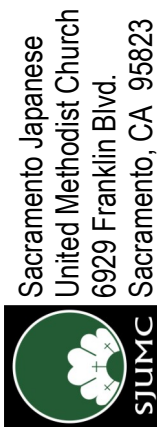


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The Sakura Dayori is published once a month by the Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church to provide updates to our members and our constituents.

SAKURA DAYORI



Newsletter

Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church

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Pastor Emeritus: Rev. George Nishikawa

Nichigo Ministry: Rev. Shiro Kazato

Youth Director: Gayle Kurasaki Office Manager: Robyn Jovalis

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Volume 44

December 2010

No. 12

Upcoming Events

- * *Advent Small Groups - 2 sessions starting Nov. 28:*
 - ❖ *Sundays, 12:15 pm*
 - ❖ *Wednesdays, 7:00 pm*
- * **December 4** - All Church Committee Planning Day - 9am - 12noon. *All new and continuing committee members required to attend.*
- * **December 12** - Children's Christmas Worship and Family Worship 10:30am. *Children arrive at 10:00 am to participate in pageant*
- * **December 19** - Blue Christmas Worship - 4:30pm
- * **December 24** - Christmas Eve Service - 7:00pm
- * **December 25** - Christmas
- * **December 27** - Christmas holiday - Office Closed
- * **December 31** - New Year's Eve - Office Closed



Notes from the Pastor

"Making disciples of Jesus Christ to Transform the World
(United Methodist Church General Conference 2012 Theme)

Is SJUMC a Purpose Centered church or a Preference Driven Church?

Recently I attended Doug Anderson's *Vital Congregations, Step by Step Seminar* which was sponsored by the Council on Congregational Development & Conference Leaders. (I am very thankful for five SJUMC members (Gloria Imagine, David and Irene Osuga, Pat and Web Honbo) who joined me even though it was a last minute invitation!) He described a Purpose Centered church as a church where people make decisions prayerfully through holy conferencing for God's purpose. They collaborate and they will always remember the mission of a church which is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for transformation of the world. A Preference Driven Church is a church driven by people's preferences. Their focus is not on the church mission or God's purpose. They act on what they prefer. There are always winning and losing sides and ongoing conflicts exist.

He said that sadly many United Methodist Churches are Preference Driven Churches, therefore they are dying churches. He was encouraging everyone to remember the mission of church and shift from a Preference Driven Church to a Purpose Centered Church. On **December 4, Saturday at 9:30am**, we will have **All Church Planning Day** to plan for the future of SJUMC. Please come and learn more about a Purpose Centered church and help us to discern what we should do next year.



We had another great month! On a special Sunday for Merwin chapel, a dozen of former Merwin church members including great grand sons of Sam Merwin (founder of Merwin Church) joined us. Our guests were surrounded by many SJUMC members and we celebrated the resurrection of Merwin Chapel. The chapel is set up for a small service and your private prayer time. If you need a place to be alone with God, Merwin chapel is available for you. (Many thanks for Frances Lee and her helpers to take care of our guests!)

Our wonderful relationship with SJUMC Basketball continues to grow! We had 300 (!) people for our annual basketball Sunday. Many people said that they enjoyed learning about the history of basketball ministry.

(Great sharing by Les Ouchida, Larry Fong and Russell Fong)

Have you notice that people started to practice Ukulele? Inspired by Wesley UMC Ukulele visit, our SJUMC Ukulele group was formed! Now they get together every week to practice! They will join us for the all church caroling on Dec. 19, Sunday after the service. (Please contact Mary Ann Nakashima for this ministry)

Children Book Drive organized by Karin Young and Diane Kimoto and Bags of Grace by Lori Lee were another successful Kids' program! Many Kids enjoyed wrapping children books and writing cards for homeless kids and sorting bags of Grace for people in Need.

Advent season is finally here! This year the church will be focusing on Advent Conspiracy <http://www.adventconspiracy.org/> (Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, and Love All). We will have three additional Christmas Services (Taize Service on Dec. 10 at 6pm, Japanese Christmas Service on Dec. 12 at 12:30, and Blue Christmas Service on Dec. 19, at 4:30pm) and of course, our Christmas Eve Service. So please join us in this exciting time! May God bless you!



Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church
Finance Recap
October 2010

General Fund

Beginning cash balance 09/30/10		\$ 17,302.71	
Cash Inflows			
Pledges	16,255.00		
Offerings	5,442.20		
Other Receipts	<u>1,682.97</u>		
Total cash inflows		23,380.17	
Cash Outflows			
Capital Improvements & maintenance	(465.00)		
Apportionments	(3,488.00)		
Operations	<u>(27,610.90)</u>		
Total cash outflows		(31,563.90)	
Ending cash balance 10/31/10		<u>\$ 9,118.98</u>	
General Fund Restrictions			
Unrestricted Cash		\$ (3,911.07)	
Youth Group Funds		7,903.72	
Paint Fund		<u>5,126.33</u>	
Total Cash Balance		<u>\$ 9,118.98</u>	

Legacy Fund

Beginning cash balance 09/30/10		\$ 47,389.40	
Cash Inflows			
Pledges	4,876.00		
Interest & Dividends earned	<u>277.76</u>		
Total cash inflows		5,153.76	
Cash Outflows			
Multi-cultural hall mortgage payment	(8,320.00)		
Dividends reinvested	-		
Advisory Fee	<u>(256.34)</u>		
Total cash outflows		(8,576.34)	
Ending cash balance 10/31/10		43,966.82	
10/31/10 fair market value of stocks		<u>99,092.04</u>	
Total Assets in Legacy		<u>\$ 143,058.86</u>	
Mult-Cultural Hall Mortgage			
09/30/10 Principal Balance		466,624.55	
Oct 2010 principal pmt		5,827.07	
Oct 2010 interest pmt		<u>2,492.93</u>	
10/31/10 Principal Balance		\$ 460,797.48	

Special Events

Beginning cash balance 09/30/10		\$ 363,203.94
Fair Market Value of Stocks 10/31/10	193,590.26	
Money Market 10/31/10	101,394.14	
Parsonage Loan balance	13,464.05	
Checking Account	56,923.95	
Wish List - Sanctuary	<u>25,000.00</u>	
Total Assets in Special Events		<u>\$ 390,372.40</u>

ACKNOWLEDGE- MENTS

Saito, Margaret
Sasaki, M/M Robert
Shibata, M/M Victor
Yamadera, M/M George

LEGACY FUND

In Memory of Akio Hayashi
Hayashi, Alice
In Memory of Koji Kawaguchi
Kawaguchi Family
Kawaguchi, Michiko
Yuki, M/M Philip
In Memory of David Matsuoka
Nishikawa, Rev/M George
In Celebration of Amy Shimada's Birthday
Okino, Marie
In Memory of Jean Kaku
Sato, M/M Roy
In Celebration of Jill Shibata's engagement to
Mike Masumura
Shibata, M/M Victor
In Celebration of Nancy Shibata's 80th Birth-
day
Shibata M/M Victor
In Memory of Lyanne Taketa
Taketa, David
In Memory of Henry Taketa
Taketa, Sally
In Memory of Linda Umeda
Dingley, Bernice
Matsuoka, M/M Walter
Tanaka, M/M Russell
Taketa, M/M Bill
Umeda, Herb

Letters to SJUMC

To My Dear Friends at SJUMC:

Thank you for being associated with me under God's guidance. My fortunate life as being in SJUMC was fully blessed.

Now even though I leave for Japan at the end of October, 2010, my thanks to your ever kind friendship will be never ceased.

May God's continued blessing be with you.

In my prayer,

Kay Bradley



Many thanks to all of you who made us feel so special on Sunday, at the Merwin Chapel Service. The nice gifts and the delicious luncheon afterwards. Oh and I enjoyed the fried rice I was given to take home.

My son, Glen couldn't attend because he had services in Los Banos, where he is the pastor. My daughter, Cindy, had charge of music at our church and also had to count money that day. Told them all about it though.

Sincerely,

Grace Raley

SAVE THE DATE!

The 9th Annual Crab Feed is coming up on Saturday, Feb 12, 2011. The cost will be the same as last year at \$40.00 per person, \$15.00 for kids aged 5 to 10. Tickets will go on sale on January 2nd after Church. Get a group together and start asking friends and family how many tickets they would like.

**Eighth Annual
Crab Feed**



Invitation to Worship

DECEMBER 5, 2010

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10;
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;
Romans 15:4-13;
Matthew 3:1-12

DECEMBER 12, 2010

**Third Sunday of Advent
Children's Christmas Worship**

Isaiah 35:1-10;
Luke 1:47-55;
James 5:7-10;
Matthew 11:2-11

DECEMBER 19, 2010

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16;
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;
Romans 1:1-7

DECEMBER 24, 2010

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7;
Psalm 96;
Titus 2:11-14;
Luke 2:1-20

DECEMBER 26, 2010

First Sunday after Christmas Day

Isaiah 63:7-9;
Psalm 148;
Hebrews 2:10-18;
Matthew 2:13-23

Greeters for December

December 5—Elaine Maeda, &
Yvonne Kato

December 12—Joyce Kimura

December 19—Sadie Hamai

December 26—

Ushers for December

December 5 —Jim &
Bret Williamson

December 12 —Hiroko Arimoto &
Yuire Harvey

December 19—Art & Gloria
Imagine

December 26—Elaine & Sachi
Maeda

CHURCH PLANNING DAY

December 4, 2010

9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

All outgoing, current and incoming committee members are required to come to our Church planning day. All church members are encouraged to come. If you have questions or concerns please talk to Rev. Motoe or your committee chair.



CHURCH PLANNING MEETING



Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Service

Friday, December 24
at 7pm

Children's
Christmas Worship
Sunday,
December 12
10:30 am



All children are welcome to participate!
Children arrive at 10:00 am

Advent starts on November 28
Advent Conspiracy

Nov. 28 - Worship Fully
Dec. 7 - Spend Less
Dec. 14 - Give More
Dec. 19 - Love All



<http://www.adventconspiracy.org/>



Do you have hard time to be
in spirit of holidays? **Blue
Christmas Service** on Sun-
day, Dec. 19, at 4:30pm.
This special service is for
those who are struggling from the recent
or impending death of loved ones and for
those whose families are in crisis/illness.

**All Church
Caroling
December 19
12:30 pm**



Join in the fun as we share Christmas
Cheer with those who have limited mo-
bility. All ages are welcome! We will be
accompanied by some of the Uke group
and those who play guitar. No previous
singing experience necessary! It will be
followed by coffee and hot chocolate in
the Fellowship Hall. This is one way to
Give More!

Share the gift of yourself this holiday
season!

Taize Service
A time for prayer, renewal,
reflection and worship
December 10, Friday
6pm at SJUMC

The usual Taizé service is based upon
the historic Service of the Word with
some variations. Singing, silence, scrip-
ture and prayer permeate morning, noon
and evening prayers.

Come and join us for this
special service! Led by
our music director, Eileen
Boyd.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GENERAL FUND

As of October 31, 2010

In Celebration of association with SJUMC
Bradley, Kay
In Celebration of surgery recovery
Kubo, M/M Edwin
In Celebration of Frances' birthday
Kushi, M/M Tom
In Celebration of visitation to Katherine Mizuno
Mizuno, Tom
In Celebration of Austin & Mitchell's Karate
Black Belt advancement
Takechi, M/M Curtis
In Celebration of Amy Kawahara's birthday
Ukita, May
In Honor of 2010 UMW o/s Mission Award for
Victor & Shigeko Shibata, Mary Fujimoto and
Joseph Osuga
Osuga, M/M David
Appreciation for prayers
Nakashima, M/M Kent
In Memory of Ikuko Asahara
Asahara, Francis
In Memory of Koji Kawaguchi
Fukuda, M/M Joseph
Ukita, May
In Memory of Sam Gotan
Gotan, Louise
In Memory of Woodrow Ishikawa
Hironaka, M/M Kuni
Ito, Yasushi
Lee, Frances
Nakashima, Mary Ann
Sasaki, M/M Robert
Takuma, Fumi
In Memory of Daniel Fujimoto
Iwata, M/M Joe
Kanemoto, Jean
Osuga, M/M David
Ronay, M/M Kelvin
Sasaki, M/M Robert
In Memory of Carol Matsukawa
Kinoshita, M/M Ted
In Memory of Min Shimada
Koshino, M/M Eddie

Takechi, M/M Curtis
In Memory of David Matsuoka
Matsuoka, M/M Walter
Sasaki, M/M Robert
Sato, M/M Roy
Sumida, Frances
Toyama, M/M Evan
In Memory of Linda Umeda
Miyasaki, Anne
Ukita, May
In Memory of Harry Kanemasu
Ronay, M/M Kelvin
In Memory of Robert Kodama
Takuma, Fumi
Special offering
Wataji, M/M Lester
Upper Room Ministry
Nitta, Ruby

CHOIR FUND

Honbo, Dr/M Wesley

METHODIST YOUTH FUND

Sakamoto, Sayuri

UMCOR

Pakistan/Haiti

Teranishi, Sue

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Anonymous
Blaisdell, M/M Farrington
Goto, M/M Leo
Imagire, M/M Art
Ito, Belle
Kawahara, M/M Yoshio
Lee, Frances
Miller, Kiyo
Nakamura, Emma
Nakashima, Mary Ann
Nishikawa, Rev/M George
Nishizaki, Tom
Otani-Curtis, Susan

(Continued on page 10)

SSIP Food Closet Update

Our congregation is a part of the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP) which ministers to people in our area through the Food Closet which is housed at the Bethany Presbyterian Church at Fruitridge and 24th Street. Our congregation supports the Food Closet and SSIP through monetary donations, food donations, special events as well as volunteer giving through service in the Food Closet and on the SSIP Board of Directors and supporting committees. In our church narthex (foyer) is a large plastic container to receive your gifts of non perishable food stuffs for the Food Closet. Each Sunday check the "SSIP bag" in the worship folder to learn what food items are currently needed at the Food Closet. There is always a need for general and miscellaneous non-perishable food items, but the items in the bag each week are the current needs. The Food Closet also accepts brown grocery bags. SSIP is not collecting egg cartons at this time.

During the month of October 2010 – the SSIP Food Closet served a total of 5,498 persons which included adults, seniors, children and infants. This represents 1,430 unduplicated households. The number of persons served and the food delivered express the importance of this ministry.

In September, the volunteers who credited their hours to SJUMC were: Jane Combs, Richard Yokoi, Audrey Yokoi, June Tanihana, Sue Kashiwagi, Frances Lee, Francis Asahara, Lisa Tanaka, Lester Wataji, Derek Hironaka, Katie Marshall, Lisa Yuki, Cecil Combs, Meg Tanaka, Kimi Ronay and Yoshi Nishikawa.

We are still in need of volunteers to work inside the Food Closet on Mondays or Wednesdays. We are still in need of volunteers to work in the metal storage locker bagging USDA commodities on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month and also on Fridays. Workers inside the Food Closet do a specific task; worker #1 pre-

pare Bag #1 and worker #2 prepares Bag #2, worker #3 adds fresh produce and gets the number of USDA bags needed from a bin and worker #4 adds rice, additional breads and pastries to the bags and calls the client to the window. Workers who bag USDA commodities place 7-8 items in a doubled plastic bag and ties the bag closed. The items vary each month depending on what is received from Foodlink and may include: a can of beans, fruits, vegetables, spaghetti sauce, tomato sauce, a bag of pasta, powder milk, etc. If you would like to volunteer on a regular basis or as a substitute, please call Frances Lee 427-7983, Jane Combs 443-2839 or June Tanihana 395-1355.

Please come to the Food Closet when you are in the neighborhood and see the progress of the New Food Closet building. Construction began on October 6. The building is up, the roof has been completed and the heating and air conditioning unit was installed November 5th. The first coat of stucco has been applied to the outside of the building. Our committee is busy planning the interior of the building which will be completed by professional help as well as volunteers.



UMW Report

Another successful rummage ... we netted \$3,400. On Saturday morning, there was a crowd of people waiting for us to open the gate at 9am. Items not sold went to many deserving establishments. In the afternoon, "Friends of the Library" took all the unsold books. Bags and bags of usable clothes went to the "PTA clothes closet", the Mexico Mission, and "Loaves and Fishes".

Thank you to all who came out to sort, fold, and process all the bags and bags of clothes, kitchen ware, small appliances, toys, books, and other miscellaneous items. A BIG THANK

YOU to those who stayed to help clean up and get the fellowship hall ready for Sunday morning.

The Booklet Committee has been meeting to develop the UMW Booklet for 2011. Thank you to those individuals who have been contacted to Chair the many activities UMW Tobans will be hosting for the New Year. The booklets will be distributed as soon as they are finalized, compiled, xeroxed and stapled.

Save the Date - January Budget Meeting to be held on January 30, 2011

Community Prayer Corner

Comfort and Prayer for the families and friends of

- * Woody Ishikawa (9/4/10)
- * Kojiro Kawaguchi (10/06/10)
- * Linda Umeda (10/18/10)
- * George Yamadera (11/14/10)
- * Al Wang
- * Kuni Tanihana
- * Jodie Yamaguchi

Special Prayers

- * Alice Kubo
- * Tule Yomogida
- * Etsu Yui
- * Motoko Kobayashi
- * Russ Kanemasu
- * Florence Shikasho
- * people, looking for a job
- * People who are facing surgeries

Thanksgiving Prayers

- * Mission Trip Team



"Alternative Holiday Fair"



As we approach the Christmas season, each of us will be invited to discover how we may take part in the Advent Conspiracy. If you wish to learn more, please come and worship with us as Rev. Moteo Yamada will be preaching on this topic during Advent. In keeping with the themes of this series, we will be having an information booth about the "Best Gifts" project offered by Church World Service. This alternate gift giving project will enable you to give a memorable present to someone while supporting the various life-changing ministry efforts of Church World Service. Starting on November 28, there will be a display board and we will have some "Best Gift" catalogs for you to view. If you would prefer to view the catalog online, you may go to www.cwsbestgifts.org. If you have any questions about this, please see Mary Nakamura.

YOUTH NEWS

This month has been especially fun for the youth. We kicked off with the church Bazaar where Tadashi, Sachiko, and Mitchell were selling sodas and ice cream to fundraise for the youth group. Austin and his friend John were able to run the sound system for the entertainment portion and Jason, Jordan, and Taylor lent their services to the games booth for the little kids. The food was delicious and there were many different hand crafted treasures for sale. Open gym was placed on hold for the second week as we went to support and participate in the Crop Walk at the state capitol. We had a team with SJUMC to walk to help end world hunger. For the week-end of Halloween we were invited to a lock-in at Aldersgate UMC in Palo Alto. Our youth have friends from camp who participate in their youth group as well so it was a fun filled weekend, reuniting friendships and a wonderful theme with God as its center. We were honored to participate in their worship service by leading them in a few praise songs that are favorites from camp.

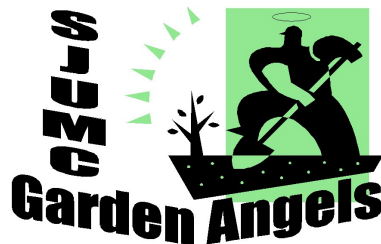
November opened with a tasty Fried Rice Fundraiser on the 7th immediately following the service. The youth helped prep and cook in the morning before service and then they were there to serve and collect tickets. We were asked to help with the Rummage Sale clean up so we were there to help bag the remaining items and with any other chores. The second week was family and basketball Sunday so basketball families and players helped out with different aspects of our worship service. We had a lock-in this month on the weekend of the 20th and 21st. We explored "need vs. want" and "thankfulness". As always, we will have Youth Open Gym on the second and fourth Sundays. Be on the lookout for upcoming events in December and January.



Thank you to all who helped to make this year's CROP Walk a meaningful family event. SJUMC had thirty-five walkers of all ages participating in the walk which started at the West Steps of the State Capitol. Special thank you to Bob and Gloria Sasaki and crew who prepared bento lunches for the walkers. And thank you to Frances Lee for helping to staff the water station with Parkside Community Church. Finally, we wish to thank all of the people who sponsored the walkers and gave heartfelt donations to help combat hunger for millions of people worldwide and locally. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to raise \$2335.00 this year.

Vandals struck SJUMC Again. Friday night, vandals cut the gate in the rear of the church, cut the lock off the chicken shed, cut the steel bar & the pad lock to enter the shed. So far the only thing stolen was the gas for the blower, vacuum, edger & tractor. Some hand tools for the Garden Angels also were missing. A complete inventory will be taken shortly

Garden Angels



In August, I had the opportunity to attend the Women's Walk to Emmaus in Gardnerville, Nevada. This is a three-day spiritual renewal program that encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways to be servants to all. I was sponsored and supported by past attendees Loretta Ashizawa, Mary Nakamura, Sue Teranishi, and May Ukita.

I had lost my husband, Kooshi, to cancer a little over a year ago. We did not have much time together during his illness, as he was diagnosed at a late stage. We were married for 44 years so its been a difficult time for me. I felt that I needed to get away and spend some time alone with God.

The Walk to Emmaus gave me time to reflect upon my life. It made me think about my past and how I became a Christian. I was not raised in a Christian household; however, I had an elementary school teacher in South Dakota who taught us about the bible each day for an hour. This was in 1947 when it was acceptable to talk about God in public schools. My teacher and her sister taught us stories of Jesus by using flannel boards. The bible study sessions had a profound impact on me. Especially, their teaching of John 3:16.

When I finished high school in Washington, I moved to California to attend nursing school at Sacramento City College. I feel that nursing was my call in life, and that God had set a guiding angel to oversee my 41 year nursing career at Mercy General Hospital. It was more than a job to me. It was my way of serving Christ and his children.

My husband and I were married at the Pioneer Church in 1965, and we sang together in the SJUMC choir in the late 1960's. I have fond memories of sending our boys to Sunday school at SJUMC when Revered Joe Sakakibara was here. I am very grateful for this church, my two wonderful sons, and my four beautiful grandchildren. My three-day experience at Walk to Emmaus not only inspired me spiritually and brought me closer to God, it gave me a greater appreciation of the aforementioned blessings in my life. (By Betty Hirata)

What is "Walk to Emmaus"?
a time to "walk" together with other women or men. During the weekend, 15 talks are given that reflect the essence of what it means to be in relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Combined with sharing together, prayer, communion times, singing and lots of laughter, each participant or "pilgrim" on the walk is blessed with time to grow spiritually.

Medical Decisions When They Count Most

Do you know who you want to make health-care decisions for you if you become unable to communicate? Are you concerned about a loved one's declining health, but unsure how to talk about what lies ahead? Then you will want to make time to attend a presentation by the Compassionate Care Alliance on **Sunday, December 5 from 12:00 noon—1:00 p.m.** in the Fireside Room. The program helps adults of all ages prepare for medical decisions about care near the end of life and provides information on advance directives— what they are, choosing a spokesperson and talking with loved ones.

