

Pastor's Reflections

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."
Ephesians 3:1-3

Our "Peace Greenhouse BarnRaising" took place this past Sunday with 28 people in attendance! "Thank You" to **Marlene Yamashita**, whose passion and energy has led the way for the past two years. Thank you to **Sachi Kajiwara, Tsugi Oshika** and **Leo Saito** for their help over the past two years, too. They have been at all the meetings and helped plan Sunday's BarnRaising.

Sunday, August 6th, was a special day "in the fullness of time" when we were doing our **Peace** Greenhouse – it was World **Peace** Day (remembering the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings) and a call from our lectionary Ephesians text for maintaining unity in the bond of **Peace**. Remember "*the Blurb*" from our survey that some of you had taken part in: "*Be a place where all are accepted as they are – a no judgment zone; a place where we practice and experience peace and harmony*"? Seventy-six percent of those taking part in the survey said they wanted to see this taking place at Lake Park. So it is to that end we have been working.

Yet, in order for this to take place at Lake Park, each and every one of you needs to intentionally live their lives accordingly. And it is no easy task. But Jesus said in John 13:34-35, "*I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*" This was not a commandment for everyone living in Jesus' time; this commandment was specifically for his disciples and followers. Jesus wanted them to love one another so that anyone looking at them would know that they were his disciples by the love they had for one another. When people look at you or look at Lake Park, can they tell you/we are disciples of Jesus? We are all called to live by a higher standard than those around us in the community. We are to live as Jesus lived, with humility, gentleness, patience and love.

At the meeting, Marlene spoke about "inward facing" and "outward facing." "Inward facing" is what I have been talking about; and possibly a Christian Education program for all ages on "the child within" and perhaps healing. "Outward facing" involves going out

Pastor's Reflections

[continued]

into the community to do mission and outreach projects. There is still much work to be done before we can implement some of these programs; but this Sunday's discussions have been a step in living like Jesus, continuing his ministry, and seeing that "the Blurb" will take place at Lake Park.

The meeting was a time to see who would be interested in working on different projects, so that when the Committee on Lay Leadership meets, they can select people who were interested in working on certain projects and committees. Since our Annual Church Conference is not until December 13, we have sufficient time for planning. Perhaps what was even more exciting is that people came up to us asking what the next step is. "The Greenhouse 5" need to get together to review what was discussed and plan the next steps.

In my message for the day, I wanted people to not be so negative about new ideas, saying "we've done that before and it won't work." Like the "self-fulfilling prophecy," if we say it's going to fail, it will fail. We need to focus on God working in our lives; for with God we can do ALL things! We need to look beyond our limitations to what we can do! We are vessels for God to use in furthering Christ's ministry in the world. Will you do what you can for raising the Peace Greenhouse at Lake Park? EVERYONE is needed for this work!

Blessings always,

Barbara

Care Corner



Let us pray for the people in the world whose lives have been destroyed by armed conflicts and natural disasters. And let us continue to pray for those who are dealing with medical problems and with sadness.

And please hold the following in your prayers:

Shizu Aka & family

Ari Inouye

Theresa Narasaki & family

Ruby Ouye's brother

Cathy Saito

Terry & Mary Takaki

Lake Park's future

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

In and Around Lake Park

By Sachi Kajiwara

Thanks to Jim Meredith and Ellen St. Thomas, and their friendship with many musicians, Lake Park church has become the venue for much beautiful music. On July 23, Alexandra Rackages, (a mezzo-soprano who will begin studying at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston this fall) sang several numbers during the service, and then gave a recital at Lake Park a few days later. On August 18, there was an excellent recital at Lake Park presented by The Mendocino Chamber Players. We can show our appreciation by supporting these concerts too. In between times, when there is a rehearsal or recording session, they need QUIET in the building. Please cooperate with this request because, ultimately, Lake Park benefits by being on the receiving end of some great music. Incidentally, Sara Stalder is filling in as pianist/organist while Jim Meredith is taking his vacation month.

The Reverend Doctor Peter Yuichi Clark was our guest speaker on July 30th. He came last year two weeks before his wedding. Exactly one year later he was asked to speak, two weeks before his first wedding anniversary, and his wife accompanied him this time. He used the Scripture of feeding the 5000 with just 3 loaves of bread and 2 fishes. His topic was "Signposts and Hints" to help us acknowledge and be aware of the needs around us.

On August 6, Marlene Yamashita led the Lake Parkers in a meeting on our ideas to establish a Peace Greenhouse, a wrap-up of weeks of planning for the future of our church. There was good participation from those who attended. Tsugi Oshika put together a marvelous lunch where everyone made their own sandwiches. The outcome of all this will be apparent later on

On September 10, Bishop Leontyne Kelly will be our guest speaker as Rev. Barbara will be on a family camping trip vacation. Bishop Kelly is retired and living at Lake Park Residence here in Oakland. We are privileged to have her come to Lake Park to speak. Please plan to attend the September 10th Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Barbara and husband John, Karie Yamashita and Sachi Kajiwara are headed for the Zephyr Cove Fellowship Retreat at Lake Tahoe from August 13 - 18—even as this Plowshare column is being printed. The Reverend David Nieda from the Blaine UMC in Seattle, Washington will be the speaker at the Retreat. More later after the event takes place.



In and Around Lake Park

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Please continue to pray for those who need your prayers. You could even drop them a line to let them know that they are not forgotten.

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### Scripture Lessons for September

- Sept. 3: Song of Solomon 2:8-13, Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9;  
**James 1:17-27**, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23  
*"Be Doers of the Word"*
- Sept. 10: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125,  
**James 2:1-10, 14-17**; Mark 7:24-37  
*"Showing Favoritism?"*
- Sept. 17: Proverbs 1:20-33, Psalm 19, **James 3:1-12**,  
Mark 8:27-38  
*"Taming the Tongue"*
- Sept. 24: Proverbs 31:10-31, Psalm 1,  
**James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a**; Mark 9:30-37  
*"Wisdom from Above"*

Scripture in **bold** indicates the one that will be preached on; however, always subject to the moving of the Spirit.

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Many thanks to :

Mrs. Hisako Horikoshi who has presented Lake Park with three beautifully framed pictures of West 10th. Take a look at them in the Wesley Room. We thank her so much for giving us these precious records of our rich history.

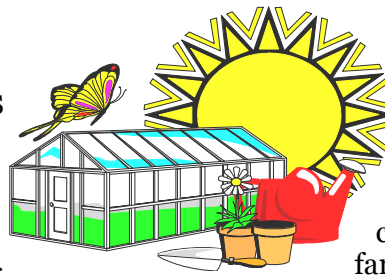
Again, a very special thanks to Marlene Yamashita for her dedication to our Peace Greenhouse. Out of her love of the church and all the people in it, she has guided us with imagination toward a new inspiration for the future of Lake Park.

And thanks to Tsugi Oshika for arranging our nice luncheon for the Barnraising meeting.



Peace Greenhouse Barnraising – Observations

By Marlene Yamashita



(Note: The following article is written mainly from my perspective as an observer. Another article with an interpretation of what occurred is found elsewhere in this newsletter.)

The church-wide Peace Greenhouse Barnraising meeting was held after service on August 6th. It started with grace followed by constructing your own sandwich from the variety of breads, spreads, meats, and cheese. [Yes! The connection between constructing your own sandwich and building the Peace Greenhouse was intentional!]

Leo Saito provided a brief history of how 3 lineages of separate churches merged together to form our current Lake Park UMC – Pioneer Memorial Methodist Church (1881), First Methodist Episcopal Church (1879: began meeting to hear the Gospel preached in Scandinavian languages), and Oakland Japanese Methodist Episcopal Church (established in 1887; later became West Tenth). He also talked about the recent history, beginning with the May 2004 meeting on what to do about declining membership, through the block party and survey, “The Blurb,” the Belief Declaration, and the day’s Peace Greenhouse Barnraising meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to get support for the ideas presented and to raise interest in people to eventually get involved. It was noted that details and how-to’s would be developed in various committees.

The 1st idea discussed was the focus for the Peace Greenhouse /church. The focus is to be both inward-facing & outward-facing, and the focus is to be enjoyable! “We want to experience the presence (and presents) of God in our lives.” By being inward-facing & outward-facing at the same time we can establish our boundaries; that is, our focus will help create clear identity and purpose. The practice of Clarity of Identity & Purpose was described as essential for good congregational health and wholeness in an article called “Striving for Congregational Health and Wholeness” in *Interpreter* magazine.

The article does not set out the how-to’s, so the “group of 5” proposed that for outward-facing, we continue our current activities +plus+ define our Mission & Outreach better (for example, one project per quarter). For inward-facing, the proposal was to continue our

Observations on Peace Greenhouse [continued]

current activities +plus+ (a) we could practice extended family values (such as Caring, Trust, Responsibility/ Reliability/ Commitment), and (b) we could create a “church school” among the people already here, i.e., adults, to bring out the child within through experiential living and discussion.

Another topic of discussion was the need for other measures of “success,” besides just keeping track of the current number of attendees in worship service. For example we might figure out how many people were thrilled, excited, happy on their SQ increase (spiritual intelligence/quotient, as assessed by the questionnaire in the book *Change Management Excellence: Using the Four Intelligences for Successful Organizational Change*), and how many people now feel they are following their passion, answering their calling.

Several other topics came up during the meeting: For instance, the topic of opening up the church for other groups to use (including the kitchen) generated a whole lot of discussion; so much so that a separate group will be formed to handle this issue.

In addition, many ideas were captured. This isn’t the entire list, but one of the ideas was that there be a follow-up on items from the Admin Council minutes. Another idea was to encourage/follow-up on the non-regulars---the people who-sometimes-come to church and sometimes don’t.

[Full minutes from the Aug 6th meeting will be available at a later date after we have a plan on how to handle the ideas and information generated.]

I humbly and sincerely want to thank Sachi Kajiwara, Tsugi Oshika, Leo Saito, and Rev. Barbara (all part of the “group of 5”). Through their willingness and dedication they were instrumental in bringing form (thus far) to the Peace Greenhouse. This was difficult work because we were literally starting from scratch, without an exact model or a how-to instruction manual to follow. Now that the barnraising is complete, it will be up to the Lake Park extended family to keep the Peace Greenhouse alive – you did take the mustard seed home, right? But don’t worry, you’re in good company and, as “The Blurb” says, you’ll be accepted as you are.

Peace Greenhouse Barnraising – Impressions

By Marlene Yamashita

(Note: The following article is written mainly from my feelings and impressions of what had occurred at the meeting. It's just one perspective, although I wonder what others felt then and what their feelings are now.)



The official start of the Peace Greenhouse Barnraising meeting was after service on August 6th, but really, all of the elements of worship service immediately proceeding it (entitled Leading a Life Worthy of Your Calling) were connected, too. Over 25 people attended the meeting – a very strong show of support – and I don't believe it was only because of the free food. In fact, during a topic that wasn't officially on the agenda, "Reasons for being here [the meeting]", free food wasn't even mentioned.

And then Mrs. Horikoshi, the first participant to speak, said she knew something good will happen – she had a feeling of unity; stronger than ever! – it was such a positive, uplifting statement. I was really glad she said what she did because, upon reflection, she vocalized the unseen, but sensed, feeling of oneness that we trying to "grow" at Lake Park; expanding that extended family feeling.

During the meeting, we talked about the need for other measures of "success", in addition with the traditional number of attendees in worship service. An example of one such measure was the number of people who now feel they are following their passion; answering their calling. We boldly took a baseline measurement right then and there. When 19 people raised their hands, I was amazed and inspired at the same time! I previously thought there would only be a handful and perhaps even less if people were timid about raising their hand. To have that many passionate people, gathered at one place, coming together because they care about Lake Park and don't want to see it close, well, that's an energy of [shall I say it?] biblical proportions!

There definitely is an energy/presence at Lake Park that transcends our individual selves. After the meeting, multiple people said that they were looking forward to the next meeting. The only thing is, the "group of 5" (developers/organizers) really didn't have a plan for another meeting. But, we aren't going to just let the energy from that meeting dissipate. It's obvious to me that our Peace Greenhouse wish has taken on a life of its own. To have it live and breathe in the hearts of the Lake Park extended family will ensure that it continues. And when Ron Fujie spoke about the Peace Greenhouse during his talk on "Spirituality in the Material World" the following week, I knew it was alive in his heart, too.

Plowshare Acknowledgements July 16 to August 6, 2006

Special Gifts

Alexander, M/M George - memory of parents & children
Derreberry, M/M Steve - memory of Rev. Barbara's mother,
Peggy Horikoshi

Hoshi, Michiko - memory of Jim's anniversary - July 20, 2006

Kajiwara, Sachi - memory of Chieko Sakai

Miyazaki, Minako - memory of Mrs. Mineko Shigematsu

Family of Chieko Sakai - "To help with your good work"

Yamashita, Marlene - memory of father Calvin's birthday

Memory Akira Yamauchi

Kajiwara, Sachi

Tamada, Sachiko

Yamada, Tadashi

Food Fund

Kajiwara, Sachi

Oshika, Tsugiye

Saito, Dr Leo

A very belated acknowledgment for Easter offering:
Drs Thomas and Dorothy Oda.

We Thank You All



Floral Acknowledgements July 23 to August 13, 2006

July 23: "Thank You," God for many blessings

July 30: Theresa Narasaki, Glory to God

Aug. 6: Rev. Barbara, in memory of Mother's 1st Anniversary

Aug. 13: Theresa Narasaki, in memory of Joe's 1st Anniversary

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**Toban for September** – Sachi Kajiwara and Irene Lee  
**Ushers for September** – To be announced

## Highlights from the Administrative Council Meeting, August 2, 2006

### Reports:

- Christian Education: none
- Finance/Treasurer: Handed out report for July, which is generally a slow month. Refer to the report for more details.
- Mission and Outreach: Nothing directly related to committee. A church-wide meeting on Aug 6<sup>th</sup> will be held, entitled "Peace Greenhouse BarnRaising". Many, many thanks to Leo Saito, Tsugi Oshika, Sachi Kajiwara, and Rev. Barbara for their work on bringing form to the Peace Greenhouse idea.
- Staff/SPRC: no report
- Trustees: no report
- Worship: It is becoming difficult finding people willing to be liturgists.
- Music: The concert held on Sat. July 29 with Alexandra Rackages and Jim Meredith was well attended with approximately 75 people.
- JASEB: The Annual Nikkei Walk-a-thon will be held Sept 24 at Marina Bay Park.
- Pastor's Report: On July 10<sup>th</sup>, there was a gas smell in the church building (especially bad outside her office), which Montessori teachers smelled as well and evacuated the children. PG&E came out to check, but by that time the smell had dissipated. While there, he turned off pilot in heater in Nichigo room since it has no off setting and always gives off heat. The memorial service for Marjorie Haines, a member of Castro Valley UMC was performed as their pastor was on vacation. The parsonage washing machine was replaced because water was leaking into the tub when it was NOT running. The Asian American Caucus' Executive Committee will be meeting in Lake Park's Wesley Room on Aug 9<sup>th</sup>. Zephyr Retreat is Sun Aug 13<sup>th</sup> to Fri Aug 18<sup>th</sup>. Postcard arrived from a company selling anniversary seals, saying it was Lake Park's 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. This is incorrect, although it would reflect 120 years of West Tenth's beginning date (1887). It is strongly believed that we can't use West Tenth's beginning date because there are people who didn't go to that church and we need to be inclusive of all. JASEB calendar picture deadline is Aug 21<sup>st</sup>. Annual Church Conference will be Wed Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Rev. Barbara's compression fracture has gotten worse. She has been

## Highlights of AdCo Meeting [continued]

given different pain medication and she will be doing physical therapy. If things do not improve in 3 months then she will have to have surgery.

### Old Business:

1. Montessori Lease – (Ron) should have a draft by next week

### Calendar review:

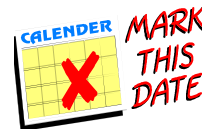
Choir time off is Aug 17<sup>th</sup> to Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, restarting Thurs. Sept 14<sup>th</sup>

- Aug 6 – gen'l 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; Bishop Kelly is guest speaker
- Sept 13 – Admin Council meeting
- Sept 30 – UMW district annual meeting in Walnut Creek (Bishop Kelly speaker)

**Next meeting is Wed., September 13, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.**

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## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual JASEB NIKKEI WALK



**Sunday - Sept 24<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 pm**  
**Marina Bay Park – Richmond**  
**Scenic 5K or 10K Course**

**Registration & check-in from noon**

Community groups can raise money by becoming a Sponsoring Group, as 40% of pledges raised is given back to the sponsor.

For info and registration forms, call **510 848-3560**.

**TAKE A WALK TO BENEFIT NIKKEI ENIORS**