

Pastor's Log

Mid Feb – Mid March, 2018

Gun Violence Prevention

On Feb 22nd I attended our “District 5” pastor’s meeting for San Francisco Presbyterian Clergy. It was here that I asked the question of what we could do as churches to be part of the movement against gun violence that was initiated by the Parkland Students. I proposed the idea that San Francisco Presbyterian churches march together at the March 24th March. John Anderson liked the idea and we worked together to publicize the information for the Presbytery. I was also introduced to the local chapter Brady Campaign at that meeting. I followed up with the organizer of the San Francisco chapter who then shared information that I have passed on to the congregation via my Kaleidoscope messages and in my Lenten sermon series, encouraging the congregation to try to be the change we want to see in the world.

Adaptive Leadership

On February 25, I attended the Adaptive Leadership meeting with Jim Kitchens, here at PCC. This was my first meeting back after my sabbatical. I also spent time reading the minutes of previous meetings to try and catch up, and continue to read and re-read the book, *Canoeing The Mountains*.

Discipleship Group

I have been leading the Sunday morning discipleship group as it begins the book ‘*Canoeing the Mountains*’. We have had some good conversations reflecting on where God may be guiding us as a congregation.

Installations on Feb 25 and March 18th

I led the installation of officers on these Sundays. On Feb 25th the emphasis was on people saying yes to the invitation of Jesus (“My Master Invites You”) – on March 18th it was partnered with the passage about a grain of wheat falling into the ground and the emphasis was about planting seeds in one’s ministry that grow and blossom.

Feb 28th –Grandma and Grandpa’s Bible Study

I led the Grandma and Grandpa’s group at the Sequoias. It was good to see them and reconnect. We continued our Horizon’s Bible Study, ‘Come to the Waters’ – looking at the story of the Woman at the Well. We also discussed and decided upon our next study when we finish the Horizons study, which will be the book, “Jesus and Buddha” by Thich Nhat Hanh.

March 4, David Hall Memorial

I participated in the leadership for the David Hall memorial. It was a very moving service and touching to see so many of David’s friends and members of the police force present. Since there were many people attending who had not been to our church before, I also made it a point to welcome newcomers as they arrived in the sanctuary and to try to make those feel comfortable who were not regularly in a church.

Cameron House Youth Ministries

I met with Laurene Chan at Cameron House and got caught up on some of the staff changes within the youth ministry department. I also met (or was re-introduced in a new capacity) to Anson Ho, as the new Friday night club coordinator and Sherman Duang, the new Administrative Assistant for youth ministries.

March 6th – Committee meeting evening. I led the devotion and prayer time while Mission and Evangelism and WWorship and Nurture are together in Speer Hall, and then attended the W&N meeting.

March 7th, Regional Presbytery Meeting

On March 7th I attended the Western Regional Presbytery meeting at Sturge Presbyterian Church in San Mateo. It was good to connect with colleagues and members of other churches in the Presbytery and revise our goals and desires for our time together. One topic of conversation was to choose three ministry ideas that people are passionate about and then setting up three focus groups to research those ideas and present back to the region. This was proposed as a possible way for us to get more clarity and structure on the 1.3 million dollars at our disposal – something we have yet to find a structure for.

One particularly uplifting part of the meeting was when churches shared ministries that they were doing with which they invited other churches to partner. Old First is working with Ecumenical House at SF State, and they have just hired a new chaplain. They have a Weds night Bible study for young adults and need churches to help provide food and possibly other support for the program. I was excited to hear about this ministry and signed up on their list (and have yet to hear back, but hope that when we do, we might find some ways for PCC to be involved). Linda and I also signed up PCC to help co-host a future Regional Meeting with Old First when they host the meeting at their campus (date TBA).

On March 8th I practiced music with Norma for worship on Sunday, March 11th. Tad and I also spent time looking together at the Facebook page and talking about the website and E News (and Tad and I meet weekly even if that does not always show up on the log).

March 11th Session & Installation

Sunday, March 11th I moderated the session meeting – and later that afternoon participated in the installation for Israel Hao as the Commissioned Lay Pastor for the Mandarin worshipping community. As I mentioned in my Kaleidoscope, this was a particularly joyful occasion, especially since I know how much work has gone on behind the scenes to make this day happen, especially from Amy Feng. It was a joy to see and feel the support of the Presbytery as members of the Presbytery Commission were present (as well as other Presbytery members who were not part of the commission but also attended such as Rev. Jeff Hutcheson and Rev. Karl Shadley). (Also, as I mentioned in my Kaleidoscope, Israel is not ordained by this ceremony, but is ‘commissioned’ and

can administer the sacraments and moderate their commission meetings. While technically his title is not 'Reverend', people may still refer to him as 'pastor' since he is still serving a pastoral role. Technically his title is 'Commissioned Lay Pastor'.

March 14 & 15 Lent & Easter Preparations

I have continued to preach on our Lenten series and the Gospel of the Beloved Companion, highlighting the new meaning that comes from the slight differences with the Gospel of John. I have also continued to create the liturgy and worship services as well as create the Lenten study questions. On March 14th I also spent some time planning our theme for Easter and preparing for our Worship Design Team meeting. On March 15th Linda Lee, Diane Go, Norma Fong Chan, Dave Miller, Tad Hopp and I met together to study the Easter texts and develop ideas for Palm Sunday and Easter and to begin to think through the Easter Season.

March 18th

I attended half of the Deacon's meeting before worship.

The Deacons now meet before worship, the same time as the Discipleship Group study, which I also lead.

Pastoral Care:

From February 6-March 15 (Five Weeks) – I also made pastoral care a particular priority as I was getting settled back in. I made seven in person pastoral visits and five pastoral phone calls during this time.

Regular Activities:

There are a host of regular activities that I do not include in my log, such as: administrative tasks, answering emails, Kaleidoscope preparation, meeting with Tad, sermon study and preparation and weekly design and preparation of what will happen in worship on Sunday which often includes writing liturgy, not to mention a variety of informal conversations and connections with people, including Amy Feng and connection to the Mandarin worshipping community and Rev. Ronnie Kaan and connections with the Cantonese worshipping community.