

Spirit of S·T. M·A·R·Y'·S

February 2011 — Volume 66 No. 2

The Rev. Marilyn Omernick, Priest-in-Charge
 The Rev. Floyd "Butch" Gamarra, Assistant Priest
 The Rev. Jimmy H. Shiode, Deacon

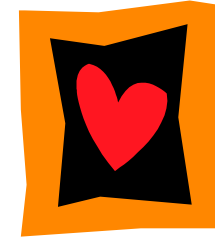
The Rev. Canon Richard Van Horn, Priest Assisting
 Larry Higa, Senior Warden
 Gayle Kawahara, Junior Warden

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 Carlos Guzman Ramirez, Sexton

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Jeffrey VanderWilt, Organist/Choir Director
 Carolyn Morinishi, Editor, "The Spirit"

"Diverse and unafraid, with open hearts."



February 2011

Special Dates

Wednesday, February 9

Garden committee Meeting

Wednesday, TBD

6:00pm South Bay Bible Study
 (Partridges)

Saturday, February 19

9am-3pm Vestry retreat and meeting

Sunday, February 20

8:15am Celtic Cross meeting

Sunday, February 27

11am Clean-up workshop

Regular/Ongoing Events

Every Sunday

7:30 am Holy Eucharist
 8:30 am Choir Practice
 9:45 am Holy Eucharist
 9:45 am Sunday School/Nursery
 11:45 am Holy Eucharist (Spanish)

Every Wednesday

11:30 am Noonday prayer
 6:30 pm Spanish Service/Christian
 Formation, Bible Study/Children's Program

Every Saturday

Morning Altar Guild

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St. Mary's Episcopal Church
 961 S. Mariposa Ave.
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DATED MATERIAL

Clergy Corner . . .

Since the deadline for The Spirit is always the 15th of the previous month, this article is written before the Annual Meeting date of January 30 while it will be read following the Annual Meeting. I'll write about the Annual Meeting in the March Spirit. In the meantime, St. Mary's continues the process of selecting a new rector.

You will see an article from Bruce Hoffman, Discernment Committee Chairperson in this Spirit. This will continue while they meet to review the names of candidates and select three names to give to the vestry. It is the vestry's responsibility to make the final choice for St. Mary's.

The Parish Profile contains the history of St. Mary's, a description of the parish and the surrounding community. It also includes a detailed description of the qualities of the next rector. This is what both the discernment committee and the vestry are reading as they review candidates' materials and prayerfully engage the process of selecting the next rector of this church. This is what potential candidates are reading as they prayerfully consider whether they are called to shared ministry with this congregation.

During this phase of the transitional time, I'm asking St. Mary's to prayerfully hold this description in our hearts and minds as one way of asking God's help with this discernment. Starting with this Spirit, I'm including a new "Prayer for St. Mary's" which includes some of this text as a prayer. This will also be printed in the Sunday bulletin and available as a prayer card.

The members of the discernment committee and the vestry have specific responsibilities. Let us support them by our prayers.

Faithfully in Christ, Mother Marilyn+

PRAYER FOR DISCERNMENT

Gracious God, we enter this time of prayerfully considering the candidates for rector. Guide our Discernment Committee and Vestry in their choices.

We seek a rector with a passion for multicultural and urban ministry--someone fluent in Spanish. We seek a rector with experience and success in community outreach and congregational growth to lead us toward our hopes and dreams of reemerging as a strong spiritual community center and church in urban Los Angeles. We seek to move out of our walls and into our local community. We seek to regain the original mission of St. Mary's which was a spiritual, cultural and community center for new immigrants.

All things come of Thee, O Lord. Deepen our trust that you are active in this discernment. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Thank You . . .

DECEMBER THANK YOUS

Memorial:

GEORGE SATO

Sato family

JERRY SHIMA

Judy Shima

CHOSHIN & UTAKI HIGA

Kiyo & Kazie Higa

General: Thomas Kawakami

Ed Motion

Thank offering:

Bequest Estate of May Sakurai

Endowment Fund:

DOROTHY OKU

Ruri Miura

Spirit Fund: Yoneko Itow

Christmas Boutique:

ASAE OSHITA

Irene Yoneshige

Gift to Staff: Harry Mitsuuchi

Yamazaki Garden: Yoneko Itow

DOROTHY OKU

Family of Dorothy Oku

DOROTHY OKU, BOB TOYODA

Dentler Erdmann

Fr Van Horn Discretionary Fund:

Margaret Yuki

Fr Butch Discretionary Fund:

Margaret Yuki

Barbara Ohno

Kiyo & Kazie Higa

LeRoy & Faith Ichida

Mo Marilyn Discretionary Fund:

Barbara Ohno

DEC ALTAR GUILD

Flowers in loving memory of:

NAMEIE NAKAMURA

KIYOME NAKAMURA

M/M Stanley Nakamura

YOSHIHARU/KONAE SAKABE

M/M Jim Sakabe

MOTOKAZU YOKOYAMA

M/M John Yokoyama

SUSUMU KOYAMATSU

Koyamatsu family

RYOJI KAKO

Frances Nishibayashi & family

SUEO HIRASHIMA

Pam/Randy/Brent/Corey Hama-

shita, Barbara & Jeffrey Ikegiri

Poinsettias in loving memory of:

J NISHIBAYASHI

S Nishibayashi, MD Hacker

TOSHIKO HEISHI, GORO

HEISHI, MASAO HEISHI

May Porter

RUBY CHUMAN

Daniel, Paul, Takako Chuman

IDA/PETER AKAHOSHI

Susan Mahoney

Candles in loving memory of:

TY HAMANO

Margaret Yuki

IRMA WYNNE

CORA, WILLIARD HOWARD

Lauretta Herndon & family

MICHAEL AKAHOSHI

Susan Mahoney

PEGGY FUKAGAI

MOLLY MATSUNAGA OZAKI

MITCH NISHINO YAMANE

M Shikata

Altar Guild Memorial Fund:

YOSHIYE IMAE, TOM

TOMIYAMA

M/M Mitchell Yamamoto

GRACE YABUKI

M/M Stan Furuta

KIYOE TAUCHI

Fukiko Tauchi

TED YONESHIGE

Irene Yoneshige

Gifts from:

5 Xmas trees in loving memory of family members and friends

M Shikata

DOROTHY OKU

M/M Bruce Mori

M/M Hide Matsunaga



A Collect for Guidance (adapted from the BCP p. 100)

O Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life, especially during this transitional time at St. Mary's, we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

miscellaneous . . .

DAY TRIP TO MANZANAR

The Japanese Convocation is inviting all members of St. Mary's to Manzanar on Saturday, June 18, 2011. If anyone is interested, contact Gayle Kawahara @ 310-516-6184 or gnksccds@sbcglobal.net



About our members . . .



BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS!

JOHN TOKESHI and his assistant coach Chris Gray won another Long Beach City Championship (for boy's middle school basketball). It is their sixth championship in nine years! Congratulations, John!!



INTO ETERNAL LIFE

MATSUYE KOYANAGI, 94-year-old Southern California-born resident of Cypress, California, passed away on December 16. Private burial services were held. She is survived by her children Diane Shigekawa, Yutaka "Ray" (Griselda) Koyanagi and Joyce Nakazono; siblings Dan (Janice) Kishi and Ayame Fernandez, nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

SHIGERU TSUCHIYAMA, 91-year-old Los Angeles-born Nisei resident of Tarzana, passed away on January 12. Memorial service was held on January 27 at St. Mary's. He is survived by his sons, Jon and Steven; sister, Grace (Tak) Murase and many nieces, nephews and other relatives. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that gifts be made to "The UCLA Foundation", UCLA Medical Sciences Development, 10945 Le Conte Ave, #3132, Los Angeles 90025, Attn: Rosemary Chiaverini.

KOJI BARBER TOMIKAWA, 84-year-old California-born Nisei resident of Los Angeles, former Heart Mountain internee and U.S Army veteran, passed away on January 14. Funeral services were held on January 22 at St. Mary's. He is survived by his wife Aiko; sons Eric and Lance; grandchildren Faith Marvin and Tommy Tomikawa; brother Kiyo; many nieces, nephews and other relatives. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to St. Mary's Episcopal Church,

May they rest in Peace and may Light Perpetual shine upon them ...

Upcoming Events . . .



SOUTH BAY BIBLE STUDY – WEDNESDAY, TBD

South Bay Bible Study will be held on a Wednesday in February, TBD, 6:00pm at the Partridge's house. Date will be announced soon.

VESTRY RETREAT – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

The Vestry retreat is on Saturday, Feb. 19, 9am – 3pm at St. Mary's with Bishop Diane Bruce. Vestry members will be asked to sign up for an item for the potluck lunch.

CONFIRMATION CLASS FOR BISHOP BRUNO'S MAY 22 VISIT

Fr. Butch will be starting classes for persons interested in confirmation or being received into the Episcopal Church. The deadline for contacting him is February 15 with classes to be scheduled starting in March.



Parish News . . .

DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

In studying other congregations, the discernment process has taken up to 18 months. We are 6 months into that process having completed parish surveys, writing the profile and at the end of November, and publishing the profile through the Episcopal Church for a national search. The Vestry has now appointed a Discernment Committee (DC). Members of this committee are Kathryn Nishibayashi, Richard Van Horn, Faith Ichida, Karen Yokoyama, Sheniffer Aldana, Erik Suzuki, Madeline Heithe & myself, Bruce Hoffman as chair.

The DC is charged with interviewing and researching potential candidates and then recommending three to the Vestry, who will make the final selection. The DC has already prepared a packet of information about St. Mary's along with a number of specific questions to be asked of the candidates. Once the candidates have replied we will interview them via the telephone followed (when appropriate) by in-person interviews. We are ready to proceed and are awaiting the list from the Diocese. While we are committed to act with deliberate speed we also are aware that the future of St. Mary's will be determined by our careful recommendations.

In order to protect the candidates and the process the DC is committed to confidentiality and has asked that as the Chair I be the sole spokesperson for the DC. Please ask me any questions. I am committed to keeping you advised of our progress through regular articles, announcements at Church and answering questions.

- Sincerely, Bruce

VESTRY SUMMARY – DECEMBER 12, 2010

Reports: 11/10 minutes: approved with one amendment M/S/A; Oct financial reports: approved M/S/A with one abstention.

Building and Grounds: Chapel doors: Supplier will replace cracked doors without warranty due to the doors' south-facing orientation. Recommendation: synthetic doors. pricing to follow. Rectory: Dryer replaced, but washer leaks. EUIP donated replacement washer.

Discernment: Bruce Hoffman will be spokesperson for this committee. CDO is public and will be posted on National Episcopal website for 2-4 weeks. Committee met today.

Vestry nominations: Greg Sata (2 year term), Karen Yokoyama, Kay Shishima agree to serve on Vestry starting in January 2011. Kaaren Hoffman is discerning.

Vestry dates: Retreat: Bishop Bruce is available Feb. 19, 9am-3pm for retreat. Meetings: usually 3rd Sunday: 3/20, 4/17, 5/15, 6/12, 7/17, /21, 9/18, 10/16, 11/20, 12/11.

Finance Committee: 2010 Budget: Wadleigh Fund contribution & "Close the Gap" reduced the 2010 deficit significantly; M/S/A to use van sale to balance 2010 budget; Donations: to get tax deductions, all donations must be made out to "St. Mary's", not priest's name; 2011 Budget: Discussion on new rector's salary. M/S/A to include place holders for *Outreach* and *Parish Life*, \$500 for *Christian Education*, \$200 for *Seminary Outreach*, \$1200 for *Rector's Discretionary*; Pledge analysis: Fr Van Horn reports that over 10 years, the number of pledges dropped 45%, while the amount per pledge increased 60%. To find the right priest, he said we may need be prepared to tap Endowment fund to supplement salary.

Old Business: Sakurai Trust: M/S/A any additional monies received from this trust will be deposited into DIT (Endowment Fund); Annual meeting lunch: will be paid by donations from vestry and other church organizations; Hmong seminarian: tabled

New business: Housing allowance: Since it is legal and common for a priest to designate salary as housing, M/S/A to designate 100% of PIC salary as housing allowance; Donation: from Hiro Hishiki's estate M/S/A to use for rector search and move if required.

"DONATE A DAY": DONATE ONE DAY OF YOUR TIME TO ST. MARY'S IN 2011

Volunteer at St. Mary's for a DAY! Please contact the office at St. Mary's or the contact person listed if you would like to be a part of "Donate a Day!" We are only asking for one day out of the year. There are also other activities if those listed below do not interest you. Please sign up on the insert form provided and return it to the church office. Following is a partial list of volunteer positions and descriptions of activities:

Usher for 9:45 service (contact person: Frank Omatsu)

- Greet people, hand out the programs, escort people to a seat, count attendees
- Place padding down before communion, help collect offering
- Clean up the pews and pick up extra programs

(continued next page)

Coffee Host/hostess for 9:45 service (contact person: Kumi Gerber)

- Set up and serve coffee and hot water (coffee maker, coffee, cups, napkins provided)
- Bring refreshments for about 50 people (cookies, pastries, finger sandwiches)
- Element Bearer for the day: present the wine, water and wafers during service

"Age" workshop: Monday, April 18: 9am - 3pm (contact: Irene Yoneshige, Yo Guzman)

- Cook, prepare and package "age"
- Potluck lunch

Manju workshop: Saturday, May 14: 9:30am-3:30pm (contact person: Kazumi Suzuki)

- Make and knead dough, roll "an" balls, wrap dough around "an"
- Bake and package manju
- Potluck lunch

CHRISTMASTIDE THANK YOU

With Christmas season 2010 over, we are grateful to the many people who helped prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Thank you Ruri Miura, Kazumi Suzuki, Faith & Kisa Ichida, Marian Kubota, Toshi Kurihara, Fifi Newcomb, Kumi Gerber and Margaret Yuki for donating treats and stocking stuffers. Many thanks to those who assisted in putting the crèches together, stuffing gift bags, and setting up for the Christmas festival: Kazumi Suzuki, Kazie Higa, Betty Yoshimura, Toshi Kurihara, Faith Ichida, Irene Yoneshige, Yo Guzman, Maxine Yamamoto, Fusa Sugawara, Margaret Yuki, Gayle Kawahara, Fukiko Tauchi and Marian Kubota.

The Altar Guild truly appreciated Carlos Ramirez for moving the tables for our crèche, getting other furnishings from the basement, wiring the Star of Bethlehem over the manger, and taking care of the four dozen poinsettia plants before going on his vacation. A special thank you to M. Shikata family for the five lovely Christmas trees, four of which are living trees, enabling us to enjoy the Christmas spirit all year.

On Christmas Eve, the faithful elves arrived to decorate the church and set up the parish hall for refreshments. Thanks a million George Oshita, Clarence & Maxine Yamamoto, Fukiko Tauchi, Toshi Kurihara, Irene Yoneshige, Yo Guzman, Fusa Sugawara, Kazumi Suzuki, Faith Ichida, Marcy Yuki-Hashimoto, Marian Kubota, Mrs. Glorianne Yamamoto and Margaret Yuki. In appreciation to the volunteers, the Altar Guild ordered a delicious lunch from Shin Peking Restaurant, and Kazumi Suzuki's shortbread cookies and Mrs. Yamamoto's chocolate-covered macadamia nuts from Hawaii added a wonderful sweet ending to our hard work.

After the three kings' arrival, the crèche was carefully packed into boxes by Fusa Sugawara, Marian Kubota, Faith Ichida, Irene Yoneshige, Kazumi Suzuki, Clarence and Maxine Yamamoto, and Margaret Yuki. Until Christmas 2011, many, many thanks to each of you for volunteering your time to benefit St. Mary's. - Margaret Yuki