



GGSC News

Golden Gate Spiritualist Church, San Francisco, California

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Message from the GGSC Board President

Through A Glass Darkly

In his first letter to the people of Corinth, the Apostle Paul makes the statement:

“For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known”.

This missive is mostly about the power and value of Charity, but the noted sentence is by far the best known and most studied statement in the entire letter.

If we delve deeply into the words of 1 Corinthians 13:12, Paul’s poetic language about human limitations of seeing God reflects a recurring theological theme in the Bible—the difficulty, in this earthly realm, of seeing God clearly. But instead of just giving us a statement, Paul also gives us a riddle to be solved. Many learned scholars have proposed possible answers to the real meaning of this statement, but the most compelling, to my mind, came from St. Augustine, who did something shocking and counter-intuitive: he took the verse at face value. When we look in a mirror, what do we see? An image of ourselves.

This may seem frustrating: we search for God to only be looking at ourselves in the mirror. But, as Henry David Thoreau said, *“It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see.”* And what Augustine wanted us to see in the image of ourselves, in the proverbial mirror, was the image of God within. In this world in which we live, there are many times when I have difficulty seeing and knowing God. I think that this is true for most

people. For me, 2022 was such a year. What was expected to be a good year, a quiet year, a year of resting and rebuilding from the Pandemic, was, instead, a year of war, drought, floods, fires, outbreaks of new Omicron variants, dangerous inflation, and economic turmoil.

In such a time, it is very difficult to see the “Grand Plan” or the “Hand of God” in our surroundings and situations. When I find myself in such a predicament, the only way I can make sense of it all is to go within, to reach always for that spark of infinite intelligence carried deep within each of us.

To do this, I turn to meditation—my doorway to myself, and therefore to God. Only through meditation can I slow the spinning of the world just a bit, so that I can slip for a few moments the demands and desires of the outer world, and explore the calm and peace of my inner landscape.

Meditation is an essential travel partner on my journey of personal transformation. Meditation connects me with my soul, and this connection gives me access to my intuition, my heart-felt desires, my integrity, and the inspiration to create a life I love.

And when you do a new year meditation, miracles can occur. **During the start of a new year, magic is available. It’s in your heart. There is nowhere for it to go. It’s there, standing right where you are, open, relaxed and at peace. The gentle connection in your heart will take you “there”—wherever you need to be—every time.**

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Celebrate with us!



Golden Gate Spiritualist Church

99th Birthday!

1924-2023

Join us in celebrating our 99 years in our community. Bring your favorite recipe—an appetizer, in-between, main dish or dessert—to share with everyone. Tickets will be sold at the door, or pay on the website through PayPal (be sure to note the amount is for the birthday celebration party).
www.ggspiritualistchurch.org

Saturday, February 18

5—8 PM

Tickets \$10.00 per person
Raffle items will be at the event!

Questions? Contact us on the website on the CONTACT page.

1901 Franklin Street, corner of Clay San Francisco, California

All proceeds benefit the Golden Gate Spiritualist Church, a non-profit organization.



Golden Gate Spiritualist Church

1924- 2023

Our church is celebrating ninety-nine years this year. Rev. Florence Harwood Becker secured the charter for the church through the National Spiritualist Association of Churches on April 5, 1924. The church first held services in the Redman’s Building at 240 Golden Gate Avenue until April, 1947. The congregation moved to the Native Sons building at 414 Mason Street, and in 1951 the Crocker Mansion was purchased. The present church, at 1901 Franklin Street, was built in 1900. Rev. Becker, born in 1892, was the principal medium and



(Message from the President, continued from page 1)

Look at it this way: *Meditation* is an appointment with the Universe. Real meditation is breaking all appointments you have made with other people, ideas, or events. Meditation is a date with your heart and allows being very late for everything else in your life.

When, through meditation, I am once again attuned balanced and in control-body, mind and soul- then can I touch that spark of Infinite Intelligence deep within me-then can I see the face of God.

(Celebrate GGSC 99th Birthday, continued from page 1)

teacher until she passed to spirit on July 12, 1970. The church continues to grow and respond to changing times now and into the future.

YOU are the church! Join us in celebrating our 99th year.



Rev. Florence Harwood Becker 1892-1970

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, February 26, 2023

All members in good standing are requested to attend the annual membership meeting in person or on Zoom. The meeting will begin after service and refreshments. This is your opportunity to be involved in guiding the church into the future.

Your voice and vote count!

Please be sure to pay your membership dues prior to the meeting.

You may pay the \$45.00 yearly dues online through PayPal. Be sure to make a note the payment is for membership dues.

Voting will take place in person and on Zoom. If we can see you on Zoom, and you are a member in good standing, you may vote.



CLASSES BEGIN

We are pleased to announce spiritual development classes will begin again. April 30th will be our first class. Join us after the service in exploring your abilities in mediumship.

We will be adding more class offerings, in person and on Zoom. More details soon.



WISH LIST

Your church needs you!

If you have skills and capabilities that can assist your church in various ways, please let us know. We will post a wish list of services and items we need to keep our doors open for all of us.

- The roof deck above the sanctuary platform is leaking. We need a capable roofer to repair it.
- Our internet connection is faulty, at best. We need a more secure cable connection to the building.
- New garage door and opener. The existing door is almost unusable.

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To receive GGSC News, please send your name as well as the email address to which you want the News sent to: GGSC Information, info@ggspiritualistchurch.org. It will sent as a PDF file to your email.