



Christ Church of Chicago
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THE PASSAGE

February 2010

Dear Friends,

Children can be disconcertingly perceptive at times. A while ago my nephew Rafael, who was only five years old at the time, surprised my mother with a comment he made. They were strolling around the downtown plaza at the city where my brother and his family live when Rafael pointed to the neo-gothic cathedral that stands imposingly on one side of the central square and said: *“Look, grandma, the castle?”* Hoping to teach Rafael that the beautiful building with the impressive towers, spires and arched entryways was actually a church, my mother gently corrected him. *“That’s not a castle,”* she told him, *“That’s a church; the house where God lives.”* Unconvinced and a bit confused my nephew countered my mother, *“No, grandma, nobody lives there! The castle is always empty.”*

Obviously the cathedral is not *always* empty. My brother and his family do not attend church, so my nephew never had a chance to see the downtown cathedral on a Sunday morning when faithful Christians gather to worship. But there is one thing Rafael said that is absolutely incontestable: an empty church is just like any other empty building. God does not dwell within the walls of the church. As the prophet avers: ***“Thus says the Lord: Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is my resting place? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things are mine”*** (Isaiah 66:1-2a). The place where God chooses to dwell is not a building made by human hands, but our hearts, minds and souls. We do not go to church expecting the Almighty to put in an appearance. We gather every Sunday to share God’s presence with one another for as the Apostle Paul declared so emphatically

to the Christian community at Corinth: ***“We are the temple of the living God”*** (2 Corinthians 6:16b).

I love the conversation that takes place between Celie and Shug in Alice Walker’s Pulitzer Prize winning novel *“The Color Purple.”* Celie, a poor, emotionally battered and physically abused African American woman in the rural south begins to doubt God’s love. She gives up writing letters to God and questions if God has ever taken the trouble to listen to her. But then, Shug Avery, a colorful, flamboyant and liberated blues singer changes Celie’s misperception of God and helps her to see the church not as a place where you go to find God, but rather as a place to which you bring God. ***“Celie,”*** Shug asks, ***“tell the truth, have you ever found God in church?”*** And then she makes a remarkable theological statement, ***“I never did... Any God I ever felt in church I brought in with me. And I think all the other folks did too. They come to church to share God, not find God.”***

Time and over again, our Holy Scriptures remind us that God does not dwell in temples made by human hands, but lives in each one of us. As important as our beautiful sanctuary with its stained glass windows and neatly decorated ceiling rafters may be, it is not the place where we find God. We are the true temple in which God is pleased to dwell! Our sanctuary is made sacred by your presence. It is only when the community gathers to celebrate the reality of God’s love and grace that this space is filled with God’s Holy Spirit. Christ came to gather us into this living community of faith where the Spirit of God abides permanently and eternally in each person of faith.

Since your presence brings God into this building and fills Christ Church with the liberating message of the Gospel, I hope that you will be excited about sharing God with others by attending our services and Bible study during the season of Lent. When you are not in church, it is as if a little bit of God were missing from our time together as a community united in Jesus Christ. So let us all come together as often as possible to share God with one another. Let’s tell our neighbors, our city and the world that Christ Church is not just another building in Chicago, but it is the place where God is truly present because there is an active Christian community that meets in this place. As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of our move into this building, let us strive to make our church into more than just a beautiful

Structure; let us transform this space into a holy ground where we stand together to show the world that God is real.

Faithfully,

Paulo Justino Franca

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



All are invited to the Service of Ashes on **February 17th at 11:00 AM in the chapel.**

We will inaugurate the season of Lent remembering our own mortality and praying for God's help and guidance as we seek to live each day as disciples of Jesus Christ.

THE WINDOWS OF CHRIST CHURCH

We only use the chapel on the west side of the nave when a small group of faithful members gather to attend the Ash Wednesday service. That space, which is also known as the ambulatory, provides a more intimate area for prayer, mediation and contemplation.

The stained glass windows in the chapel carry out the message of faithful service, love and knowledge of God and our members and friends are invited to come to Christ Church at any time during the week to pray and to meditate in the west chapel. Just give us a call and let us know that you are on your way.

1 – The Dolphin – Around the second century C.E. Christians began to use the dolphin as an emblem that represents Christian love. Dolphins were also considered to be friendly toward humans and were often associated with the idea of love, tenderness and celerity. The Dolphin is the symbol of the individual Christian who is

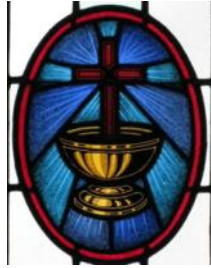


who is called to follow Christ and to show the same love, friendship, gentleness and grace that was in Christ, our Lord.



2 – The Lamp – The lamp with a burning flame has held a central place in Christian symbolism. It represents the light of truth that dispels darkness; it is a source of illumination that guides the Christian to the saving knowledge of God; and it reminds the church to remain alert to the presence of God in its midst.

3 – The Cross and the Basin – This window refers to the Last Supper when Jesus, to demonstrate his love and humble service, washed the disciples’ feet. It reminds the church that we are also called to a live a “cruciform” life in which we seek to serve one another and to bring the Good News of the Christian life to the world.



4 – The Lyre – This emblem calls the church to praise God. Recognized as an instrument that King David played, the lyre is used to represent the Psalms and all music and instruments that are used to make a joyful noise to the Lord.

5 – Incense Burner with XP – The smoke rising from the incense burner is a symbol of prayer rising to God in the name of Jesus Christ who is represented by the Greek letters “Chi Rho” on top. It invites us to offer our prayers to God in the name of Christ our Lord.



6 – The Luther Rose – Also known as Martin Luther’s Seal, this emblem reminds us of our faithful Lutheran brothers and sisters who once gathered to worship in this building. The black cross set in the heart represents our faith in the Crucified Lord, who saves us. Although the cross is black, it does not change the natural

color of the heart of the believer; it does not destroy the believer's nature, but keeps the believer alive through faith in Christ. The heart is fixed upon the center of a white rose to show that faith causes joy, brings consolation and peace. And the rose is placed on a sky-colored background, which denotes our hope for our heavenly joy, which is not fully revealed yet. Finally, around the emblem is a ring that signifies that the heavenly bliss is endless and eternal.

SAVE THE DATE!



Saturday, February 6th, 2010 at 6:30 pm

It's been 10 years since we moved into our present church building! Can you believe it? Let's celebrate this milestone together!!

the Church Council cordially invites you to
THE DECADE CELEBRATION,
an evening of food, fun, dancing, remembering our journey and
Welcoming our future!

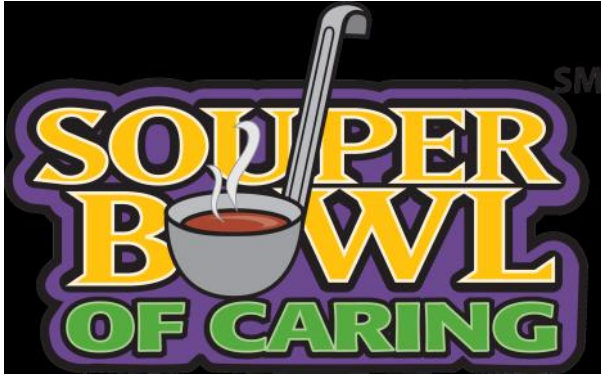
The food will be POTLUCK
(because it doesn't get any better than that!)

Entertainment is being planned...you don't want to miss this!

If you haven't been around for a while, this is a perfect
opportunity to come back and visit!

Bring a friend or two!

Watch for details...



Our youth will join once again hundreds of faith communities across the nation in the fund-raising effort that has transformed Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving.

A special collection will be taken on **February 7th** during the worship service.

In past years, our youth has raised money for students in Tanzania and for family-owned businesses in places as distant and diverse as Poland and Cameroon.

Let's support our youth and their mission to make a difference in the world! Give generously!

Highlights of Advent and Christmas



At Christ Church, the season of Advent is marked by a time of Bible study, prayer, fellowship and Friday night gatherings at the parsonage. No matter how cold or snowy it may be outside, the parsonage is always a warm and welcoming place where our church

members and friends gather to share moments of joy, celebration, reflection and meditation.

Whether you are a long time member or a newcomer, there is always a place for everyone at the Friday night gatherings at the



parsonage. You do not have to know everything about the Bible or the Christian faith to join the conversation. All are welcome to share their thoughts, experiences, to voice their doubts and to ask questions. And you can always count on Erik and other church



church members and friends to make lots of yummy cakes, cookies, pies, and to taste Rev. Paulo's selection of cheeses and chips. At the Friday night gatherings, we make sure your body, mind and soul are well-fed.

For the first time last year, we also had a pre-Christmas party to welcome our college students back home and to offer all our young adults a fun evening together with Rev. Paulo and



Seminary Intern Chris An. We are grateful to Kelli Takagi and Mari Yamagiwa for organizing the pre-Christmas celebration. We hope events such as this will help our congregation to stay in touch with our young adults as they go off to college.





Each Sunday during the Advent season, we lit candles and waited expectantly for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Sacred hymns echoed once again within the walls of our sanctuary lifting before God our earnest desire to worship the One who came to be a Light to the nations.

Families crowded the sanctuary on December 20th to celebrate the Christmas story after enjoying a wonderful potluck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. And, then,

on Christmas Eve, we gathered again to give thanks to God for sending the Christ Child into the world. The Imon-Pedtke family lit the Advent candles and the Christ Candle inviting all of us to welcome Christ into our hearts.



The music was beautiful and uplifting on Christmas Eve. Once again our young adults, youth and children brought joy to our service by singing one of our well-known Christmas carols “Let There be Peace on Earth.”



The gatherings in the parsonage, the potluck luncheon and the love and friendship we all share when we gather to worship the Son of God are priceless moments in the life of Christ Church during Advent and Christmas. There is no other place where I'd rather be!

MOCHITSUKI 2010

It takes a lot to prepare for mochitsuki every year, but our church members are determined to keep this tradition alive at Christ



Church. As Stephanie Nitahara once said, part of what makes mochitsuki so important is not only that we are keeping alive and passing down to future generations a tradition of pounding rice cakes. What is so wonderful about mochitsuki is the bonding that takes place when people get together. Old and young, old-timers and new friends, all work side by side and enjoy a whole morning



of fun and fellowship. In those simple moments spent together, we get to know one another and we learn to appreciate our heritage and the gifts that Christ Church has to offer to each one of us.



DONATIONS

Thank you to all the Friends and Members of Christ Church of Chicago for your generous donations during the month of December.

Mary Harakawa

In Memory of Isamu
Harakawa, Toshi Oda,
Howard Hatanaka

Yurie Kushino

In Memory of Min Kushino

Mary Mantel

Alice and Mas Maruyama

Best Wishes to Tri - C

Betty and Ted Okita

In Memory of Riichi and
Kikuno Kushino

Peterson Karate Club

Tracey and Jon Shimabukuro

Budget Shortfall

Jenny and Alvin Tamura

In Memory of Alycia
Brenz

Grace Tsuru

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Elizabeth Aguilar

Marcia Kushino

Alyse Azuma

Yurie Kushino

Lucille Dunn

Mary Mantel

Eleanor and Tio Fujiwara

Tsuyako Matsui

Joy and Gary Fujiwara

Hayato and Toki Morikado

Ralph Fujiwara Family

Taylor Nakagawa

Mak Fukuda

Nakagawa Family

Henry Fukui

Sue Nakagi

Ruby Hanaoka

Stephanie Nakanishi

Teri Hirai

Miyeko Nakao

Ann and Kent Ijichi

Jackie and Ken Nitahara

Harriet Ito

Jack Oda

Ruth Iwami

Jason Ogawa

Richard Kadowaki Family

Suzanne Ogawa

Rose Kaihatsu

Atsumi and George Ozawa

James Kawakami

Carla Imon Pedtke

Cheryl Hara and Dan Kawako

Claudette Rasmussen

Chieko Kimura

Peggy and Yosh Sakai

Helen Kodani

Tomi Shimojima

Mr and Mrs Nob Kurita

Andrea and Will Smith

Barbara and Stan Kurokawa

Sachi Suzuki

Nancy and Bob Takagi
Edith Takaki
Sue and Steve Takaki
Kiyo Takemoto
June Tamanaha
James Terada
Nancy Toyama

VETERANS OF THE CROSS

Chris An
Sandra Angus
Ann and Kent Ijichi
Harriet Ito
Fay and Ken Kadowaki
Yurie Kushino
Marcia Kushino
Mary Mantel
Peggy and Jim Mita
Helen Miyake
Karen and Terry Nakagawa

PASSAGE APPRECIATION

Rhea Fujimoto
Sally Hamanishi
Sumi and Jack Mukai
Aiko Nishimura
Aya Sato
Mr and Mrs Hideo Tokumasu
In Memory of Mutsuko Hara

BUILDING FUND

E. Higashi, F. Taniguchi
Sharon and Jeff Hidaka
Hayato and Toki Morikado
Jack Oda

Bess and Lori Ozawa

Rhonda and Dennis Rickey

Nancy and Bob Takagi
Midori Yamamoto

Dahlia and Hiro Toyama
Juana and Willie Wong
Gayle Yamaji
Midori Yamamoto
Susan Yamanaka
Alyce and Rocky Yamanaka
Pat Yoshino

Nakagawa Family
Paul Oda
Denise Peterson
Peggy and Yosh Sakai
Lois and Jim Shikami
Tracey and Jon Shimabukuro
Andrea and Will Smith
Nancy and Bob Takagi
Dahlia and Hiro Toyama
Alyce and Rocky Yamanaka

Alyce Azuma
Chieko Kimura
Yurie Kushino
Helen Miyake
Bess Ozawa
Peggy and Yosh Sakai
Alyce and Rocky Yamanaka

In Memory of Toshi Oda
and Aya Fukuda
In Memory of Dr. David
Miura
In Memory of Mutsuko
Hara

IN GRATITUDE FOR OUR SUPPORTERS

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all those who donated to the Capital Campaign Fund Drive over the last three years. The Capital Campaign came to a close last summer and we thought it would be fitting to acknowledge all those who have donated at the beginning of this New Year, when we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of our move into this building.

Last December, a commemorative plaque displaying the names of some of our most generous donors was placed in the narthex. We are grateful for their gifts and for all who made large and small contributions to support Christ Church as we seek to invest in our church's future.

Your faithful giving is a true inspiration to all of us! Each one of you gave generously and asked nothing in return, except that we would continue to impart to the world the truth, grace and love of God, which became incarnate in Jesus Christ, our Lord. It is a privilege to write to all of you to say "thank-you."

Your donation to the Capital Campaign has made a significant difference in all of our lives. Because of your generosity, we have been able to make many improvements to our building. To mention just a few of them: we have a new roof; new boilers; we have beautified various parts of our church building; we purchased shades for the windows in the Fellowship Hall; installed iron guards at the windows in the Fellowship Hall that face the alley; renovated the Youth Room; and purchased and installed brass plates that memorialize your donations. We also invested in our music program by purchasing the hand-chimes; funded half of the salary of our previous seminary interns and honored the pledge we had made to support the IL Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Without all of you whom we are listing below very little of all the accomplishments of the last three years would have been possible. So we want to thank you and we hope that you will continue to be involved in the life of Christ Church and to be excited about what we are doing as a Christian Community.

CHRIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND

**In recognition of the generous donations given to Christ
Church.**

Diamond Robin Miller Hirano

In Memory of Dorothy Sachiko Ikeda Ito

By George Ito, Donna Ito, Jozeph Ruck, Barbara Ito, Valerie Ito, and Robert Schubert.

In Memory of Ray Sugai

By Frances Sugai, Patti Hara, Mark Sugai and Arlene Hayn

In Memory of William Yamamoto

By Yamamoto-Yoshida Family

Gold Mieko and Yuko Nasu

In Memory of Byron and Steven Yoshino

By Patricia Yoshino

Silver Makoto and Ayako Fukuda

Mr. and Mrs. Teruo Tay Nagai

Minoru and Akiko Saito

By Nina, Marina, and Harry Saito

James and Lois Shikami

Misao Shiratsuki

Premier Joe Miyake and Karen Fischer

By Helen Miyake

Mr. and Mrs. Yoshitaro Sakai

In Memory of Yori Sasaki

By Family and Friends

In Honor of James and Lois

Shikami

By Church Members, Relations and Friends of the Church

In Memory of Mito Shimizu

By Donna Shimizu Brody

Michiko Tanabe and Dorothy Ito

By Yoshinobu Tanabe

- Benefactor Rocky and Alyce Yamanaka**
- In Memory of Kenji Andow**
By Family and Friends
- In Honor of Tio and Eleanor Fujiwara and In
Memory of Chang & Dai Jough, Mas Ishida**
By Gary and Joy Fujiwara
- In Memory of Mary Fukui**
By Henry K. Fukui
- In Honor of Jack and Teri Hirai**
By Jon and Tracey Shimabukuro
- In Memory of Raymond and Lucy Hong**
By Samuel Hong
- In Memory of Dorothy Ito**
By Church Members, Relations and
Friends of the Church
- Mr. and Mrs. Kenzo Kadowaki and Mr. and
Mrs. R. Nagasawa**
By Ken and Fay Kadowaki
- William and Rosalie Kato**
- In Memory of Joan Nishimura**
By Audrey Y. Lee
- In Celebration of Rev. Paulo's Ministry**
By Tomiko Shimojima
- In Honor of James and Lois Shikami**
By Russell Shikami
- To all our friends at Christ Church**
By Frank and Yo Shimizu
- In Memory of Mito Shimizu**
By Church Members, Relations, and Friends of
the Church
- In Memory of John Takemoto**
By Kiyoko Takemoto
- In Honor of Hiro and Dahlia Toyama**
By Nancy Toyama
- Hiro and Dahlia Toyama**

Benefactor Murakishi – Whitted Family

By Linda Whitted

DONATIONS FOR STAINED GLASS

- ◆ Neil K. Brown and J. Chase Gilmore in Memory of Iva Toguri
- ◆ Rose S. Okabe in Memory of Thomas S. Okabe
- ◆ Miyeko Nakao in Memory of George Nakao
- ◆ Marcia Kushino and Donna Nitahara in Memory of Carole Kei Yamagiwa
- ◆ Lucille Dunn, nee Lundgren, in Memory of Charles B. and Charles R.
- ◆ J. Chase Gilmore in Honor of the Minoru Saito family
- ◆ J. Chase Gilmore in Honor of Neil Brown and Bruce Atkinson
- ◆ George Ito in Memory of Dorothy Sachiko Ikeda Ito
- ◆ Bess Ozawa and Lori Ozawa Janis in Memory of Thomas S. Ozawa
- ◆ Jack Oda in Loving Memory of Toshi Oda
- ◆ Anonymous in Loving Memory of our dear friend, Mrs. Hatsy Okimura
- ◆ Anonymous in Loving Memory of our dear friend, Mrs. Alice Uchiyama
- ◆ Sue Nakagi and Family in Loving Memory of Jon Nakagi
- ◆ Jon and Tracey Shimabukuro in Honor of Jack and Teri Hirai
- ◆ Dorothy Miyake, Scott Nitahara family, Brandeis family, Pavlatos family, and
- ◆ Ken Nitahara in Memory of Jack Miyake
- ◆ Joyce Takemoto McLennand, Carole Kim and Kent Takemoto in Memory of Sat
- ◆ and Chiz Takemoto
- ◆ In Celebration of Grandchildren and in Memory of Loved Ones.
- ◆ Ben Yamagiwa in Memory of Chizuye Yamagiwa

DONATIONS FOR THE PEW

- ◆ Yurie Kushino in Memory of Minoru A. Kushino
- ◆ Ruth Iwami
- ◆ Harriet Ito

- ◆ Greg and Cissy Itahara in Memory of Dr. Joe M. Nakayama
 - ◆ Hamano and Itahara families in Honor of Cherie C. Nakayama
 - ◆ Hamano and Itahara families in Memory of Hambei and Yoshino Nakayama
 - ◆ Sachi Suzuki in Memory of Hank Suzuki
 - ◆ June and Edith Kushino in Memory of Riichi and Kikuno Kushino
 - ◆ Linda M. Ogawa and Elyse Matsumoto in Memory of Ruth Mimura
 - ◆ M/M Kiyoshi Tamanaha in Memory of David Tamanaha
 - ◆ Joan Y. Toyama
 - ◆ Teri Hirai in Memory of Jack N. Hirai
 - ◆ Tom R. Okawara in Memory of Miyako Okawara
 - ◆ Teraoka Sisters in Memory of George and Fumi Teraoka
 - ◆ Amy F. Kato
-

THANK-YOU

Joy Fujiwara for ordering and overseeing the delivery of our Christmas poinsettias.

The Shimabukuros, Gary and Joy Fujiwara, Marcia Kushino, Gary Yamagiwa and Sharon Hidaka for the Ozoni.

The Woman's Fellowship would like to thank the following donors who made contributions.

The Hara Family
Atsumi Ozawa

Thank you,
The Woman's Fellowship

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Scott and Amy Paeth and Mae Watanabe recently moved. If you would like their new address, please call the church office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday to all of those celebrating in February!



Mak Fukuda, Ryan Nitahara, Suzanne Ogawa,
Akiko Saito, Trenton Takaki and Kiyoko Takemoto

Please accept our apologies if we omitted anyone!
If your birthday is not listed here, chances are that
we do not have your updated information. Please contact the
church office and request a membership update form.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Scott and Amy Paeth on the birth of their daughter, Grace
Barrett Paeth, who was born on December 25th, 2009.

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS




Prayers of healing for Edith Higashi, Henry Fukui, Jim
Kawakami, Tracey Shimabukuro, Paul and Mae
Watanabe, Aiko Amino, Scott Janis, Mary Nakagawa,
Sandy Parsons, Judy Scheller and Fernando (Juana
Wong's brother in Peru who has cancer).

MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

The deadline for the Passage is **February 10, 2010**

FEBRUARY 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 10:00 am-1:30 pm Tomodachi 6:00-8:30 pm Karate Class	4	5 7:30 pm Ping-pong	6 8:00-9:30 am Wellness Group 11:00-2:00 pm Karate Class 6:30 pm Decade Fest
CE Board Meeting to be determined						
7 10:30 am Worship/ Communion Souper Bowl of Caring	8	9 9:30 am Women's Fellowship Community Project	10 10:00 am-1:30 pm Tomodachi 6:00-8:30 pm Karate Class Passage Deadline	11	12 7:30 pm Ping-pong	13 8:00-9:30 am Wellness Group 11:00-2:00 pm Karate Class
14 10:30 am Worship/ Sunday School	15	16	17 11:00 am Ash Wednesday Service 10:00 am-1:30 pm Tomodachi 6:00-8:30 pm Karate Class	18	19 7:30 pm Ping-pong	20 8:00-9:30 am Wellness Group 11:00-2:00 pm Karate Class
21 10:30 am Worship/ Sunday School First Sunday in Lent	22 7:30 pm Council Meeting	23	24 10:00 am-1:30 pm Tomodachi 6:00-8:30 pm Karate Class	25	26 7:30 pm Ping-pong	27 8:00-9:30 am Wellness Group 11:00-2:00 pm Karate Class
28 10:30 am Worship/ Sunday School Second Sunday in Lent Food Pantry Donation	 <p style="text-align: center;">The office is closed on Friday</p> 