

Centenary Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

300 S. CENTRAL AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90013

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JANUARY 2017

THANK YOU KAREN FAY!

As we bid farewell to Rev. KarenFay Ramos-Young, we reflect on how integral she is to our Centenary family. She is not only pastor, but teacher, counselor, and most of all friend and humble servant. She models for us how to work to correct injustice and how to be compassionate. She taught us to reflect on rigid beliefs and to transform them into loving action in the world.

By Steve Haruta

One of the things that always amazed me about Rev. KarenFay is how she plays the piano. She has such a natural, joyful way of playing, with a little jazz and blues thrown in for good measure. In a lot of ways she plays much like I do guitar, relying more on what we hear than what may be written down on a piece of music.

After all, music is feelings. Music is about connecting heart to heart. Music touches you in ways that transcends speech and the written word.

Ephesians 5:19: speaking to one another with psalms hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.

Rev. KarenFay's music, always in praise of our Lord, is heart music. It doesn't get any better than that.

As a guitar player, you are always looking for other musicians who really listen and who can fill in the other parts of a song that really completes the sound needed, or what arrangements we hear in our music heads. Over the past 10 years, Rev. KarenFay has been that go to person for me. There have been countless special music collaborations, songs for Christmas Pageants, special music, All Praise and All For God (A4G) youth praise band.

As a listener, I've enjoyed countless impromptu piano accompaniments she provided for slide shows for youth mission trips, youth events, other church events

Continued on page 5

Church Events

- Jan 8th—Card Ministry
- Jan 22nd Usher Greeter Orientation
- Jan 29th —80/88/90 Birthday Celebration Potluck

Regular Events

Nihongo Bible Study 11 am Sun

Chikara Practice 1:30 pm Sun,

Monday Bible Study 6:00 pm

Japanese Dance Class, TW

Karate 7:30 pm MW

Pastor's Pen

When my sister was doing hospital chaplaincy several years ago, an infant had just died at her hospital and the parents were seeking baptism for the dead baby. When my sister's supervisors got together to discuss who they should send to administer baptism, one said, "Send the Methodists. They are all about grace." We laughed as we talked about this, but we knew that this pointed to the very heart of Wesleyan theology that God is grace.

In Wesleyan theology, grace is understood in threefold: prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying. Prevenient grace describes God's love for humanity even before there is an understanding or affirmation of faith. Prevenient grace is lived out in our faith community as we truly 'open doors' to the world without regard to race, culture, education, age, and economic status. It is because of such grace that we can greet and welcome strangers into our midst and love them, and then they can come to know personally the grace of God.

Justifying grace means God's restorative and forgiving love through our faith in Jesus Christ. When we accept the fact that we are sinners, we need to open ourselves up to God so that God's grace can enter in. Therefore, we need to place faith in Jesus and ask for the forgiveness of our sins, so that we may be justified to God.

Sanctifying grace means God's continued work in the life of the believer so that he/she may come to completely love God and neighbors. I believe that the church and its ministry should continuously embody the very work of sanctifying grace, so that the work of the Holy Spirit does not stop at justification but proceeds on to our goal of Christian Perfection. It is through God's grace that we are called to serve and able to carry on our mission with confidence, as we continue to grow in love with God and one another.

As we begin this new year, I pray that we go forward with confidence in God's grace, anticipating a year full of new possibilities and opportunities while continuing the good work



of peace-making and justice-seeking. It is in this confidence that we have hope in eternal life, despite the setbacks we experience from time to time for God is with us through the good times AND the bad. Being conscious that God's grace impacts every aspect of our lives, may we, the friends and family of Centenary, fully live out our call to share God's grace with others in 2017.

Peace,
Rev. Sunyoung Lee

OUR PRAYERS

We lift up prayers for these persons and families:

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

William "Bill" Murata" passed away on December 25, 2016.
Service was held at Centenary UMC on Friday, January 6, 2017.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DONATION RECEIVED 12/4 TO 12/25:

Joyce Adachi, *Christmas Offering in memory of Masako Kaku*

Judy Asazawa, *Thanksgiving*

David & Randi Davis, *Christmas Toy Project*

Lauryn De La Torre, *Merry Christmas Rhys, Grandpa Kay and Aunty Margaret*

Patricia Dozen, *In memory of William Zaima*

Susan Edwards, *Special Offering Senior Ministries*

Yumi Froehlich, *Christmas Offering in memory of Dave & Mary Morji*

Kathleen Fukute & Family, *Christmas Offering in memory of Eugene Fukute*

Steve & Jan Haruta, *In memory of Janet Mitsu Brown, Aiko Nobori*

Judge Ernie Hiroshige, *Special Offering, Christmas Toy Project*

Shizuko Horita, *In memory of Susan Hiroye Fujioka*

Eva & Akira Inabe, *Thanksgiving*

Terry Kasuyama, *Christmas Toy Project*

Albert & Emiko Keimi, *Anniversary Offering, Thanksgiving Offering*

Clifford & Mui Koike, *Christmas Toy Project*

Susie Koo, *Christmas Toy Project*

Ruth Kubo, *In memory of Kay Kubo, Margaret Kubo, Rhys De La Torre*

Kubota Nikkei Mortuary, *Special Offering*

Barbara Kumon, *Thanksgiving Offering*

Frances Kurumoto, *In memory of Dennis Nishimura*

Grace Kusumi, *Anniversary Offering*

Dassie Matsuoka, *Christmas Offering in memory of parents Tome & Taneo Yasunaga and sister Mary Maruyama*

Masako Miyake, *Thanksgiving*

Sam Miyamoto, *Zen Kai*

Rev. Mark & Pam Nakagawa, *Thanksgiving Offering*

Lori Nakama, *Special Offering*

Michiko Nishida, *Special Offering*

James Nishitsuji, *In memory of George & Blanche Nishitsuji*

Marilyn Nobori, *Christmas Toy Project, In memory of Janet Mitsu Brown*

Emi Obata, *Thanksgiving*

Pat, Gloria, & Caitlin O'Brien, *Pastors' Housing in appreciation to Pastor Sunnie, Rev. Karen Fay, & Rev. Richard*

Joyce Okasaki, *Christmas Offering in memory of parents Yae & Gen Nakamura and grandparents Takejiro & Matsu Kusanagi*

Randy & Susan Onishi, *Thanksgiving Offering, In memory of Mary M. Saito*

Ernie & Jane Rivera, *Thanksgiving Offering*

Paula Rosenberg, *In memory of Hisae Linda Kinoshita*

Skeeter & Carole Sasaki, *Christmas Toy Project*

Heidi Sasaki, *Anniversary*

Denise Senzaki, *In memory of Bill Zaima*

Denny & Julie Sunabe, *Special Offering*

Emi Takashima, *Thanksgiving*

Janice Tarumoto, *In memory of Bill Zaima*

Janice Teraoka, *Special Offering*

UMW, *Special Offering*

Wada Family, *Christmas Offering in memory of Joe Wada*

France Wong, *In memory of David Bow Woo*

Ted Yamada, *Thanksgiving Offering*

Laura Yamanaka, *Thanksgiving Offering*

Carole Zaima, *Christmas in loving memory of late husband William Martin Zaima*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Christmas

Paul Abe
Gary Asano
Judy Asazawa
George Azuma
Duane Baba
Jane Tomi Boltz
Florencio & Arelia Carlos
Elston & Verna Carr
Annette De La Torre
Mary Enomoto
Richard & Kathy Fujita
Dorothy Goerke
Yoshie Hagiya
Lilia Hansbrough
Steve & Jan Haruta
Karin Hayashi
Ron Hayashida
Patty Hirama
Ernest Hiroshige
Beverly Iba
Akira Inaba
Lily Jew
Barbara Kamon
Dolly Kaplan
Terry Kasuyama
Denby & Sets Kawahara
Albert & Amy Keimi
Marye Kimoto
Clifford & Mui Koike
Ruth Kubo

Doris Kumada
Dora Kunishige
Harry & Carole Kuruma
Joyce Kuruma
Brian Kurushima
Dick & Frances Kushino
Grace Kusumi
Rev. Sunyoung Lee
Kristofer & Stephanie Leese
Victoria Leon
Arline Lew
Victor & Cynthia Lew
Louise Manabe
Tim & Marion Manaka
Irene Mano
Margaret Mataga
Setsuko Minabe
Yei Miwa
Masako Miyake
Masashi & Grace Miyaoka
Ed Miyashiro
Terry Miyashiro-Sonoda
Albert & Pauline Morita
Mark & Pamela Nakagawa
Chieko Nakamura
Fumi Nakamura
Seiko Nakayama
Angel Nishinaka
Mark & Cynthia Nishinaka
Robert & Gail Nishinaka
Wesley & Martha Nishinaka

James Nishitsuji
Alan & Marilyn Nobori
Eugene Oba
Patrick & Gloria O'Brien
Shigeru & May Ochi
Dorothea Okada
Michael & Denise Okamura
Randall & Susan Onishi
Bessie Osaka
Jonathan Oyama
Wendell & Jane Oyama
Art Pinto
Betty Quon
Mark & Kathy Sadamitsu
Mary A. Saito
Stephanie Saito
Chris & Yuri Santiago
Ray & Mits Saruwatari
Akira & Carole Sasaki
Todd & Joyce Sasaki
Norman & Susan Senzaki
Yoichi & Emi Serizawa
Kumiko Shibuya
Jack & Jean Shigetomi
Darren Shirai
Hisako Shohara
Terry Sugamura
Dean Sugano
Suzuko Takahata
Emi Takashima
Tsuneo & Tomoko Takasugi

Ruth Takata
Ben Tamaki
Jun & Chi Fung Tanisaki
George & Naomi Terukina
Fred & Kaz Togawa
Susan Togino
Asao & Carolyn Tokunaga
Stanley Uragami
Yuriko Urasaki
Kris & Robin Vensel
France Wong
Lily Yamaguchi
Florence & Grace Yanagawa
Fumi Yano
Emmie Yasui
Mary Yonemoto

THANK YOU KAREN FAY! *(Continued from page 1)*

and of course last minute accompanist back up for service when not preaching herself. Maybe playing not literally the way the hymns were musically written but the essence and more were always delivered, always with the special music touch only she could provide.

That special touch also applies to her mastery of ukulele, accordion and singing in the choir.

One of the earliest musical memories I have of Rev. KarenFay was hearing her singing a song during service with Darryl and children Jessea, Taylor, Nikki, incredible harmony and so effortless. The most memorable would be recently, performing with her at her father's memorial celebration, such an honor and one of the most inspirational musical experience I've ever had, pure emotional joy, celebration and reflection all in one.

Thank you Rev. KarenFay for sharing your musical gifts and talents and letting me be a part of your musical journey. Thank you for your immeasurable dedication and contributions to the Centenary Music Ministry these past 17 years. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

By Kathy Sadamitsu

Over the years, my family and I have seen Rev. KarenFay "up close" in many roles – youth minister, teacher, mother, and friend. When she arrived in 1999 as the new youth minister/MYF advisor, KFRY took on her duties with passion and energy. Annual Centenary events such as "Souper Bowl" Sunday, Easter brunch, Chili Cook-Off, and Turkey Lock-In were organized under her leadership. As Sunday School/MYF parents of Ryan, Kelly, & Ronny, Mark & I had many opportunities to help out. We were always inspired by the time, dedication, and hard work of the Ramos-Young family.



This was even more evident when I volunteered to be a parent chaperone for three mission trips: Oahu (2007), Northern California (2008), and the Big Island of Hawaii (2010). It was a pleasure working alongside KFRY and Darryl as they organized and planned meaningful, yet fun experiences for the youth. They always kept the focus on "Service to God through service to others". Besides the physical labor, there was always time for worship, praise songs, personal reflection, sightseeing, and good food (one exception: Northern CA, just ask Jessea). I am grateful for those memorable trips with my daughter Kelly and the other youth (now young adults).

As an elementary school teacher, I can appreciate how KarenFay makes her "Children's Moments" and sermons always "kid-friendly" and "hands-on". She has

been a strong advocate of child safety, supporting and implementing "Safe Sanctuary" guidelines for our church. In our education committee meetings, we often have honest discussions about appropriate curriculum for our Sunday School and VBS students. Her creativity and vision always amaze me – especially when planning and organizing the Advent and Palm Sunday worship services each year.

My relationship with Karen Fay has grown stronger over time, as our own children have become young adults finding their places in the world. Together we weathered the ups and downs of adolescence. My heartfelt thanks to Karen-Fay, Darryl, Jessea, Taylor, and Nikki for being such a vital part of my family's journey here at Centenary. With much love and appreciation.

By Carolyn Tokunaga

Education and spiritual growth are passions that Rev. KarenFay brought to Centenary.

For four years, Rev. KarenFay led quarterly full day **Women's Retreats**. She created a comfortable environment to explore feelings and thoughts by moving chairs and sofas from around the church for a more intimate atmosphere. Tablecloths and centerpieces made informal fellowship a special time. Relaxed and at ease, no topic was too difficult to discuss. Gently guiding discussion throughout, the open and non-threatening environment allowed in depth study of Heaven, Angels, Forgiveness, God's Humor and Our Joy, I Shall Not Want, Words



THANK YOU KAREN FAY! *(Continued from page 5)*

for Faithful Living, and other topics often suggested by participants. Each had the opportunity to share their personal reflections and stories, to talk about their faith journeys, and to grow spiritually.



Time was more limited for the **Breakfast @ Centenary** sessions, but Rev. Karen Fay's well researched handouts, guided us through the topic at hand. Always included were scripture references, current literature, and thought provoking questions to focus on personal experiences and ideas. Together we explored: Worship, Holy Communion, Passionate Worship, Hope Amidst Suffering, Happiness and Joy, Opening the Bible, Everything United Methodist, Centenary in Our Community and Our World, Centenary Care, Homelessness and Hope, Prayer, Format for Study Groups, Advent, and so much more. Although time was very limited, the handouts allowed continued home study and references for expanded research.

Rev. Karen Fay's Sunday **Bible Study** often helped the congregation cope with current news and issues. "Prayers for Paris and Our Faith," sought ways to calm our fears after the terror attacks through scripture readings, prayers, and sharing. "Faith Conversation – Stem Cell Research" explored faith-based writings and Bible references. Timely relevant studies always reinforcing our faith.

Rev. Karen Fay with her Early Childhood Training, understands that Lectionary readings mean little to our preschoolers and young children, but she also knows that the lessons contained in them are invaluable. Using props, visuals, stories, and dramatization during weekly worship **Children's Moments**, she interprets for them at their level and adds clarity for the adult worshippers.

She provides knowledge for our daily lives, comfort for our souls, moves us along our faith paths, and uplifts us spiritually.

Rev. Karen Fay is a very caring and compassionate person, both personally and professionally, which is reflected in her passion for outreach.

She can be found shopping for vegetables for **Oportunidad's Homeless Soup Ministry** in the MacArthur Park area of the City, dropping off baby things at **Angel Interfaith Ministry** at County USC Hospital, taking toiletries to the **Downtown Women's Center**, organizing and sorting **clothing for the homeless** and making contacts for distribution. A needy project like the **food pantry** or **Kid City** or **toys for Christmas** always catches her attention and focuses her energies.



"Have van, will travel" is one of her mottos whether it is going to Dinube to help Michele, or Oxnard to pick up cookbooks, or packing and picking up boxes for Country Store or delivering boxes to local charities. Rev. Karen Fay is always willing to lend a van and a hand.

Country Store is an enjoyable distraction for Rev. Karen Fay. Like a treasure hunter, she checks for collectibles among the donations and researches on-line prices. After the bazaar, she finds those items needed by the many charities in our area and contacts or drops off. Packing, unpacking, hauling and moving boxes, washing and drying, sorting and pricing, no task is too great or too small. She finds such joy in helping and her boundless energy is appreciated by all those who work with her.

Editor's comment:

Rev. Karen Fay is God's presence in our daily life. It is with great joy that we thank God for her blessed spirit. Thanks to her family for sharing with us. We wish her God's blessings as she continues her ministry in her daily life. Her creative and generous energy will be missed.

THANK YOU KAREN FAY!

CENTENARY FINANCES

Monthly financial report as of November 30, from Gail Nishinaka, Treasurer.

	Actual	Budget	Annual Budget
	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	2016
Pledges	\$143,320	\$147,088	\$166,506
Other Income	\$245,559	\$246,129	\$483,530
Transfers**	\$32,750	\$43,000	\$44,500
Total Income	\$421,629	\$436,217	\$483,530

**From Reserves at Union Bank and Investments at Merrill-Lynch

Apportionment Pmts	\$18,127	\$66,467	\$72,510
Other Expenses	\$403,396	\$424,333	\$461,980
Total Expenses	\$421,523	\$490,800	\$534,490

Amounts owed to Cal-Pac Conference of \$48,340 for Apportionment is 8 months
If paid, actual deficit would be \$48,234

Income/Expenses	\$106	(\$54,583)	(\$50,960)
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Above amounts include Nihongo Division as of July

Annual budget is a deficit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Eastside Bible Fellowship will meet January 5th and 19th at the Lew's home, 7:30 pm.
- Monday Night Bible Study will meet Mondays 6:30 to 7:30 pm.
- January 8—Card ministry
- Office will be closed January 16th for Martin L. King Day.
- January 22 there will be an Orientation of Usher Greeters following worship service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, January 29th — 80/88/90 Birthday Celebration Potluck

As is Centenary's tradition, the annual potluck honoring those turning 80, 88, and 90 in 2017 will be held Jan 29th. Bring your favorite dish to share on this Sunday following worship service.

WANTED

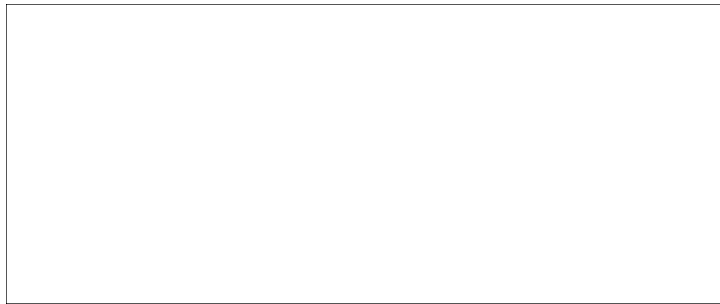
Starting with the April Issue of the Centenary Chimes, a new editor is needed. The editor's responsibility includes determining and securing a writer for the feature article; updating all dates for Church Events, Announcements, and Upcoming Events; formatting donation lists from financial secretary; securing or writing additional articles from staff writer, committee chairs, outside organizers; formatting Chimes to purchased templates. Chimes is produced monthly. Please notify Pastor Sunnie if you are interested.



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Advent Pageant 2016

