

January

2017



SIXTH
presbyterian
CHURCH

Sixth Sense

From Our Good Friend

'Tis indeed the season of our discontent. Our public lives seem in disarray, our nation is rent down the middle, no longer giving us a sense of either safety or well-being. We are divided by new alliances, not by east or west, north or south, or even by race or religion. We seem to be a new configuration of political ideology or perspective...much of it grounded in malice and a lack of respect for people on the other side of this chasm.

My current life circumstances have given me time – perhaps more than I would have liked - to reflect on all of this. We as a nation, demonstrated little public clarity as to the broad, possibly catastrophic, implications of our political judgement. We need to awaken more Americans to the need for the continuing safety of our political institutions and values. People who voted for our president -elect brought with them a sense of disenfranchisement. But I strongly fear that they will be receiving something quite different in return. They deserve far better.

Without exploding the issue of our national dilemma, I have thought some lately about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Christian in the midst of World War II. He thought and wrote about living in a totalitarian society. He struggled with how to be a Christian in such circumstances. In fact, after living and teaching for a year at Union Seminary in New York he was offered a position allowing him to stay on there. He refused, choosing instead to go home to Europe. He was arrested and imprisoned there, ultimately losing his life. But he had a sense that he needed to be there.

I know we are less likely to go to jail. Even so, maybe we need to hear his message. Maybe we need to be where we are, in the here and now. We need to live where we are, to love our families and friends and to speak out when what we love is at risk.

–Nancy Wells

January Worship and Preaching

January 1 – Myra Kazanjian preaching
January 8 – Matthew 3:13-17,
“Pleased”
January 15 – Isaiah 49:1-7, “In Vain”
January 22 – Matthew 4:12-23,
“Called to Life”
January 29 – Matthew 5:1-12,
“Upside Down”



image from yinzpitt.com

Notes from Session, December Meeting

Rev. Diane Harbison from the Presbytery Preparation for Ministry Committee explained to the Session the procedure and Session responsibilities for becoming an Enquirer for the Presbytery.

A motion was made and approved to remove the persons from the Church Roll because they have not been attending or have moved to another area.

A motion was made and approved to have the Elder Orientation on 1/28/17 (late start provision), snow date 2/4/17 (9-11am Deacons, 10-12 Session).

A motion was made and approved to approve the Ordination and Installation of officers during Worship on January 29, 2017.

A motion was made and approved to have the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 29, 2017, immediately following worship.

Finance: Maggie Ritchey and Peter Watt-Morse explained the Finance Report and the draft Budget for 2017. This will be completed in January.

House: Peter Koehler will meet with our consultant next week to get the report on the roof drains and the work needing to be done.

Personnel: a motion was made and approved to roll over 1 week of the Pastor's unused continuing education. (3 weeks of continuing education in 2017, subject to the approval of the congregation). A motion was made and approved for the Pastor's vacation for April 29-May 6.

Stewardship: The Committee has reported that the goal of \$310,000, hopefully will be reached.

A motion was made and approved to have the Dedication of the Pew Bibles on February 12.

A motion was made and approved for Kate Davoli to preach on February 26.

A motion was made and approved that the Christmas Joy Offering be received on 12/18/16 and 12/24/16.

The Pastor is working on new chairpersons for the Session Committees and Initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Millie Barnes

**In 2016, Sixth Church raised \$4,511
(and 20 cents!) for the Lazarus
Fund, primarily through
collections on the four fifth
Sundays (March, May, August,
November). Thank you!**

January Learning Opportunities

On January 8th, after worship, Sixth will be hosting the city's only screening of the documentary *Out of Order* about how LGBTQIA clergy and church leaders are shepherding the PCUSA into its new era. The More Light Committee paid the screening fee and is coordinating advertising the event.

From the documentary website, www.outoforderdoc.com:

"Out of Order is a groundbreaking feature documentary revealing the complex and painful struggles faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) faith leaders as they confront entrenched bigotry and work to build loving support within their churches.



Many queer individuals have quickly learned that rule changes don't guarantee true welcome in their churches.

In spite of growing fear and suspicion toward LGBTQ individuals, and transgender people in particular, a new kind of spiritual leader and movement for welcome is beginning the delicate work of winning acceptance beyond the wedding chapel.

The leaders of this movement are young LGBTQ people of faith claiming a place in their church pulpits – and recognition in the everyday moments of church life."

Racial and Economic Injustice in the Criminal Justice System

About fifty people from Sixth participated in one or more of the Sacred Conversations on Race sessions this past fall, examining how structural racism affects our communities and exploring our own experiences of race and privilege.

Building on those sessions, and honoring the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr., on the Sunday of MLK weekend (1/15) we are offering a session on Racial and Economic Injustice in the Criminal Justice System.

The program will include viewing a TED Talk by Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of *Just Mercy*, followed by remarks by Linda Cohn, an Assistant Federal Public Defender here in Pittsburgh, and an opportunity for discussion. Ms. Cohn will offer her reflections regarding issues facing defendants in Western Pennsylvania. All are invited to attend, whether or not you participated in the Sacred Conversations Session! The program will be held during the Sunday School hour.

Sixth Church and God's Creation



Happy New Year to everyone!

Recycling

Our recycling program is going well: please continue to think of us as you accumulate the things we're collecting. Take a tour of the Men's Choir Room to locate our recycling bins: that's the door to the right off the Narthex as you come into the church from Forbes Avenue. Our collectors are continuing to gather hard-to-recycle items and will take or send them to recyclers as they accumulate. Carol Emerson has received a large quantity of batteries: keep them coming to keep them out of the landfill! By the end of the October, Keith Gillogly had taken 3 laptop computers, 2 desktop computers, 3 computer monitors, a television, and 41 pounds of other electronics to Evolution E-cycle on the South Side, and there have been more deliveries since then. Don't forget to bring in those Scotch Tape dispensers, the many Natural Care items, the Snack Bags and Energy Bar Wrappers, the Techno Trash, and the Writing Instruments!

Green storm water management

Here's some great news: on December 2, 2016 PWSA released a complete "Clean and Green" plan for Pittsburgh. The citywide plan, based on data from ALCOSAN, will create a city-wide storm water management plan that will prevent flooding, clean our waterways, revitalize neighborhoods, and fight climate change locally. Utilizing green infrastructure, such as permeable streets and sidewalks, green roofs, trees and rain gardens, the City will be able to manage rain water when it falls, rather than dumping the rain water with sewage into our rivers. Through our network of churches for justice, Sixth Church is advocating for ALCOSAN to adopt a region-wide plan so that we can employ a 21st century technology to a perennial problem. If you want to learn more, contact the Clean Rivers Campaign, or Dr. Kolb.

—Nora Johnson

Planning Our Nicaragua Mission 2017

Sixth Presbyterian Church has been visiting the community of El Porvenir (The Future) in Leon, Nicaragua, for nearly nine years. El Porvenir is a cooperative of organic, fair trade coffee farmers. About 42 families live on the farm and work the land. The partnership we have built with El Porvenir has allowed us to develop life-long relationships, learn about the Nicaraguan culture, the history of the United State's involvement in Central America and explore our own faith and our own call as followers of Christ. On this trip, we will again partner with the CEPAD organization to learn about their work in Nicaragua and visit our friends at El Porvenir. Youth and adults are invited to consider joining us on this life-changing experience.

We are planning for a trip that will be 8 days total between June 17 and July 2. (Trip dates will be confirmed as soon as we finalize our travel arrangements.) Those interested in participating in the trip will be asked to submit a deposit of \$500 by Jan. 15. (The total cost of the trip is estimated to be around \$2,000 per person). Youth under the age of 13 need to be accompanied on the trip by a parent or guardian. While visiting El Poviner, please be reminded that we will not have access to electricity and trip participants should be prepared for long travel days and a lot of walking.

If interested, please email Jenny Newman in the church office at Jenny@Sixthchurch.org to receive and information sheet and a trip packet.

Looking forward to traveling with you!

—Jenny Newman, Sara and Chris Berg.

Christmas at Sixth, 2016



January 2016 — Events and Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 11:00 am, Worship 8:00 pm, NA	2 7:00 pm, Knit Night (off-site) 7:00 pm, NA	3 Rachel Rothenberg	4 11:00 am, Bible Study	5 6:00 pm, Youth Group (Crazy Mocha)	6 6:00 pm, Fiberarts Guild	7 7:00 pm, NA
8 9:50 am, Sunday School 10:00 am, Adult Sunday School 11:00 am, Worship 12:00 pm, Women's Weekend planning 12:30 pm, Out of Order showing 8:00 pm, NA	9 Abby Miller-Peterson 7:00 pm, NA	10	11 11:00 am, Presbyterian Women 6:30 pm, 14th Ward Democrats 7:15 pm, Deacons	12 6:00 pm, Youth Group (Crazy Mocha) 7:30 pm, Choir practice	13 David Myers-Newbury	14 10:00 am, Course in Miracles (outside group) 7:00 pm, NA
15 9:50 am, Sunday School 10:00 am, Adult Sunday School 10:00 am, Racial Justice Educational Event 11:00 am, Worship 12:30 pm, Executive Committee 8:00 pm, NA	16 7:00 pm, Knit Night (off-site) 7:00 pm, NA	17	18 Jen Wheatner 11:00 am, Bible Study 7:30 pm, Session	19 6:00 pm, Youth Group (Crazy Mocha) 7:30 pm, Choir practice	20	21 Women's March (DC) 7:00 pm, NA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22 9:50 am, Sunday School 10:00 am, Adult Sunday School 11:00 am, Worship 12:30 pm, Confirmation meeting/ lunch 8:00 pm, NA	23 7:00 pm, NA	24	25 11:00 am, Bible Study	26 Vicki Guy 6:00 pm, Worship Committee 7:30 pm, Choir practice	27	28 9:00 am, Officer Orientation 10:00 am, Course in Miracles (outside group) 7:00 pm, NA
29 9:50 am, Sunday School 10:00 am, Adult Sunday School 11:00 am, Worship and Ordination/ Installation of Officers 12:00 pm, Congregation- al meeting 8:00 pm, NA	30 6:30 pm, Fiberarts Guild 7:00 pm, NA	31				

Youth Happenings January

“Food for Thought”: Sunday School class for junior and senior high is held each week (10 - 10:45 am) at Bruegger’s beginning January 8.

Youth Fellowship at Crazy Mocha: Youth are invited for coffee and conversation at Crazy Mocha on Murray Ave. from 6 to 7:30 pm on Thursdays, Jan. 5, 12, and 19.

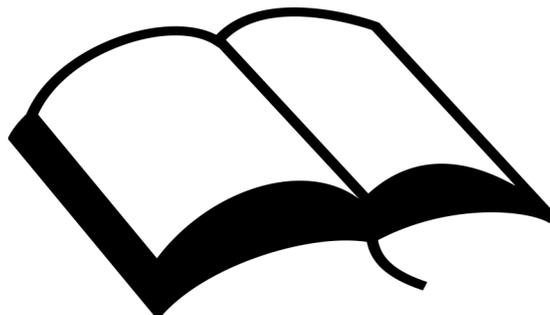
Contact **Jenny Newman** at (412) 720-6392 or Jenny@Sixthchurch.org

Confirmation Class

We are assembling a Confirmation Class for youth in grades 7 and up to begin this month. Youth interested in becoming confirmed members of Sixth Presbyterian Church are invited to attend an information lunch after worship (12:30 p.m.) on January 22 in the Riding Room. Parents are invited, too! The confirmation class will be

meeting
February -
May.

Please contact
Jenny
Newman if
you would like
more



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We are an open and affirming community of faith in Jesus Christ. At home in an urban neighborhood of many faiths, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. In worship, study, and fellowship, we celebrate our Presbyterian roots and find joy in our diversity. We strive for the grace to love one another as we seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit, working for justice and serving as stewards of God's wondrous creation.

Food for Thought...

"I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something."
—Neil Gaiman

"And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been." —Rainer Maria Rilke

"Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties." —Helen Keller

"The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective." —G. K. Chesterton



The Deadline for the February newsletter is January 15th. Please email articles and announcements to Amy in the church office (office@sixthchurch.org). You can also put printed copies on her desk. Thank you!