



Good News for the Pews

November 2020

A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

Issue No. 25

From Pastor Don

When I was interviewing with the Commission to be your interim pastor (in what seems like a long time ago) one of the expectations of the position was that I would keep the connection between PCC and the Presbytery of San Francisco open. As it happens I have always thought that volunteering with the Presbytery was a healthy and regular activity that pastors should try to engage. When I was a member of SF Presbytery years ago I was a member of Finance and Property Oversight Committee. When I moved to Boston, I was nominated very quickly to be on Boston's Committee on Ministry (COM). When I moved to Long Island Presbytery, I was nominated to be on their COM. It wasn't long after I moved back to the Bay Area that I was again nominated to COM here. It just so happens that I really enjoy serving on COM. There is something about interim work that I think lends itself to COM service.

Now, as it happened, after a few months I was elected as the Co-Moderator of the West Bay COM. I serve with Ruling Elder Betty Delaney from Ingleside Presbyterian Church, and we work together to moderate West Bay. We serve on the Executive Committee of COM with our East Bay colleague, Elder Roland Peterson. From there I was appointed to serve as the COM representative to the Presbytery's Mission, Vision, and Leadership committee, which would once have been called the Presbytery Council. It

is there that members of the Presbytery at large, and representatives of various standing committees, work with the Presbytery staff on strategic plans, as well as mission, visioning, and leading. What was one simple volunteer assignment has become rather more complex.

There are some notable changes happening at Presbytery. After Rev. Jeff Hutcheson, the Executive Presbyter, or Pastor for Mission and Vision, announced his resignation last February, there has been a significant shift in the presbytery staff model. We currently have a transitional model where Rev. Hutcheson's duties have been recast into three different people. We now have a tripartite model, with Rev. InHo Kim, Rev. Leonard Nielson, and Jennifer Sacramento Streett, each being the Presbytery Partner for Congregational Vitality and Clergy Support; Mission and Church Assets; and Operations and Presbytery-wide Communications, respectively. It may be that by May or June of 2021 this new model will be made permanent. There are many opinions, as there always are in presbyteries, some about process, some about function, some about goals. But regardless of those opinions, this new model represents a significant change. A change in leadership that goes far beyond just filling a vacancy with a new person. Myself, I'm not ready to share my thoughts about the change

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From Pastor Don *(continued from page 1)*

(because I want more data) but being a transitional minister, I am certainly intrigued by the boldness of the shift. My ministry for the last 6½ years has been all about how institutions navigate change and make new decisions, so this is kind of like catnip to me!

Another significant change at the Presbytery has been efforts to engage in the Matthew 25 initiative of the PC(USA). If you go to the Presbytery's Website you'll see two banners along the top of your screen: one that reads "PSF Anti-Racism And Justice Response" and underneath that "PSF COVID-19 Response." The shorthand Matthew 25 refers to an invitation for churches, mid-councils, and other groups within the denomination to act on Jesus's words from Matthew 25:31-46 and "calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor."

Our Presbytery has focused intently on the task of dismantling structural racism, specifically within our own structures: who leads, how committees are organized, and how they fulfill their mandates. It has been interesting to see the responses to the call to engage in anti-racism work. I have been paying attention to who is stepping forward, and who is hanging back. Our Presbytery has 68 congregations and about 10,000 members. Demographical, the Presbytery does not reflect the diversity of the four counties within its geographic boundary. Certainly

power and money are concentrated in the large, mostly white, suburban churches. I have to say that I am certainly more aware of that because I serve this majority Asian-(mostly, but not exclusively Chinese-) American congregation. It has been a remarkable season of growth for me to serve this community that matches my faith and my politics, but not my culture.

As we move forward in our Presbytery to live into our call to be a Matthew 25 mid-council, and as we grapple with the issues of these days, I would like to invite anyone and everyone to take a look at what the Presbytery is trying to engage in. Look at the Presbytery's website

<https://www.presbyteryofs.org>). Also, if you want to learn more about the Matthew 25 invitation, check out the PC(USA) website (<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>). Changes are afoot! And with God's help, we can participate with our sisters and brothers in Christ to responding to Christ's call as written in the Gospel of Matthew.

Yours in service to Jesus Christ,
Pastor Don

MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE TSURU FOR SOLIDARITY PROJECT

by Jeanine Lim

You may recall that before the pandemic, Ruth Sasaki and Clinton Huey of Tsuru for Solidarity came to PCC and made a teatime presentation. Tsuru for Solidarity is a project working to end detention sites, and support front-line immigrant and refugee communities that are being targeted by racist, inhumane immigration policies. Tsuru for Solidarity stands on the moral authority of Japanese Americans who suffered the legacy of U.S. concentration camps during WWII and who declare, “Stop Repeating History!”

At the teatime presentation, we were invited to participate in the nationwide effort to fold “tsuru” (“cranes,” in Japanese), as a sign of peace and healing. In Japanese culture, the crane symbolizes a hope for peace. The cranes we fold today are expressions of solidarity and support for children, families and communities who are under attack.



The initial goal of Tsuru for Solidarity was to collect 125,000 origami cranes, signifying the number of Japanese Americans who were unjustly incarcerated during WWII. As of May, more than 213,000 cranes had been folded and strung in 4' lengths. Tsuru for Solidarity thereafter set a new goal of collecting an additional 400,000 cranes, signifying the number of immigrants incarcerated annually.

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MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

TSURU FOR SOLIDARITY PROJECT *(continued from page 3)*

All the thousands of cranes will “take flight” at a pilgrimage to Washington D.C. in 2021 or 2022 (postponed from June 6-7, 2020, due to COVID-19). The cranes are currently being used during special events, such as the recent 75th commemoration of the Hiroshima/Nagasaki bombings.



Your Mission & Evangelism Committee set a goal of folding and stringing 500 cranes. This was a good activity to do while sheltering-in-place. While folding a crane is a multi-step process and a little bit complicated, after folding the first few cranes, your muscle memory clicks in. Folding a crane is satisfying: a simple piece of paper becomes a thing of beauty and a symbol of peace.



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MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE TSURU FOR SOLIDARITY PROJECT *(continued from page 4)*

During the months of June and July, several PCC members folded and folded. Our volunteers thereafter gathered the cranes and strung them into 4' lengths. Eighteen strings, composed of 720 individual cranes were delivered to one of the co-chairpersons of Tsuru for Solidarity on August 1. Tsuru Co-Chairperson Nancy Ukai expressed her gratitude to the many faith communities which have folded and donated cranes, and thanks the members of PCC for our contribution.



The Mission & Evangelism acknowledges and appreciates all of the “folders” and “stringers” for helping us complete this successful project. Thanks to all!

In the book, *The Presbyterian Deacon*, authored by Earl S. Johnson Jr, he describes the role of the Deacons.

“It is a ministry of caring, a ministry of love, a ministry of compassion, and a ministry of prayer. Traditionally, deacons are people persons. Their hearts go out to those in distress; to members who have suffered loss; to neighbors in the hospital; to friends who have lost their jobs; to new parents who are confused by a wonderful, sudden, and challenging change in the responsibilities of life; to new members who need a word of welcome; to members who are shut in and lonely and cannot leave their homes; to people in the community who have lost their way and can no longer find God; to those who are economically oppressed and do not have adequate places to live or enough to eat – to any people who need to experience the love of Christ in concrete ways.

When Shelter-in-Place was mandated that resulted in a never-experienced rippling impacts on our lifestyle, our gatherings, our physical interactions, our normal routines, our livelihood and our worship, the Deacons started to actualize our role more intentionally as described earlier.

Pastor Don recommended that Deacons establish an organized process and a concerted effort to contact everyone on our English Worshipping Community roster. Two key areas were the focus:

First: Confirm awareness of the logistical changes that took effect at PCC. That

1. we were worshipping online, not at church, and answer any questions on how you would be informed on a regular basis via weekly email communications, or information on our PCC website, and how you could connect remotely.
2. How you could continue to send in your offering, by mail or electronically
3. if you showed up at PCC for worship or meetings, you would be turned away for safety reasons

Second: For Deacons to provide pastoral care

We wanted to be the listening ear, the compassionate heart and the supportive and helping hand to let you, both young and old, know, in this unprecedented time, that the Deacons and Pastor Don were there for you, to see how you were doing and feeling, what was concerning you, where can we be of assistance, and whether you wanted a pastoral call by Pastor Don or a Deacon and was there anything, we, as your community, can do for you. We wanted you to be comfortable in sharing, confiding and praying together to trust in the assuring and comforting love of our graceful God; and, what was shared be held in confidentiality and only shared with your approval. Also, that concerns could be sent confidentially to the englishdeacons@pccsf.org email address for a Deacon to pick up and share so that Deacons could lift up prayers within their group or during worship and in the Ragsheet, if approval obtained from you.

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Stewardship Minute for the Deacons *(continued from page 6)*

And bless those, whom I'll mentioned at the end, who heard about this effort and stepped up to the plate to assist the Deacons in this calling and connecting effort.

Prior to SIP, Pam coordinated a meal schedule delivery for Al and Shar Hall during Al's illness and similarly for Bruce and Doreen Der-McLeod after Bruce's bike accident injury. Blanket or quilts with well-wishes written by English worshipping community were hand-made for Bruce and Alan and Rachel Wong.

With SIP extending much longer than expected, the Deacons met with Rev. Chinen, of the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church to find out more information and their process regarding their Compassion Fund to meet the hardship needs of their worshipping congregation, as we were equally interested in doing something similar to see where we can be of assistance to our three Worshipping Communities during the SIP. After several months of brainstorming, documenting, editing and re-editing, our Compassion Fund process and documentation will be reviewed by the English Commission later today for communication and implementation. So, more to come in the next few weeks.

And before SIP, Deacons did handle the logistical and housekeeping things that you might or might not be aware of, but less so, given SIP in effect until it's lifted: Coordinating ushers, tea-time treats and Birthday cake celebrations, communion element set-up, clean-up duties in the kitchen after tea time, quarterly pot-luck meal together and other gatherings needing Deacon resources.

Pam still send cards to new members or members who haven't been around and, Happy Birthday e-Cards, thank you, congratulation related celebratory cards, and sympathy and get-well cards.

So, in your prayer to decide your pledging for 2021, know that a portion of your money is the extension of that get- well card, meals brought when we visit someone who's sick, celebrating a birthday with delicious cake, providing meals for someone who needs a helping hand or a hand-made blanket or quilt to express our worshipping community's well-wishes.

We are thankful for the dedication of the following Deacons: Pam Jang, Jackie Jew, Jeanine Lim, Irene Ng, Ruth Wu and myself. We are also thankful for those who volunteered to help the Deacons reach out to those in our worshipping community: Jo-Jo and Jerrick Woo, Pat Chan, Marie Chin, Wayne Eng, Diane Go, Norma Chan, Terry Chan – known as the 'Deacons Plus' group.

When the COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 by the World Health Organization, the Deacons felt an obligation to respond to the reports of illness, job and income loss, long lines at the Unemployment Office, food insecurity and inability to pay for rent.

The Deacons made a request of the English Commission for permission to create an emergency fund for the PCC and its community. The English Commission not only gave us permission, but also gave the start-up funds. As far as we know, there has never been an 'emergency fund' at our church. Therefore, we had to do quite a bit of studying and then discussing policy, guidelines, and organization.

The last few months have been used to write our thoughts about who can apply for funds, what the money can be used for, the process of application, as well as figuring out how to maintain strict confidentiality of those who may need to utilize the fund.

We decided to name this account the Deacons' Compassion Fund since deacons are called to a ministry of compassion, witness and service. The purpose of the Deacons' Compassion Fund is to give support to members of the PCC community who are lacking in money to pay for basic needs - such as food, transportation, medications, durable medical supplies, or housing. Once approved, a one-time gift will be given with no requirement for repayment. Of course, because there is a limited amount of money in the fund, and we would like to help as many people possible, the amount that we can give is also limited.

Although the English Commission granted us the start-up funds, the Deacons will be responsible for their own fund-raising in the future. Beginning with the 2021 offering envelopes, there will be a special envelope included in your offering boxes so you may make a direct donation or you may make an online donation specifying it's for the Deacons' Compassion Fund. Memorial funds may be directed to the funds and we may have an occasional fund raiser, especially if the funds are running low.

The English Commission granted the Deacons initial funding from some currently undesignated monies within the English budget. Those undesignated monies were from:

- Crèche Fund - with consent from donors Craig Lee and Cindy Lee Gong from the sale of their late parents' crèche collection. Their parents, Leona and John Lee, were both long time members of PCC.
- George Yee memorial funds – with consent of Mei Yee, and children Andrew Yee and Belinda Hum.
- Willard Eng memorial funds – with consent of Robin Eng and Shari Eng Phillips, Willard's siblings.
- Alfred Hall memorial funds – with consent of Sharlene Hall and daughter, Julie Rohrer.

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The Deacons' Compassion Fund *(continued from page 8)*

- Jewelry sale funds – money earned via the sales of jewelry, greeting cards, baked goods, and other crafts by the women of the PCC, with consent.

If you need financial assistance, please contact with one of the current English Deacons or any of the PCC pastors. The deacons are: Pam Jang, Jackie Jew, Ed Kam, Jeanine Lim, Irene Ng, and Ruth Wu. Your inquiry will be strictly confidential.

Thank you to the English Commission for their guidance and support of this project.

We hope you will never have a need to utilize the Deacons' Compassion Fund, but if you do, we are here for you.

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Minute on Stewardship, Personnel Committee

by Carl Jew

For this Minute on Stewardship and the diverse ministries of the English Worshiping Community, we focus on church personnel and our one and only member of the staff, Reverend Don Hammond. Earlier this year, Pastor Don agreed to participate in an experiment – to conduct the first formal evaluation of a minister since the English Worshiping Community formed 33 years ago.

As our first test case of performance review, Pastor Don compiled a 30-page portfolio that included samples of his teachings, writings and committee work. And 15 members of the congregation shared their personal testimonies of the pastor's impact on the community. After a review of the materials and congregational feedback, the English Commission and Pastor Don mutually agreed to extend the interim ministry contract for a second year through May 2021 – time enough to complete the mission study.

In a short period of time, Pastor Don has become an essential member and trusted spiritual leader of this community guiding us through these unprecedented and uncertain times. Here's an example of your testimony and I quote:

"I feel confident that Pastor Don can lead us with new vision into our future and in our search for a new pastor. Our community is not an easy one to understand and he has made a great effort to understand us."

Looking ahead to 2021, the Commission will be handing off the duties of pastoral evaluation to the Personnel Committee that will continue the work of creating a meaningful process of deep reflection and dialogue for our minister and worshiping community.

For these blessings and the ongoing work of the church, we give thanks to God.

I am representing the Nominating Committee. But I like to think of us as being a search team. Along with myself are the other committee members: Nancy Chee, Lianne Leong, Kathy Tong, Mary Wong Leong, and Pastor Don.

Our role is to search for PCC members who will fill the positions of Elders and Deacons, and Personnel and Nominating Committees. We meet once a month beginning in June. We look for members who would be a good fit. It is a wonderful feeling on our end when someone accepts our invitation. And also a disappointment when an invitation is declined.

- Have you been asked recently to serve as an Elder or a Deacon?
- Do you cringe when you are asked?
- Or do you feel it is an honor to be asked?
- Is your connection within our church community strong or weak?

Are you interested in getting to know others within our church community but do not know how to go about it?

Another way you can strengthen your bond within the church community is by joining one of the Committees within PCC. The committees are:

- . Mission and Evangelism
- . Worship and Nurture
- . Resource Committees
- . Building and Finance

You do not have to be a member to join one of these committees. You just need the passion to bring new ideas to the table.

Everyone has special gifts and talents. Do you have empowering gifts to be in an Elder or Deacon role or to be on a committee? The time is now to step up and be a leader and to be more involved with PCC's future. Life has changed and will continue to change during this pandemic. We ask you to pray. Pray that the spirit moves you to serve within the English Community.

Please keep an open mind the next time you are invited to serve. If you have any questions, please contact me or Pastor Don.

Blessings to you all; be well and safe. Thank you.

Resilience and Stewardship by David Soohoo

Resilience, as mentioned in one of Pastor Don's sermon, is the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties and change. An often used word in today's environment, it reminded me of recent challenges in the church's 168 year history that have tested our resilience and mission. Events like the Administrative Commission's decision to split our congregation into commissions, the changes of our pastoral leadership, a remodeling project of our church building that shifted our worship services and mission, a couple of fire incidents that impacted our ministry and now a global pandemic and wildfires keeping us from meeting and worshipping together. Having to face adversity and challenges, PCC continues its work and ministry in the community with faith in our God, the guidance of our Elders, Deacons, Pastor Don and a multitude of dedicated volunteers.

Resilience has allowed us to make individual and corporate adjustments and adapt to a new reality. For a dynamic community, like ours, this characteristic has always been in our DNA.

Today, we gratefully acknowledge the care and support of our Board of Deacons, the work and governance of our Elders & Session. We are also thankful for the dedication of the worshiping team and participants who prepare and bring us worship services every Sunday and those who provide technical support for the services. And for the faithful volunteers of the Food Pantry, who week in and week out, serve those who are vulnerable in the community.

Our English Resource Committee continues to provide support, oversight, and adminis-

tration of the budget, communications, membership and stewardship for our English Worshiping 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.

This year member volunteers were able to install a new projector in the sanctuary, install security cameras in and around the church building and installed AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators) for the safety and welfare of our members. Our volunteers continue to be instrumental in providing the needed repairs and improvements to our facilities.

Even as we do not have a church re-entry date in mind, we have begun discussions on policies and procedures to safely re-entering the church.

Serving on the Resource Committee are Jonathan Chan, Wayne Eng, Stuart Go, Jackie Jew, Liane Leong, Terry Leong, Winchell Quock, Pastor Don Hammond and myself.

Speaking of stewardship, we worship, have fellowship, and are baptized because of our faith in God. Our lives therefore, are a reflection to God's calling and ministry. As varied are our gifts and talents, stewardship is also a response to God's calling.

Stewardship is about making choices, as individuals in community. It is more than gifting money to the church. Stewardship is about being faithful disciples, caring for and managing all that God has given us.

My name is Diane Go. Can you guess which Committee I am representing today?

I will give you a hint (*Sing—*):

Holy, holy holy, Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God off the swirling stars! How does the creature say Awe? How does the creature say Praise?

Come, now is the time to worship! Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship! Come just as you are before your God. Come.

Okay I gave you a direct hint with that last song. Did you get it?

You are right! I am representing Worship and Nurture Committee this year.

The members of our committee are:

Nancy Chee, Eddie Kam, Linda Lee, Dave Miller, Pastor Don Hammond and myself.

Eddie is our Deacon representative, and Nancy and I are Elder representatives. Nancy also represents our Youth Christian Education program. I also want to say thank you to Norma Chan, who has been a long standing member of our committee and is taking a much deserved break from participating and also to Dave Chan, who masterminds the production of worship that happens every Sunday.

I think you know part of what Worship and Nurture Committee does already. It's about this (Raise hands and look around the Zoom screen). Isn't this great? Part of our focus is on how our English Worshipping Community gathers and worships God. The other focus is on nurture—on the education of our membership/potential membership and youth, and also on small group nurturing.

Much has changed this year due to shelter-in-place (SIP). We have continued worshipping as Pastor Don reminds us, without missing a beat or a Sunday! We have been reaching out again to old friends who are far away or just can't get into Chinatown. We get to have Communion at home, maybe with real wine and our choice of bread. We still have Tea Time even though we have to get our own tea and treats. Our small groups are still meeting virtually. Bible Study still goes on with the School of Discipleship, the Wed. Night Covenant Group, and Women's Fellowship. We aren't able to have retreats in person yet, but who knows what is possible via Zoom?

As you can tell by our committee membership, we are a small group with big tasks before us. During this time of reflecting on the sharing of gifts and talents, please seriously consider being a part of our committee. If you have worship ideas to share, willingness to be part of the planning and production of worship, interest in small groups and bible study, —please, Please, please —reach out to anyone on our committee. Again, Nancy, Eddie, Dave Miller, Linda, Pastor Don, and myself.

And if you can't think of some talent you have to share for worship or nurture, please share the gift of prayer for our work.

Thank you for your consideration and prayers.

The Stewardship Minute for the Mission & Evangelism Committee

by Jeanette Huie

The Stewardship Minute for the Mission & Evangelism Committee will be a slide show of PCC members involved in mission and sharing the good news. The committee offers opportunities for members and people from the larger community to join in service. We share issues of justice and peacemaking in promoting the beloved community.

Many of you represent PCC through your donations of school supplies and Christmas gifts for Chinatown families. Every Saturday, PCC members volunteer their precious time to distribute food to Chinatown residents including personal delivery to 16 SRO residents who are too frail to pick up their bags of food. The committee also supports interfaith events organized by the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity (vigils) and San Francisco Interfaith Council (Winter Shelter Meal). In previous years, PCC members have participated in peaceful marches down Market Street in a show of solidarity. A Vision Fair that we hosted in 2014 provided free eye exams and eyeglasses for low-income residents; our volunteers assisted with translation between the eye doctors and residents. Outside of the Bay Area, several teams of PCC volunteers worked with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in New Orleans and in 2015, seven members flew to Guatemala and volunteered for Living Water World Missions to provide clean water, hygiene education and to share the love of Christ. These opportunities provided participants with unique experiences and a glimpse of life away from the Bay Area. To connect with the wider church we participate in special offerings of the PCUSA – One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace & Global Witness and the Christmas Joy Offering.

Financial donations from the committee's budget support nonprofit organizations that advocate for peace and justice or provide much-needed services to its community. To date in 2020, these organizations are Cameron House, Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth, Poor People's Campaign, SRO Families (through Chinatown CDC) and Tsuru for Solidarity.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (in recent years) are:

Jeanine Lim Chan, Ed Chin, Doreen Der-McLeod, Shar Hall, Rev. Don Hammond, Jeanette Huie, Cindy Joe, Gilbert Lee and Susie Wong. We recently welcomed to the committee: Clinton Huey and Carole Chinn Morales.

Micah 6:8 continues to guide the work of M&E: What does the lord require of you? But to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. Please join us – we have opportunities for ALL ages and embrace inter-generational activities. The committee invites YOU to share your ideas to expand our mission outreach.



PCC member Linda Lee and Raymond Luu of Project by Project volunteer frequently at our Food Pantry on Saturdays. They wore an important message to all of us: “VOTE on NOVEMBER 3” (or earlier)!

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP: THE MISSION STUDY TEAM by Nancy Chee

What if someone, a new visitor were to ask you the following about PCC and the English Worshipping Community (EWC)? How would you respond?

- What is the story about your church? What are highlights of what your church has done in the last 167 years?
- Who makes up your worshipping community? What is the DNA of your members?
- What and where do you see God calling your church to do and to be in the next 5 years?
- What is your vision and ministry that will make this church a viable, visible and living witnesses of Christ?

Does this make you feel as if you could be sitting on a Mission Study Team? Going further, what if you were asked as a member of our church the following:

- Is the structure of our Commissions still effective - administratively, logistically and theologically?
- Are we staffed properly to carry out our future ministry in this community?
- What could you envision? One pastor or two part-time pastors? Do we need to staff up for a music director, a youth minister, a church administrator/assistant, and technical support staff?

We are in the midst of looking for a new pastor. But before we can do this, we need an updated, fresh vision and mission for our church's future. When a church looks for a new pastor, it works with the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) and follows a specific process by creating a Mission Study Team (MST) that is charged to look at our ministry's effectiveness in the past, present and in looking toward the future.

Several years ago, we began navigating some of this with work guided by the Adaptive Change Team. They made recommendations including fostering intergeneration connection and growth, expanding, enhancing music experience and youth leadership development. We, as the MST will relook at their recommendations and whether they are still important to our future work. We have already received feedback from the young adults, in what their experience has been in our church and making suggestions for the future. Your Mission Study Team's work is to review, evaluate, assess, affirm, retire, update goals of our ministry and more importantly, prayerfully discern where God is leading us. As in a ship, we need a map to help chart our course and a captain to get its crew together and steer it forward.

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MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP: THE MISSION STUDY TEAM *(cont. from p. 14)*

The last Mission Study was completed in 2008 and with the changes in our community and world around us, we need to re-examine and change our course if needed. But we can't do it alone; we need to engage YOU and to hear your voice, and be part of this important process. We need to collectively engage, listen, communicate, challenge and pray together. We have to identify our strengths, not dwell on the past, admit our short comings; acknowledge the challenges - learning from our experiences and improve upon them as we move forward together. This is uncharted waters for all of us.

As part of this process, you are invited to join a Zoom community conversation on **Saturday, October 24th, from 3:00PM - 5:00PM. SAVE THE DATE!** We invite everyone into a conversation moderated by Pastor Don to process together the experience of the English Worshiping Community in the last 12 years. You are part of our current history. This will help us to understand what we have learned and move forward with what we need to do to become better equipped and prepared to work with a new pastor.

So, who owns the charts and maps to guide us? Ultimately, the 2020 Mission Study report is about us. We all own this. Once completed, it is reviewed and hopefully accepted by the community. It will then help to guide the future Pastor Nominating Committee (whomever they are) in searching for a pastor to be part of our ministry, guiding us, and to keep us on track in what we hope our church will do. In Christ, all things are possible.

The Mission Study Team asks for your prayers and hopes you will take an active role in helping us to shape what the future can be.

Your humble servants on the Mission Study team are:

Your co-chairs: Chris Chan, Eddie Kam and Nancy Chee

Laurene Chan, Mark Fong, Cindy Joe, Jeanine Lim

Eleanor Wong, Cantonese WC representative

Di An Chen, Mandarin WC representative

Pastor Don Hammond

So, be in prayer for all of us! Amen!

不經不覺, 疫情大流行持續了大半年的日子, 影響了美國生活的正常運作, 雖然我們的教會各項聚會和活動, 也不例外地受到衝擊; 但上帝是萬般慈愛的天父, 祂賜給我們智慧和力量, 讓我們粵語堂展開了群組的「網路主日敬拜」。

多月來得到黃靜漪長老、羅秀珍長老、黃靜娜長老、麥愛玲長老、蔡子良弟兄、黃雄斌弟兄及英語堂弟兄 David Chan 等, 幫忙拍攝錄影崇拜序曲、詩歌、祈禱、讀經、詩班歌頌、牧者宣道、聖餐、認信、祝福、阿們頌和殿樂, 使粵語敬拜仍然保持一如既往的崇拜禮儀, 在網路上集體敬拜上帝。在疫情期間, 隨著本堂關顧小組已兩次向「派發食物」事工, 那些居住在單房的低收入長者送贈口罩外, 也趁著第二次逐家探訪信徒派送口罩之便, 並連帶送上「套裝聖餐餅杯」, 以能每月第一主日可在網路上一同領受聖餐, 思念主耶穌基督捨身救贖大愛。

除了已從七月份開始設立兩組網路查經班, 由十月份起, 我們也恢復了每禮拜日崇拜前的「查經祈禱會」, 向週日上班的弟兄姊妹提供可於主日參與小組, 一同藉著祈禱、專題查經, 得到聖經更多的教訓。

回顧三月至今, 嚴峻的疫情對基督徒來說, 或多或少都有心理情緒的影響, 簡思恩牧師於每天清晨, 就從網路上傳來聖經的安慰金句, 鼓勵激發我們面對生活, 尤以透過每兩個月的「牧者家書」, 帶給我們肢體間更多瞭解, 和認知教會的近況。

此外, 因應我們今年繼續參與「耶穌愛華埠」福音遍傳的網上訓練, 學習到: 如何向家人傳福音、網上佈道法、認識異端、怎樣帶領網上查經, 使我們能夠明白應如何傳福音, 和佈道後之跟進方法。

感謝主! 「雖然」這個肺炎疫情仍未過去, 全球不斷受著病毒的困擾, 「但是」我們信靠主的人, 却常在上帝的恩典下, 就是「疫」有主愛; 事事都充滿著上帝同在。「並知道這愛是過於人所能測度的, 便叫上帝一切所充滿的充滿了你們。」(以弗所書 3:19)

(The English translation is on the following page)

Experience God's Love In The Midst Of A Pandemic **by Xin Hwong Huang** **Worship Committee, Cantonese WC**

The COVID-19 pandemic has lasted for more than half a year now. It affects the normal life of most Americans, with no exemption for our Cantonese Worshiping Community. Although the Cantonese gatherings and activities are impacted, our Lord is still there to give us wisdom and strength. The Cantonese group starts Sunday worship online since middle of March.

With the help from Kay Wong, Jenny Luo, Eleanor Wong, Raina Mak, Jerry Choy, Jason Hwong, and David Chan from the English Worshiping Community, through WhatsApp and WeChat, making videos for Sunday worship including prayers, hymn singing, Bible reading, choirs, pastor's sermons and Communion, we still keep our traditional ways to worship God every Sunday. During this epidemic, our Care Team has been delivering food, as well as masks to the low-income elderly members two times. They also delivered sets of Communion supplies in addition to masks for the second visit to all members. The Cantonese members are able to receive Holy Communion online on the first Sunday of each month, remembering God's salvation and love.

In addition to the establishment of two online Bible study classes in July, we have also resumed our team of "Bible study and prayer" Sunday morning prior to Worship. Therefore, brothers and sisters who go to work during weekdays are able to participate in the group on Sundays. Together through prayers and Bible studies, we can learn more lessons from the Bible for spiritual growth.

Looking back from March to now, the severe epidemic has more or less psychological and emotional impact on our Christians. To overcome this, Pastor Ronnie Kaan has been uploading Bible verses and scripture online to encourage us how to face daily life challenges positively. Through his "Pastor's Letter" twice a month, Rev. Kaan updates us with news from our church and congregations.

In addition, as we continue to participate in the annual evangelism event of "Jesus Loves Chinatown" this August, members join the online classes for gospel preaching, Bible study leading and online evangelism training, so that they learn the methods and techniques to approach newcomers for the Cantonese outreach program.

Thanks to our Lord, although this pandemic is not over yet, those of us who trust in God are always experiencing the grace of our Lord. God's love is with us everywhere, even in the midst of a pandemic. "And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:19)

(continued on page 18 with photos)

Experience God's Love In The Midst Of A Pandemic *(continued from page 17)*



Food Pantry Delivery



Passing out masks to low-income elderly



The September Women's Fellowship Program

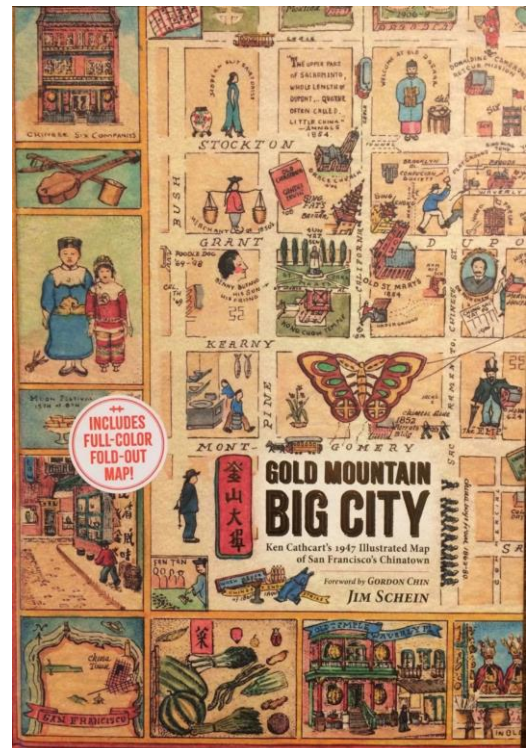
by Elaine Chan-Scherer

The September Women's Fellowship program was an engaging and fascinating Zoom gathering with Jim Schein, author of *Gold Mountain, Big City: Ken Cathcart's 1947 Illustrated Map of San Francisco's Chinatown*. Jim's book is based on a colorful tourist map of Chinatown developed by the Chinese Six Companies to encourage tourism after parts of the Chinese Exclusion Act were lifted. His power point presentation included rare photos of Chinatown in the 1930's and 1940's. Many of us who attended knew of others who would have loved the presentation and the discussion.

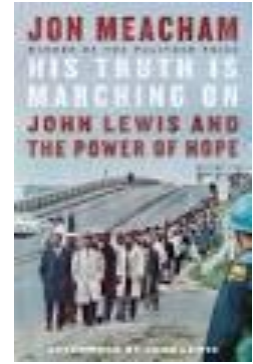


I love synchronicities (meaningful coincidences). I know Jim and his wife Marti because they bought my mom's childhood home on 1439 Grant at Union. Jim and Marti renovated my mom's family home, bringing it back to its original glory. They created a map store, Schein and Schein, on the street level. In his research for *Chinatown Rising*, Josh Chuck met Jim, and received invaluable help. Gordon Chin wrote the forward for Jim's book. Cameron House is featured on a page (Jim had no idea our Women's Fellowship was connected to Cameron House). The photographer got access to 1940's Chinatown because of the grandfather of some former CH club program youth. The publisher of the GMBC is Cameron Books.

Gold Mountain Big City is a beautiful, rich and interesting coffee table book. Read the reviews on Amazon! Or better yet, go to the scheinandschein.com website. You will find reviews of the book from *The New York Times* and *SF Chronicle*, and also a link to purchase a signed copy. I learned things about Chinatown that I never knew before. If you purchase a book (\$40), be sure to let Jim know you are from Presbyterian Church in Chinatown. He said our group was the most responsive ever. He enjoyed us as much as we enjoyed him.



His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope
by Jon Meacham 2020, 354 pages.



John Robert Lewis was born in 1940 to Willie Mae and Eddie Lewis, the 10th and youngest child in a shotgun shack in Pike County, Alabama. A good part of the family's life was centered on the church. He loved the singing and the sermons. He was given a Bible at age 4 and soon learned to read on his own. At 5 or 6, his chief chore at the farm was the care of the chickens on his family's tenant farm. He preached sermons to a flock of chickens!

Lewis went to American Baptist College (a seminary) in 1957. The students listened to one another, to the radio sermons of Rev. Franklin of Detroit, to Dr. Caesar A. W. Clark, Sr. of Dallas, and to Martin Luther King, Jr. of Montgomery. Bevel, one of his seminary friends said to Lewis one day, "why you always preaching this *social* gospel and not the *Gospel* gospel?"

Lewis' first encounter with Martin Luther King, Jr. was on the radio. The sermon that moved Lewis was *Paul's Letter to the American Christians*, which King delivered in 1956. Both men preached and practiced nonviolence. They never gave up on what they thought of as the Beloved Community. They believed that through the discipline and nonviolence, through the power of peace and love, witness and action, that the nation could transform into the Beloved Community, the Christian concept of the Kingdom of God on earth. It would be an all-inclusive society based on justice, the values, the dignity, and the worth of every human being. Politics was important. He appreciated political reality, he just wanted to bend it in the direction of the gospel rather than accepting it as he found it.

Beginning as a student, Lewis became an activist in the civil rights movement. He became nationally known during his prominent role in the Selma to Montgomery marches. On March 7, 1965, a day that would become known as "Bloody Sunday," Lewis and fellow activist Hosea Williams led over 600 marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. Lewis was arrested 45 times, suffered a fractured skull, beatings, and tear-gas. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for Georgia's 5th congressional district from 1987 until his death on July 17, 2020.

To march forward, Lewis remarked that we all can study our history, to learn what has worked in the past and might just work in the present and in the future. The teaching of individuals like James Lawson, Gandhi, and Dr. King lift us. They move us, and they tell us that if you, or if another generation, can get in the way or get in good trouble, necessary trouble, you can do something.

The book is not a full-scale biography. It is an account of the major moments of Lewis's life in the civil rights movement, of the theological understanding he brought to the struggle, and of the utility of that vision as America encounters division and fear. His Christian faith enabled him to do what is written in Micah 6:8 "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" I highly recommend this book. Maybe after the reading you will be inspired get into good trouble. May the words of Micah uphold you in your faith and hope in God.

Minute for Stewardship

Winchell Quock, Treasurer

Hello. My name is Winchell Quock, and it has been my privilege to continue to serve as your English Commission treasurer. As you have learned through the articles in *Good News for the Pews* and these stewardship minutes, our payroll, building operations, and committee expenses continue despite COVID-19. At the end of the third quarter of 2020, due to your faithful and generous financial support, I am happy to report that our finances are sound. On-line and mailed-in contributions year to date are almost equal to 2019, and we are headed towards meeting our budget needs for the year.

I work with the Resource Committee and the Commission to establish and monitor an operating budget each year that is in line with projected offering income. With the success of utilizing the internet to worship and connect with each other to sustain our faith community these past seven months, we are investing in tech equipment to continue our virtual capabilities even when we are able to safely return to the new normal.

Making a stewardship pledge and fulfilling that pledge throughout the year, has helped us stay financially sound to be able to continue our monthly Mission gifts to General Assembly, Cameron House, and other community organizations. A regular plan of giving establishes a personal habit of intentional giving back, as a response of gratitude for God's unconditional love and grace. When 2021 offering envelopes arrive in late November, they will be mailed to you. I will be keeping track of your offering contributions, and provide you with a year-end summary for your tax deductions.

Thank you for all the ways that each of you contribute to the PCC community. Blessing to all.

Upcoming Events



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- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Sunday, November 1 | All Church Congregational meeting |
| Sunday, November 1 | Church Anniversary, starting our 168th year |
| Saturday, November 14 | Healing Committee Event |
| Sunday, November 15 | Healing Committee leads PCC worship |
| Sunday, November 22 | Guest preacher Toni Eby, Director of San Francisco SafeHouse
(Worship service will be prepared by Mission & Evangelism Committee) |
| Sunday, November 29 | First Sunday in Advent |

Stewardship Minute: Stewardship as a Christian Discipline

The first mention of tithing that we find in scripture is in Genesis 14:17-20. After rescuing his nephew Lot, Abram (before he is renamed Abraham) meets with King Melchizedek of Salem in the Valley of Shaveh. Melchizedek is introduced as king and priest of God Most High.

Melchizedek blesses Abram in God's name and brings out bread and wine. In response, we are told that Abram "gave him one-tenth of everything." Our English word "tithe" means "one-tenth." Chapter 14 in Genesis is pretty close to the beginning of scripture and so this concept of giving to the temple, or now the church, is one of the bedrock principals of our Christian faith.

In my experiences as an Interim Minister I can say that giving to the church is ubiquitous. In some churches, there is an emphasis placed on pledging as a form of Christian discipline. When you pledge, you look realistically at your budget or your family's budget, and make a promise to give a certain amount over the course of the year in regular increments. When you share your pledging with the Treasurer, it helps the annual budgeting process.

Some churches don't focus on formal pledges, per se, but giving into the church is still a hallmark of being a disciple. We give our time and talents by being ordained to be deacons and elders, or by serving on committees. We also give time and talents though volunteerism, either through the church, or with Cameron House, or CCDC, or the many other service agencies in our community. But yes, we also do give money. As the pastor, even as Interim, I also look at the annual budget. Like you, I know that my compensation package is the largest expense. But what you give to the church goes to support lots of critical work, not the least important is the edification of the people.

Think back and review the various Stewardship Messages we've heard in the last few weeks. Remember that tithing as a part of discipleship is important, but so is our work seeking to do justice, and show mercy, and build faith (Matthew 23:23). On behalf of the church leaders, I thank you all for your steadfast stewardship over this last year. I commend to you that practice of stewardship, whether you try to tithe, or covenant to pledge, or give regularly in your time, talents and your financial resources according to how God is leading you, that these practices are meant to grow your faith even while they sustain our ministries.

Thank you, and God bless.

Pastor Don

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News from the Pews

by Pat Chan

Our church family/community been busy the month of August.

- Two families have adopted four-legged, furry dogs to add to their homes. The Ho family, Sam and Alisa with their sons Cody, Logan, and Brady have a Cavachon female dog that the boys named Summer. She is white with some tan on her. She came all the way from Michigan. They picked her up from the Oakland Airport. The boys are so thrilled to finally have a dog.



Summer



- Estela Bejar-McCovey (sister of Eunice) adopted three sisters. They are Golden Doodles named Lala, Lulu, and Lily. Eunice and Gilbert have Lulu. Gilbert shared with me that she will have some training. These dogs like to bite. Faye, the youngest daughter of Estela has the other dog.

Lulu

- Irene Ng's granddaughter, Jenny, is a new mother. She gave birth to a daughter named Talia Lin Clark-Ng. I hope when it is safe to travel that Irene can see and hold her new great granddaughter.

- Doreen and Bruce Der-McLeod are new grandparents. Oldest daughter Noelle gave birth to a son named Bode James Witt. Father is Evan. They live in Bend, Oregon. A dear church friend drove Bruce and Doreen up and bought them back home. Everyone had a nice visit.

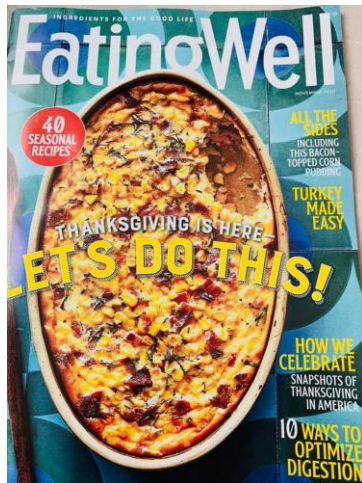
- Jordan's father, David Wong, and his wife Yan, bought the Deli King on Taraval. I finally made it over there. Yan made me a nice pastrami sandwich on a Dutch crunch roll. Bread was soft and tasty. Please stop by for a sandwich or two. They also sell healthy drinks. I got a ginger lemon drink with carrots and beets. Yan added extra ginger for me. They also sell baklava.



- Kyle Shin release another song in September. It's titled *Soju over Ice*. Mom Sabrina said it's her favorite song now. Kyle said it's his favorite project after returning from his studies aboard in Korea last year. Kyle also mention that the song is catchy and melodic with Korean and English lyrics.

- Sabrina Gee- Shin has three older brothers, Wayne, Terrence and Forrest. Terrence wrote an article in a magazine call *Eating Well*. The November issue features Thanksgiving. Sabrina and
(continued on page 24)

her brother are shown cooking their dishes for Thanksgiving. As many of you know that Sabrina has taught many of us her gyoza. So, if you can find the magazine take a peek at the article and the recipes from her brother.



- My last exciting news is that Sing Quan, and his wife Susan Lai, adopted two boys from Taiwan. The boys are from the same adoption agency that Terry and Norma Fong Chan used. The boys are brothers and they arrived mid-September. They are 5 and 10 years old. The boys are doing virtual learning at the Edwin and Anita Lee Newcomer School. (formerly the Chinese Education Center). I've been in contact with Susan and Sing because I needed the boys' vaccination records. I am happy to report that they are finally fully vaccinated with Kaiser.

Here's my personal update:

I have been working from home since school started on August 17 (virtual learning). I have been a School Health Worker for the San Francisco Unified School District for 31 years. I am assigned to seven elementary schools. At the moment I am working on getting immunization records for the Kindergarten students. It's been challenging for me and my coworkers. Parents are ignoring our emails and voice messages. I got so desperate a few weeks ago that I had to ask the teachers to send out an email blast to the families. It helped a little bit. I had to ask the teacher to resend the messages. Each day I may get one or two emails from the parents. The parents don't even read the newsletters that go out. We are hoping the State report will be extended. We need to submit a report on November 1.

I do not like working at home. It's very lonely. I really miss the school environment. I miss talking to the school staff and miss seeing all the cute students. So, like the parents and students, I can't wait for school to reopen. There are only a few good things about working from home: I get to sleep in, take the bus, or drive and bring all my paper work to school.