

Volume 2009: March

Feb. 24, 2009



CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Reflector

A Note From Your Pastor

“Search me, O God, you know my heart.

*Try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

Psalm 139: 2-4

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Ash Wednesday (February 25), we start our 40-day journey through Lent. The word “Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word, “lencten” or spring. It is the most important season of the church year because it is a time of repentance, of turning our eyes upon Jesus for spiritual renewal, of preparing for the triumph of the risen Christ on Easter.

The term “40 days” is often used in the Bible. It simply means “many, many days.” For example, 40 days is used to describe the flood in Noah's time, Moses' time on Mt. Sinai, fasting on Mt. Horeb, and Jesus' time in prayer in the wilderness before he began His ministry. The 40 days of Lent do not include Sundays, because they are “little Easters” in Christian faith.

The 40 days of Lent always remind me of growing up in Korea, when during Lent many Christians would journey to a “prayer mountain” to pray and fast as long as they could. During my Junior High (middle) School years, I would join them for just one day with my Sunday school class, but my mother and other adult members would stay longer for fasting and prayer. Their tearful, sincere prayers and heartfelt singing of hymns still echo in my heart, especially during the Lenten season. I remember that I could see in them, along with the somber mood of repentance and consciousness of Jesus' suffering, the presence of hope and healing and joy. They were expecting the resurrection of Jesus on Easter. Even though today not many people do the fasting and prayers as much as in the old days, even short periods of fasting and prayers are an annual experience of Lent in Korea and elsewhere.

So it is that “40 days” is an appropriate time for the spiritual preparation of Lent through prayers and meditations, a time for renewal in the faith, a time of preparation for what is to come, and a time of deepening communion with our God. This year Lent has special meaning, because our nation is in the midst of severe economic problems, in addition to all the other troubles of the world we live in. In this Lenten season, many of us are experiencing our own wilderness and struggles. It is my prayer that our 40 days of Lenten will be a time of spiritual reflection and growth and strengthening for each of us, until the 40 days are accomplished. Then we will be better prepared to approach the glory of Easter! May Jesus' shining light guide us through the journey of the old rugged cross, to the glorious empty tomb of Jesus' resurrection.

May God's shining glory guide you day by day.

Rev. Seung Eun Grace Lee



Suzie's Info Column



Friends here we are already the almost end of February. And, during this month our birthday celebrants are: Alyce Schwab, Sachi Thomas, Nancy Kunishige and Toru Miyoshi. May each have many more happy birthdays.

Also, during the month, Yoshi Tanouye, who once owned the Teriyaki Bowl at the Town Center Mall East, and then worked for Jack's repairing lawn mowers which he did as a youngster when his father had a similar business in the L.A. area. He has, now opened a Yogurt shop in Pismo Beach which is located close to the pier - should be an excellent location come spring and summer. Good luck in your new venture, Yoshi.

Sad to report that Mrs. Kawaoka of Arroyo Grande passed away at the age of 93. Her sons once operated a strawberry farm in Arroyo. Our deepest sympathy to the family of Mrs. Kawaoka.

On the 8th of February, Rev. Tim boyle spoke at our worship service about "Human Rights" and the prior day he spoke to the Nichigo group in Japanese. One of the ladies said his Japanese was so good that there was even a word she didn't know existed - the group truly enjoyed his story about living in Japan for 30 years. A fellowship hour was held following the service which gave many a chance to speak to him, and his wife Juji, as he was a pastor of CUMC during the 70's.

And, on the 8th we were happy to see Lynn Kumagai of Southern Calif. She was visiting her parents for a few days.

At our Senior program on February 13th we were entertained by a barbershop quartet - they performed many "oldies but goodies" for us. Also, John Fox spoke about how he met his wife Tina while serving in the Naval forces stationed in Japan - a love story which was interesting - especially how he had to go through tons of paperwork to obtain permission to marry, and how he was severely reprimanded when he was caught wearing 'getas' while in uniform. He had many stories to tell which are too numerous to mention but did say that the marriage has lasted 56 years. Nancy Kunishige who resided in Hawaii for 30 years also told of her most recent love, of how she met her recent husband of ten years through a mutual friend of hers. She stated that they traveled to many countries during that period and how he met her family members and how happy they were during the short 10 years. Thanks to John and Nancy for your great love stories. A most enjoyable lunch followed the program. Thanks to Henry Shimomi and Nobuko Park for the 'yummy' sushi they made, Pastor Grace for the Korean dishes, and others who brought fruit, homemade cake, etc.

Mitsi Kleinfeldt became a grandmother for the second time. Her son Rich Bering and wife Anita of Orlando, FL, became parents to a son named Zachary. He and family are doing fine but sad that Anita's father Doug Kirchner is currently suffering with cancer. Please remember them in your prayers, but be joyous for the birth of Zachary.

Footprints in the Sand (Mary Stevenson, 1936)

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.



In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there was one only.

This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints, so I said to the Lord, "You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there has only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, have you not been there for me?"

The Lord replied, "The years when you have seen only one set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you."

People in Our Prayer List

✚ Rev. Claudia Genung-Yamamoto and her family for their missionary work in Japan.

✚ Rev. Tim Boyle and his family for their missionary work in Japan.

✚ Tak Shigenaka

✚ Don Park

✚ Erwin Maas

✚ Jose Auyeung

✚ Lola Watts

✚ Sam Fast

✚ Richard Gahagan

✚ Mary Stringfellow

✚ Don Bloom

✚ Yolanda Colon

✚ Carl Turner

✚ Joe Rodriguez

✚ Mindy Garcia

✚ Barbara Puckett

✚ Don Nichols

✚ Karen Johnson

✚ Manny Ramirez

✚ Doug Kirchner



**** Special Seniors Program ****

for the young at heart!

FRIDAY, 11:00 A.M., MARCH 13

"Healthy Life Style For Seniors"

Theory & Practice!

(Including Chair-Exercise)



Presentation by Mr. Rob Speaker

(Personal Physical Trainer at YMCA)

Music: Trío Amigos, Senior Band

Please wear casual simple clothing for the exercises.

Lunch will be provided!

All are welcome!



Fellowship

Words To Live By

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

The early worm gets eaten by the bird, so sleep late.

When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

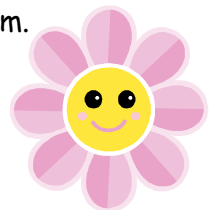
If ignorance is bliss, why aren't more people happy?

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS (January 2009)

Christmas Giving

Towru & Dorothy Kobara

Rev. Mike & Callie Morizono

Special Donations

Karen Kagawa - In memory of John H. Kagawa

Ted Kusudo - In memory of Kiyo Kusudo

Alvin Matsumoto - In memory of Tosh, Toshiye & Robert Matsumoto

Rev. Alpha & Mary Takagi - Nichigo Ministry

Rev. Grace Lee - Nichigo Ministry



REFLECTOR

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CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"A Church for All People"

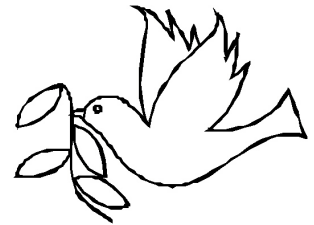
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Mission is to be --
"A Church for All People"



Our Vision is --
We seek to grow in the love of God through meaningful
worship and serving, and to grow in the love of all our
neighbors by making everyone truly welcome, and by
helping our neighbors near and far.

Worship & Regular Programs:

- Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 am
- Sunday School, 9:30 am (Adults)
10:30 am (Children)
- Bible Study & Sharing Group, Wednesday 7:00 pm
- Japanese Worship Service, 1st Saturday 11:00 am
- Prayer Meeting, Friday 6:30 pm

Visit us on the internet at <http://www.smchristumc.org>