

# SAKURA DAYORI



## **Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church Newsletter**

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Volume 43

December 2009

No. 12

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### *Christmas Eve Service*

*7:00 pm in the Sanctuary  
Join us for this beautiful  
service of carols, candles  
and the joy of God's  
coming to us.*

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### *Upcoming Events*

- \* December 5 - Committee Planning Day - 9am - 12noon  
All new and continuing committee members required to attend.
- \* December 13 - Children's Christmas Pageant and Family Worship  
10:30am
- \* December 24 - Christmas Eve Service - 7:00pm
- \* December 25 - Christmas Holiday - Office Closed

### Notes from Rev. Motoe

*Jesus said "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:20 &21)*

When I was preaching to 800 young people who are considering ordination, I told them how much I love the church and people. Yes, it's you! I thank God everyday for this opportunity to work with you! I was very happy to know that many of the young people signed the commitment cards that they would pursue their calling for ordination! Praise God! After my sermon, I jumped into an airport shuttle to fly back to Sacramento to attend a special worship service: "Together We Serve", the Sacramento celebration of full communion between The United Methodist Church and The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Many thanks for Candace and Carol Wong for being ushers at the event, and Yoshiko Harper who was willing to step in to read a prayer in Japanese in case my flight got delayed. Clergy wearing red stoles processed in with ecumenical guests and members of Conference Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. Bishop Mark W. Holmerud of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA preached and Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., of the San Francisco Episcopal Area and resident bishop of the California-Nevada Annual Conference, presided over the communion. It was an historical moment! Bishop Holmerud reminded us that we should get together more often and I agree!

As many of you know that I am a delegate for the World Council of Churches Central Committee. I believe in Ecumenism (Christians working together)! Unfortunately Christians have been arguing about different theology and breaking off from one another to a different group and/or denomination. It was young people who started to bring various Christians together for unity 100 years ago! About the same time as the creation of United Nations, the World Council of Churches (WCC) was formed. WCC "is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the scriptures, and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

God is calling us to be one so that we can accomplish so many more things for God when we are united. Let us strive to be one, and let us start with our church! Because together, we can do more for Jesus!





## Invitation to Worship

December 6, 2009

### *Second Sunday of Advent*

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

December 13, 2009

### *Third Sunday of Advent*

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

December 20, 2009

### *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

December 24, 2009

### *Christmas Eve*

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

December 25, 2009

### *Christmas Day*

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)

John 1:1-14

December 27, 2009

### *First Sunday After Christmas Day*

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

### Greeters for December

December 6 - Elaine Maeda &  
Frances Lee

December 13 - Jean Kanemasu &  
Belle Ito

December 20 - Flo Mizoguchi

December 27 - Sachiko Konatsu

If you signed up to be a greeter and don't see your name here, please sign up again - Dec. & Jan. list went missing.

### Ushers for December

December 6 — Brian Gosney  
& Brett Williamson

December 13 — Keiko Kato & Kumiko  
Sakata

December 20—Art & Gloria Imagine  
Phillip & Lois Yuki

December 27—Elaine & Sachi Maeda

### Methodist Youth Fellowship

By Brian Gosney

Greetings everyone! This has been a good month for our church's MYF Youth Group. During the Halloween weekend nine youth spent the night at the church. The youth were busy visiting a giant corn maze in West Sacramento, playing board games, watching movies, enjoying a devotional service held by Rev. Motoe and of course eating. I would like to send a special thanks to Bob and Gloria Sasaki for organizing breakfast for everyone, Betty and Dave Silvornail for contributing salad and desert for dinner and Jill Kanemasu for staying the night at the church.

Sunday, November 8 from 12:30 – 3:00 pm marked the start of Open Gym. 25 kids showed up to play basketball and enjoy the great sports facilities we have here at church. Please look for more Open Gym dates in the future.

UMW Report  
by  
Shigeko Shibata

In December we will be participating in "Women of Faith" and we will be participating in the all-church program for new officers and outgoing officers to discuss and plan for 2010. An exciting event that will give us all an opportunity to see all the committees that provide leadership at SJUMC.

Belle Ito, Yvonne Kato and Gloria Imagire attended the Conference workshop in Stockton on "WHERE ARE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN". Irene Osuga, Elaine Maeda and Shigeko Shibata attended the Delta District training for officers, installation of Delta District officers and the "5 Star Unit" recognition. We are looking into being a 5 Star Unit as part of our goal in 2010.

Upcoming event is the quadrennial gathering of

UMW at the 2010 Assembly in St. Louis, Missouri April 29 to May 2, 2010. The theme is "Faith, Hope, Love in Action" to learn, lift up and to return to their communities better equipped for mission. This is a unified effort to stay at the forefront of the work being done both locally and globally, both systemically and in charity, to improve and sustain the lives of women, children and youth.

We thank the November and December tobans for refreshments and their dedicated service to UMW.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all UMW women who helped me make my last two years as President of UMW so enriching and a great learning opportunity. Thank you everyone.

### Youth Spotlight

Name: Jackie Noguchi Age: 13

*What school do you attend?*

**Leonardo da Vinci School**

*Who are the members of your family, particularly all those who attend church?*

**My Mom, Sharon Noguchi**

*When did you start attending SJUMC?*

**October 31, 2008**

*What are some of your hobbies?*

**Basketball and Guitar**

*Please share an enjoyable memory you have had that involves the church?*

**The Halloween Lock-In was great because we all hung out and got to know each other a little better. We talked about what our relationship with God is like and a bunch of other fun things.**

### Youth Events

Dec. 6: Adopt-A-Family Shopping Trip:  
12:00-3pm

Dec. 12: Sesame Chicken Prep: Morning (TBA)

Dec. 13: Sesame Chicken Sale: Morning (TBA)

Dec. 13: Open Gym 12:30-3pm

Dec. 20: Illuminating Bag Prep / BBQ at Brian Gosney's House: TBA

Jan: 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service: AmeriCorps City Wide Event, More Info to Come

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### GENERAL FUND

In Celebration of Ikuko's birthday  
Asahawa, Francis

In Celebration of Helen and Farrington's Anniversary  
Kashiwagi, M/M George

In Celebration of Helen's birthday  
Kashiwagi, M/M George

In Celebration of Amy's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Kawahara, M/M Yosh  
Ukita, May

In Celebration of birthday  
Kubokawa, JoAnne

In Celebration of Frances' birthday  
Kushi, M/M Tom

In Celebration of Al Fong's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Matsuoka, M/M Walter  
Sasaki, M/M Robert

In Celebration of Ed and Alice's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Ukita, May

In Appreciation for a good job to Chuck & Art  
Kashiwagi, M/M George

Thank you for prayers  
Kinoshita, M/M Ted

Special Offering for Greg, Kiyoko & family's move to Kansas  
Shibata, M/M Victor

Special Donation  
Lum, M/M Evan  
Murakami, M/M Harry

In Memory of Sue Teranishi's father  
Ashizawa, M/M Winston  
Kanemasu, M/M Russell

In Memory of Ruth T. Shimizu  
Ishisaka, Mitsue

In Memory of Hisa Nishimura  
Kanemasu, M/M Russell

In Memory of Min Shimada  
Koshino, M/M Eddie  
Takechi, M/M Curtis

In Memory of Kooshi Hirata  
Koyama, Patty

In Memory of parents M/M K. Okino and M/M Y.

Oku

Okino, Marie

In Memory of Mrs. Hatsuko Takechi  
Sato, M/M RoyIn Memory of Frank Yutaka  
Ukita, May

### Methodist Youth Fund

Sakamoto, M/M Sayori

### UMCOR

Laing, M/M Carl

Matsuoka, M/M Walter

Okino, Marie

Sumida, Frances

Yamadera, M/M George

### WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Fong, Karen

Ito, Belle

Kawahara, M/M Yosh

Kunibe, M/M Thomas

Lee, Frances

Nishikawa, Rev/M George

Nishizaki, Tom

Saito, Margaret

Shibata, M/M Victor

Sumida, Frances

Kunibe, M/M Thomas

Yui, Etsu

### LEGACY FUND

In Celebration of Ed & Alice Kubo's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Kashiwagi, GeorgeIn Memory of Lorraine Kubochi  
Honbo, Dr/M Wes

Iwata, Grace

Taketa, M/M Bill

In Memory of Sue Teranishi's Father  
Imagine, M/M Art

Yamadera, M/M George

In Memory of Dorothy Saika  
Inouye, Margaret

(Continued on page 6)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (con't)

In Memory of Henry Taketa  
Taketa, Sally  
In Memory of K. Hirata  
Yuki, M/M Phil  
In Memory of Tokumatsu Seno, Grandfather  
Yuki, M/M Phil  
In Memory of Ruth Shimizu  
Ashizawa, M/M Winston  
Dingley, Bernice  
Imagire, M/M Art  
Kanemoto, Jean  
Kimura, M/M Mike  
Kobayashi, M/M Charles  
Murakami, M/M Sam  
Nishikawa, Rev/M George  
Okino, Marie  
Saito, Margaret  
Sakamoto, Katherine  
Shibata, M/M Victor  
Taketa, M/M Bill  
Taketa, Catherine  
Yuki, M/M Phillip

### Thanksgiving Offering

Kurosaki, Merry

## CROP WALK

*"We walk because they walk."*

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's CROP Walk! Thirty-three people signed up to walk this year and thanks to the generous support of all of the donors, the walkers raised \$2394.50. Thank you to Bob and Gloria Sasaki for providing the walkers with a delicious chicken teriyaki bento lunch after church service that Sunday. And thank you to Frances Lee and Chewy Ito who staffed the water station along the 10K route. Thank you to Sachiko and Tadashi who came up with a cleverly designed entry for the poster contest. Stephen did a great job at displaying the box during the contest and we won honorable mention. Thank you again to the following people who walked with me in solidarity with people in developing countries who have to walk miles each day to get food and water: Brian Gosney, Tadashi Headley, Betty Hirata, Mitzi Ishizaka, Jill Kanemasu, Keiko Kato, Amy Kawahara, Sandy and Eddie Koshino (and Ashley and Ellie), Crystal, Chris and Kiersten Neves, Joyce Oshiro, Jayne, Scott and Misa Rasmussen, Kimi Ronay, Roy and Kiyoko Sato, Stephen, Pam Niiya, Michael and Alyssa Siegel, Kimi Silvernail, Kurt, Mindy, Austin and Mitchell Takechi, Carol, Candace and Connor Wong, and Rev. Motoe Yamada.



## SHARING OUR REFLECTIONS & TESTIMONIALS

The Sharing Our Reflections and Testimonials committee is busy with final editing and preparing to bind the stories to make our Advent booklets. Our thank you to those who shared their personal stories of their faith. Each one is special and heartwarming, and each one is precious. And - each one helps us all in strengthening and valuing our own faith.

Here is our distribution schedule:

Nov. 22: We hope to have samples so you can see what the booklet looks like. (On Nov. 29, 1st Sunday in Advent, each one attending worship service will be given a booklet). For those of you who want to order extra copies to give to family members, relatives or friends, you will be able to do so. For those extra copies, the prices will be:

\$3.00 - 1 copy  
\$10.00 - 4 copies

Nov. 29: Distribution of booklets

If you have questions, you can call Robyn at 421-1017 or Helen Blaisdell at 427-2259

## SACRAMENTO LITERACY

The Sacramento Literacy Program, an outreach mission of the Fremont Presbyterian Church, and also of which our SJUMC Adult Literacy Program comes under, is seeking for more tutors. It is a great way to give back to help a fellow Sacramentan learn to read, write and speak more effectively in English.

If you are wondering about your qualifications, Director Mary Buehler can give you individualized training on use of the basic textbooks filled with teaching strategies, teaching methods for ESL (English as a Second Language) students. At this church Helen Blaisdell can be of help.

It is a great way to help someone become an independent member of our community. As quoted in Mary Buehler's letter, "Remember, you CAN read, but one out of four adults in the Sacramento community is unable to do so. One of Jesus' roles was as a teacher. Can you share your gifts with other as He has with us?"

If interested or have any questions, you can call Mary Buehler at 631-0594 (home) or the Literacy Office (456-0437) or talk to Helen Blaisdell at our church.

### **Committee Minutes Binder**

A binder that contains the minutes from different committees of the Church is now available in the Narthex. Please do not take the binder or minutes with you. If you would like to obtain the copy, please ask the church office.

Also, the secretary of each committee is requested to put the approved minutes in the folder each month. Thank you!

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> Street. Our congregation supports the Food Closet and SSIP through monetary donations, food donations, 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 the 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 2009 the SSIP Food Closet served a total of 5,024 persons which included adults, seniors, children and infants. This represents 1,324 unduplicated households. The number of persons served and the food delivered expresses the importance of this ministry.

In October, the volunteers who credited their hours to SJUMC were: Francis Asahara, Cecil Combs, Jane Combs, Sue Kashiwagi, Frances Lee, Jan Muraki, Lisa Tanaka, Meggie Tanaka, June Tanihana, Virginia Uchida, Les Wataji, Audrey Yokoi, Yoshi Nishikawa and Richard Yokoi.

We are still in need of volunteers to work inside the Food Closet on Mondays or to work in the metal storage locker bagging USDA commodities. Workers inside the Food Closet do a specific task; worker #1 prepares 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 tie 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, powdered 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.

### Church Planning Day

December 5

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

All outgoing, current and incoming committee members are required to come to our Church planning day. All church members are invited to come. We will be discussing the future of the church. If you have any questions or concerns please talk to Rev. Motoe or your committee chair.

### Church Conference Report is Available!

Thank you to everyone who came to the Church Conference on Nov. 19th! Under the leadership of Rev. Kathi McShane from 1st UMC, it went great! The copy of Church Conference is available in Narthex and in the office.

Congratulations to all who have been elected as officers for 2010.

## Fall Rummage Sale

We went from the fall bazaar to the fall rummage sale without batting an eye and ended up with the biggest and most profitable rummage sale ever!

On Thursday our hardworking Garden Angels unwittingly had to work overtime setting up because we had to gather things crammed and scattered into about four rooms! Thanks to Chuck Alicaya, Francis Asahara, Lincoln Fujii, Mark Hagiya, Ricke Kimura, Ed Kubo, Walter Matsuoka, Kent Nakashima, Bob Sasaki, and Michael Yui. Art Imagire is not a GA but helped.

On Friday when a non-church member came to drop off donations, she couldn't believe what she saw in the social hall.....piles of stuff and boxes everywhere! We didn't think we could do it, but we had steady hardworking people who did manage to sort everything out by early evening. During the day we enjoyed wonderful fellowship and laughter as we worked.

The Next To New area was again manned by Laura Katayama, Meggie Tanaka, and Tule Yomogida, and they did another outstanding job! They broke the thousand dollar mark for the first time ever!

We want to thank our exceptional crew of to-bans for November – Joyce Fujii, Kathy Gosney, Juli Oji-Hoig, Carolyn Ishii, Barbara Kado, Jane Kakigi, Tee Kinoshita, and Ruby Uno. They worked hard for days, then brought delicious lunch items for everyone to share. Special thanks too to Emi Yokomichi and Yuri Harvey for their special Japanese goodies, and Betty Kimoto and Debbie Imura Foey who provided basketball help.

We were fortunate in having Frances Asahara, Walter Matsuoka, Dave Osuga, Bob Sasaki, Lester Wataji, and George Yomogida help us

sell the many items we had outside.

After the sale we really appreciated the basketball parents and their children who helped us with the bagging of leftovers and clean-up. They swept, mopped, and wiped down the tables they had set up so the social hall looked spiffier than it had in months! We did not name them specifically for fear of leaving out some names so please bear with us and know that we appreciated all the help you gave us.

Everyone commented on how much we had to sell this year. We had many generous people outside of the church who donated items to us along with the church people who cleaned out their closets as usual. Art Imagire was diligent in checking things out to make sure everything was in good working order. We ended up clearing over \$5,400.00 which includes Next-to-New and is the most we have ever made. We can't thank everyone enough for their donations, food, and hard work!

At the end we again were able to donate boxes of items to the City School's clothes closet, a missionary church in Galt which sends clothes to poor areas in Mexico, and books, videos, and such to the Southgate Friends of the Library..... even stuffed animals to a nursing home.

All in all, we encouraged everyone to clean out their closets and drawers and in that process helped many needy folks. Once again, thanks to everyone for making this such a great team effort!

November Co-Chairs,  
Laura Katayama and Gloria Imagire

## SJUMC Basketball Program

This year the program has 13 boys teams, 8 girls teams and over 60 instructional players. The teams consist of 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders and instructional players are kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The instructional program learns fundamentals and does not participate in league play. They are underway and practice Friday nights through February.

The teams participate in the Northern California Church League (NCCL) which consists of teams from SJUMC, Sacramento Betsuin, Chinese Community Church, Calvary (Stockton), Florin Buddhist, Stockton Buddhist, and Nichiren Buddhist. League play begins Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders (E teams) playing on Saturdays and 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders (D, C, and B teams) playing on Sunday afternoons. The league culminates with several tournaments in the month of March with SJUMC hosting the weekends of March 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>.

Game schedules for SJUMC teams will be posted in the near future on our website at [www.sjumcbasketball.org](http://www.sjumcbasketball.org). If you have a free hour or two on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, please come out and support our teams! The majority of Saturday games are played at Florin Buddhist church and the Sunday games are at various locations in South Sacto (McClatchy, Kennedy, Didion, etc.) Locations are also posted on the website.



## Meet Coach Curtis Notsinneh

Team: Boys B-1

Age: 29

SJUMC connection: member 29 years; parents: Wendy Notsinneh, the late Curtis Notsinneh, Step dad Walter Akiyama; grandparents: the late Willie and Sue Sakai

Curtis has coached a SJUMC E girls team and was active in MYF as a youth. He played for SJUMC from second grade through high school, and played NAU for some years following high school. In addition to basketball he played football through high school and continues to play flag football. His coaching style is strict and literal, yet fair, and he wants to ensure that the team has a good time and learn about more than the technical skills of basketball. He expects his young men to conduct themselves as athletes, gentlemen, scholars and leaders both on and off the basketball court.

In his professional life he is a senior fiscal and policy consultant to Assembly Member Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo) and has been in politics professionally for more than nine years. He previously served as the political director in California for a New York based public health and harm reduction non-profit organization, and prior to that served as an aide to former Assembly Member Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles). He is also a member designee to the California Council on Criminal Justice, which administers federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grants and acts as an advisory board to the legislature and governor on criminal justice issues; he is Vice President of Recruitment and Participation for the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project, a state-wide non-profit organization that sponsors leadership conferences and other events to foster a new generation of community and political leaders.

In his personal life, he is planning a wedding scheduled for next fall with his beautiful fiancé Josefina Ramirez. In his spare time, he works on his yard and upgrades to his house, watches and plays football, and enjoys time with friends and family.



## Poinsettias for Christmas

This year we are taking orders for poinsettias for use in our morning worship on December 20<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to purchase one or more poinsettias in memory or in honor of someone. Each poinsettia is \$8.50 and if you would like to take your poinsettia home, you may do so following the worship service, or during the week following. Please call first as holiday hours will be in effect 8:30 - 12:30.

Complete this form and place in the offering plate, drop off or mail to the church office with your check made out to SJUMC. On this form, note the donor – an individual name, Mr. & Mrs., or the “Ito” Family as you wish it to appear in the worship folder. Then list the names of those ‘in memory’ or ‘in honor’ of as you would like them to appear in print. These can be listed such as “In honor of my grandchildren by Mary Ito”; “In memory of our parents by M/M Ito”; In memory of Louise Ito by Jerry Ito”; etc. An Acknowledgement list will be in the worship folder on December 20<sup>th</sup> and in the January Sakura Dayori.

*The deadline for poinsettia orders is December 10, 2009.  
Please include your phone number should questions arise.*

Donor Name	Phone
In Memory of	
In Honor of	
# of Poinsettias	X \$8.50 =
<i>Place in offering plate or mail by December 10 to: SJUMC - Poinsettia 6929 Franklin Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95823</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash	



Sacramento Japanese  
United Methodist Church  
6929 Franklin Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95823

Non-Profit Organization  
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