


Pastor's Reflections

Below you will find an email story, minus the beautiful pictures, sent to me by Noralee Alexander. I wanted to share it with all of you. Its message of assurance of God's faithfulness in difficult times is a message that we all need to hear, especially as we try to make sense of the trials and tribulations that come our way.

"The Butterfly and the Flower"



Once there was a man who asked God for a flower and a butterfly. But instead, God gave him a cactus and a caterpillar. The man was sad, he didn't understand why his request was mistaken. Then he thought: "Oh well, God has too many people to care for." And decided not to question. After some time, the man went to check up on his request that he had left forgotten. To his surprise, from the thorny and ugly cactus, a beautiful flower had grown. And the unsightly caterpillar had been transformed into the most beautiful butterfly.

God always does things right! His way is ALWAYS the best way, even if to us it seems all wrong. If you asked God for one thing and received another, TRUST. You can be sure that He will always give you what you need at the appropriate time. What you want . . . is not always what you need! God never fails to grant our petitions, so keep on going for Him without doubting or murmuring. Today's THORN . . . is tomorrow's FLOWER! God gives the very best to those who leave the choice up to Him! God Bless You!

Leave the choice up to God??? We like to control our own destiny; and be the self-made person we were raised to be. "Get an education," "always do your very best," "work hard at your job and in your life and you will attain much." These are some of the messages I heard growing up. Perhaps many of you did, too. But where is God in all of this?

We live busy lives. The technological advances that were supposed to save us from working so hard, seems to have made us work even harder. We can get more done in a shorter period of time, so more is put on our plate or we put more on our own plate. Even in retirement, many of you are busier than when you were working. And while it is good to keep busy, are we not making time to be with God?

And if we are not working so hard, we are worrying – even worrying about things that may never happen. Remember Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew: *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today. (Matthew 6:25-27, 33-34)"*

Yes, it is easier said than done; but TRUST in the Lord, rest in the arms of God, and know that God will care for your every need.

Blessings always,

Barbara



God has given us angels in our midst - Angels who have been working hard here at Lake Park (LP). And while they may not like being called angels (not masculine enough for the men), they truly are blessings from God!!! At a time when we are struggling with diminishing numbers in attendance, and workers are few and far between, it is important to recognize these persons for their work at LP: **Ron Fujie**, for the many Trustee items he has taken care of, too numerous to mention! **Steve Derreberry** and **Moses Oshima** for working in the front courtyard garden – can't wait to see it completed! **Mrs. Hisako Horikoshi** for donating two tables for the Nichigo Bible Study classes, so Steve doesn't have to carry the ones in the social hall upstairs. **Ron Fujie** for acquiring and setting up a new computer for the office.

Our worship service on World Communion Sunday was alive with energy and spirit as the **Eritrean group** provided special music! A big "Thank You" to them! "Thank You" also to **Mrs. Horikoshi** for speaking on Laity Sunday.

In and Around Lake Park

By Sachi Kajiwara



In a recent letter received from Bishop Shamana she wrote: “We have just reviewed the September financial reports and want to express our deep appreciation in our connectional giving. Thank you for your faithfulness in staying current in your apportionment covenant.” Lake Park has been paying 100 percent of our apportionment for several years now. Keep up the good work!

Our good friend, Sally Nagata, who used to be a very active member at West Tenth, moved back to Fresno when she retired after working for Uncle Sam for nearly 50 years. Now she is moving to a new house with her brother a few blocks from the home where their family had lived for almost 85 years. Their old home is being torn down since the whole area is being redeveloped in a new housing project. In the meantime, they are waiting for their new home to be built.

A telephone call was made to Ari and Ida Inouye in Roseville to wish Ari a Happy 92nd Birthday. He said he felt okay, but was tired of getting older. They send their regards to their friends at Lake Park.

Rev. Barbara and John Firebaugh recently celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary. Some people find it hard to believe. She also spent a week in October at a Mediation Skills Training Event which she found to be very helpful.

Jim and Ann Aoki were here in Oakland from Bethesda, Maryland. It is always good to see them. They are returning to Maryland in mid-October.

On October 14th, Rev. Barbara, David Iino and Sachi Kajiwara attended the Spiritual Image Concert at South Hayward UMC. It was a terrific performance! The group is raising money for a trip to the Philippines where they will give three benefit concerts. Their performances there will help raise money for new Cancer facilities, plus help build some new churches in the Philippines.

On World Communion Sunday, a group of Eritreans sang during the Worship service. It was very nice to have them sing three songs in their language, and then they shared communion with the rest of us. We may not have understood the words but they sang with feeling and enthusiasm.

Ron Fujie’s talk on China was done so well at Lake Park, he was asked to give the same presentation at Berkeley Methodist United. Needless to say, they all raved about his speech. [continued on p.10]

In and around Lake Park, [continued]

A number of BMU folks (20 plus) went to New York in support of Steve Varney—their Choir Director/pianist/organist, and Naomi Sanchez—youth director. Steve and Naomi play piano duets—sometimes on one piano and other times on two pianos. They gave a concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City on October 14th. They are known as Pas de Duo. When they gave a concert at Holy Names College to raise money for their trip to New York, a couple from Piedmont Gardens were so entranced with their performance, they promptly decided to go to New York with the BMU folks.

Our sympathy to Tsugi Oshika and her family in the loss of her sister, Doris Tomita, after a long illness in Hawaii. Their flight home on Sunday, October 15, was delayed because of the 6.7 earthquake that occurred that day. However, Tsugi and her family did arrive back in Oakland early Monday morning.

We are sorry to learn that Dr. Hideya Gamo passed away recently. Services were held at the First Congregational Church of Berkeley. Rev. Barbara, Mrs. Horikoshi and the Derryberrys attended the Service. Dr. Gamo and his wife came to Lake Park for Nichigo Bible Study and Worship.

We pray that God will comfort both families in their sorrow.



November 26th is United Methodist Student Day - Special Offering



For over a century the United Methodist Church has been providing scholarships and loans to assist graduates and undergraduates attending United Methodist-related and other accredited schools, colleges and universities. Each year 10 percent of this special offering is returned to the participating annual conference for merit-scholarship awards to students of its choosing. Please give generously to support and nurture the future leaders of our churches and communities.

*Show me your ways, O Lord,
teach me your paths;
guide me in your truth and teach me . . .*

Psalm 25:4-5

Idea Incubator

As begun in last month's Plowshare, the list of idea continues, waiting for you to contribute additional ideas or include yourself into the ideas already submitted. How about calling this ongoing article, the Idea Incubator? We have one idea that has already "hatched" and two that are expanding.

A new table found within the Admin Council minutes now allows easier tracking of items-to-be-followed; this new format starts this month. For the two ideas that are expanding, the "Task Force on opening up the church to other groups" (I hope they pick a shorter name!) is forming with Helen Yoshida and Marlene Yamashita as co-leaders. The new Caring & Nurturing Committee will handle the idea of follow-up/encouragement on non-regular-sometimes-come people. This committee has evolved from our Peace Greenhouse work and will be both inward and outward focused at the same time (inward facing: ministry for those in Lake Park; and outward facing: ministry for the community and beyond).



Idea	Month first posted	Number of people who have expressed interest
Opening up the church for other groups to use (incl. kitchens)	Oct	3 + Trustees Committee (Task Force forming now)
Follow-up items from Admin. Council minutes	Oct	n/a; Minutes to be reformatted to make follow-up items easy to track.
Widen scope to include/merge other churches with Lake Park (e.g., other churches needing buildings)	Oct	
More advertising/promotionals needed for community events	Oct	
Follow-up, encouragement on non-regular-sometimes-come people	Oct	New Caring & Nurturing Committee will take this item. Contact church if interested in joining.
Church not high priority for many that we know	Oct	
Get cross on top of the church to light up at night	Nov	
Distribute Plowshare electronically as well as traditional paper	Nov	1

Ideas posted 3 consecutive months. Contact church if interested or to submit additional ideas.

Care Corner

Prayers of sympathy go out to Tsugiye Oshika and her family in the passing of her sister, Doris Tomita. She was 91 years old. May we also hold Mrs. Yasuko Gamo and her family in our prayers, for her husband, Dr. Hideya Gamo, passed away recently. They have both been active in the Nichigo Bible Study classes. May our God of all compassion hold these families and others as they struggle with the loss of loved ones.



Please keep Daniel Thompson, Ellen St. Thomas' nephew, in your prayers for he is serving in Iraq. May we be in prayer for all of our servicemen and women abroad, aid workers and journalists in dangerous areas in the world, and for their families back home. Pray for our friends who are worried or unhappy because of health or other problems.

Please continue to pray for the following:

Shizu Aka & family	Ruby Ouye's brother
Yasuko Gamo & family	Cathy Saito
Ari Inouye	Terry & Mary Takaki
Tsugiye Oshika & family	Lake Park's Future



Scripture Lessons for November 2006

- Nov. 5: Ruth 1:1-18, Psalm 146, Hebrews 9:11-14,
Mark 12:28-34
"What Does It Mean to Love Your Neighbor?"
- Nov. 12: Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127, Hebrews 9:24-28,
Mark 12:38-44
"The Poor Widow's Mite"
- Nov. 19: 1 Samuel 1:4-20, 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-18,
Mark 13:1-8
"Is the End Coming?"
- Nov. 26: 2 Samuel 23:1-7, Psalm 132:1-12, Revelation 1:4b-8,
John 18:33-37
"Is Christ Your King?"

Note: Preaching on **bold** print Scripture.



Highlights from the Administrative Council Meetings, Aug 2 & Oct 4, 2006

Reports:

- Christian Education: none
- Finance/Treasurer: Handed out reports for August & September. Notable item was \$10,000 transferred from the Investment account in order to pay for expenses. Refer to the reports for more details.
- Mission and Outreach: A post-Barnraising meeting with the "Group of 5" was held at end of August to figure out how to handle the ideas from the meeting and the opinions on opening the church to others. Regarding the latter, a Task Force will be formed and will participate in Admin Council meetings while assembled. Also, in response to a Barnraising meeting item, the Admin Council minutes will have an easy-to-find list of items people are interested in. [see page 10]
- Staff/SPRC: Forms were received from the District Office. Gordon will be conducting a meeting on Oct 15th for the assessment and pastor's compensation forms.
- Trustees: Montessori Lease will be the same as before, except for rates, and will be in effect until June 30, 2007. Eritrean group wanted to set up a projection screen; a permanent screen was purchased and can be used for other Lake Park activities. The office computer died, so a new one was purchased and is being installed.
- Worship: Laity Sunday being observed on Oct 22nd with Mrs. Horikoshi speaking. Nov 26 - Student Day, planning to have a special offering. Dec. 3 - 1st Sun. in Advent. Sunday, Dec 24 - Christmas Eve service will also be held. Sat. Jan 6 is Epiphany; the UMC suggests celebrating it on Sun. Dec 31st (which is a 5th Sunday).
- Music: The Music Library has been reorganized by Ellen, making it easier to find items. Ron is coordinating December happenings because Jim and Ellen are involved in other seasonal events.
- JASEB: A committee was formed re: buying some property in El Sobrante. Adachi nursery is closing & had signed a letter of intent with an exclusive buyer. When it expires, other offers--including JASEB's--will be entertained. JASEB committee met with realtor & has made a backup offer of \$1.7 million for the 2-acre property.
- Pastor's Report: We should revisit idea of church having priority, in regards to church usage. In July, it was decided that the church had priority, but this could cause a conflict with scheduled concerts/recitals. [This was later discussed at length. See "Items to Follow" on page 10] [continued]

Hi-lites from AdCo Meetings

[continued]

- Annual Church Conference is on Dec. 13th at 7:30pm. The DS will meet at 7:00pm with the SPRC. The total 2007 apportionments is up 17.81% over this year and will be \$27,590. We might do some restructuring of some Committees.
- [After some discussion] SPRC to look at custodian job description; the needs are: wood floor cleaning and replenish paper towels in 3 bathrooms (who is supposed to replenish)? Also, might consider replacing paper towel dispense with a different type.
- Merllawi Tewelde of the Eritrean fellowship got another set of keys. Hinok wasn't supposed to give the keys to anybody, and didn't, but went out of town. Merllawi to just hold onto the 2nd set of keys. It is time to revisit the Agreement again since the probationary period has passed.
- Rev. Barbara saw the DS about our declining attendance situation. The Conference really does not offer any help. He will, though, keep his eyes open for other small UM congregations.

(other items) Thanks to Ron F. for sending in the pictures for the 2007 JASEB calendar. Helen Campbell said fire extinguishers not current. Rev. Barbara got them charged, so they are current now. However, still waiting for a Fire Dept inspection. Battery for office alarm system died and was replaced by ASI Alarm System. Screen door of parsonage has come apart. Can it be taken off? [Referred to Trustees to take screen door off and decide later if need new one.] Lay Leadership meeting will be held on Oct 29th. Refer to Rev. Barbara's reports for additional details.

New Business:

Leo received a bill for copy-machine maintenance: Our one-year contract for this service is \$750.

Next meeting is Wednesday, November 1, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

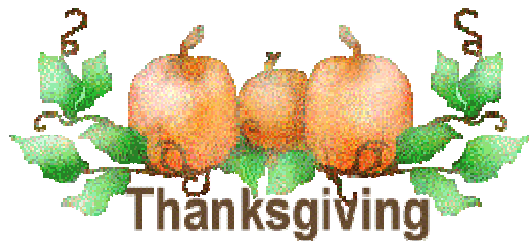


DON'T FORGET TO RE-SET YOUR CLOCKS ON THE LAST SATURDAY NIGHT IN OCTOBER AS WE "FALL BACK" TO STANDARD TIME.

Admin. Council Items to follow:

Montessori lease	Refer to the Trustee's report.
Church usage - kitchen	Nichigo needs to be in the discussion, if they request its usage. Eritrean 3-month probation period has passed. Referred to upcoming new Task Force on opening church to others.
Church usage – priorities	(refer to first item in Pastor's Report) Revisited and discussed at length during 9/13/06 meeting. Admin Council agreed upon these words regarding priority: "Pastor shall determine on a case-by-case basis whether a previously scheduled and announced concert or recital shall take priority over any funeral and/or memorial request which may arise subsequently." Rev. Barbara later spoke to Jim Meredith and he said it was fine.
Annual Church Conference items	Meeting with District Superintendent is Wed. Dec. 13 at 7:30pm. (DS and SPRC meeting at 7:00pm.) Some committees will be restructured for 2007.
Lake Park's future	Will we close due to not enough participation? Most want to see us remain open. The DS was contacted; however, the Conference really does not offer any help. (author's note: it's in our hands, folks!)

Please contact church, Marlene Y., or Rev. Barbara for items you want to see tracked here.



**Thanks Pot Luck Luncheon on November 12th
Come and Honor this Year's Recipient!!!**

**Plowshare Acknowledgements
September 17 to October 15, 2006**

Special Gifts

Aoki, M/M James	Memory of Mineko Shigematsu
Saito, Dr. Leo	Leo's 91 st Birthday
Shigematsu, Diane	Memory of Kazu Yumae
Horikoshi-Firebaugh, Rev.	Memory of Doris Tomita

World Communion Sunday

Derreberry, M/M Steve	Narasaki, Theresa
Futagaki, Chiyo	Narita, Leona
Horikoshi, Hisako	Oshika, Tsugiye
Iino, David	Saito, Dr. Leo
Kajiwara, Sachi	Takaki, M/M Terry
Lee, M/M Hugh	Tsujimoto, M/M Min
Morizono, Rev/M Mike	Yamashita, Karie

Food Fund

Kajiwara, Sachi	Oshika, Tsugiye
Narasaki, Theresa – 3 rd quarter	Saito, Dr. Leo
Anonymous	

☺ *Many Thanks* ☺

Floral Acknowledgements

September 17 to October 15, 2006

Sept. 17:	Theresa Narasaki, Glory to God
Sept. 24:	In memory of Bill Iino from Tomi and David
Oct. 1:	Leona Narita, in memory of Father Saburo, Brother Lloyd, Sister Ada
Oct. 8:	Rev. Barbara, in honor John & Barbara's 30 th Wedding Anniversary
Oct. 15:	Sara Stalder, in honor of Brother's 86 th Birthday Tomi Iino, flowers from her garden

Toban and Ushers for November 2006

Ushers:	To be announced
Toban:	Theresa Narasaki & Miye Takeuchi

