

Volume 2009: April

April 1, 2009



CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Reflector



## A Note From Your Pastor

*"He is not here! He has risen!"* -Luke 24:6-

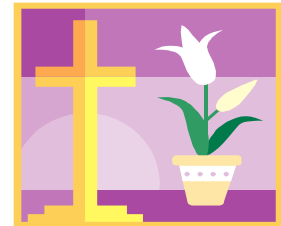
The heart of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ died on a cross because of our sins. He, who takes away the sins of the world, died on the cross in our place. What no human effort could do, God has done. During the Lenten season we commit to Christ for the renewal of our faith through repentance, fasting, prayer, meditation, and other spiritual activities.

Soon it will be time to celebrate the most joyous Christian event -- Easter -- through worship and various programs that proclaim He is risen! He is risen indeed! The reason we worship as a church on Sundays, and not on Saturdays, the Jewish Sabbath, is because Sunday is the first day of the week, the day of Jesus' resurrection. We are Resurrection people, Easter people!

No matter what clouds may pass across our lives, such as our nation's present financial crisis, as Easter people there is always hope and a bright future. The wonderful great truth is that Christ has been raised from the dead. We are not still in our sins. We now have a new life in Christ! Compared to this, everything else becomes less important. Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

A happy and blessed Easter to you all.

Rev. Seung Eun Grace Lee



## All Are Invited to Our Easter Sunday Service!



April 12, 2009

8:00-10:00 a.m.

Delicious Easter Breakfast  
prepared by men

10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship

Easter Dramatic Reading

Infant Baptism

Receiving New Members

Special Music

Egg Hunting after worship



## Suzie's Info Column



Isamu Minami (better known to many as 'Sammy') passed away unexpectedly on March 24. He was a prominent citizen and active in community affairs of Santa Maria. His grandfather began farming in Guadalupe in the early 1900's and, with the exception of the four years the family was interned in camp during WWII, the family returned to the valley and continued farming. The Minami Center was named in honor of his father who gave a generous contribution to Santa Maria. Sammy is survived by one son, Sam, and a daughter, Susan and husband Dennis Jang and their two sons. Both reside in the Bay area. Also surviving is a sister in Santa Maria and a brother who resides in Los Angeles. Our deepest sympathy go to the family as Sammy will be sorely missed not only by family members but by many of his friends. He was always noted for his humbleness in spite of serving the Chamber of Commerce, Santa Barbara County Fair, and many other civic organizations. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Those born during March include Dan Schwab, Harald Brown, and Fumi Utsunomiya. So, may each have many more wonderful birthdays.

Maryetta, sister of Erwin Maas, who is now living in Potter Valley, visited Erwin & Kathy during the week of 15 March. We do not see Maryetta as often since her move from Fullerton, however, it is always great to see her smiling face. She said Potter Valley is a beautiful community of just 6,000 people and it snows there during winter months. She resides in a granny apartment behind her son's home.

John Fox will be departing for San Miguel, Mexico during April. He has made many friends during the

past twenty or more years that he has been traveling to various parts of Mexico. John will be taking a pickup load of food and clothing as he stated that San Miguel is a place of poor people.

Lynn Kumagai of the Los Angeles area is visiting her parents Fred & Sachi during the last few weeks of March. We're always delighted to see her either at our early morning mall walking class or at our Sunday worship service. Visiting on the last Sunday of March was Eiko Koyama. She is enjoying her retirement place in Camarillo and is doing well, although she misses her many friends in Santa Maria and, of course, son Wesley and family in the local area.

At our March 29th worship service we were honored by the famous violinist, John Sharpe of Lompoc. He played a medley of hymns for the prelude and was accompanied by Rev. Grace on the cello and Kay Moreland, our great pianist. John has performed at many functions and we have enjoyed his violin performance previously at our church and at other occasions. His wife, Terri, is an expert Japanese dancer plus plays the ukulele and has a wonderful singing voice.

Friends, would you believe Easter is just two Sundays away? Hopefully many of you will be able to attend our service. The men folks of the church are again serving breakfast from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. Harald Brown will fix his famous scrambled eggs and, perhaps, George Nishimori will be our pancake flipper. There will be an egg hunt following the service for the children.



## 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.
- ✚ 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
- ✚ Don Nichols
- ✚ Joyce Ujano
- ✚ Karen Johnson
- ✚ Ed Clayton



# The Parable of the Butterfly

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

As a butterfly soared overhead, one caterpillar said to the other, "You'll never get me up in one of those things."

Yet for every caterpillar the time comes when the urge to eat and grow subsides and he instinctively begins to form a chrysalis around himself. The chrysalis hardens and you'd think for all the world that the caterpillar is dead.

But one spring morning the life inside the chrysalis begins to writhe, the top cracks open, and a beautifully-formed butterfly emerges. For hours it will stand stretching and drying its wings, moving them slowly up and down, up and down. And then, before you know it, the butterfly glides aloft, effortlessly riding the currents of the air, alighting on flower after gorgeous flower, as if to show off its vivid colors to the bright blossoms.

Somehow, the miracle of the butterfly never loses its fascination for us. Perhaps because the butterfly is a living parable of the promise of resurrection.

On Easter morning the disciples saw Jesus' graveclothes lying on the cold slab still wrapped round and round the corpse. Only the corpse was gone, much like an empty chrysalis deserted by a butterfly who has left to soar free. "He is risen as He said," an angel told the incredulous disciples. Later that day he appeared to the disciples, and then, over the course of the next few weeks, to as many as five hundred people at one time. Even "Doubting Thomas" didn't doubt for long that Jesus was really risen from the dead.

A few weeks ago I lost a friend who had become dear to me. Where she had been so full of life, now her body lay still, composed ever-so-carefully by the morticians. I looked at her and thought about my own mortality. One day I too, like her, may fight a losing battle with pain, and die.

What do we Christians say in the face of death? There are many mysteries. But two things we know for sure. First, death is an enemy. Away with the sentimentality that vainly seeks to disguise death's insult! But second, and more important, Jesus' resurrection from the grave is God's proof to us that death is not the end. The empty tomb and Jesus' Spirit within us testify that Easter morning is God's triumph over death. And ultimately, Jesus promised, God will raise from the dead us who believe in His Son.

Why do Christians gather on Easter morning? To show off their fine clothes or give a ritual tip of the hat to religion? God forbid! Rather we gather to celebrate Jesus' victory over death itself. For since He is our Lord and our Savior, His victory is our victory. In celebrating His resurrection we celebrate our own assurance of ultimate triumph over death.

Join us this Easter as we celebrate Life! And if you look closely Easter morning, you might even see a butterfly alight on the lilies.



## Easter Donations Needed

You are welcome to bring Easter lilies to beautify the sanctuary for Easter. Raw eggs are needed for the Easter breakfast and hard boiled ones for the egg hunt after the Easter worship service.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS (February 2009)

### Special Donations

Marion Ikeda - In memory of Seirin Ikeda

Marion Ikeda - Reflector

Rev. Alpha & Mary Takagi – Nichigo Ministry

Anonymous – Senior Ministry

Mitsuko Kleinfeldt – To welcome new grandson

Lynn Kumagai



# REFLECTOR

Volume 2009: April

Non Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Santa Maria, CA  
Permit No. 70

## CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

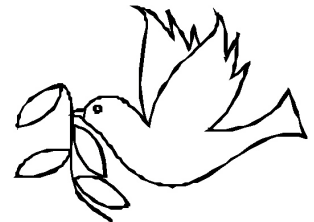
*"A Church for All People"*

219 Mary Drive  
Santa Maria, CA 93458  
Phone: 805-925-3116  
Fax: 805-925-9100  
Parsonage: (805) 349-0567  
Email: christ\_umc@hotmail.com  
Non-profit postal authorization  
#275219

Pastor: Rev. Seung-Eun Grace Lee  
Japanese Language: Rev. Mark Moon

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>