

## Pastor's Reflections

*"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water . . . . Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." John 4:10, 13-14*



With the hot weather upon us I thought I would write about water – the Living Water of God. Anyone who knows me, knows that I LOVE to drink water; and when we go to a restaurant, I keep the servers busy coming back to refill my glass. And with the hot weather, I drink MORE water. So I thought it was appropriate to talk about the Living Water we have in Christ! I went to my concordance and found all the use of the words "living water" and ended up with the above verses to talk about Jesus as **OUR** Living Water.

Why the use of water to describe Jesus? We need to remember, in that dry, arid part of the world, water was a crucial necessity. Without water, one would die; animals and plants would die. According to my *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, "Palestine is by and large a hilly, rocky country whose fertility is dependent upon annual rainfall . . . . The significance of water in the Palestinian locale often provided the metaphors of religious language. Amos insisted that justice should 'roll down like waters' and righteousness 'like an ever-flowing stream.' Jeremiah rebuked the people for relying on water stored up in leaky cisterns and for rejecting Yahweh, the 'fountain of living waters.'" This theme was continued in the story of Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the well, where Jesus is that living water, which in drinking it, one would never thirst, for it would become like a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

In *The Spiritual Formation Bible*, there are suggestions of how to deepen one's spirituality in the margins of the pages. For this story it says: "Walk around the room as you read verse 13 through 15 aloud three times. Put the Bible down and walk around the room again, reciting the text three more times. Now, seated comfortably, with this text and a glass of water in front of you, name your thirsts. Pray the same request that the Samaritan woman made of Jesus: 'Sir, give me this water. [vs. 15a]' Drink the water as you receive Jesus' gift, a spring of water that gushes up to eternal life. Rest in

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God's presence. As you go out into the world, let the water of eternal life flow through your heart and out to others through your words and actions."

I have gone through a couple of glasses of water writing this. Jesus was right: the water from the well and the water from our tap, will always keep us wanting more. But with the Living Water of God, we never thirst again. The waters of our baptism quench our spiritual dryness. We have been cleansed of our sins, welcomed into God's family, and raised to new life in Christ now and eternal life in the heavens with God. It is through God's grace that all of this is possible. It is because God loves **YOU**; that God lavishes upon **YOU** fountains of Living Water. May you find relief from the heat of your struggles in life, no matter what you are dealing with. God is waiting there to help you and to quench your thirst.

As you drink water in the hot days of summer, imagine God, our Living Water, flow through every part of your body, refreshing you. Feel also God's Spirit energizing every cell in your body with moisture, giving you life, new life.

Blessings always,

[Barbara]

## Care Corner



Our prayers of sympathy go out to Ben Koyama and family in the passing of Kikue Koyama. It is with sorrow that we report that Diane Shigematsu's mother-in-law, Mine Shigematsu, passed away recently. We pray for others who are mourning the loss of loved ones, especially those, whose one-year anniversary is being remembered. We also pray for those who are dealing with medical problems.

Please hold the following in your prayers:

Shizu Aka & family

Ruby Ouye's brother

Tomi Iino & family

Cathy Saito

Ari Inouye

Terry & Mary Takaki

Theresa Narasaki & family

Lake Park's future

Our servicemen and women abroad, aid workers and journalists serving in dangerous areas in the world, and for their families back home.

## In and Around Lake Park

By Sachi Kajiwara



Further notes from the California-Nevada Conference which met June 14-17 in Sacramento: Bishop Beverly Shamana and Bishop Leontine Kelly presided over a celebration for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of full Clergy rights for women. The procession of over 140 clergywomen plus five 14-foot puppets representing women in various ministries was very impressive. Speakers included Barbara Troxell, the first Conference female District Superintendent, and John Moore, who personally knew each of the three women ordained in 1958. For the first time, a special "Mission Safari" was held off-site at the Sacramento Zoo where the Conferees had a chance to relax and peruse mission exhibit booths while strolling among the animals. A picnic dinner was held at the zoo, and representatives from the Mississippi and Louisiana conferences were on hand to thank Cal-Nevada Volunteers in Mission for all their assistance after Hurricane Katrina.

As mentioned before, the Princess Kaimana of the royal family from Tonga was present to witness the ordination of three Tongan ministers in our Conference. It is with much sorrow to report to you that a few weeks later, the Prince and Princess were touring California in a limousine when a car driven by an 18-yr old lady struck their car on Highway 101 and killed all three people. The young lady was driving very fast and apparently racing another car. She is in custody with a \$3 million bail and faces charges of vehicular homicide. Bishop Shamana wrote a letter of sympathy stating that, although our encounter was brief, it brought us close to all the Tongan people, and expressed the sorrow we all feel for our Methodist sisters and brothers across the ocean.

Dads and Grads were honored on June 18<sup>th</sup>. A special thank-you to Leland Morine who enriched our celebration with his beautiful tenor solos. It was nice of him to bring his new fiancée to our service, too.

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Barbara and Sachi Kajiwara gave a report of the Annual Conference. And in the absence of both Jim Meredith and Ellen St. Thomas that Sunday, Erin Downey and the Vivace Handbell Ensemble provided special music for the service. There were six very professional young people playing handbells—they were very good, very polished.

Some of our travelers are back safe and sound. Theresa Narasaki visited Japan. Ellen St. Thomas and Ron Fujie returned

from their trip to China with 100 other people, mainly members of the Young People's Symphony who played concerts in three major cities. The Taharka boys went with their father to Hawaii after school was out. On returning, they and their grandmother took a trip to the Los Angeles area. Then on July 16<sup>th</sup> they left for New Orleans to visit relatives and friends there again. Nancy Saito is in Texas. Carolyn Teshima tells us that her son, Jeffrey Hom, was accepted into Harvard Medical School. He leaves in September. Congratulations !!

How good it is to celebrate the return of Rev. Barbara for another year. A pot-luck luncheon was held in her honor. Ellen St. Thomas sang one of Rev. Barbara's favorite songs, "The Holy City," accompanied by Jim Meredith. Sachi Kajiwara read a "pome," thanking husband John for sharing Barbara with us for another year. Steve and Kumiko Derreberry donated a beautiful "yummy" strawberry cake for the occasion. Gordon Yamamoto gave a speech on behalf of Lake Parkers with gratitude for her return for another year. Incidentally, Rev. Barbara officiated at a Memorial service for a member of the Castro Valley UMC as their minister was on vacation. The members there raved about the beautiful service she did at the last moment and not knowing the person. As a personal note, I had to keep quiet about how much we like her, just in case they might ask for her next year. So friends, let us all be more supportive of all she does for us at Lake Park.

There have been so many deaths to report of friends these last two weeks, or relatives of Lake Parkers. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Akira Yamauchi passed. He was from the West Tenth Church pre-World War II. If you wish to contact his widow, Massie Yamauchi, you can reach her at 6774 Brandywine Road, Parma Heights, Ohio, 44130.

Diane Shigematsu's mother-in-law passed away recently. Services were held at the Oakland Buddhist Temple. Kiku Koyama, Ben's wife, also passed away recently. Private family services were held. They used to bring their children to Sunday School at West Tenth.

Chiye (Yamada) Sakai, matriarch of the Uoki-Sakai Japanese Food store in San Francisco's Japantown, was also one of us in the old West Tenth days. She died in early July. Mike Morizono officiated at her services held at Pine United Methodist Church in San Francisco.

Announcements of these deaths came very close together, plus four other friends of mine. It has been a devastating two weeks. There are probably others that you know about, too. Please continue to keep them all in your prayers. There is a saying, "When an old person dies, it's like a library torn down."

# Announcements

## Recording Sessions at Lake Park – QUIET PLEASE!

Jim Meredith, our pianist/organist will be using the sanctuary for the following recitals and recording sessions:

**Saturday, July 29:** Recording session with soprano Karen Anderson from 9:00 am to noon; **Voice recital by Alexandria Rackages from 2:00 to 3:30 pm.**

**Saturday, August 5:** Recording session with Karen Anderson from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

**Saturday, August 12:** Recording session with Michele Sharik, handbells from 9:00 to 2:00 pm; recording session with Karen Anderson from 3:00 to 6:00 pm

**Friday, August 18: Chamber music recital by Alexandria Rackages from 2:00 to 3:30 pm**

For using our sanctuary, the above individuals will be gracing our worship services with their beautiful music.

## More Graduates

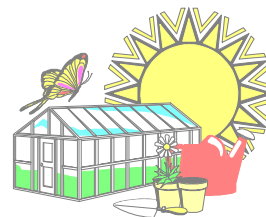


**Kevin Perry** son of Janice Perry and grandson of Helen Ogawa, graduated from Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon.

Proud parents, Dr. Edwin Hom and Carolyn Teshima report that son **Jeffrey Hom**, will start Harvard Medical School in the fall.

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Sabrina Cotungo (Ron Fujie's niece) is making quilts for homeless women in the greater Los Angeles area. She needs fabric to make 30 quilts. She's looking "for spare fabric, preferably cotton, 45 inches wide, in lengths of 2 and 4 yards, in pretty patterns or solids." Ron will collect the fabrics and mail them to Sabrina.



## Peace Greenhouse "Barnraising" -- Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>

Save the date. We're going to raise the roof, so to speak.

o.k., yeah, it will LOOK like people eating lunch, enjoying each other's company, and then afterwards, listening and discussing. However, make no mistake, this is much more than it appears to be on the surface. With the support of attendees, a major portion of the Peace Greenhouse will be raised that day.

So bring your eyes, ears, mouths, and skepticisms. All will be fed. Participation determines what gets raised.

Like to join in, but can't physically attend? Contact Marlene Yamashita (925-286-9682) to participate via phone conference.



## Pledges for 2006

As we complete the end of the second quarter of 2006, we thought you might be interested in the pledges we have received so far. The number next to each amount is the number of people who give that amount. "Thank You" to Tsugiye Oshika, Financial Secretary, for providing the information below.

|                              | <u>Singles</u>         | <u>Couples</u> |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| <b>On a Monthly Basis:</b>   |                        |                |
|                              | \$ 40 – 2      140 – 1 | \$ 55 – 1      |
|                              | 50 – 3      165 – 1    | 80 – 1         |
|                              | 85 – 1      175 – 1    | 100 – 3        |
|                              | 100 – 1      200 – 2   |                |
|                              | 130 – 1                |                |
| <b>On a Quarterly Basis:</b> |                        |                |
|                              | \$100 – 1              |                |
|                              | 200 – 1                |                |
|                              | 500 – 1                |                |
| <b>Biannually:</b>           |                        | \$600 – 1      |
| <b>Annually:</b>             | \$1,200 – 1            | \$400 – 1      |
|                              |                        | \$700 – 1      |

**Total: 26 Pledges**

## Highlights from the Administrative Council Meeting, July 5, 2006

### Reports:

- Christian Education: none
- Finance/Treasurer: Handed out report for June.
- Mission and Outreach: Nothing directly related to committee. The Peace Greenhouse creation group's remaining meetings will be held Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>. Entire church meeting will be Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff/SPRC: no report
- Trustees: Work on the Montessori lease is still in progress. Bids for water supply are being solicited because the parsonage water pressure is low and there is outside leakage near the sanctuary.
- Worship: no report
- Music: Sonos Handbell finished their recordings. As commented previously, they love the church acoustics. However, they had to re-record several times because of the sound from cars driving up the driveway.
- JASEB: Deadline for calendar inclusion is July 31<sup>st</sup>. Pictures are due August 21<sup>st</sup>. It was moved and passed to pay JASEB \$100 to be included in the calendar. Some followup to the Search Conference held earlier is proceeding. The charity Golf Tournament is Monday July 31<sup>st</sup> at Sequoyah Country Club. See Ed or Rev. Barbara for more information and signup.
- Pastor's Report: Disturbing Happenings: during Montessori school time, while people were elsewhere, somebody came in through the side driveway double doors, took purses and used credit cards belonging to the teachers. Also, a lot of extra garbage in large containers was placed near the shed. They contained slit open pink plastic tubing. For her Continuing Education, Rev. Barbara would like to attend the "Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders" in October, given by The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Groups and individuals associated with Jim Meredith would like to use the sanctuary on various dates for recordings and recitals. Some have raised concerns to Rev. Barbara about who has priority. This was discussed by Council, who believed that although not always communicated formally, the priority went first to church needs and then "first come – first serve" for remaining available times. While in prayer, the thought was received of sending notes to people who live in the area. Annual Church Conference (previously Charge Conference) is Wed. Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Refer to the report for more details.

### Old Business:

Community Group's Usage of the Church – as followup from last month, got some additional information from Paul Ciske. His proposal is different from the usual, falling between strictly business (like Montessori) and strictly spiritual (like Eritreans). In addition, he said that Epworth made space available to community groups. Rev. Barbara contacted Epworth to find out how they charge, but had not yet heard back.

### Calendar review:

Choir time off is August 17<sup>th</sup> to Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, restarting Thurs. Sept 14<sup>th</sup>

July 15 – one-day mission event for UMW in Castro Valley

July 16 – Welcome Lunch for Reverend (potluck)

July 16 -- Plowshare items due

July 23 – Peace Greenhouse meeting

July 30 – guest speaker

Aug 2 – Admin Council meeting

Aug 6 – general church meeting (Peace Greenhouse Barnraising)

Aug 13 – Plowshare items due

Aug 20 – tentative UMW meeting

Aug 22 – one-day mission event for UMW in Palo Alto

Sept 10 – Plowshare items due

Sept 13 – Admin Council meeting

Sept 30 – UMW district annual meeting in Walnut Creek (Bishop Kelly speaker)

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### Scriptures for August 2006

August 6: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a, Psalm 51:1-12, **Ephesians 4:1-16**, John 6:24-35

August 13: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130, **Ephesians 4:25-5:2**, John 6:35, 41-51

August 20: 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111, **Ephesians 5:15-20**, John 6:51-58

August 27: 1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43, Psalm 84, **Ephesians 6:10-20**, John 6:56-69

**Bold print** indicates text Rev. Barbara will be preaching on.  
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**Plowshare Acknowledgements  
June 11 to July 9, 2006**

**Special Gifts**

Alexander, M/M George  
in memory of parents & children; memory of soldiers

Koyama, Ben in memory of Kikue

Narita, Leona in memory of Chet Morizono

Ogawa, Helen For Memorial Day, and for Grandson Kevin Perry's graduation from Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon

**In Memory of Mineko Shigematsu**

Diane Shigematsu  
Doug & Kendra Shigematsu  
Alan & Jill Stowe  
Alan, Scott, Kayli,  
Darius & David

**Food Fund**

|                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Horikoshi-Firebaugh, Rev.Barbara | Oshika, Tsugiye     |
| Kajiwara, Sachi                  | Saito, Dr Leo       |
| Narasaki, Theresa (3d quarter)   | Takeuchi, M/M Frank |

**Conference Offering**

**Peace with Justice**



|                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Derryberry, M/M Steve             | Narasaki, Theresa     |
| Eto, M/M Frank                    | Oshika, Tsugiye       |
| Futagaki, Chiyo                   | Ouye, Ruby            |
| Horikoshi, Hisako                 | Saito, Dr. Leo        |
| Horikoshi-Firebaugh, Rev. Barbara | Takeuchi, M/M Frank   |
| Iino, David                       | Tsujimoto, M/M Minoru |
| Kajiwara, Sachi                   | Yamashita, Karie      |
| Lee, M/M Hugh                     | Yoshida, M/M George   |
| Lubwama, Charles                  | Anonymous – 1         |



**Floral Acknowledgements  
June 18 to July 16, 2006**

June 18: Leo Saito, in memory of Margaret's birthday

June 25: Ruby Ouye, in memory of husband, Fred

July 2: Tsugiye Oshika, in memory of Sono & Asa ,  
Fujie and Linda Fujie Baumann

July 9: Sara Stalder, in memory of Father

July 16: Tsugiye Oshika, in memory of Sister, Hazel Kanemoto,  
1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

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**Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!**

Special Thank-You's to **Steve Derreberry, Ron Fujie, Moses Oshima** and **Frank Takeuchi** for their work around Lake Park.

A very special thank-you to **Marlene Yamashita** for her work on the Peace Greenhouse!

Thank you also to **Frank and Amy Eto, Ron Fujie, David Iino, Hugh Lee, Leona Narita, Leo Saito, Gordon Yamamoto** and others for helping to set up for the Welcome Back Luncheon.



**Toban for August:** Irene Lee and Margaret Tsujimoto

**Ushers for August:**

6 Aug	-	Moses Oshima & Frank Takeuchi
13 Aug	-	Hugh & Irene Lee
20 & 28 Aug	-	To Be Announced