

SAKURA DAYORI



Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church
Newsletter

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Volume 43

October 2009

No. 10

Upcoming Events

- *October 3 - Annual Fall Bazaar - 10:30am - 3:30pm*
- *October 2-4 - Alpha Omega Young Adult Retreat*
- *October 4 - World Communion Sunday*
- *October 11 - Crop Walk*
- *October 25 - Blessing of the Animals; Children's Costume Parade*
- *November 7 - UMW Annual Rummage Sale, items may be donated 1 week prior.*

Due to new restrictions on bulk mailings, you are receiving this issue in an envelope. Included are your pledge envelope and the Special Sunday envelope for World Communion Sunday.

Notes from Rev. Motoe Yamada

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" God said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." Exodus 3:11 & 12

Did you know you are a minister? When I say this to people, I sometimes see confused and surprised faces. Generally their responses are "No, you ARE the minister" or "I did not go to a seminary." I truly believe that you are already a minister of something. You may minister to people by listening to them, sharing your stories, serving others in SSIP (South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership), singing praises in the choir, teaching Sunday School classes, and the list goes on.

I pray that you have passions in Christ and will find your special mission which God calls you to do in the church and the community. I have started to ask people to be liturgists and to share testimonies as one of the ways to encourage people to participate in worship services. This Church belongs to Jesus and you are a part of this wonderful church! Many of you have filled out the interest sheet (purple paper) and I appreciate that. If you know how you can serve Jesus and the church, please let me know. I will be more than happy to try to figure out how that will work out.

If you think that you have nothing to offer, please think again. When Moses was told by God that he would be sent to Pharaoh, he told God many excuses. He did not think he was worthy or prepared to do it. All questions and excuses Moses had, God assured him that God would provide everything he would need and God would be with him. Are you ready to serve? Age does not matter and there are many ways to serve. Let us continue to listen to God how God wants us to serve!

Speaking of ministers, SJUMC hosted a special event for young people who are thinking about ordained ministry on September 19 & 20. Although I believe that we are all ministers in some ways, there is a unique calling to be ordained pastors. There are national events called "Exploration" for young people to discern their calling to be ordained pastors. I was told that all Asian Americans who went to the last Exploration event two years ago decided not to go into ordained ministry. I felt that this time there must be something we can do to support young people. I was also asked to be one of the keynote speakers at Exploration in Dallas, TX (Nov. 13 - 15) and I am honored and happy to be there for especially Asian American and Pacific Islander (API), to mentor and nurture them. Rev. George Nishikawa, a chair of National Japanese American Clergy Caucus and I started to brainstorm how we could help API and we decided to host a weekend pre-event for them. We ended up having 22 people and they learned the process to be ordained pastors, different types of ministries, appointment process and so on. Some of them were in tears when we did a laying on of hands to send them forth. I am confident that we will have great ordained pastors in our community in the near future and I praise God for that! I am especially thankful for Rev. George and other people who were on the planning team, Garden Angels and people who donated so we could have the event and Bob and Gloria Sasaki who were at the church for full two days to cook for everyone. I feel so blessed to be at this amazing church!

One of the SJUMC young people is thinking about going into ordained ministry and unfortunately the person was too young to participate in the pre Exploration event. It is encouraging for
(Continued on page 3)



Invitation to Worship

October 4, 2009

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday

Garden Series IV - God's Garden

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Psalm 26 or Psalm 25 (UMH 756)

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

October 11, 2009

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Mission Sunday; Stewardship; Family Worship

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Psalm 22:1-15 (UMH 752)

Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

October 18, 2009

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Laity Sunday; Stewardship

Job 38:1-7 (34-41)

Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c (UMH 826)

Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

October 25, 2009

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Blessing of the Animals; Children's Costume Parade

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22) (UMH 769)

Greeters for October

October 4—Sandy & Eddie Koshino

October 11—Gina Kato & Marie Okino

October 18—Frances Asahara & Belle Ito

October 25—Lincoln Fujii & Cathy Taketa

Ushers for October

October 4—Eddie Koshino & Roger Nakashima

October 11—Hiroko Arimoto & Masako Yokomichi

October 18—Richard & Ruby Fernandez

October 25—Mark McLean & Jim Williamson

(Continued from page 2)

our church to know that we are teaching and nurturing future leaders. We are in the process of hiring Jr. High and Sr. High Youth Ministry Director so we will be able to provide more care for young people and encourage their participation. Jill Kanemasu and other parents have been great support for youth ministry and the church will continue to rely on their support. We are also working on both Jr. High and Sr. High Sunday School rooms so that our youth feel welcome and ownership of their rooms. At one point SJUMC was known to have many youth. It is so important to teach young people about God's Love and the Bible that they will have faith and tools for discernment when they grow up. It won't happen overnight. Together, we will be able to welcome new people and nurture our young people. Let us start from today!

SHARING OUR REFLECTIONS & TESTIMONIALS

I had the privilege of reading a booklet of individual personal testimonies of faith of the members of the Loomis Methodist Church now called the First United Methodist Church of Loomis. Amy Kawahara shared her copy with me which was passed on to her by her mother. Each testimony is genuinely sincere, and I was inspired by each one.

We are starting a similar project at SJUMC. To do this, we need your participation. What we need is your personal story of your journey of faith. In it you can:

1. tell about your relationship with God
2. tell about the person who led you to Christ
3. Tell about how God answered your prayer(s)
4. tell about how God helped you when you needed help

5. write a Bible verse that goes with your story if able.

You can write it and turn it in to Helen Blaisdell or the office. If you need help with your writing, we can interview you and write the story for you. Your stories will make our booklet. Let us set the deadline for Nov. 15 so we can have it by Christmas.

Just to let you know - so far everyone I have asked for help has agreed to help. That tells me that some of us want to get to know each other better and appreciate each other. After all, we are a church family. Let us reinforce the love that we have for each other.

In God's Love,
Helen Blaisdell

Young Adults

(18 years old and up)

YA ministry will start soon.

Please let Rev. Motoe know if you are interested.

Alpha Omega Young Adult Beach Retreat

Oct. 2 (Friday) to 4 (Sunday), 2009

United Methodist Camp

Arroyo Grande

250 Wesley St.

Arroyo Grande, CA 93421

Last year more than 70 young adults got together for this retreat. Scholarships are available.

Exploration 2009

Nov. 13-15

Dallas, TX



A gathering for young people (high-school seniors through age 24) considering ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church.

The pre-event for Asian American Pacific Islander was held at SJUMC on the weekend of Sept 19 & 20. 25 people attended. Thanks, to Bob Sasaki and the Garden Angels for providing food for us!

For more information go to:
www.gbhem.org/site/c.lSKSL3POLvF/b.3855673/k.A616/Exploration_2009.htm
Or talk to Rev. Motoe.

Jan Ken Po Cultural Association

presents

SUISEKI

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009

2pm - 4pm

ACC

7375 Park City Dr.

Come join friends and learn about the Art of Suiseki. Instructor, **Clarence Smith** will teach us the aesthetics of Suiseki. Clarence will discuss his travels, searches, and collection of these unique stones.



Suiseki (Sui = water, Seki = stone) is a Japanese term for "beautiful and meaningful stones." The art of Suiseki involves the collection, preparation, and appreciation of unaltered, naturally formed stones. Shaped by forces of nature and the passage of time, these beautiful microcosms of our world suggest shapes and designs that remind us everyday natural objects. When displayed on specially designed wooden stands or trays, they become a true work of art and spiritual inspiration. Often referred to as "viewing stones," this art form of stone appreciation is rapidly growing in the western world.

CROP WALK

"We walk because they walk."

Please join Rev. Motoe and the other walkers at this year's CROP Walk on Sunday, October 11. Hungry people in developing countries typically walk as much as six miles a day to get food, water, and fuel, and to take their goods to market. We walk to be in solidarity with their struggle for existence. We walk because they walk. CROP Hunger Walks are ecumenical, interfaith community events that help support the worldwide programs of Church World Service and 25% of funds raised are shared with local agencies: SSIP, St. Matthews, Opening Doors, Sacramento Food Bank, and River City Community Services. There are three different courses of varying lengths. It's not too late to sign up to be a walker or to sponsor a walker. Please see Mary Nakamura if you are interested in walking. The walk will begin at 1 pm and will start at the west steps of the Capitol.



Correction

The Finance committee would like to apologize for an error that appeared in the Acknowledgements Section of the September issue of the Sakura Dayori. The posting was in memory of Frances Kondo, but should have been for her son Rory Kondo from Mrs. Fumi Takuma. We are sorry for any confusion and upset this may have caused.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**GENERAL FUND**

In Celebration of Ryland & Ricky's Birthdays
Fernandez, M/M Richard
In Celebration of Roy's surgery recovery
Fukushima, M/M Roy
In Celebration of Reverend Motoe
Kinoshita, M/M Ted
Ouchida, Donna
In Memory of Nuye Kobayashi
Kobayashi, M/M Richard
In Celebration of 50th Anniversary
Kubo, M/M Edwin
In Memory of Shinichiro Matsunaga
Matsuoka, M/M Walter
In Memory of mother Yoshiko Kujubu
Miyasaki, Anne
In Memory of Mrs. Saika (Gloria Imagire's
mother)
Osuga, M/M David
In Memory of Kooshi Hirata
Asahara, Francis
Kanemasu, M/M Russell
Lee, Frances
Nakashima, Mary Ann
Osuga, M/M David
Ukita, May

Floral Fund

Nishizaki, Tom

Methodist Youth Fund (MYF)

Taketa, Catherine

LEGACY FUND

In Celebration of Dan Inouye's Birthday
Inouye, Margaret
In Celebration of Ed & Alice Kubo's 50th Anniversary
Kanemoto, Jean

UMW REPORT

By Shigeko Shibata

The 2009 Cabinet and Committee Chairs have met and have nominated the following people for the 2010 UMW cabinet. We are open to other nominations so please, if you would like to add a name to any of the positions notify any cabinet member. I thank everyone who helped to develop the names.

President - Yvonne Kato and Elaine Maeda

Vice President - Loretta Ashizawa

Secretary - Barbara Kado

Treasurer - Irene Osuga

Membership - Frances Lee

Program Chairperson - Laura Katayama,
Frances Lee, Yvonne Kato, Shigeko Shibata

Care & Concern - Emma Nakamura

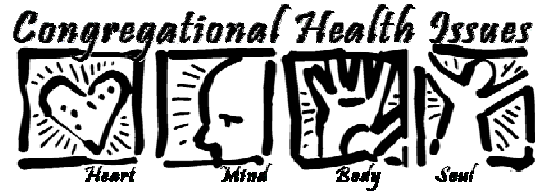
Boutique Coordinators - Emi Alicaya, Frances Kushi

Nominating Committee - to be announced

Chairperson Nichigo - to be announced

Treasurer Nichigo - to be announced

I would also like to thank the September tobans for the great delicious "Welcome Back" luncheon. With summer behind us and the young people going back to school we are all so very thankful for each day as a new opportunity to experience the fullness of life. Thank you everyone for making this such a wonderful event!



What can I do to protect myself from getting sick?

There is no vaccine available right now to protect against H1N1 (swine) flu. There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like influenza. Take these everyday steps to protect your health:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

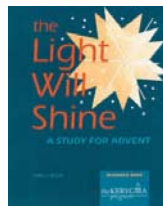
[Wash your hands often with soap and water](#), especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

If you get sick with influenza, CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

Adult classes starting next week!

- **Sowing Tears, Reaping Joy: The Bible and Brahm's Requiem** - 2 Groups
Group A - Sundays, Sept. 20 - Nov. 1, 12:15 pm to 1:30
Group B - Wednesdays, Sept. 23 - Nov. 4, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
- **The Light Will Shine: A study for Advent** - 5 sessions
Sundays, Nov. 8, 22, 29, Dec 6, 13 1:00 pm



*Sign up in the Fellowship Hall
and the office.*

**MEMBERSHIP CARE
MINISTRY**

Are you looking for a group within the church circle? You might consider the Membership Care Ministry.

We attempt to focus toward providing emotional support to our church family and will be actively visiting the home-bound on a regular basis. Please consider joining us. You will experience much pleasure in boosting someone's spirits.

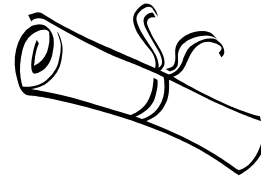
Jean Kanemoto 427-2199

*CSU and UC Honors Nisei Students
Interned During World War II*

On September 23, 2009, the CSU Board of Trustees will vote on granting hundreds of honorary degrees to former students forced from their academic studies due to the internment of people of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

"Hundreds of students were pulled from colleges and universities, forced to delay or abandon their dreams based solely on their ancestry," said CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed. "The internment of Japanese Americans and Japanese nationals during WWII represents the worst of a nation driven by fear and prejudice. By issuing honorary degrees, we hope to achieve a small right in the face of such grave wrongs."

The CSU is asking for public assistance in identifying individuals who qualify for the honorary degree. CSU students (or families of students) whose studies were interrupted due to the internment are urged to call (562) 951-4723.



The University of California has also announced its decision to award honorary degrees to Japanese American students whose studies were disrupted in 1942. The UC estimates the number of students at 700 in attendance at one of four campuses: UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UCLA and UCSF. On December 13, 2009, UC Berkeley will hold a ceremony for their graduates. Secretary Norman Mineta will be the keynote speaker. Former students and their families are asked to contact the University to receive and invitation. Please call 510-643-6493 or email hwd@berkeley.edu.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight savings now changes back to standard time in early November, no longer in later October. This year we return to Daylight Standard Time on Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 2 AM. That means we should turn our clocks back upon going to bed on Saturday, October 31. This is an early reminder of the time change.



Letters to SJUMC

Dear SJUMC:

I have finished my chemotherapy and am feeling great. Thank you to everyone who sent cards, prayers, advice and support during my treatments. It was a good feeling to know that all of you were thinking of me and sending good thoughts my way. It must have worked because I am almost back to my old self and will look that way as soon as my hair grows back. I appreciate all your positive thoughts and concern. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Janet Takehara



Dear SJUMC:

Gratefully acknowledging and thanking you for your kind expression of sympathy.

The Family of Misato Furuiki

.Care Corner

Our sympathy to Gloria Imagire and family on the death of her mother, Dorothy Saika. Mrs. Saika passed away on August 26, 2009.



Our sympathy to Sue Teranishi and family on the death of her father. Mr. Teranishi passed away on September 19, 2009.



WEBSITE
Click and See!

www.sacjumc.com is the name of our church website. Plans are underway to keep the site actively updated so that YOU can be better informed and involved in ministry through SJUMC. ! Check on updates for current ministry events – worship, service projects, youth group and other schedules. And much more!

There is a lot going on through SJUMC ministries! You won't want to miss anything. So, check online for updates and we'll do our best to keep you informed!



Asian Camp
Connor Wong

Asian Camp is not only a place to find a better relationship with God but its also a place to make life long friends, unforgettable moments, and social skills that can really help you in everyday life. Every year a group of about 100 kids from various churches; grades varying from high school freshmen to college sophomores. These kids are put in groups of about 10-15 including counselors for each group. They spend the majority of each day playing games, participating in activities, and taking part in numerous conversations together, forming a bond at the end of the week that almost makes you feel connected to these people as if they had been a part of your family. In other words "Growth Groups". While these games and activities are fun, I think they also strengthen our relationship with God in each and every one of us. We not only find this in growth groups, but we also find ways to connect with God through our whole camp worship

services. These times of worship include pastors, counselors and campers sharing their stories and how they turned to God one way or another in their lives. But the most important thing we do throughout the week during worship is sing. As the camp would put it "We sing to express, not to impress". So no matter if you're good or bad at singing, everyone is expressing themselves and having a good time. At the end of the week counselors give back to the campers and practically dedicate a full day for them that consist of an etiquette dinner, where everyone is matched up in a small group consisting of mainly two boys and two girls to have dinner with each other, being served by counselors. To top the week off, a dance is held to just kick back with music and have a good night with friends. I probably left out so many things in this article that I experienced at Asian Camp but it's nearly impossible to write everything in one paragraph. The only way you can understand the full experience of what these kids go through in just one week each year...is to go!

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
 YOUR ARTICLES
 EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
 NEWSLETTER
 ARTICLES IS**

SATURDAY
 OCTOBER 10

Articles may be left in the church office or e-mailed to Joanne Mikami at hankojo@starstream.net.

Save the date!

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE
 November 19, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.
 Joint conference with
 Hope United Methodist Church

Each year our congregation and every United Methodist congregation holds an annual Church Conference (or Charge Conference.) All are welcome at the church conference and all church members are able to vote.



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. 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.

June Tanihana and Jane Combs recently joined the SSIP Board of Directors and are representatives from our church. Both are active volunteers who work weekly at the Food Closet. June works at the Food Closet on Fridays and Jane works on Wednesdays and Thursdays. She mainly goes to Foodlink to pick up food on Wednesdays and works with the USDA project on Thursday.

During the month of August 2009 the SSIP Food Closet served a total of 4,666 persons which included adults, seniors, children and infants. This represents 1,274 unduplicated households. The number of persons served and the food delivered expresses the importance of this ministry.

Since November 2008, the SSIP Food Closet has been distributing USDA commodities to each person who qualifies to receive food un-

der the program. Each bag may contain 7-8 canned foods plus a bag of rice, beans or noodles. We have also received frozen chicken and turkey, fresh tomatoes and frozen blueberries. The food is received from Foodlink and varies each month. At the present time we are giving one bag to 1-2 persons, two bags to 2-4 persons, etc. Many bags are needed each day to distribute daily. The food is double bagged in plastic bags.

We are currently in need of volunteers to bag the USDA commodities who are able to work once a week, every other week or as a substitute. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, please contact Frances Lee 427-7983.

In August we were fortunate to have so many volunteers who credited their hours to SJUMC. Included are: Francis Asahara, Cecil Combs, Jane Combs, Sue Kashiwagi, Frances Lee, Jayne Muraki-Rasmussen, Shigeko Shibata, Lisa Tanaka, June Tanihana, Virginia Uchida, Les Wataji, Audrey Yokoi and Richard Yokoi. Among the youths who helped were: Rachel Lee, Gabriel Shibata, Lindsey Shibata, Nicholas Shibata, Tricia Tomita, Bret Williamson and Krista Williamson. Thank you for all your help!



FALL RUMMAGE SALE



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2009
9:00 AM—3:00 PM

Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church
6929 Franklin Blvd.
421-1017

ASIAN FOOD AND CULTURAL BAZAAR



Sacramento Japanese
United Methodist Church
6929 Franklin Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95819 ◊
(916) 421-1017

Saturday
October 3, 2009
10:30am 3:30pm



- Teriyaki Chicken
- Sushi, Udon
- Sesame Chicken
- Chow Mein
- Manju
- Boutique

Sacramento Taiko Dan

\$1,000 1st Prize And Much, Much More