of church premises by a Church Mutual risk control consultant, our insurer – which help us identify deficiencies that needed correction.
- And lastly, our custodians continue their once a month clean up.

Serving with me on this year's Resource Committee are Wayne Eng, Stuart Go, Jackie Jew, Terry Leong, Liane Leong, Winchell Quock and Rev. Don Hammond.

David Soohoo

Minute for Stewardship

by Winchell Quock

Who manages the finances in your household?

Did you know that your Presbyterian Church in Chinatown has 4 different treasurers and 4 different budgets?

First, there is the general church operating budget, also known as the Session budget, whose treasurer is David Soohoo. That budget manages the common fund, which pays for building fire and liability insurance, utilities and water, janitorial services, heating and ventilation, elevator maintenance, and the internet service needed to ensure we have the bandwidth to reliably stream our worship services each week. It also is paying-off the ten year loan for our solar panels, which now is in year five. This common budget is funded by an assessment of \$435.00 per active member from each of the 3 worshipping communities. David also forwards your \$38 per capita (membership tax) to Presbytery each year.

Each of the three worshipping communities has its own budget, and own treasurer. I am the appointed treasurer for the EWC. I work with and report to the Resource Committee and your Commission to formulate and monitor the budget. I am happy to report that the the English Worshipping Community's finances are in good shape for the current year. We are ready for what the calling of a new pastor and new programs may require going forward. 52% of the budget is for Pastor Don's salary package, 22% to common fund assessment. and 10% is donated to community organizations like San Francisco Night Ministry, Pipit Fund, Cameron House, Safehouse, and to Mission Funds of General Assembly, Presbytery and Synod. The balance is for committee and program expenses. During the pandemic we are receiving your offerings through the internet and by snail-mail. Those who still prefer offering envelopes will be receiving them again before the year ends. In January, I will mail out your annual contribution summary. Please contact me if you have any questions about our Church finances.

Thank you for all the ways you contribute to support the church community.

主在聖殿中 ...

(The English translation follows this page)

2020-2021這兩個年份是困倦、憂傷、受損的代表。全球國家都整體因大流行的疫情受著影响；先是肺炎病毒，之後Delta，現在是Omicron變種病毒，也叫我們不要掉以輕心。

本會曾因病毒疫情嚴峻，教會崇拜和各項活動也停擺了兩年，三堂信徒只可活躍於網絡線上，未能分享實體的肢體互動。去年中旬，教會成立了安全小組，以規劃如何恢復實體崇拜，經多月來的討論計劃，遂決議十一月起重啟實體崇拜。

粵語崇拜於去年十一月廿一日(第三主日)舉行：「慶祝感恩節」崇拜，以當天讓信徒可以實實在在的，在聖堂敬拜上帝，再次體驗經歷聖靈的臨在。因有了好的開始，之後數週前來敬拜的粵語信徒，平均出席率約二十至廿五人，領受聖餐約廿人。

尤於疫情不斷出現變種，不少信徒仍然擔心不幸染疫，心存懼怕病毒：粵語事工委員會決定，並以視頻直播每週主日崇拜，幫助信徒及慕道朋友一同參與我們的敬拜。

一月十六日(基督顯現後第二主日)，我們在主日崇拜中一併舉行按立長老聖禮。已信主廿多年的黃雄斌弟兄，信主十餘年的袁妹妹將成為粵語堂新一代的長老；由簡思恩牧師主禮，歷任長老們共同襄禮，當天出席者甚眾，一起見證主恩。

「主在聖殿中」，一個常言道的句子，但其意義恆久提醒信徒們，不要放棄敬拜主事奉上帝，「你們不可習慣停止聚會，好像那些停止慣了的人，倒要彼此勸勉，既知道(看見)那日子臨近，就更當如此」。 - 希伯來書十25

"The Lord Is In His Holy Temple"

by Rev. Ronnie Kaan

2020 – 2021 are the most difficult years for the whole world, affected seriously by the COVID-19 pandemic. With the Pneumonia virus, then Delta, and now the Omicron variant, we are reminded to take more precautions in our daily lives.

Our church building has been closed for the last two years due to the severe epidemic. We have been worshipping and interacting with fellowship and with other activities online. Our church established a safety team last year in order to plan for the church re-opening. After months of discussion, it was decided to restart the in-person worship services for the three worshipping communities last November.

The Cantonese Worshipping Community restored its first physical worship services on November 21st (3rd Sunday). In the church, we celebrated Thanksgiving Day with participants worshipping God and experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit again. Since then, our average attendance every Sunday is 20 to 25 attendance; 20 church members participated in the monthly Holy Communion.

The Cantonese worshipping group also downloads its Sunday worship services to YouTube for people not able to join us in-person in church, and this also spreads the gospel to people in other places.

On Sunday, January 16th (the 2nd Sunday after the appearance of Christ), the Cantonese Committee held its new elder ordination ceremony in the church together with Holy Communion. The two newly ordained elders are Jason Huang, who has been a Christian for more than 20 years, and Amy Yuen who has been baptized over 10 years. They both have been serving actively in our church for many years. The ceremony was officiated by Rev. Kaan and participated by present and past elders. We had a total of 30 attendees that day to witness the ordination and the Lord's grace together.



2 new elders for class 2024



New elder ordination ceremony

"The Lord Is In His Holy Temple" (continued from page 7)

"The Lord Is In His Holy Temple" is an old saying, but reminds Christians constantly not to forget worshiping God and serving in the ministry of our church.

. ***"not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*** – Hebrews 10:25



Participants after church re-opening

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From Pastor Hao

親愛的弟兄姊妹,主內平安! 在中國新年來臨之際,我想和大家分享一些國語堂的好消息.在 2022 年這新的一年中,我們開始了靈修小組的活動,2-3 個家庭為一組,每一個星期會有 3-5 次的時間,大家通過網絡的方式聚在一起,目前因為疫情的緣故只能在網絡,以後我們希望能夠在會友的家庭中進行,成員在小組中會一起讀經與分享.通過小組的形式讓會友的聯絡更密切,靈修的生活能夠在彼此的建立中保持繼續,這是一項新的事工,我們期望這項新的事工能夠給國語堂帶來祝福.

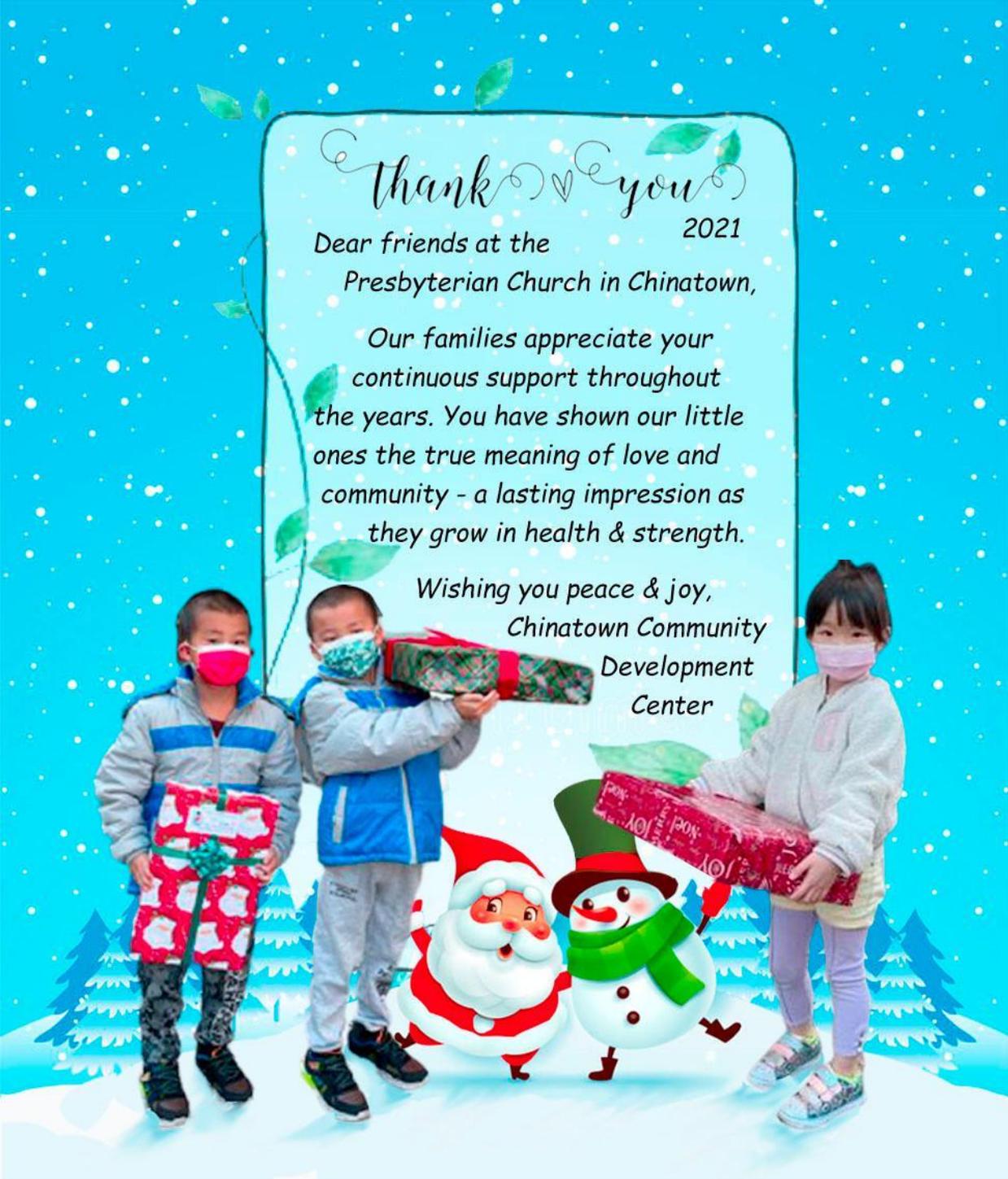
除此之外,國語堂的年輕人也可以進行團契聚會.在疫情的期間,我們幾乎停止了年輕人的團契聚會,也不知道什麼時候能夠重新開始,但是如今我們在會議中決定讓大家能夠開始回來,在團契中依然保持信仰,雖然現在我們的事工很受限制,也無法達到向外拓展的事工,但能夠重新開始我相信這對於國語堂的事工是一個好的現象.

最後,國語堂有一位會友即將被安立成為一位新上任的長老,她的名字是徐張彩鳳.實際上,去年她就已經成為了國語堂的長老,由於無法在教堂中按立,所以只做工,沒有舉行儀式,現今教堂已經開門,我們將會在 2 月初為她舉行長老按立的儀式.感謝主她願意參與到長老的隊伍中來,願上帝大大地使用她成為我們的祝福.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, peace in the Lord! As the Chinese New Year approaches, I would like to share some good news about the Mandarin worship service. We started an activity of the spiritual practice group: the goal is to read the Bible once in 2022. We have 2-3 families in a group and there will be 3-5 times a week to get together through the Internet. As you know, we can only do this online because of the COVID. Anyway, we hope to carry it out in the member's family. We usually read according to the Scriptures assigned and share together in the group. It is a new Ministry to have the members connect more closely in their groups, and their spiritual lives could continue in the establishment of each other. We hope this can bring blessings to our members.

In addition, the good news is that our young adults have restarted fellowship parties this year. We almost stopped during the COVID, and we didn't know when we could start again. We decided to return so that we could maintain our spiritual life in fellowship.

One last thing is that a member from the Mandarin Worshiping Community will call a new elder. Her name is Tesha Xu. She became an elder last year, but she was unable to be in the church, so she only worked; we did not hold a ceremony. Now the church is open, and we will hold a ceremony for her in early February. Thank the Lord for her willingness to participate in the team of elders. May God bless us through her beautiful life.



Thank you

Dear friends at the 2021
Presbyterian Church in Chinatown,

Our families appreciate your continuous support throughout the years. You have shown our little ones the true meaning of love and community - a lasting impression as they grow in health & strength.

*Wishing you peace & joy,
Chinatown Community
Development
Center*

Submitted by Jeanette Huie

In the last issue of *Good News for the Pews*, I requested responses to the question “What book has made an important impression on you?” Bio psychologists (is that a real thing?) say because of the way our brain processes and imagination takes in the written word differently from video, there’s a potential for strong lingering impressions. If this column became a regular part of *Good News for the Pews*, the sharing could be a good way to learn about each other, our experiences, and our faith.

I read *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* as told to Alex Haley during my senior year of high school. Every few years after, I would skim meaningful passages. Three takeaways stayed with me for years.

1) I mentioned I loved books when we had no TV for five years. Malcolm spent seven years in jail self-educating in the prison library. On release, he could debate politicians and be the national spokesperson for the Nation of Islam (a sect not to be confused with orthodox Islam) and later, his short lived Organization of Afro-American Unity. That impact maybe figures in why I want to create libraries in the Philippines.

2) At the time I was learning about faith at Cameron House, Malcolm describes how the Nation of Islam saved his life so he devoted his life to the cause. Because he was forced out by jealousy and hypocrisy his world was shattered, and he had to pick up the pieces of his faith and move forward. This taught both how faith can change us and to be cautious about authoritarian religion.

3) Malcolm’s concern for justice came across as an expression of his belief in One God. After his break with the Nation of Islam, before his murder, Malcolm was moving beyond civil rights to human rights and internationalism.

Maybe it rang a bell as at the time CH was exposing us to issues like the I Hotel, the farm workers grape boycott, missionaries from war-torn Lebanon and the Vietnam war draft. From his book I learned beliefs and life evolves.

A quick word for *Prayers* by Fr. Michel Quoist, which I also ran across in high school at CH. Whenever I want a thin book for meditative reading, I pack this. His prayers in every day language (years before Malcolm Boyd’s *Are You Running With Me, Jesus?*) on both daily issues, stages of discipleship, and Crucifixion week, still speak to me after 50 years.

2021 Cookie Project

by Nancy Chee

It is hard to believe 2021 has passed by so quickly and that many of us have still not seen each other in-person as a result of another year covered under the COVID pandemic. It continues to be a challenging time for all of us and in trying to adapt to this ever changing environment.



< Baking Again!

Yummy Cookies >



In staying to “normal” as possible, we have successfully pulled off another year of the Cookie Project. As early as November, a few people had asked whether we would be doing this again. Within two days of sending a message to bakers, I had received 16 positive responses. I think people were ready to fire up their ovens for this project. We had a total of 24 bakers of which four were new first time bakers to the project. Each baker was asked to make 3 dozen cookies.



Cookie Packing



Cookie Bags

2021 Cookie Project *(continued from page 12)*

That comes out to 864 cookies (give or take a few extras). The top favorite baked cookies had chocolate chips (9 types) and so many others like sesame, peppermint pinwheels, lemon snow drops and fruit cake cookies. Thanks so much to our community of amazing bakers!

Our greeting card this year was inspired by a Christmas tree ornament and put together by a small crew of crafts ladies from our community (thank you to Jojo, Kathy and Norma). Cookie bags and additional bags with handles were also decorated to make handling and delivery safe and easier.

For God So Loved the World >



A shout out to the Deacons who have worked tirelessly through the year in caring for our community. Spear headed by Jackie, they helped to put together the list of 36 recipients, those in our community who have been faced with challenges, illnesses and loss this year (and there were so many). Deacons and Deacons+ made visits during the week of Christmas, delivering the cookies bags and bringing the message of care and that recipients were remembered. Additionally three cookies bags were mailed beyond our delivery area (thanks to USPS).

A note of thanks from one of our recipients:

Dear Friends:

Your gift of prayers have healed and given me strength. I am able to walk, to drive and participate in Taichi practice.

God so loved the world that he/she created wonderful bakers like each of you. Many thanks for your beautiful gift of prayers and the delicious cookies.

May your 2022 be a year of love and giving. Let's share joy together.

Carolyn Gee

(continued on page 14)



2021 Cookie Project (continued from page 13)



< Chris and Al

> Jeanette



JoAnn >



Thank you to everyone for sharing a little love, and joy to others through this Cookie Project. Sharing is not just about one season but is in what we all can do each day. If the opportunity comes, practice a small act of random kindness.

Wishing you all safety and good health as we venture through 2022 and prayers with the hope that we can once again see each other in-person.

Peace always, Nancy

I am a proud 3rd generation Presbyterian Church in Chinatown member! I was born into the PCC community to parents SuLee and Nathan Tom, and grandfather Elder Henry S. Tom. As a covenant kid, PCC has always had a place in my life and heart. Baptized as an infant, I was confirmed in 1982 at PCC. Anthony, my husband of 26½ years, was baptized as an adult at PCC and has always fully supported and enabled me to answer God’s calls. Our daughter Mikayla, and son Justin, were both baptized as infants at PCC, another generation of PCC “members”. So PCC is very much my home church.



I greatly appreciate and take full advantage of attending service weekly via zoom now, but I cannot imagine my life today if that was an option growing up. I remember a stretch of time when my family went to church at PCC about once a month. For me, “going to church” at PCC from Hayward included a couple of quarters tossed down the chute of the Bay Bridge toll booth, ducking my head going through the Treasure Island tunnel, watching seagulls “fly backwards” while on the bridge (the car moved faster than the birds flew, creating the backward illusion), and smelling the Hills Bros. coffee, and seeing the time on the Union 76 clock tower (*were we going to be on time?*) as we got off the bridge. PCC was where I saw numerous “Aunties” and “Uncles”. The sanctuary was dim, and the pews and wooden chairs on the sides were hard. Sunday school was in the basement with partitions. The black middle double handrail of the church’s front steps was there to slide down. Lunch was Golden Phoenix shredded chicken chow mein and dry black bean beef chow fun, Sun Hung Heung hung toa yee foo wonton, Sam Wo guern fun and raw fish salad, Far East pork hash with salted fish, or Louie’s (2nd floor) dim sum. A pie was bought from Sun Wah Kue, bok tong go from Eastern Bakery, or some candy from the corner of Clay Street and Grant Avenue. An elevator was taken down to the car parked at Portsmouth Square. These are the “church days” I recall... and the beginning of my strong sense of connection to the SF Chinatown community in which the three generations of my family before me called home. PCC is where my Chinese American sensibilities and sense of a church family were first awakened.

Like many before and after me, my faith journey and commitment to serving others began on the typical trajectory of Cameron House involvement throughout elementary, middle-, high-school and college. The physical journey into Chinatown was less about the sights above water that I relished as a young child and more of the BART ride, worrying about who was going to sit next to me and hoping to not get stuck in the tube under water. At that time, devotions were a given component of daycamp and club, both learning and leading. Sundays meant convocations in Culbertson Hall, church school lessons in various club rooms, teaching church school as a club leader, an occasional inclusion at the PCC “adult” English service, and Kam Lok (“Basement”) tomato beef chow mein, Gourmet Kitchen fried chicken wings, and “Happy Man” steamed bao. *(continued on page 16)*

Heidi (Tom) Wong *(continued from page 15)*

During my youth and college-age/young adult years, my foundational faith and Chinese American identity were firmly laid through being physically, socially, and emotionally connected to SF Chinatown and the PCC/CH community. The conversations with and actions of faith of my many leaders, pastors, aunties, uncles, friends, and family members all greatly influenced my sense of servanthood.

I was on the CH Board of Directors from 1989-1994 and 2005-2011 and served as Board President from 2006-2011 (including chairing the Strategic Planning Committee, Healing Arts Project Task Force, and Executive Transition Team). I was ordained and first installed as an elder of PCC in 1990 (overlapping my first stint on the CH Board), serving on the Mission & Evangelism and Personnel Committees, as well as the 2006 Envisioning Task Force and other ad hoc committees/task forces over the decades. For the past 30 years, I have worked for nonprofit organizations whose missions are to empower and/or enhance the lives of vulnerable communities, with most agencies specifically serving Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Since 2016, I have been connected to [Family Bridges, Inc.](#), a 53+ year nonprofit multi-social service agency in Oakland Chinatown. In 2019, I joined the staff and have been serving as the Program Director of the programs I helped establish – an enhanced care management and care coordination program for Medi-Cal recipients, a 24/7 residential emergency shelter for houseless individuals, and a community ambassador program. I have the privilege of supervising numerous men who were incarcerated as youth and released within the past 4 years from San Quentin State Prison. These men are genuinely committed to being of service; they are dedicated to the safety, vibrancy, and well-being of our clients and the community; and they effectively instill hope. I believe that God called me to bear witness and be a student of their compassion that knows no bounds. For it is through these gentle and big-hearted men that I have gained a deeper appreciation and profound understanding of what it means to serve others with grace and gratitude, empathy and generosity, and dignity and respect.

So, all in God's time. And the time has arrived. It is with a heart full of gratitude and inspiration that I have accepted God's call to again serve as an active elder. I look forward to discovering God's plan for me in this role, the English Commission, this worshipping community, and PCC at large. And I will do my best to serve faithfully and compassionately.

Eunice Bejar-Lee, Deacon



My paternal grandma passed away many years ago, and I inherited her diabetes disease. As I age, the shape of my body, big belly and hips are exactly the same as I remember Lola Mercedes. I'm a physical replica of my grandma as I get older. What happened to my mother's gene? Oh yes, I got thyroid cancer, got both thyroids removed exactly like my mother. I'm an exact replica. The gene we get is what we are.

I remember growing up at the UCCP-Headquarter in Manila, as my mother used to work in the front desk office, just like Ms. Leona and Ms. Mary at Cameron House, while she studied at night at Normal College. My father traveled to Union Theological Seminary to complete his Divinity Degree. I played near my mother's desk and remembered seeing so many bishops, ministers, deacons from all over the Philippines who came for conferences and church business.

After my father was ordained we moved to Cavite to serve UCCP- Malagasang, I remember my father prepared and wrote sermons. I remember the sound of the typewriter clicking, the pressing of the keys, and the hammering of the lever to move to the next line. I saw how he kept rewinding the ribbon before it got to the end. As a child, I was so happy, as he gave me the old ribbons to play with.

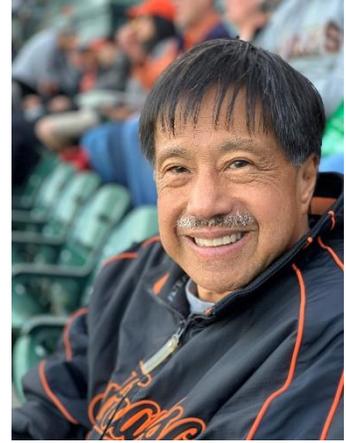
I was not happy when my mother forced me to take piano and organ lessons or join the church choir. She said one day you'll help with the liturgy and church choir. I remember I helped so many times preparing communion elements: tiny glasses with Julep juice, and cutting small pieces of pandesal bread. I loved helping prepare snacks and distributing them to children after church school; then we played outside while the service starts. I always sat in a front pew for the service to hear my father's sermon and my mother play the organ as we sang *In the Garden* and *Mansion Over the Hilltop*. I remember our parish home being like an office for church members who came for prayers and counseling.

I saw how both my parents served the congregation. At that time, I grew up in the church with little understanding why my parents did what they did. I guess we have little choice when we are summoned and called to serve. When our Father called and said "Come follow me, you PK, you're born in it." -- "Lord, the Holy Spirit moved me. I'm humbled you called me, and I'm ready to serve".

--- Eunice

Terry Chan Deacon 2022

I was born and raised in San Francisco attending Spring Valley and Visitacion Valley Elementary School, Marina Middle School and Lowell High School. After obtaining my Mathematics degree at UC Davis in 1975, I attended Southern California College of Optometry graduating in 1979. I have been in private practice for over 42 years.



I was introduced to PCC and Cameron House through the Wong family (Kenley, Kelby, Kimball & Audrey). Dayton Leong was one of my Sunday School teachers. One of my earliest memories where I felt a special connection to PCC was the day I was walking through Cameron House and was reading about our church history in the club level hallway. I realized I was born 100 years to the date of PCC's anniversary. That thought always had a special place in my heart and was instrumental in my faith journey.

I did learn about Jesus while attending the Cameron House program where summer service and activities at Cameron House connected us to the Presbyterian Church. I was baptized in 1970.

During my Optometry School years, I was able to reconnect with David Kono and together with Elliot Huey served as youth leaders at Wintersburg Presbyterian Church. Being away from the "comforts" of home, I became challenged in different ways. I discovered studying the bible and expressing love of Jesus openly connected service through action. I was thankful to be able to ask bible questions to Brad Woo who was attending Seminary at the same time. I was able to share the "emotional" side of loving Jesus with members of my Cameron House club and our church.

In 1983 I was ordained an Elder at PCC. In 1984, Norma & I got married and together served our church in various ways. We have two wonderful children, Liane & Chris, who also have had the chance to grow up with our church family as well as at Cameron House.

I was able to serve through teaching College bible study and High School fellowship. I've also served many years as a basketball coach and coordinating CCU/CROWN basketball for our Church.

In December 2021 I hired a full time associate in my practice and will be going part time in 2022. I still love running, playing basketball, and have picked up playing pickleball recently.

I do feel blessed and am looking forward to serve as Deacon.

MY STATEMENT OF FAITH? – Living the Question



This journey started in my early youth and continues into my 86th year of life. Growing up #4 in a family of 7 kids I was left alone a lot. I read a lot and listened to the radio hearing Bible stories about King Nebuchadnezzar and the Tower of Babel. A friend took me to the Presbyterian Mission Home at 144 Wetmore St. where Miss Mae Wong told us Bible stories about Jesus and the disciples. I was fascinated by the flannel-graph-backed paper cut-out figures she used on the cloth-covered easel to tell her stories.

The Presbyterian Board of National Missions decided to start its work again in 1947 by relocating back to 920 Sacramento Street with a youth program and social services department. FSDW, the Presbyterian *Faith & Life* curriculum and many seminarians taught classes on Christianity and leadership development. Through their teachings and examples, the seeds of Christian faith were planted and nurtured in me.

Several years of service as a club leader and church school teacher taught me leadership skills that have carried me throughout my working career and service in church. I was baptized and joined the church in 1951.

Balancing parenthood, working in retail and serving as ordained elder and deacon for several years were both fulfilling and frustrating. Living through the terrible fights/splits within the church, the revelation of clergy abuse, and grappling with the worries/woes of rebuilding/construction of our new building stressed me out and tested my faith. Somehow, these trying times were when I questioned God the most—why, how come you let this happen? “God works in mysterious ways” is really hard to understand!

Since Dave’s untimely death in 2018 and Al’s illness/death in 2020 just as the COVID -19 pandemic started, I experienced a loss that is both deep and numbing. Sometimes I feel such a great emptiness, I wonder why God left me drifting. Rediscovering and re-reading the books of Harvey Cox, Marcus Borg, Matthew Fox and John Spong, I have found some relief and assurance of different ways to think about faith issues and how we do church in the near future. Unfortunately, timing and patience depend on many unknowns on how we fulfill the ways of bringing good news of Jesus to everyone.

I’m not sure what I believe but “know” that the way I live is to continue to serve as a deacon again and look for answers to the question: “What does the Lord require of me?”

(Revised version from March 2021)

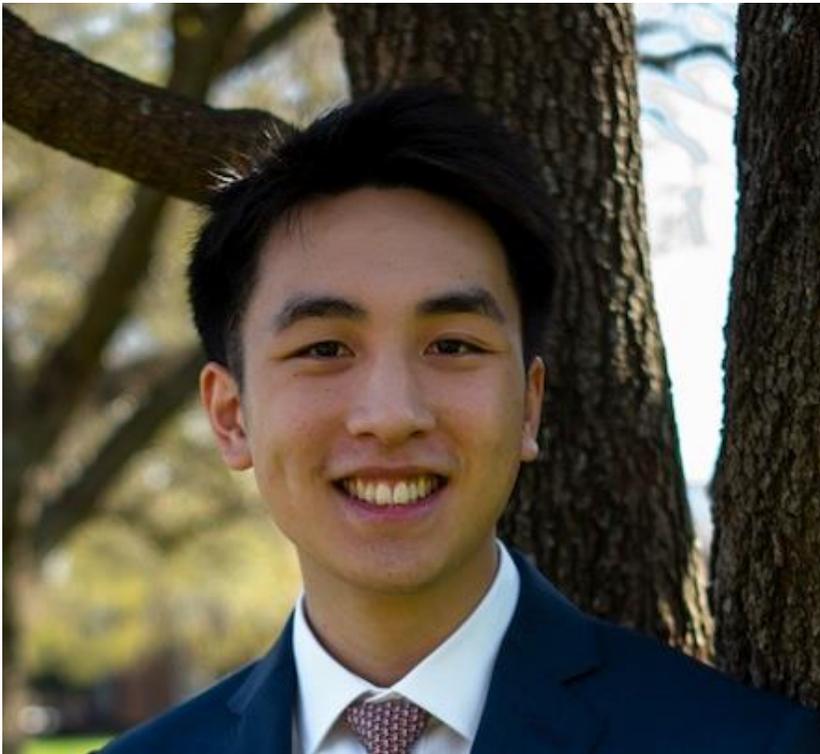
Shar Hall

Max Hum, Deacon

For as long as I can remember and even longer than that, I have been coming to PCC with my grandparents, Mei and George Yee, parents Ed and Belinda Hum, and siblings Alex and Samantha Hum. For 23 years now, I have felt that my relationship with the church has been fairly one-sided. When I was younger, I would walk through the doors on Stockton and be greeted warmly by Auntie Nancy, Auntie Pat, and Auntie Marie. At TeaTime, Uncle Stewart would shake my hand while asking about my week while Uncle Keith and Uncle Dayton would ask me when the next time I would be free to go play a round or go fishing. On top of this, it was my church family who was there for my family and myself when my grandfather's health declined and when he ultimately passed.

When Auntie Mary initially asked me if I would be willing to become a deacon, I was initially hesitant. I had no experience, and I had just returned from college with unclear plans for the coming years. She urged me to pray on it, however, and to “see if maybe God is calling” me at this time. I thought back to everything our church has done for the Chinatown community throughout the years and couldn't see my hands on any of it. With the help of God, I decided that regardless of what my future holds, I wanted to do my best to serve the community that raised me. If I am to be an effective leader and member a few more years down the line, I ought to start somewhere.

With such a rich history of service in San Francisco and a worship that preaches a refreshing inclusion, I feel that there is no better time to serve as a deacon. I have the energy and a willingness to learn, so I am looking forward to growing closer to PCC and the Lord during my term!



One of our members recently asked why we address God in different ways at the start of the Lord's Prayer in our English worship service at PCC. Why don't we just use the traditional "Our Father" like many other churches do?

A brochure from the Presbyterian Mission Agency entitled "Well-Chosen Words" echoes the actions of the PCUSA general assembly in stating the importance of the words we use as we build the beloved community of believers. It says "Using inclusive and expansive language is one way to acknowledge and celebrate all people and bring recognition and a sense of belonging to people who have been historically marginalized."

Each of us experiences God in our own way. Some of us see a protector in God, like our own fathers protected us. But others, may experience the nurturing aspect of God, like our own mothers nurtured us. Others experience the magnificence of God's creation of us and the world around us. Using a single term for God can make some people feel that their experience of God is somehow invalid.

And, images of our own parents may differ dramatically. Some may have been abused by their fathers. How can they experience our loving God as a father when their experience with their own father is so tainted. What if their mother was unable to nurture them in a way we all expect. We don't want them to miss the experience of the loving and nurturing presence of God because they associate the word mother with their own negative experience with their mother.

In our community, the Worship & Nurture committee and the English commission have chosen to start the Lord's Prayer with four options to allow people to choose an image that has meaning for them and to remind us all of the expansive nature of God that doesn't fit easily into one image based on our earthly existence.

In addition to "Our Father", "Our Mother", "Our Creator," we offer the suggestion of using an Aramaic word used by Jesus – "Abwoon". The Aramaic language infuses words with lots of imagery. As Neil Douglas-Klotz writes, "The ancient Middle Eastern root *ab* refers to all fruit, all germination proceeding from the source of Unity. This root came to be used in the Aramaic word for personal or spiritual father—*abba*, ... but its root does not specify a gender and could be translated *divine parent*."¹

As you say the Lord's Prayer, think about your experience of God. Choose a word that has meaning for you. And, if you have experienced God in a variety of ways, use a different word each week.

¹ From *Prayer of the Cosmos* by Neil Douglas-Klotz

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation

by Jeanette Huie



Dear Women's Fellowship,

Wow! We were blown away by the socks and gift cards you donated for distribution on the streets. This is a powerful group!!

We hope to use the gift cards for giving out to folks in need for a special event coming up. Just in time!

Thank you also for keeping Night Ministry and the folks we serve in your minds and hearts. Rev. Trent Thornley ❤️

Women's Fellowship met outdoors on a rain-free December day to make Christmas cards for seniors in Chinatown, many of whom live alone and feel isolated. We thank everyone at PCC who contributed gift cards and warm socks to the SF Night Ministry. The 80 pairs of socks and nearly \$200 worth of gift cards were delivered directly to Rev. Trent Thornley at the Night Ministry's office on Franklin Street. To learn more about SF Night Ministry and volunteer opportunities, visit www.sfnightministry.org.

The Mission & Evangelism Committee and other members of the English Worshiping Community met at St. Mary's Cathedral to cook meatloaf and broccoli casserole for 55 homeless men and women. The Winter Shelter program is a project of the San Francisco Interfaith Council that operates November-March. Various churches offer their building as a temporary shelter for two-four weeks at a time. Then other churches, like PCC, volunteer to prepare dinner. The funds to



(continued on page 23)

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation *(continued from page 22)*

purchase the food comes out of the M&E budget except for the mashed potatoes and gravy which were donated by The Sequoias and the cupcakes which were homemade by EWC members. While we were serving this meal, one homeless woman picked up her plate of hot food and expressed her gratefulness with tears.



Eradicating Poverty, one of the goals of being a Matthew 25 congregation, can be overwhelming. Yet there are different ways that we can respond and if we all do a little, it will add up.

As we saw firsthand, our meatloaf dinner made a big difference to the teary-eyed woman and to all that were seeking shelter that night at the St. Mary's shelter.



For more information about the Mission & Evangelism Committee, contact Ed Chin or Pastor Don.