

Pastor's Reflections



At the end of May we started celebrating Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit, the Advocate of God, came upon the people, just as Jesus had promised. Oh, to have been there that day – to hear the rush of the mighty wind, and see tongues, as of fire, resting on each person there! And to be filled with the Holy Spirit!!!

We need to be zapped anew by the Spirit! Maybe then our churches will be filled with those who are zealous in serving the Lord, attendance and offerings will be up, and everyone will be banging down our doors to volunteer to take leadership positions! Sound like a fairy tale? I don't think so. What I described **can** be possible if we open our hearts to the Spirit's moving, creating a new Pentecost to take place in our hearts and in Lake Park. The power of God **IS** within us! God is able to ignite us with an intense, burning passion like we have never known before, a passion to intimately know the Lord and serve in His name.

But are we like the disciples and followers of Jesus who were **waiting** for this awesome gift that was promised them? They longed to be in the presence of Jesus, but were told that he would have to leave in order for the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, could come and empower them to continue the work that he started. So they longed for the presence of God, in the Spirit, to come upon them. When the Spirit did finally come, they were ready and receptive, not only to its coming, but to what it could do in their lives. They were open to the Spirit's coming; like a dry sponge that is open and ready to soak up the water. Are we open to the Spirit's moving in our lives? Or do we put up barriers which prevent the Spirit from really working through us and in us. The New Testament writings agree that shortly after the resurrection the disciples received the Holy Spirit and as a result they became conscious of a new inward power that completely transformed their whole outlook and life. Remember what a change it made in Peter's life. Here was a man who denied Jesus three times because he was afraid for his life. Now on the day of Pentecost he is **boldly** proclaiming Christ in public for all those there to hear. This new sense of power is the most significant part in the experience of Pentecost. Earlier the Holy Spirit had acted on human beings from **without** as an external force. But now the Spirit came **into** the hearts of human beings as an abiding and regular presence of the living Christ. This

change was possible only because Jesus had ascended to the Father. The union of the divine and human natures in the person of Jesus Christ made it possible for the divine Spirit to dwell in every human person.

But how many of us are as receptive to God's passionate, burning Spirit, versus wanting to live our lives according to our **own** agenda? **What would it be like for the Spirit to take over your life?** The divided tongues rested on each of them, symbolized God's purifying presence on them, burning away the undesirable elements of their lives and setting their hearts aflame, so that others may then be ignited by the passion and fire of their lives. But are we as willing to let go of those undesirable things that keep us separated from God and prevent us from being fully available to God? God longs for an intimate relationship with us all. Our celebration of Pentecost reminds us that the Spirit will set our hearts on fire for God and breathe new life into us and our congregation.

Pentecost Sunday is a day to celebrate hope, a hope evoked by the knowledge that God, through the Holy Spirit, is at work among us. It is a celebration of renewal of purpose, mission and calling. It is a celebration of God's ongoing work in the world. Yet, it is also a recognition that God's work is done through us. Yes, we are to take on the life of Christ; and we are to be instruments of God's work in the world. Our celebration of Pentecost reminds us of the power of the Holy Spirit. But it also reminds us that **WE**, the body of Christ, are needed to fulfill God's work. Are you zealous for the Lord? Is your heart ablaze with the love of God and do you desire to know God intimately? We need the fire of God to inspire us and move us with divine passion to serve the Lord. We need God's fire to ignite a holy fire in the life of this congregation, so that God's purifying presence can cleanse us of all ills and give us a heart of Christ.

The power of the Holy Spirit **DOES** transform lives! It is an ever transforming presence in us, moving us on to perfection, as Wesley said. Oh, how I pray for your hearts to be set on fire with the Spirit. I pray for a revival and an energizing new birth for Lake Park; for we can do nothing without the Spirit. But **the Spirit IS here!**



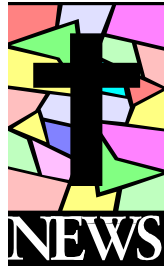
Blessings always,

Barbara

In and Around Lake Park

by Sachi Kajiwara

Congratulations to George and Helen Yoshida as they celebrated their 62nd Wedding Anniversary on May 9th. On the same day, but five years earlier, Art and Ida Inouye celebrated their 67th Wedding Anniversary in Roseville. And to Mike Morizono, it's Happy Birthday, his 88th, on May 12th. The whole family gathered to celebrate this milestone.



Rev. Barbara is on vacation as she received a ticket to Hawaii for Mother's Day as a gift from her daughter, Renee. Even if it was just for a few days, she was able to visit her birth mother there. On her return home, the family went camping .

Lake Parkers observed Native American Ministries Sunday on April 29. D'Shane Barnett, Special Project Officer at the Native American Health Center in Oakland, was our speaker for the day. He spoke on Issues and Projects of our Native American neighbors. He was born and raised in Montana and attended college in Oregon. He talked about how the native people, who had never known any boundaries, were confined to living within the strict limits of Reservations—which, over the years, they adjusted to. Then, in the middle of the 20th century, the government changed its policy and lured them away to live in cities with promises of education, jobs and integration into the larger society. They were transported from the reservations by bus and arbitrarily dropped off, one by one, in various urban locations, not knowing where they were or where the people they had traveled with had gone. This displacement and wrenching from their traditional culture resulted in many of the young people turning to alcohol and drugs, severe depression and mental illness. A Native American Health Clinic was established in San Francisco in 1972 and, in 1976, it opened a clinic in the Fruitvale neighborhood due to the growing number of Native Americans in Oakland. Since 1983 they have been in their own 4-storey building at Fruitvale Ave and 14th Street, where , in keeping with Native American principles, the Health Center serves the entire community, not just Indians. But they have outgrown their facilities and what Mr. Barnett has mainly been busy with since he came to live in the Bay Area two years ago and started working there, is the Seven Directions Project.

This \$10 million project is to be a new state-of-the-art medical and dental facility with 38 affordable 3-bedroom housing units located above, and an outdoor cultural ceremonial space, all sited on what has been for 30 years a blighted empty lot on International Blvd. Mr. Barrett offered to conduct tours of the present facility for anyone who is interested, and invited us all to the Seven Directions Groundbreaking Celebration on June 14th (see the announcement elsewhere in this Plowshare).

We were delighted to have The Kawashima family, looking fit and fine, in the congregation one Sunday. Both Rev. Mas and his son-in-law, Dr. David Wong, had meetings in San Francisco so decided to bring the whole family along for the weekend. It was good to see Rev. Hope and Dr. Becky again, and to meet her two young boys, Jonah and Luke.

Kathy Horikoshi phoned and said that her mother, Mrs. Hisako Horikoshi, went to Surgery on Friday morning, May 11, for the removal of a lump in her breast. She came home later the same day and is doing fine. The later biopsy revealed no malignancy.

Though it has been 18 years since Amy Maniwa passed away, she was honored posthumously for her service to the City of Berkeley and the North Berkeley Senior Center as the 2007 Pioneer Award Recipient. Her son, Kaz, accepted the plaque and made a short speech of thanks telling how Amy dragged her 3 kids on the bus to the Senior Center where they gained an appreciation of the geriatric community. This Event was in conjunction with the Berkeley JACL Scholarship Luncheon honoring 5 high school seniors, who each received a check to continue their education. It was so good to see grandson, Kenta, up and walking with crutches as well as Chiyo (Amy's daughter) from Santa Monica.

It is so good to see Moses Oshima back at Church after his surgery and recovery. In the meantime, a big thank you to Steve Derreberry and others who have come during the week to make sure the work was done that needs to be done.

Please continue to pray for our friends who need our prayers.

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Note: A summary of the May 2nd Administrative Council meeting will appear in the July Plowshare.

Care Corner

Please hold the following in your prayers:

Yasuko Gamo & family	Ari Inouye
Hugh and Irene Lee	Ruby Ouye's brother
Hale Prather	Cathy Saito
Daniel Thompson	Virginia Tomita
Margaret Tsujimoto & family	Elaine Yamada's family
Lake Park's future	

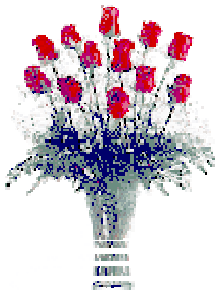
Our servicemen and women abroad, aid workers and journalists serving in dangerous areas in the world and for their families.



Scripture Lessons for June 2007

- June 3: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8,
Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15
- June 10: **1 Kings 17:8-24**, Psalm 146,
Galatians 1:11-24, Luke 7:11-17
- June 17: 1 Kings 21:1-21a, Psalm 5:1-8,
Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3
- June 24: **1 Kings 19:1-15a**, Psalm 42,
Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 8:26-39

Bold print indicates which scriptures will be preached on. Always subject to the moving of the Spirit.



Floral Acknowledgments

April 22 to May 6, 2007

- Apr. 22: Frank & Amy Eto, for Chet's Memorial
Apr. 29: Chiyo Futagaki, in memory of
husband, Shig
May 6: Mrs. Minako Miyazaki, in memory
of Arthur



June 3rd is Peace With Justice Sunday

People all over the world suffer from violence, injustice, pain and hopelessness. The money you contribute to this special offering helps fund UMC programs like one in Liberia where former child soldiers learn peace, reconciliation and forgiveness and are taught useful skills so they can live productive lives; and like peace camps for children living in violent neighborhoods of U.S. cities where they are taught ways to avoid conflict and how to make peace with themselves and others. Half of this special offering goes to the UMC global ministries, and half to our annual Conference to work on problems of violence and injustice in our own area.

**Help the children of God everywhere
learn to live lovingly and peacefully.**



On Father's Day, June 17th

we will celebrate both fathers and graduates. By June 3rd, please give Rev. Barbara the names of students being promoted or graduating this year so that they can be honored by name.



Thank you!

**“Thank You” to the Trustees for their continued
work on Lake Park's building projects!**

and

**“Thank You” to Chiyo Futagaki for her
faithful service to Lake Park, ensuring that we
have a liturgist each Sunday!.**



you're Invited!



**GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION
of the
SEVEN DIRECTIONS HEALTHCARE FACILITY
30th Ave and International Blvd
Oakland, CA
(10-minute walk from Fruitvale BART station)
Thursday - June 13, 2007
3:00 pm**

The Native American Health Center has begun pouring the foundations of its new Seven Directions Healthcare Facility and is planning a celebratory event for the Oakland community.

The new building will house primary medical care, comprehensive dental care, and 38 units of affordable family housing that will be built above the new healthcare facility. An outdoor American Indian cultural/ceremonial space is also included in the holistic services plan.

(see background story in this month's "In and Around Lake Park.")
For more information consult nativehealth.org
or call D'Shane Barnett at 510 747-3030.



CROP WALK

Well, Marlene Yamashita and Rev. Barbara DID walk ALL the way around Lake Merritt for the 60th Anniversary of Church World Service's CROP Walk – sore bodies and all! Thank you to the following who sponsored their walk: Steve and Kumiko Derreberry, Ron Fujie, Chiyo Futagaki, David Iino, Sachi Kajiwara, Leona Narita, Ed Oshika, Tsugiye Oshika, Melissa Parker, Leo Saito, Diane Shigematsu, Sara Stalder, Margaret Tsujimoto, Gordon Yamamoto, Karie Yamashita, Marlene Yamashita and Rev. Barbara. Maybe next year there will be more walkers!



Sometimes the poorest man leaves his children the richest inheritance. Ruth E. Rankel

"It's a wise father that knows his own child." - Shakespeare

"I have found the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and then advise them to do it." - Harry Truman

"It is not flesh and blood, but the heart which makes us fathers and sons." - Johan Schiller

"I talk and talk and talk, and I haven't taught people in 50 years what my father taught by example in one week."
- Mario Cuomo

When a father gives to his son, both laugh; when a son gives to his father, both cry. - Jewish Proverb

"Life was a lot simpler when what we honored was our father and mother rather than major credit cards."
- Robert Orben

"If the new father feels bewildered and even defeated, let him take comfort from the fact that whatever he does in any fatherly situation, he has a fifty percent chance of being right." - Bill Cosby

"Father! to God himself we cannot give a holier name."
- William Wordsworth

Plowshare Acknowledgements April 15 to May 6, 2007

Special Gifts

Derreberry, M/M Steve - Steve's birthday
 - Memory of Arthur Miyazami
Futagaki, Chiyo - Memory of husband, Shig
Kawashima, Revs Mas & Hope - Glory to God
Sawada, M/M Toshio (Leslie Jo)
Takeuchi, M/M Roy - Memory of Min Tsujimoto
[Apologies for omitting this acknowledgement the last 2 months]

Conference Offering

Native American Ministries

Derreberry, M/M Steve Oshika, Tsugiye
Futagaki, Chiyo Saito, Dr. Lee
Horikoshi, Hisako Yamashita, Karie
Kajiwara, Sachi Yoshida, M/M George

St. Vincent de Paul Food Fund

Kajiwara, Sachi Saito, Leo
Oshika, Tsugiye Takeuchi, M/M Frank
Anonymous (2)

Special Offering – Easter

Aka, Shizu Ogawa, Helen
Gamo, Yasko Oshima, M/M Moses
Inouye, M/M Ari Ouye, Ruby
Lee, M/M Hugh Shigematsu, Diane
Miller, M/M Thomas Suzuki, M/M Frank

Trustees' Projects

Austin, M/M Raymond Oshika, Tsugiye
Derreberry, M/M Steve Oshima, M/M Moses
Futagaki, Chiyo Rehabot Eritrean Church
Hicks, M/M Brian Sasaki, Yoshie
Horikoshi, Hisako Shimamoto, William
Isokawa, Sue Suzuki, M/M Frank
Kajiwara, Sachi Teshima, Nancy/Strei, William
Maniwa, M/M Kazuo Uchida, Michiko
Miyazaki, Minako Yamamoto, M/M Gordon
Moffett, Agnes Yamashita, Karie

Thank You!

