

Pastor's Reflections

Those of you familiar with The Lord's Prayer, will know the phrase: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." As followers of Christ, we are to work towards making God's kingdom come on this earth, where LOVE for ALL people motivates all that we do. That is the focus and theme for Lake Park in 2007: "**Heaven on Earth**"! In fact, since our survey in September 2004, Lake Park, under the direction and inspiration of Marlene Yamashita, has been trying to move towards "Heaven on Earth" and "the Blurb." Remember "the Blurb" - "Be a place where all are accepted as they are - a no judgment zone; a place where we practice and experience peace and harmony"?

With discussions and meetings and more meetings behind us, we held our All-Church meeting on August 6th of this year called "Peace Greenhouse BarnRaising." We were excited that 28 people attended! Energy was high and some problem areas were identified. A Task Force to develop a Church Usage Policy was put together, but they haven't met yet. I have been told that they will meet after the first of the year.

But creating "Heaven on Earth" is no small task; yet it is possible! All we need to do is emulate Jesus' life (another big task)! If we look to the Scriptures we find a section in Romans 12, which is entitled "*Marks of the True Christian.*" These words were on the cover of our Annual Church Conference packet: "*Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all*" (12:9-18). Such is our goal, collectively and individually for next year. If we live as such, "Heaven on Earth" and "the Blurb" will become a reality here at Lake Park.

But it is all about being intentional in how we live our lives and relate to each other. It is about asking the question, "What Would Jesus Do?" Oh, you know all about this but it bears repeating. As I



write this, we are in the season of Advent; and we have heard the words of John the Baptist to "Repent"! We know this to mean to turn around or change direction, so that we leave those things that keep us separated from God and each other. It means to stop doing those things that hurt another; but live in right relationship with each other and God.

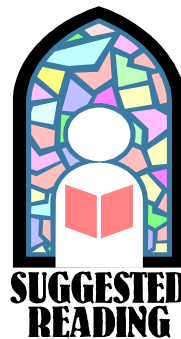
And what a good time of year to seriously look within, and see what can be done to live more like Jesus. In January some people come up with New Year's Resolutions; perhaps others have given up because they don't have success with them. Maybe this is the year that you WILL follow through! Maybe this is the year that you will grow to be more like Jesus! God is there to help you and challenge you! Be open to the nudges from God. We ALL need to work to that end!

May the blessings of God be with you in the New Year. May you be empowered to grow in the love of Christ and be more like Jesus. Let us make Lake Park become a place where people feel the love of God through each and every one of us.

Blessings always,

Barbara

Scripture Passages for January 2007

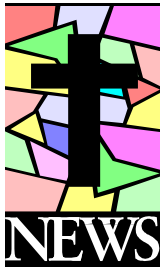


- Jan. 7:** Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22;
Isaiah 43:1-7
"A Message of Hope"
- Jan. 14:** Human Relations Sunday
Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, John 2:1-11,
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
"All Are Needed"
- Jan. 21:** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19,
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21
"YOU Have Been Anointed"
- Jan. 28:** Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6,
Luke 4:21-30, **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**
"Do You Have Love?"

Those scriptures in **bold** print indicate the ones Rev. Barbara will be preaching on.

In and Around Lake Park

By Sachi Kajiwara



Lake Park Sunday Services have been blessed with some very special music, thanks to Jim Meredith and Ellen St. Thomas's connections. On November 12, Michèle Sharik played from a table full of handbells, holding several bells in each hand, going from one end of the table to the other without missing a note. She played "Be Still My Soul" by J. Sibelius and "The Rejoicing" by G. F. Handel. She also accompanied the choir on the flute for the anthem.

Karen Anderson, a soprano soloist sang Charles Gounod's "O Divine Redeemer" and "Hat dich die Liebe berührt" on November 19th. On November 26, Jacob Brodski played the Flügelhorn for the Offertory and the Trumpet during the Prelude and Postlude.

While we say thank you to each of the special music people, we also want to say thank you to the Vivace Handbell Ensemble, under Erin Downey, the Artistic Director. The children who comprise this Ensemble played the Christmas carols "Patapan" and "Ding Dong, Merrily on High" during our service.

Word has been received (via e-mail) from Hope Kawashima that her uncle, Joe Omachi, passed away in San Francisco at the age of 96. He was an attorney in Stockton for many years but had moved into Kokoro in San Francisco to be near his children, grandchildren and great grands in his later years.

Some of you may know Arthur Ikoma who was married to the late Oshu Hirano. He apparently died in his sleep in the early morning hours of December 6th in the Skilled Nursing Unit at Piedmont Gardens. Further details are not known as of this printing. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to both families in their sorrow.

Have you noticed the new covers on the organ speakers in the Sanctuary? Jim Meredith and his friend, Lois Kail, spent time dying the muslin several times in order to get the shade to match the paneling. They were finally able to get the color as near as possible. Jim said of his donation, "The speaker coverings are just part of the exchange for Sonos using the church for recording and practice." Thank you to Jim and Lois for taking time to cover the boxes before Jim left for Japan on December 12th for a two-week concert tour with the Sonos Handbell Choir. Jim gave us a copy of his itinerary in Japan so that we could alert friends or relatives living in the places Sonos was playing.

On December 10th, the Lake Parkers had lunch together and then gathered in the Sanctuary to hang the shining balls on the Christmas tree. Thank you to Ron Fujie who put wreaths in the windows and strung ropes of green all around the balcony and walls. Ron was thanked for ALL his work in making the church look so warmly festive. He also brought pots of poinsettias – they were so beautiful, it was "unreal"!

It has been five years since the Reverend Casper Horikoshi passed away. In his memory, Mrs. Horikoshi donated ten lightweight lunch-tables to Lake Park. Additionally, Mrs. Horikoshi served a sushi lunch for everyone after service on December 3rd in her husband's memory. Most of her family was there, too. It was good to see them! Nancy Prather didn't come since her husband Hale had just come home from the hospital after suffering a ruptured aneurysm. Mrs. Horikoshi said that Hale was doing quite well and we're really glad to hear such good news.

January 12, 2007 will mark the 20th Anniversary of the passing of David Teruo Shigematsu. Diane, his wife, tells us that the basketball court at Castlemont High will be renamed "The David T. Shigematsu Court," in honor of his many years as their basketball coach. A dedication dinner was held on November 15th at the Allen Temple Baptist Church and Diane was touched that several of the players David had coached so many years ago attended the dinner. On January 9, 2007 a banner will be hoisted renaming the basketball court.

Have you wondered just what the word "Advent" means? Some say, "It is time to get ready." Others say, "Be prepared." We had a weekly Advent Study Group at Lake Park to deepen our spiritual understanding of the birth of our Savior.

At Thanksgiving, we found much to be grateful for this past year. And yet, there also seems to be so much sorrow for the loss of family members and friends. Advent and Christmas time offers each of us once again the time for HOPE, despite the tragedies surrounding us. Our prayers for Peace must continue for our neighbors and our friends who have touched our lives from around the world. Pray for Peace, which begins with you, from your heart.

Just a P. S.: Christmas seemed to be so much earlier this year. Even the neighboring post offices were out of the Madonna and Child Christmas stamps by December 7th. I can't help wondering if people are turning to religion, to the true meaning of Christmas, by honoring the Prince of Peace?

Adopt A Family Christmas Project

For two Sundays, Dec 3 & 10, the church collected gifts and money for the family that we adopted through Saint Vincent’s Day Home in West Oakland. The people in our family were Sheila, a single parent currently looking for employment and without a source of income, and her two young children, Samuel (4) and Ishmael (3). I am thrilled to report that in that short period of time, our church collected some presents and cards for Sheila, a present each for Samuel and Ishmael, and \$405. Mission & Outreach Committee members used the money to purchase a \$250 Safeway/Pak 'n Save gift card and a \$155 Target gift card. (Gift cards are suggested by Saint Vincent’s due to the variety of cultures and not knowing what each family needs the most.)

Thank you to Committee members and to David Iino, who delivered our items to Saint Vincent’s, who, in turn, gave them to our adopted family. And many, many thanks to all who gave gifts and donated money. Our church may be small in number, but is big in heart!



Idea Incubator

There are two ideas below, each with one person who has expressed interest in taking the idea and “making it happen.” This is how ideas become reality; and ideas really start heating up when more than one person is involved! There’s still time to contact the church if you are interested in any of the following (or to submit new or recycled ideas).



Idea	Month first posted	Number of people who have expressed interest
Fix the cross on top of the church so it lights up at night	Nov*	one
Distribute Plowshare electronically as well as traditional paper	Nov*	one
Put up a large banner in front of the church saying that we are a “Community Church” and all are invited.	Dec	

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

* = this is the last month this idea will be posted

Out with the Old, and In with the New

As a result of the work done with the Peace Greenhouse, two new Committees have been formed: **the Care and Nurturing Committee** and **the Spiritual Growth Committee** (see the pull-out insert of the List of Officers and Committees).



The Care and Nurturing Committee has an inward facing component of coordinating care and support for Lake Parkers in times of need. They will additionally, contact inactive members to invite and encourage them to reconnect in the life of the congregation. They will coordinate the welcoming of visitors and provide follow up. The outward facing component will be to coordinate mission and outreach projects. The remaining members of the Mission and Outreach Committee are now members of this Committee.

The Christian Education Committee has now been renamed the Spiritual Growth Committee. While its focus remains the same, it will additionally identify opportunities for healing and wholeness of the whole person. It will also develop avenues to strengthen a person’s spiritual growth.



Correction

Note: In the November Plowshare, the title of the Administrative Council minutes was typed incorrectly. The title said Aug 2 & Oct 4, but the contents were actually from the Sept 13 & Oct 4 meetings. Also, some information had been left out: (from Sept 13 Pastor’s Report) “It is time to revisit the Agreement again since four months have passed. The Council decided that the Eritrean Christian Fellowship can continue to use the Horikoshi Chapel for the worship services, since they have followed the rules and have kept the room clean.”

Floral Acknowledgements November 19th to December 10th

- Nov. 19: "Thank You" God for Many Blessings!
 Nov. 26: Sara Stalder, "Happy, Happy!"
 Dec. 03: Mrs. Hisako Horikoshi, in memory of the 5th
 anniversary of Rev. Casper Horikoshi's passing
 Dec. 10: Rev. Barbara, memory of her father, James Horikoshi

"Thank You" to Leona Narita for providing the sanctuary with holly for the Advent candle.

Thank you to all who lovingly contributed flowers for the altar in 2006. The flower calendar for 2007 is now posted in the social hall if you would like to sign up. Additionally, you may contact Kumiko (510) 276-9264 or Tsugi (510) 444-2369 to sign up or if you have any questions or need assistance.

God's blessings,
 Kumiko Derreberry
 Tsugiye Oshika



With Deep Appreciation

"Thank You" to **Steve Derreberry, Frank Eto, John Golden, Hugh Lee, Moses Oshima and Leo Saito** for their continued work on the beautiful meditative garden in the front. If you haven't already, you must go out and look at it.

"Thank You" also to **Hugh Lee and Frank Takeuchi** for fixing the front walkway lights, so that we have lighting at night.

"Thank You" to **Mrs. Hisako Horikoshi** who donated 10 lightweight tables to Lake Park in memory of her husband, the Rev. Casper Horikoshi. To **ALL** who worked so hard around the church in 2006, we give you thanks!



Tea Fellowship for January

Karie Yamashita and Helen Yoshida

Many thanks to all who have provided delicacies for our after-service fellowship throughout the year.

Thank You to Outgoing Committee Members



We give thanks to God for the following individuals who will be going off various Committees: **Ron Fujie**, as Chair of the Board of Trustees; **Gordon Yamamoto**, as Chair of the SPRC and **Miye Takeuchi** and **Karie Yamashita**, as its members; **Irene Lee** and **Callie Morizono** from the Committee on Lay Leadership; **Frank Eto** and **Tsugiye Oshika** from the Finance Committee; **Noralee Alexander, Eric Yamashita** and **Myriam Ramos** from the Christian Education Committee; **Noel Merchant** and **Margaret Tsujimoto** from the Outreach and Mission Committee; and **Bharat Vyas** of the Worship Committee. The following have their terms expire, but will be going back on their respective Committees: **Steve Derreberry** and **Leo Saito** on the Board of Trustees; **Frank Takeuchi** on the Investment Committee, and **Dr. Ananse Taharka** and Co-Chair **Sara Stalder** will be going back on the Worship Committee.

We give special thanks to Chair **Ron Fujie** for all his work on the Board of Trustees and **Gordon Yamamoto**, who equally worked hard as Chair of the SPRC.

We give great thanks to **Chiyo Futagaki** for her years of work as Communion Steward. She continues to diligently find liturgists for our Sunday worship services, which is no easy feat!

"Thank You, Thank You, to ALL!!!"



Care Corner

Remember that many thousands of people who have been displaced by armed conflicts, the 2004 tsunami, the earthquake in the Himalayas and the Katrina hurricane still have no homes to move back to. Pray that in 2007 their plight may be resolved and they can resume their lives. Pray for those men and women who are serving in dangerous areas of the world and for their families. Please pray for those members of our congregation and our friends who are depressed, in poor health and pain.

And continue your prayers for the following:

Shizu Aka & family
 Yasuko Gamo & family
 Ari Inouye
 Haruko Narita
 Hale Prather

Ruby Ouye's brother
 Cathy Saito
 Terry & Mark Takaki
 Daniel Thompson
 Lake Park's Future

Highlights from the Administrative Council Meeting, December 6, 2006

Reports:

- Christian Education: none
- Finance/Treasurer: Handed out the report for November. Refer to the report for more details.
- Mission and Outreach: The Adopt A Family project is underway. The church is adopting a family through Saint Vincent's Day Home in Oakland. The family is a single mother and her two young children. We are taking donations on December 3rd & 10th and David Iino will deliver the items to Saint Vincent's, who will give them to our family.
- Staff/SPRC: The pastor's compensation form was sent in and the Adoption Agreement for Local Church Participation was signed and mailed. Information/details will be in the Annual Church Conference packet.
- Trustees: Rock garden is continuing. Have not heard from Montessori regarding the lease.
- Worship: Congregation participation will be on Dec 31 (a fifth Sunday). Ron volunteered to spearhead decorating the sanctuary for Christmas time.
- Music: Christmas Eve musical program will include recorder and chimes music, lessons and carols, communion and candlelight.
- JASEB: Status of Adachi property: deadline could not be met, so Adachi told JASEB to make another offer. The owners of Yume Assisted Living in El Cerrito want to sell, so JASEB was approached; unsure whether this will go forward as logistical access there is difficult. The JASEB Board established a building fund to hold a \$100,000 grant from Ichioka Nakao in Southern California. JASEB is planning to have an audit performed by Bill Hirose. The annual Crab Feed will be Sun Feb 11 at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center. Two seatings at 4pm and 5:30pm; take out 4:30-6:00pm. \$25 in advance, \$30 at door. Raffle tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10. Ed volunteered to do a delivery service for Lake Park people. Sachi will hold the tickets. JASEB is planning to have a visioning day on January 6th. Thank you to Ron for the nice layout of Lake Park people that appears for the month of August in the 2007 JASEB calendar (people have made nice comments).
- Pastor's Report: Next Wednesday (Dec 13) is the Annual Church Conference; a proposed agenda was distributed. Packets for the meeting are being assembled. The DS will meet at 7pm upstairs

with SPRC; the Conference meeting will follow at 7:30. Also, the list of church officers and committees for 2007 was distributed. No custodian job description was found. [Later on, Ron, as next year's SPRC chairman, said he would spearhead finding out from the custodian what cleaning tasks are being performed.] Montessori started cleaning the narthex after their use of it and it looks a lot better for Sunday service or other events. Mission Statement & Goals will be examined next year. Zephyr Retreat planning will be starting up. Rev. Barbara will be the speaker next year, and, as such, will come up with the theme, subject for her talk, and hymn. Asian Caucus & Conference Consultation has not been very useful and is taking up too much of Rev. Barbara's time (her Secretary term will end in June). Advent Studies have started. Plowshare items are due this Sunday in order to send it out sooner because of Christmas and the heavy mailing volume. Refer to Rev. Barbara's report for additional details.

Items to follow:

Church usage – kitchen	Referred to the new Task Force on opening church to others.
Annual Church Conference items	Meeting with District Superintendent is Wed. Dec. 13 at 7:30pm. (DS and SPRC meeting at 7:00pm.)
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.
Horikoshi Chapel not being tidied after use	Notice to be posted. Cleaning tools to be made available.

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

Calendar Review:

- (remaining) Advent studies scheduled for Tuesdays: Dec 12 & 19 at 2:00pm
 Dec 10 – Lunch served and tree trimming
 Dec 13 – Annual Church Conference 7:30pm (SPRC 7:00pm)
 Dec 14 – Nichigo meeting at 11:00 for their Christmas party and Bible study
 Dec 24 – Regular Christmas service and 7:00pm Christmas Eve service
 Dec 31 – Epiphany Sunday
 Jan 3 – Admin Council meeting 7:30pm
 Jan 6 – JASEB visioning day
 Jan 13 – tentative church cleanup day
 Jan 21 – UMW meeting



Next meeting is Wednesday, January 3, 2007 at 7:30pm

[See Note on page 10]

Announcements

JASEB CRAB FEED FEBRUARY 11, 2007



The annual JASEB crab feed is set for Sunday, February 11, 2007 at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center in Oakland Chinatown, 388-9th Street, 2nd floor. There will be two seatings, from 4-5:30 p.m. and 5:30-7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00 in advance and, if available, \$30.00 at the door. Raffle tickets for a \$1,000 grand prize are also available for \$2.00 each or 6 for \$10.00. Home delivery of take out dinners can be arranged. Please see Sachi Kajiwara for tickets.

JASEB also would like 5 volunteers from Lake Park to help from 5:15 to 7:15. Please let Rev. Barbara know if you want to volunteer.



Human Relations Day Special Offering January 14, 2007



This Sunday occurs during Epiphany, the season of manifesting God's light in the world. Human Relations Day calls the Church to recognize the right of all God's children to realize their potential as human beings in relationship with each other. The purpose of the day is to further the development of better human relations. Funds collected will support Community Developers, the UMC Voluntary Services, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs.



**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED
TO USHER IN JANUARY!!!**

PLOWSHARE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

November 12 to December 3, 2006

Special Gifts:

Alexander, M/M George
Derreberry, M/M Steven
Gamo, Mrs. Yasuko
Ogawa, Helen
Shigematsu, Diane

"Blessings for my children"
Memory Rev. Casper Horikoshi
Memory Dr. Hideya Gamo
Memory Dorothy Tomita
Celebration: Grandson David D.
Shigematsu's first birthday.
Dedication: Castlemont High School
basketball court as The David T.
Shigematsu Court.
Mary's birthday

Takaki, M/M Teruo

Conference Offering: Student Day

Derreberry, M/M Steve
Futagaki, Chiyo
Horikoshi, Hisako
Kajiwara, Sachi
Narasaki, Theresa

Oshika, Tsugiye
Saito, Leo
Tsujiimoto, M/M Minoru
Yamashita, Karie



Christmas Offering

Ikoma, Arthur

Oshima, Moses

Food Fund -St. Vincent de Paul

Kajiwara, Sachi (Nov - Dec)
Oshika, Tsugiye

Saito, Leo
Takeuchi, M/M Frank
Anonymous - 1

Thanksgiving Offering

Derreberry, M/M Steve
Fujie, Ron
Futagaki, Chiyo
Horikoshi, Hisako
Horikoshi, Kathy
Horikoshi-Firebaugh, Rev. Barbara
Iijima, Maru
Iino, David
Iriki, Keiko
Isokawa, Sue
Kajiwara, Sachi
Kondo, Ari
Lee, M/M Hugh
Maniwa, M/M Kazuo - Memory Amy Maniwa
Morizono, M/M Mike

Narasaki, Theresa
Narita, Leona
Ogawa, Helen
Oshika, Tsugiye
Ouye, Ruby
Saito, Leo
Shigematsu, Diane
Takaki, M/M Teruo
Takeuchi, M/M Frank
Teshima, Nancy/Strei, William
Tsujiimoto, M/M Minoru
Yamada, Sachi
Yamashita, Karie
Yoshida, M/M George