

Centenary Chimes

NEWSLETTER | CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
300 S. CENTRAL AVENUE LOS ANGELES, CA 90013
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JUNE 2017



Pastor's Pen

As I began my appointment at Centenary last year, one of the most frequently asked questions was, "How do you hope to pastor a historically Japanese-American church?" I initially felt that this was a topic of interest to so many, primarily due to my ethnicity being Korean-American and the unpleasant history between Korea-Japan relations. However, I believe I reached a better understanding when I attended the Nisei Week coronation event in August (2016). The main question of the night to the ladies of the court was, "What does cultural sustainability mean to you?" Little Tokyo is

fast-changing and the new business owners and the residents no longer reflect the very name of the historical district. How can this community sustain itself? When I heard the word "sustainability", it brought clarity and insight to me, and I began to reflect more deeply as it relates to Centenary. In this article, I would like to share some of my reflections.

First, I can't help but to start from the Scriptures that it is the command of Christ that we are to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19). Those words of Jesus direct us to go and connect cross-culturally with the people in our community. Even John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, viewed the world as his parish and went out to the field to preach. The message of the gospel is to embrace people from different spectrums. As a friend told me years ago, Sunday still seems to be the most segregated day of the week, because the majority of Christians seek to worship with the people of their own culture, class, and race. However, living in L.A., perhaps the most diverse city in the United States, I see the ever-increasing need for an effective multi-cultural ministry.

In these new times, we, the church, have an incredibly unique opportunity to open our doors to anyone, instead of inadvertently limiting the entry only to certain ethnic groups. Ed Stetzer, the executive director of LifeWay Research said, "In a world where our culture is increasingly diverse, and many pastors are talking about diversity, it appears most people are happy where they are—and with whom they are. Yet, it's hard for Christians to say they are united in Christ when

Continued on page 3

Our Prayers

We lift up prayers for these persons and families:

In remembrance of these saints who now rest from their labor...

Fumi Nishimura passed away on April 5, 2017. Service was held on April 29th at Centenary UMC.

Toshi Miyamoto passed away on April 11, 2017. Service was held on April 22nd at Centenary UMC.

Riyo Toda passed away on May 1, 2017.
Service was held at Rose Hills Memorial Park with Bishop Grant Hagiya officiating.

Michiko Nishida passed away on May 10, 2017.
Service was held on May 27th at Rice Mortuary in Torrance with Rev. Dr. Richard Kuyama officiating.

Carol Masuko Moriguchi, mother of Kristi Bala, passed away on May 4, 2017 at her home in Seattle, WA.
A private family burial service was held at Evergreen Washelli Cemetery.

Phillip Ito, son-in-law of Marian and Timber Manaka, passed away last week.

Our most sincerest condolences to the families on the passing of their loved ones.

Thank You Marilyn

Marilyn Nobori has been the Centenary Chimes Editor for the past ten years. She worked on her last Chimes in March. Marilyn volunteered all of these years because she wanted to help promote upcoming Centenary events and showcase the various missions of the church in the Chimes. As with everything she does, Marilyn used the gifts which God has given her to do His will. She wrote articles for the Chimes, checked submitted articles for accuracy, and used her computer skills to complete the layout of more than 100 Chimes. Thanks Marilyn for all that you do at Centenary!

With love and appreciation,

Your Centenary Family

Church Events

June 11 - Church Council Meeting, 12:30 p.m.

June 14 – 17 California Pacific Annual Conference, Redlands, CA

July 9 - All Church Picnic: Worship at the Park 11 a.m., Potluck Picnic 12 noon.
Veteran's Memorial Park in Culver City

July 16 - Board of Trustees Meeting, 12:30 p.m.

July 30 - All Praise @ English Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Regular Events

Nihongo Bible Study - 11:00 am Sunday

Chikara Practice - 1:30 pm Sunday

Monday Bible Study - 6:00 pm

Minyo Japanese Dance Class - Tu/W

Karate - 7:30 pm M/W

Classical Japanese Dance Class - 7:30 pm M/W

ENRICH, EMPOWER, IMPACT



Pastor's Pen

(Continued from page 1)

congregating separately.”¹ Can we honestly say that we are the body of Christ when we seek to worship majorly with people of our own race out of comfort and habit? What would it mean for us to move away from being a largely monoracial church in order to be faithful to the command of Jesus to “make disciples of all nations?” As we consider the sustainability of our church, we need to think about how to embody inclusivity and diversity.

However, becoming a multi-cultural church will have its challenges. It is extremely difficult to totally embrace all the cultures that exist within our faith community. It is tough to make decisions that will “please” everyone. Besides, there’s no “right” way to please everyone. Thus, we need to learn how to balance multiple values in a healthy way so that we may harmoniously recognize the uniqueness of God’s creation. Inclusivity is not just a duty for us, but part of our life because the grace of God is freely available to all.

I will continue reflecting on sustainability and multi-cultural ministry. I invite you to share your thoughts and reflections with me on this topic.

Peace,
Rev. Sunyoung Lee

Rev. Sunyoung Lee

¹ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2015/january/sunday-morning-segregation-most-worshippers-church-diversity.html>

Acknowledgements

Gary Asano Donations
Judy Asazawa Special Offering for Chimes
Judy Asazawa in memory of Sam Miyamoto
Judy Asazawa in memory of Toshi Miyamoto
Judy Asazawa in memory of
Rikki Toda & Carol Moriguchi (Kristi Bala's Mom)
Anna Eakins in memory of Toshi Miyamoto
Susan Edwards Special Offering for Office Supplies
Susan Edwards Special Offering for Office Supplies
Ruth Flores in memory of "Bobo" Flores
Yumi Froelich Easter in memory of David & Mary Monji
Fudge Fujioka in memory of Toshi Miyamoto
Steve & Jan Haruta in memory of Mrs. Kinu Hagiya
Steve & Jan Haruta in loving memory of Toshi Miyamoto
Steve & Jan Haruta in loving memory of Noel Hagiya
Steve & Jan Haruta in memory of Kristi Bala's Mom
Gayle Ann Hayashi in memory of Tom Hayashi
Terry Kasuyama in memory of Sam Miyamoto
Mark & Margie Kiguchi in memory of Emi Serizawa
Marye Kimoto Special Offering to Card Ministry
for remembering my 94th birthday on May 26
Tom & Family Kitagawa in memory of Mary Kitagawa
Ray & Aileen Kozaki in memory of Toshi Miyamoto
Ruth Kubo in memory of Rose Mayeda & Hisako Miyashiro
Dora Kunishige in memory of Sam Miyamoto and
Toshi Miyamoto
Dora Kunishige Special Offering in Appreciation for
80/88/90+ Birthday Celebration
Richard & Frances Kushino in memory of Don Asato
Vicky Leon in memory of Toshi Miyamoto
Arline Lew in memory of Yei Miwa
Arline Lew in memory of Sam Miyamoto
Arline Lew in memory of Toshi Miyamoto
Victor & Cynthia Lew in memory of Toshi Miyamoto
Arline Lew in memory of Fumi Nishimura
Yvonne Liu Easter in loving memory of Fred Liu
Dassie Masuoka Easter in remembrance of parents Tome &
Taneo Yasunaga and sister Mary Maruyama
Lori Matsuno in memory of Emi Serizawa
Lori Matsuno in memory of Mr. Uyeki
Sets Minabe in memory of Fumie Nishimura
Sets Minabe in memory of Toshi Miyamoto
Michi Miyada in memory of Hisako Miyashiro
and Sam Miyamoto
Masako Miyake in memory of Sam Miyamoto &
Toshi Miyamoto
Mush & Grace Miyaoka in memory of Fumi Nakamura &
Toshi Miyamoto
Lynn & Shu Miyazaki in memory of Sam Miyamoto
Lynn & Shu Miyazaki in memory of Rikki and Roy Toda
Ferita Moralde Special Offering
Mary Nakajima in memory of Toshi Miyamoto

Robert & Gail Nishinaka In celebration of Graduations
Matthew Miyada and Dylan Tait
Robert & Gail Nishinaka Ministers Housing in memory of
Sam Miyamoto
Robert & Gail Nishinaka Ministers Housing in memory of
Toshi Miyamoto
James Nishitsuji in memory of Fred & Marian Nishitsuji,
Roy Y. Saito
James Nishitsuji in memory of Agnes Nishitsuji
Marilyn Nobori in memory of Kristi Bala's Mom
Marilyn Nobori in memory of Toshi Miyamoto
Wendell & Jane Oyama in memory of Mothers Mary Oyama
& Taiko Yoshimoto
Ernie & Jane Rivera in memory of Sam Miyamoto &
Toshi Miyamoto
Akira & Carole Sasaki in memory of Carol Moriguchi
(Kristi Bala's Mom), Yei Miwa, Rikki Toda
Dorothy & Family Silberman in memory of Mary Kitagawa
Tame & Riki Eijima Suzuki Special Offering in honor of
Akira and Carole Sasaki
Tsuneo & Tomoko Takasugi Special Offering in celebration of
Alex's graduation from the Peabody Institute and
employment with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra
Kenneth & Taye Tashiro in memory of Beloved
Aunt Toshi Miyamoto
Carolyn Tokunaga in memory of Sam Miyamoto, Yei Miwa
Carolyn Tokunaga in memory of Toshi Miyamoto
Henry & Mary Ellen Wong in memory of Toshi Miyamoto
France Wong in memory of Mother Mrs. Satsuyo Yanai,
Special Mothers Day Offering
France Wong in memory of Asao Kitani and Howard Chang,
Brothers-in-laws who served in the military
Ted & Lily Yamaguchi in memory of Sam Miyamoto
Lily Yamaguchi in memory of Fumi Nishimura &
Toshi Miyamoto
Randall & Janet Yamanaka in memory of Toshi Miyamoto

Acknowledgements (continued)

Easter

Ms. Joyce Adachi
Mrs. Ruth Akiyoshi
Yas & Joyce Aochi
Ms. Judy Asazawa
Mr. Duane Baba
Elston & Verna Carr
Loose Cash
Mr. Phillip Chang
Mrs. Annette De La Torre
Ms. Mary Enomoto
Rich & Lori Forgey
Ms. Carol Fujita
Richard & Kathy Fujita
Mrs. Lily Fukunaga
Mr. Larry Furukawa
Ms. Sandee Furuta
Mrs. Dorothy Goerke
Mrs. Yoshie Hagiya
Ms. Lilia Hansbrough
Steve & Jan Haruta
Mr. Ron Hayashida
Ms. Patty Hiram
Ernest Hiroshige
George & Linda Holtz
Mrs. Margaret Hori
Larry & Sally Iboshi
Takafumi & Susan Imoto
Mr. Akira Inaba
Ms. Barbara Kamon
Mr. Roy Kaneshiro
Mr. Terry Kasuyama
Denby & Sets Kawahara
Mrs. Marye Kimoto
Mrs. Moonza Kitashima
Clifford & Mui Koike
Mrs. Ruth Kubo
Mrs. Dora Kunishige
Harry & Carole Kuruma
Mr. Brian Kurushima
Dick & Frances Kushino
Mrs. Grace Kusumi
Rev. Sunyoung Lee
Kristofer & Stephanie Leese
Mrs. Victoria Leon
Ms. Arline Lew
Victor & Cynthia Lew

Mrs. Irene Mano
Mrs. Setsuko Minabe
Ken & Ellen Minami
Mrs. Masako Miyake
Mr. Ed Miyashiro
Shu & Lynn Miyazaki
Tom & Julia Morris
Hideo & Marian Murata
Mr. Kenneth Naito
Mark & Pamela Nakagawa
Mrs. Mary Nakajima
Mrs. Fumi Nakamura
Mrs. Seiko Nakayama
Ken & Shari Nishi
Mrs. Angel Nishinaka
Mark & Cynthia Nishinaka
Robert & Gail Nishinaka
Wesley & Martha Nishinaka
Mr. James Nishitsuji
Alan & Marilyn Nobori
Mr. Eugene Oba
Patrick & Gloria O'Brien
Shigeru & May Ochi
Ms. Dorothea Okada
Randall & Susan Onishi
Ms. Kathy Onoye
Mr. Jonathan Oyama
Wendell & Jane Oyama
Mr. Dennis Park
Ernie & Jane Rivera
Mark & Kathy Sadamitsu
Mrs. Mary A. Saito
Ms. Stephanie Saito
Mrs. Toshiko Saito
Ray & Mits Saruwatari
Todd & Joyce Sasaki
Mr. Yoichi Serizawa
Jack & Jean Shigetomi
Ms. Janet Shimizu
Mr. Darren Shirai
Mrs. Hisako Shohara
Ray & Fumi Tadakuma
Tom & Michele Tait
Rev. Alpha Takagi
Ms. Suzuko Takahata
Mrs. Emi Takashima

Mrs. Ruth Takata
Dr. Ben Tamaki
Jun & Chi Fung Tanisaki
George & Naomi Terukina
"The Homeless Man", Larry & Wife
Fred & Kaz Togawa
Ms. Susan Togino
Asao & Carolyn Tokunaga
Mrs. Bette Uchida
Ms. Donna Ujiye
Mr. Stanley Uragami
Ms. Vicky Uyemura
Ms. Julie Uyeno
Kris & Robin Vensel
Mrs. Marion Wada
Ms. France Wong
Mrs. Lily Yamaguchi
Ms. June Yamaki
Russell & Barbara Yamanaka
Mrs. Fumi Yano
Mrs. Emmie Yasui
Mrs. Sumi Yonemoto
Mrs. Carole Zaima

AMI Easter Breakfast

Anonymous
Elston & Verna Carr
Steve & Jan Haruta
Judge Ernie Hiroshige
Clifford & Mui Koike
Brian Kurushima
Richard & Frances Kushino
Vicky Leon
John Matsubara
Carolyn Tokunaga
Vicky Uyemura

UMCOR Sunday

Judy Asazawa
Terry Kasuyama
Richard & Frances Kushino
Richard & Frances Kushino
Marilyn Nobori
Emi Takashima

We thank you for your contributions.



Easter Breakfast



Under the leadership of Wesley and Martha Nishinaka, AMI prepared a delicious Easter Breakfast. They thank all who donated, helped, and supported this event. In keeping with the joy of the Resurrection, the same Breakfast served in the morning was distributed to our homeless neighbors.

Maundy Thursday

Twenty worshippers gathered together on Thursday, April 13, 2017 for Maundy Thursday. This is an observation of the Passover meal, the Last Supper, which Jesus had with his disciples. Pastor Sunnie asked us to recall traditional meals that we have had with our families. Members shared many food traditions related to our varied backgrounds. As in the Passover meal, worshippers shared the bread and the cup, symbolizing the body and blood of Christ. It was done in remembrance of the love of Jesus. After Communion, guests enjoyed a delicious Mediterranean style dinner with food organized by Wendell and Jane Oyama. It included Middle Eastern meats, salads, and breads. Mary Enomoto provided the beverages. The meal was concluded with a hymn and with a closing prayer given by Pastor Sunnie. We left that evening, anticipating events to follow on Good Friday and Easter.



Japanese Ministry

The Japanese Ministry welcomed 5 new members on Palm Sunday.

Easter Worship

Excerpts from Rev. Sunyoung Lee's Easter Sermon

Failure and defeat are a part of life's journey. It might be the loss of a football game, a financial crisis, a business bankruptcy, a success pinnacle not reached, a goal not met. Whatever the reason, circumstance, or excuse, the end result is failure.

If the story of Jesus ended on Good Friday, it would have been left as a failure: failure for Jesus, for God, his family, and his friends. But this story of Jesus dares to speak of the ultimate triumph of God, the most wonderful of all surprise endings: Resurrection! Jesus is risen! "Jesus is risen from the dead" means that he has accomplished what would seem to be impossible. This is not a story of defeat but of victory.

When Jesus was crucified, his disciples were so enshrouded by the fog of doubt that they saw but one meaning to the sad event, "Jesus defeated." All hope was gone, Jesus was dead. But Easter morning brought the impossible news that Jesus had defeated death.

We are Easter people because we believe in God who raised Jesus from death. Being Easter people means we experience resurrection as a reality in our lives. Where there is failure, we will live in confidence, being assured that not even death will defeat us.

That is why we celebrate Easter. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead will raise us from the dead. The same power that gave Jesus life will give us life. Life in risen Christ will turn the tables and give a different ending to your life.

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Praise be to God.



Processional



All Praise



Joint Choir



Sunday School



Sunday School



Ukulele Fellowship



Chikara Daiko



Centenary Finances

Giving report for March & April 2017 from Gail Nishinaka, Treasurer

	Actual Mar- April	Budget Mar-Apr	Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
Pledges	\$29,433	\$26,167	\$80,927	\$52,333
Easter Offering	\$9,183	\$11,600	\$9,183	\$11,600
Unpledged Giving	\$9,116	\$11,800	\$19,411	\$23,600
TOTAL	\$47,732	\$49,567	\$109,521	\$87,533

NOTE: \$28,815 of the actual YTD pledge amount are from pledgers who have given their total annual pledge.

	Paid Actual Year to Date	Amount Owed
Apportionments	\$16,190	\$61,522

Stewardship On-Line

Our faith is expressed in many ways. It may be demonstrated by helping a friend, neighbor or stranger. It might be through prayer or study. It may be in supporting the ministries of Centenary through financial donations.

Many can no longer worship with us because of physical or transportation limitations but faithfully mail pledges and offerings. Others find life events interfere with Sunday attendance but use on-line giving as an easy way to maintain their support.

VANCO is the company we use for on-line donations. It can be accessed through our website sharecentenary.org – click donations and follow the instructions.

Pledges can be set up for automatic payments through bank account withdrawals or credit card transactions. Special gifts like memorials or holiday offerings can be conveniently made without having to remember to write and mail a check.

VANCO is an easy way to support the ministries of Centenary. Check it out at sharecentenary.org and join the on-line giving community.

Country Store

Country Store, all profit but lots of preparation

Once a month, our pricing crew of Jan Haruta, Marilyn Nobori, Mui Koike, Joyce Kuruma, Susan Onishi, Betty Quon, France Wong and Delicia Fabre priced donations. Jane Rivera with the help of Hide Goto priced and displayed all of the jewelry.

Unusual and unique items often stumped the crew.

Neatly sorted, cleaned and priced, donations were wrapped and boxed for the bazaar. Thanks to all from an appreciative chair, Carolyn

Tokunaga.

Room set up by Terry Kasuyama, Terry Imagawa, Marilyn Nobori, and Dennis Park.

Yet that was only the beginning of bazaar set up.

Stacked to the ceiling, all the boxes of merchandise were moved out of the closet onto the floor by the set up crew.

Then the pricing crew (Jan Haruta, Marilyn Nobori, Joyce Kuruma, Mui Koike, Delicia Fabre, Susan Onishi and France Wong) was joined by John Matsubara, Jim & Donna Jaeger, and Hide Goto to spend 2 days unpacking boxes and setting out merchandise.

On bazaar day, Mui Koike, Susie Koo, Jim and Donna Jaeger, Steve and Laura Uyemura, and Carole Kuruma, staffed the booth.

Really great stuff! Thank you donors! And a big thank you to all of the workers and those who sold when we weren't around!

Everyone thrilled with their new treasures, workers happy so see tables emptied, St. Vincent De Paul and Angel Interfaith Network happy to receive some of the unsold merchandise. Arigato!!!

Handcrafted Booth

Thank you to all of our crafters – we appreciate the gift of your time and talents. Over the year, Fumie Yahiro spent 400 hours sewing 394 towels and is already sewing for next year. We are so grateful for her contributions that are the mainstay of the booth. Lily Yamaguchi sewed potholders. Hideko Robinett made the beautifully crafted Pack & Go bags. France Wong joined the crafters with her lace trimmed aprons, scarf capes that sold out early, and tea cozies. Carolyn Tokunaga replenished the supply of zori towels, tea bag holders, microwave potholders and tapestry bags. Katrina Werner joined the crafters by making nylon scrubbers.

Thank you to our set up and preparation crew: Terry Kasuyama, Marilyn Nobori, Delicia Fabre, France Wong and Hide Goto. Arigato to our bazaar day workers: Allison Tokunaga, Delicia Fabre, Vicky Uyemura, and Jane Oyama.

We also thank all who patronized the booth, often for gifts. Our Holiday Boutique will be held in November so begin to think about your Christmas List. New crafters are always welcome as are new ideas. Surprise us!

Carolyn Tokunaga, Handcrafted Booth Chair.



Origato Bazaar Baked Goods Booth A Big Thank you To All the Wonderful Volunteers, Bakers and Creators!

Volunteers

Angel Nakanishi
Ann Frankel
Carole Sasaki
CC Chang
Cindy Hu
David Fujioka
Dennis Park
Dick & Frances Kushino
Elaine Nakano
Emmie Yasui
Haley Shirai
Irene Yamamoto

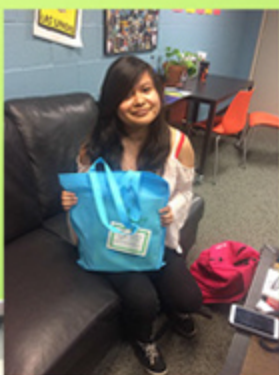
Jan Haruta
Jim & Hideko Robinett
Kiki Date
Marian Entoku
Marilyn Hikida
Mi Doi
Michi Kumamoto
Pat Tanimoto
Sam Frankel
Sheila Green
Terry Miyashiro-Sonoda

Bakers / Creators

Aileen Nishimura
Ann Frankel
Ann Tsuda
Arline Lew
Bessie Osaka
Carole Sasaki
Carolyn Tokunaga
Eileen Nakamura
Elaine Nakano
Emi Takeshima
Haley Shirai
Irene Kawamura
Jan Haruta
Jerry Osaka
Joyce Adachi
Kaz Togawa
Kathy Sadamitsu

Kiki Date
Lilia Hansbrough
Lorie Matsuno
Lynne Matsuno
Marilyn Hikida
Marilyn Nobori
Pat Tanimoto
Patty Pena
Robin Vensel
Sandee Furuta
Stephanie Leese
Susie Koo
Susie Tamaki
Terry Miyashiro-Sonoda
Terry Sugamura
Wyndall Oyama
Yoshie Hagiya

Kid City



Kid City thanks Centenary for the support and love.

Manju Making

The day spent making over 2000 pieces of manju was labor intensive but a great fellowship time. No special skills were needed, just a willing pair of hands. Expert manju makers were on hand to teach and mentor. There was something for everyone to do. In the kitchen, mixers whirled away as the dough was prepared. In the Fellowship Hall, thuds could be heard as the dough was pounded and cut. At the long tables people rolled "an" into balls while others stretched the dough to cover the beans. The finishers checked the shapes, brushed egg on the tops and sprinkled them with sesame seeds. As the aroma of baking manju filled the church, volunteers felt the satisfaction of a job well done.

We thank all of the many people who worked so hard, those who brought food to feed everyone, and our neighbor "COLD STORAGE COMPANY" for the use of their freezer

Thank you manju makers!!! We appreciated all of your help. Our apologies if we missed your name--your gift of time made this a successful day...Special thanks to those who made the drive from Lancaster and Orange County to help.



Sonoko Hasegawa
Yoko Yun
Jalce Yun
Yuki Uemura
Setsuko Kitabayashi
Yoko Oishi
Carolyn Tokunaga
Fumiko Asato
Masaaki Hayano
Martha Espinoza
Kazuo Mizukami
Donna Ujiye
Arline Lew
Angel Nishinaka
Rev. Richard Kuyama
Rev. Sunyoung Lee
Gail Nishinaka

Jan Haruta
Ann Tsuda
Susan Imoto
Shig Kondo
Yuki Kondo
Michi Cavinger
Toyo Hirano
Yaeko Herzog

Kiyomi Lung
Patti Keimi-Pena
Mui Koike
Migiwa Bernard
Dora Kunishige
Heather Shim
Evan Han
Grace Miyaoka

Cesar Espinoza
Sylvia Tang
Carole Sasaki
Randolph Masada
Frank Jerado
Lori Matsuno
Martha Nishinaka
Andy Nishinaka
Gail Nishinaka
Vicky Leon
Lynne Matsuno
Ron Hasegawa
Junko Emoto
Hiroshi Emoto
Takeko Griffin
Tomoko Yamamoto
Robin Vensel



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