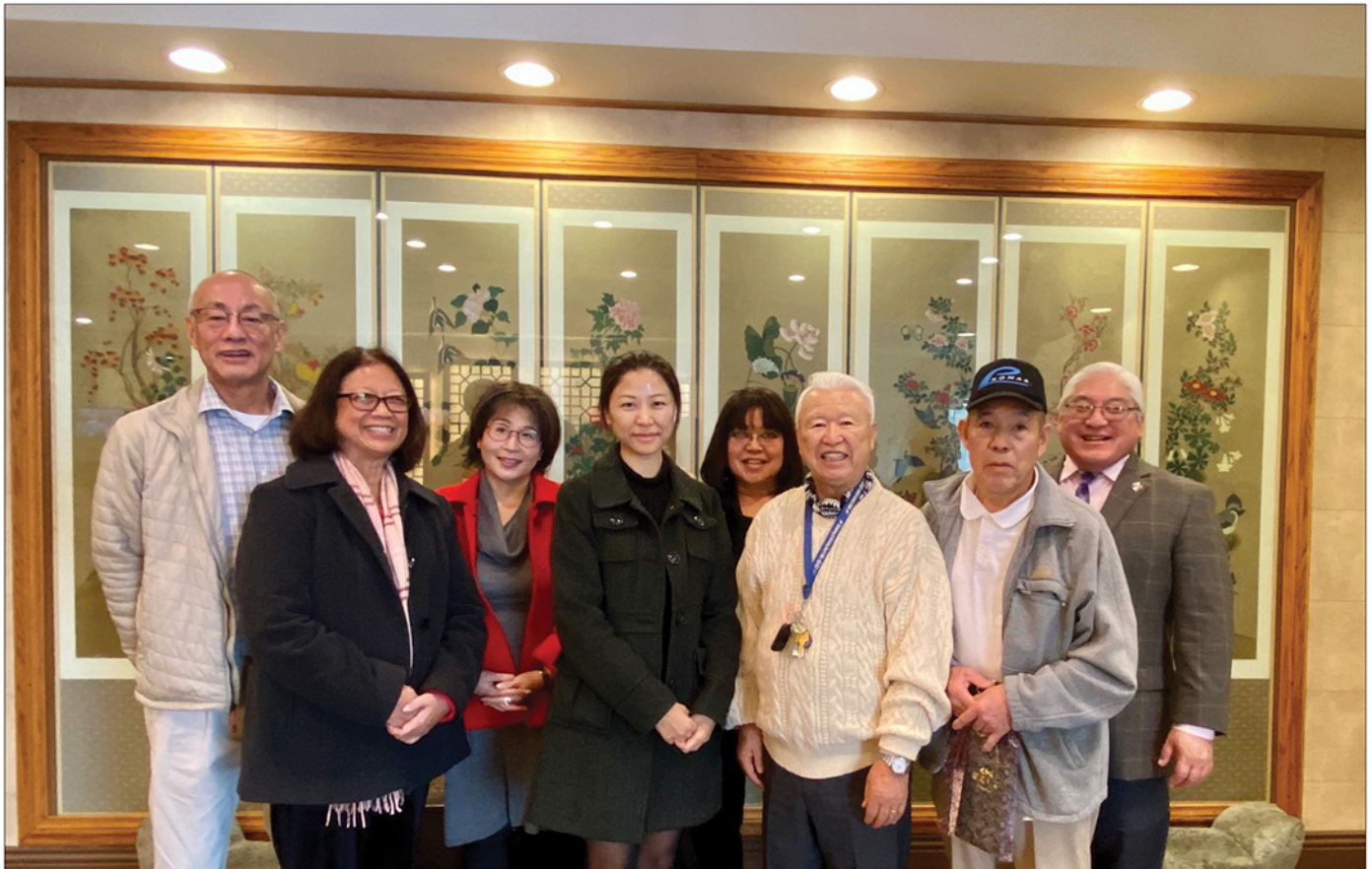


Centenary *Chimes*

NEWSLETTER
CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
300 S. CENTRAL AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013
(213) 617-9097
WWW.CENTENARYDTLA.ORG
CENTENARYDTLA@GMAIL.COM
JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2020

Happy New Year

Happy New Year from the staff and volunteers at Centenary UMC.
May the new year bring joy, happiness, peace, and love!



Our Prayers

We give thanks to God for these women who continue to bring so much happiness, laughter, and wisdom into our lives:

- ♥ Hideko Yamamoto – turned 99 years old on November 26, 2019
- ♥ Mary A. Saito – turned 102 years old on December 13, 2019
- ♥ Masako Miyake – turned 101 years old on January 14, 2020



It is with great joy that we announce the marriage of our Pastor, Sunyoung Lee, to Mr. John Shon. They were married on Saturday, January 11, 2020. On Sunday, following worship service, Pastor Sunnie introduced John to the congregation. Everyone then enjoyed a lovely luncheon reception hosted by the new bride and groom. Congratulations and best wishes!

Please pray for the healing and recovery of:

Ron Hasegawa – knee surgery

Ray Mayeda – recovering (who turned 90 years old on January 10th)

December Happenings

- Jan. 12 Arigato Bazaar first meeting, 12:30 p.m., conference room B
- Jan. 19 Usher/Greeter Orientation, 12:30 p.m., conference room B
- Jan. 20 Church office closed in observance of The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday
- Jan. 25 Taiko Drum Work Day, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Jan. 26 Board of Trustees Meeting, 12:30 p.m., conference room A
- Feb. 2 SPRC meeting, 12 noon, conference room B
- Feb. 5 Youth Expressions, 6-7:30 p.m., youth room
- Feb. 8 Beginner Taiko Workshop, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., social hall
- Feb. 9 VIT meeting, 12:30 p.m., conference room A
- Feb. 16 Bazaar meeting, 12:30 p.m., conference room B
Fujinkai serving lunch
- Feb. 17 Church office closed in observance of President's Day
- Feb. 23 Finance Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., conference room A
- Feb. 26 Ash Wednesday Services, 12 noon & 6:30 p.m., sanctuary

Regular Events

Sunday Mornings:

- Japanese Language Personal Prayer Time, 8:30 a.m. in Chapel
- Nihongo Worship Service, 9:30 a.m. with Rev. Ryohei Kawano
- English Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
- English Worship Service, 10:45 a.m. with Rev. Sunyoung Lee
- Japanese Bible Study, 11:15 a.m.
- Monday Night Bible Study, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- Tuesday Night Praise Band Practice, 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- Thursday Eastside Bible Study – 7:30 p.m.

Acknowledgements

Donations October 19 to December 31, 2019

MEMORIALS

Aramaki, Hiroshi - in memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Asazawa, Judy - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Asazawa, Judy - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Boltz, Jan Tomi Yamashita - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Froehlich, Yumi - In memory of David and Mary Monji
Fukute, Kathleen - In memory of Eugene Fukute
Funakoshi, Joanne - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Hagiya, Yoshie - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Hankawa, Janice - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Haruta, Steve and Jan - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Haruta, Steve and Jan - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Hasegawa, Ron and Sonoko - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Hayashi, Karin - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Hubbard, Julie and Kevin - In memory of Emi Serizawa
Ito, Barbara - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Kamikawa, Emi - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Kaplan, Dolly - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Kaplan, Dolly - In memory of Masaru and Kazuko Shimizu
Kato, Haruko - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Kawabe, Alice and Paul - In memory of Shizu and George M
Shima to Nichigo division
Kawamoto, Howard - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Kujiraoka, Ayako - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Kunishige, Dora - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Kuramoto, Ford and Frances - In memory of
Dennis Nishimura
Kurushima, Brian - In memory of Masato "Eddy" Kurushima
Lew, Arline - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Lew, Arline - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Manaka, Tim and Marion - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Manaka, Tim R. - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Masumiya, Kimberly - In memory of Isoe Terasawa
Masumiya, Kimberly - In memory of Toshikazu Terasawa
Mataga, Margaret - In memory of Mr. and Mrs.
Tom K. Taira
Matsuno, Lori - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Matsuoka, Dassy - In memory of Tome and
Taneo Yasunaga
Matthias, Denise M. - In memory of Migiwa Bernard
Miyaoaka, Mush and Grace - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Miyazaki, Lynn and Shu - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Nagai, Kyle and Cindi - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Nagatoshi, Janice - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Nakama, Megumi - In memory of Ushi Nakama
Nishida, Kathie - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Nishimura, Kirk - In memory of Mike and
Fumi Nishimura
Nishinaka, Angel - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Nishinaka, Robert and Gail - In memory of Lillian
Yamaka
Nishinaka, Robert and Gail - In memory of Reiko
Yoshinaga
Nobori, Marilyn - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Oba, Eugene and Christine - In memory of Reiko
Yoshinaga
Okazaki, Joyce - In memory of Yae and Gen Nakamura
Okazaki, Joyce - In memory of Matsu and Takejiro
Kusayanagi
Onishi, Randall and Susan - In memory of Mary M. Saito
Onoye, Kathy - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Osaki, Stuart and Daryl - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Osumi, Iris - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Oyama, Wendell and Jane - In memory of Patricia Dohzen
Oyama, Wendell and Jane - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Rivera, Ernie and Jane - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Sahara, Kanji - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Senzaki, Denise - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Serizawa, Yoichi - In memory of Emi Serizawa
Takahashi, Janet - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Takashima, Emi - In memory of Hal Takashima
Takeshita, Carolyn - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Takeshita, Timothy - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Teraoka, Janice - In memory of Eddy and Meri Kurushima
Tokunaga, Carolyn - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Tokunaga, Carolyn - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Toyama, Peter - In memory of Leo, Ruth and Judy Toyama
Wada, Ayako - In memory of Beth Sakurai
Wadamoto, Wayne - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Wong, France - John Asari memory and honor
Wong, France - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Wright, Dorothy - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Yamaka Estate - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Yamamoto, Hideko - In memory of Kenji Yamamoto
Yamamoto, Hideko - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Yamamoto, Tim and Tomoko - In memory of Kenji Yamamoto
Yamamoto, Tim and Tomoko - In memory of Lillian Yamaka
Yano, Ronald and Julia - In memory of Reiko Yoshinaga
Yoshinaga, Tsugio and Lucienne - In memory of
Reiko Yoshinaga

THANKSGIVING DINNER PROJECT

Asazawa, Judy
Carlos, Aurelia
Edwards, Susan
Furuta, Sandee
Haruta, Steve and Jan
Hayashi, Karin
Hiroshige, Ernest
Koike, Clifford and Mui
Koo, Susie
Kuruma, Harry and Carole
Kurushima, Brian
Kushino, Dick and Frances
Leese, Kris and Stephanie
Miyashiro-Sonoda, Theresa
Nishinaka, Angel
Nobori, Marilyn
Takashima, Emi
Uyemura, Vicky

SPECIAL OFFERING

Asazawa, Judy - Special offering towards purchase of headsets
Becker, Yoshiko - Thanksgiving dinner
Date, Janice and Jun - Mary Nakajima's 100th birthday
Dyck, Jan Fukuhara - Christmas Special Offering
Edwards, Susan - Utility bill
Fujii, Mitchell - Nisei Progressive Backpacks
Hall, Gordon - Special offering
Ide, Shigeru and Shizuko - Thanksgiving dinner
Kasai, Marian - Funeral Overflow parking
Kimura, Fumihisa - Thanks
Kubota Nikkei Mortuary - New Year donation
Kuroki, Takeshi and Ritsuko - Special Offering
Kuruma, Harry and Carole - Christmas Breakfast
Lee, Pastor Sunyoung - New Year's Thank you
Leon, Vicky - Christmas Breakfast
Leon, Vicky - Golf Tournament
Little Tokyo Towers - Thanksgiving dinner
Mark Maruyama - Special offering
Miyazato Mariko - Thanksgiving dinner
Nishi, Megumi - Thanksgiving dinner
Nishinaka, Angel - Christmas Breakfast
Nishnaka, Robert and Gail - Birth of William Lawrence Itomura Beal
Takashima, Emi - Thank You
Takashima, Emi - Christmas Breakfast
Teraoka, Janice - Christmas and special offering
Uyemura, Vicky - Christmas Breakfast
Wong, France - RafuShimpo Christmas publicity
Yamamoto, Tim and Tomoko - Hideko Yamamoto's 99th birthday
Yourwin, Yuki - Thanksgiving dinner

THANKSGIVING DINNER PROJECT

Asazawa, Judy	Kuruma, Harry and Carole
Carlos, Aurelia	Kurushima, Brian
Edwards, Susan	Kushino, Dick and Frances
Furuta, Sandee	Leese, Kris and Stephanie
Haruta, Steve and Jan	Miyashiro-Sonoda, Theresa
Hayashi, Karin	Nishinaka, Angel
Hiroshige, Ernest	Nobori, Marilyn
Koike, Clifford and Mui	Takashima, Emi
Koo, Susie	Uyemura, Vicky

ANNIVERSARY

Haruta, Steve and Jan
Kunishige, Dora
Kusumi, Grace
Miyazaki, Lynn and Shu
Rivera, Jane and Ernie
Takashima, Emi
Takasugi, Tsuneo and Tomoko
Wada, Marion

THANKSGIVING

Adachi, Joyce	Lew, Victor and Cynthia
Asazawa, Judy	Miyaoka, Masashi and Grace
Baba, Duane	Miyashiro-Sonoda, Theresa
Burrell, Toshiko	Miyazaki, Shu and Lynn
Carlos, Florencio and Arelia	Nakagawa, Mark and Pamela
Chandler, Madeline	Nishinaka, Robert and Gail
Choi, Kyung-Hee	Nobori, Alan and Marilyn
Doi, Clifford and Mi	O'Brien, Patrick and Gloria
Emoto, Hiroshi and Junko	Okada, Dorothea
Froehlich, Yumi	Oyama, Jonathan
Furukawa, Larry	Oyama, Wendell and Jane
Furuno, Roger and Wendy	Park, Julie
Goerke, Dorothy	Sadamitsu, Mark and Kathy
Griffin, Takeko	Sasaki, Todd and Joyce
Hagiya, Yoshie	Schaeffer, Tae
Hansbrough, Lilia	Serizawa, Yoichi
Haruta, Steve and Jan	Shirai, Darren and Linda
Hasegawa, Ron and Sonoko	Shohara, Hisako
Hayashi, Karin	Takashima, Emi
Hayashida, Ron	Takasugi, Tsuneo and Tomoko
Hirama, Patty	Takata, Ruth
Hiroshige, Ernest	Tanimoto, Tetsu and Kathy
Honjo, Osamu and Linda	Tanisaki, Jun and Chi Fung
Imoto, Takafumi and Susan	Terukina, George and Naomi
Jones, Mike and Sue Mi	Togawa, Fred and Kaz
Kamon, Barbara	Togino, Susan
Kasuyama, Terry	Tokunaga, Asao and Carolyn
Kato, Haruko	Uemura, Yuko
Kawano, Ryohei and Ryoko	Ujiiye, Donna
Keimi, Albert and Amy	Uragami, Stanley
Kimoto, Marye	Uyemura, Vicky
Kimura, Fumihisa and Yukiko	Wada, Ayako
Kitabayashi, Setsuko	Wada, Marion
Koike, Clifford and Mui	Wong, France
Kondo, Shigemitsu and Yuko	Yamaguchi, Lily
Kubo, Ruth	Yamaki, June
Kuruma, Harry and Carole	Yamamoto, Hideko
Kurushima, Brian	Yamamoto, Ramon and Akiko
Kushino, Dick and Frances	Yamamoto, Tim and Tomoko
Kusumi, Grace	Yano, Fumi
Lee, Rev Sunyoung	Yasui, Emmie
Leese, Kristofer and Stephanie	Zaima, Carole
Lew, Arline	



Acknowledgements *continued*

CHRISTMAS

Abe, Paul	Jones, Mike and Sue Mi	Miyazaki, Shu and Lynn	Serizawa, Yoichi
Adachi, Joyce	Kamon, Barbara	Morita, Albert and Pauline	Shafi, Kay and Yusef
Aochi, Yas and Joyce	Kasuyama, Terry	Murakami, Douglas and Rut	Shigetomi, Jack and Jean
Asazawa, Judy	Kato, Haruko	Murata, Hideo and Marian	Shirai, Darren and Linda
Boltz, Jane Tami Yamashita	Kawano, Ryohei & Ryoko	Nakagawa, Mark and Pamela	Shohara, Hisako
Burrell, Toshiko	Keimi, Albert & Amy	Nakano, Elaine and Hiramoto, Grant	Sugamura, Terry
Carlos, Florencio and Arelia	Kimoto, Marye	Nakayama, Takeshi and Patricia	Tadakuma, Ray
Choi, Kyung-Hee	Kimura, Fumihisa & Yukiko	Nishi, Ken and Shari	Takashima, Emi
Doi, Clifford and Mi	Kitabayashi, Setsuko	Nishimura, Kirk	Takasugi, Tsuneo & Tomoko
Dyck, Jan Fukuhara	Koike, Mui and Clifford	Nishimura, Setsuko	Takata, Ruth
Emoto, Hiroshi & Junko	Kondo, Shigemitsu & Yuko	Nishinaka, Mark and Cynthia	Tamaki, Anna Mae
Fujimoto, Nobuko	Kubo, Ruth	Nishinaka, Robert and Gail	Tanimoto, Tetsu and Kathy
Fujita, Richard and Kathy	Kuroki, Takeshi & Ritsuko	Nobori, Marilyn and Alan	Teraoka, Janice
Fukunaga, Lily	Kuruma, Harry and Carole	Oba, Eugene and Christine	Terukina, George and Naomi
Fukute, Kathleen	Kurushima, Brian	O'Brien, Gloria and Patrick	Togawa, Fred and Kaz
Furukawa, Larry	Kushino, Dick and Frances	Okada, Dorothea	Togino, Susan
Furuno, Roger and Wendy	Kusumi, Grace	Oyama, Wendell and Jane	Tokunaga, Carolyn and Asao
Goerke, Dorothy	Lee, Rev. Sunyoung	Park, Dennis	Uemura, Yuki
Griffin, Takeko	Leese, Kristofer and Stephanie	Park, Julie	Ujiye, Donna
Hagiya, Yoshie	Leon, Victoria	Pena, Patricia	Uyemura, Vicky
Haruta, Steve and Jan	Lew, Arline	Pinto, Art	Vensel, Kris and Robin
Hasegawa, Ron & Sonoko	Lew, Victor and Cynthia	Quon, Betty	Wada, Marion
Hayashi, Hiromi	Mano, Irene Maruyama, Mark	Sadamitsu, Mark and Kathy	Wong, France
Hayashi, Karin	Masumiya, Kimberly	Saiko, Toshiko	Yamaki, June
Hayashida, Ron	Matsuoka, Dassie	Saito, Mary A.	Yamamoto, Hideko
Hirama, Patty	Minabe, Setsuko	Sasaki, Don and Wendy	Yamamoto, Tim & Tomoko
Hiroshige, Ernest	Minami, Ken and Ellen	Sasaki, Masayoshi	Yamanaka, Laura
Honjo, Osamu & Linda	Miyada, Michi	Sasaki, Todd and Joyce	Yanagawa, Florence
Hubbard, Julie and Kevin	Miyake, Masako	Senzaki, Denise	Yano, Fumi
Imoto, Takafumi & Susan	Miyaoka, Masashi and Grace	Senzaki, Norman and Susan	Yasui, Emmie
Ito, Junko	Miyashiro, Ed		Yonemoto, Mary
Jew, Lily	Miyashiro-Sonoda, Terry		Yun, Jake & Ashley
			Zaima, Carole

Nikkei Women Legacy Association (NWLA) Donation



Nikkei Women Legacy Association (NWLA) has donated lighting equipment for video taping and a \$500 Amazon gift card to purchase a video camera to video tape Pastor Sunyoung Lee (Shon)'s Sunday sermons and many other events critical in publicizing what is happening at CUMC. Trustee Chair France Wong is president of this organization which was organized 10 years ago to recognize the legacy of Japanese American women and other Asian American women important to the Little Tokyo community and the greater Asian American community in Southern California. NWLA noted the importance of attracting young Asian American women to CUMC, therefore to assist in this effort, they donated lighting equipment and the \$500 Amazon gift card.

Photograph left: France Wong and Paul Cha of James Wesley Medical Center delivering used clean clothing for the homeless.



Christmas Centerpieces

Osamu Honjo teaches a class on creating Christmas centerpieces.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

During the 10 years of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, many have shared their time and gifts to create the shawls and lap blankets that are given with love to those in need of comfort or healing.

Allison Cook*
 Betty Murata
 Betty Osaka
 Carole Kuruma
 Cynthia Lew*
 Dawn Inouye
 Eiko Kawai
 Emi Takashima*
 FumiAsato
 Grace Kurushima
 Grace Miyaoka
 Hide Goto
 IsoeTeresawa
 Jane Rivera
 Janice Date
 Jessea Ramos-Young
 Jessica Woo
 June Fujimoto*
 KarenFay Ramos-Young
 Karin Hayashi*
 Keiko Kuyama
 Lily Yamaguchi
 Linda Shirai
 Madeline Chandler



Margaret Namatame
 Margie Sasai
 Marilyn Nobori*
 Martha Nishinaka
 Mary Kitagawa
 Mihoko Miki
 Nancy Otomori
 Renee Kent
 Shari Kuruma
 Sharlene Takahashi

Shirley Umeda
 Susie Koo*
 Taylor Ramos-Young
 Terry Miyashiro-Sonoda*
 Terry Sugamura
 Tomoko Takasugi*
 Toni Martinez
 Vicky Leon
 Yuko Kondo
 ZenidaYeto

*current crafters

Danny Cortez

by Carolyn Tokunaga



Invited by the Church & Society Committee, Danny Cortez reflected on his time as a Southern Baptist Pastor and his journey as his views on homosexuality changed.

Ordained in 1994, he viewed homosexuality a sin, a belief of the So. Baptist Church. In 1997 he founded New Heart Church near Biola University. When students would discuss their concerns about sexual orientation, Danny would send them to Conversion Therapy. He soon found that they would get worse and often become suicidal. He had been able to give good council to his congregants but not to the LGBTQ members. He was not giving hope, knew he had to be faithful to his beliefs, but a sadness kept growing within him.

Danny met a man who had been in a gay relationship for 20 years, the neighbor of one of his worshippers. It was the first time he had a conversation with someone who was comfortable being gay. Danny asked him what he would say to a church pastor. He talked about the 1980s and 90s and the AIDS epidemic, the way the community was judged immoral and left to die. Danny remembered the time and responses. With this conversation came an invitation to show Danny around and he visited HIV clinics, gay bars, and met the man's friends. Danny's background labeled all of these places as places of sin but as Danny met good people, his stereotypes were being dismantled and reframed.

Danny studied scripture to help him sort out these new truths. He referenced Greek and Roman homoerotic literature and found the term "homosexual" did not exist until 1940. References were about power in relationships. It was about being "master" and treating another man like a woman, passive and demeaning. Scriptures' condemnation was not about homosexuality but the abuse of power.

In 2013, after much contemplation, Danny came to the realization that there was nothing wrong in being gay. He became a "liberal" and wondered if it would get him fired. When his son admitted that he had been struggling to discover who he was and didn't want to be gay, Danny assured him that he is who God made him to be. Danny's journey had brought him to the realization that his ministerial oath was to do no harm and his advice to the LGBTQ community had been inflicting pain, that his prescriptions had not been working.

When Danny attended a Gay Church Conference, the LGBTQ community spoke of being kicked out of churches and families. Danny realized that he had been perpetuating wrong. So Danny met with the Elders of the church. They fired him. When it was presented to the church, the congregation pushed back. The church was to spend 5 months on discernment – should they remain conservative, become gay affirming, or be accepting of both as part of the body of Christ. The decision would determine whether they would remain a Southern Baptist Church, but Danny would not remain its pastor.

The greatest commandment is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind," and "love your neighbor as yourself." To NOT love is the greatest sin. The church allowed harm to the LGBTQ community. The church had failed them.

Grace and mercy are to be applied in all situations. If theology doesn't lead then the Biblical interpretation is wrong. Jesus taught his disciples how to interpret the Bible – to better life through the lens of love, humility and kindness. Through Estuary Space, a non-profit that helps people and churches navigate through the complexities of faith and sexuality, Danny hopes to do just that.

Christmas Service



Aki Santiago playing a violin solo



Handbell entertainment



Taiko drummers



Praise Band



The kids' program was Star Trip - Our Faith Awakening



Ukelele Group



Biblical Translation by Carolyn Tokunaga

Monday Night Bible Study - Biblical Translation - the word "homosexual"

After the vote of the Special Session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church that kept the Book of Discipline's restrictive and exclusionary wording that homosexual practice is incompatible with Christian teaching, the Monday Night Bible Study decided to focus on scripture that dealt with homosexuality. We looked at historical context, explored the teachings of Jesus and discussed current articles expressing many different viewpoints. We found the following study to be very informative.

The work ARSENOKOITAI shows up in two different verses in the Bible, but it was not translated to mean "homosexual" until 1946. Researcher Ed Oxford, a graduate of the Talbot School of Theology set out to discover the true meaning of arsenokoitai.

To do his research, he collected old Bibles in French, German, Irish, Gaelic, Czechoslovakian, Polish, and others from the Reformation period 500 years ago. He then found people fluent in the languages to translate the passages that mention homosexuality.

In one of the German Bibles from the 1800s, Leviticus 18:22 says "Man shall not lie with young boys as he does with a woman, for it is an abomination." Our current translation says, "Man shall not lie with a man, for it is an abomination." Leviticus 20:13 says "a man shall not lie with a young boy" in the German version but now says "lie with a man." In 1 Corinthians, instead of homosexuals, it says, "Boy molesters will not inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Timothy 1:10 also used boy molesters.

From Martin Luther's original translation from 1534, the word knabenschander is used. Knaben is boy, schander is molester. This word "boy molesters" carried through the next several centuries of German Bible translations. Considering that Germans were the ones who created the word homosexual in 1862, the word homosexual doesn't appear in German translation until 1983.

From a 1674 Swedish translation and an 1830 Norwegian translation of the Bible, a Fuller seminary student, read through the Leviticus verses and it translated "boy abusers, boy molesters." The ancient world condoned and encouraged a system whereby young boys (8-12 years old) were coupled by older men. Ancient Greek documents show us how parents utilized this abusive system to help their sons advance in society. For most of history, most translations thought these verses were obviously referring to pederasty, not homosexuality.

Continuing his research, he found a Lexicon from 1483 at the Huntington Library. Arsenokoitai in Latin is paedico and praedico or in English pederasty or boy molester. For hundreds of years, most European Bibles taught the tradition that these 4 verses were dealing the pederasty, not homosexuality.

As a result of the choice of words in more recent Bible translations, the LGBTQ community often finds itself unwelcome in many of our Christian churches.



Christmas Story From Gordon Hall

Looking at Matthew 2.1-16: How the birth story taking two different stories yet we find them morphed into one in our modern day celebrations.

Christmas time lore from South America to Eastern Europe to Asia depicts a Nativity scene with three kings, or wise men, bearing precious gifts for the babe Jesus. Well not really. What we have is a modern day kind of Hallmark version of reimagining two different parts sharing the same storyline. Much of this confusion is due to the popularity of John Henry Hopkins Jr. Christmas carol of 1857 (*We Three Kings...*).

Two Gospels, Matthew and Luke, chronicle the birth of Jesus. These accounts show that only lowly shepherds from nearby fields visited Jesus at his birth. The so-called kings, or wise men, were in reality astrologers, not royalty, and how many there were is not mentioned. The astrologers did not journey to the side of a newborn in a manger (part 1) but arrived when Jesus was a child and was living in a house (part 2). Their presence even jeopardized the life of Jesus!

The account of Jesus' birth by Luke says: "There were . . . shepherds living out of doors and keeping watches in the night over their flocks. And suddenly Jehovah's angel stood by them, and . . . said to them: ' . . . You will find an infant bound in cloth bands and lying in a manger.' . . . And they went with haste and found Mary as well as Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger." Apparently only Joseph, Mary, and the shepherds were present with baby Jesus. No one else is listed in Luke's account.

Now the account Matthew 2.1-11: "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem . . . And when they were come into the house, they saw the child (not baby) with Mary his mother."

Also, while the King James Bible uses the words "wise men" in describing these visitors, other translations use "Magi" or "astrologers." The expression "wise men" translates a Greek noun which originally referred to Persian priests who were experts in astrology.

Now at part 2, Mary, Joseph and Jesus were about to be warned by an angel in Matthew 2:13-16, and have to rush off to Egypt. Now we see the Father is taking care of the Son by having the wisemen bring considerable wealth to their door so there would be no hesitation to move immediately. Also for consideration, there are now several gentiles (those who are not Jewish) now worshipping Jesus which begins the outreach to all the nations that became a critical theme after Jesus's death.

I hope you will review these lines in Matthew and Luke and consider the importance of understanding both parts, as written, of the biblical Christmas story.



Finances From Gail Nishinaka

A detailed Income and Expense Report for the year 2019 will be provided in the next Chimes.

Christmas Crafts

Members of the Centenary family and friends enjoyed Christmas Crafts Day on Sunday, November 24, 2019. Thanks to Arline Lew, Gloria O'Brien, Janice Date, Jonathan Oyama, Katie Kuyama, Madeline Chandler, Michele Nagata, Vicky Leon, and Wendell Oyama for helping with this annual event.

