

Spirit of S·T· M·A·R·Y·S

February 2012 Volume 67 No. 2

The Rev. Anna Olson, Rector
 The Rev. Floyd "Butch" Gamarra, Assistant Priest
 The Rev. Jimmy H. Shiode, Deacon
 The Rev. Canon Richard Van Horn, Priest Assisting

Carl Kubota, Senior Warden
 Gayle Kawahara, Junior Warden
 Emma Coleman, Office Administrator
 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 2012

Special Dates

Wednesday, February 15

6:00pm S. Bay Bible Study: Koyamatsu's

Sunday, Feb 19 (one all-parish service)

9:45am Holy Eucharist (bilingual)
 11:15am Vestry meeting (no 11:45 service)

Wednesday, February 22

12:00pm Ash Wednesday service
 7:00pm Ash Wednesday service

Sunday, February 26

4:00pm Mo. Anna's Installation
 Potluck dinner following

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) except
 Vestry Sunday

Every Saturday

Morning Altar Guild

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St. Mary's Episcopal Church
 961 S. Mariposa Ave.
 Los Angeles, CA 90006

DATED MATERIAL

Clergy Corner . . .



THE RECTOR'S ADDRESS TO THE 2012 ANNUAL MEETING

I start with some thoughts on Faith, Hope and Love, which St. Mary's has identified as the core of its mission. This particular trinity comes from 1 Corinthians 13:13: "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

On Faith: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1). Going forward at St. Mary's, we are going to need our faith. The road ahead is not entirely clear. As we move forward in our mission as an historic Japanese-American church in a changing neighborhood that is currently predominantly Latino and Korean, we will find ourselves "making the road by walking," as the proverb says. We will have to trust that God is already at work among us and among our neighbors, and that our role in that work will become clearer as we pray and move ahead in faith.

On Hope: St. Paul speaks to Easter people—communities that, like ours, live by the light of the Resurrection. In 2 Corinthians 3:12, he writes "Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness." Having hope requires some courage. We have to face the present head on, without giving up on the future. We have to grieve our losses, while affirming that beyond death lies eternal life. We have to face our fears, knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

On Love: 1 John 4:18 reminds us that "perfect love casts out fear." If we get busy with *our* job: loving God and loving our neighbor, God really will do the rest. It requires some discipline to stay focused, and to remember that as a church, and as individuals, love is all we are really here for. It's what the world needs, and it's what we have to offer.

As I "make the road by walking" as your Rector at St. Mary's, I seek to be guided by the Faith, Hope and Love that have defined St. Mary's ministry.

As a newcomer to this community, I can tell you something about what I see:

- A church that has built as solid a foundation as any parish in this Diocese: a foundation of intergenerational commitment, a strong extended family, financial stability and a physical plant with room to expand our ministry.
- A parish that has spent serious time, energy, and resources turning to face the future.
- A community that is grieving – both old wounds and new losses, especially with the passing of a generation that holds so much of the history and memory of this parish.
- A parish that is already significantly multicultural and seeks to be more so, not without some trepidation about what that will mean for the old ways of doing things.
- A neighborhood that desperately needs faith, hope and love, and also has a great deal of faith, hope and love to give.

Thank You . . .

DECEMBER THANK YOUS

Memorial:

BETSY NAKAMURA

Jake Ohara

Fumi Miyatake

M/M James Yoshina

Marian Kubota

M/M Jim Sakabe

M/M Yoshimi Kunitsugu

Penny Cox

M/M Mitsuru Oshita

Esther Lee

Candace Kuwahara

M/M Shig Koyamatsu

M/M Toto Kagawa

M/M Bill Partridge

Stanley Furuta

M/M Neil Yokoyama

M/M Bill Sugawara

Shig Maeno

Fr. Van Horn

IDA, PETER & MICHAEL

AKAHOSHI

Susan Mahoney

BETSY NAKAMURA

Charlene Nakamura

C. Stewart/P. Nishibayashi

LILLIAN INATOMI

Kumi Gerber

BETSY NAKAMA

Robert/Barbara Kay

ANDREW MURASE

SHIG TSUCHIYAMA

Tak Murase

GEORGE SATO

Kenneth Sato

Other Offering:

Valley Crest Companies

Diane Tanaka

Thank Offering:

Thomas/Ruth Kawakami

Fr. Van Horn Discretionary Fund:

Margaret Yuki

Mo. Anna Discretionary Fund:

Kiyo/Kazie Higa

Margaret Yuki

BETSY NAKAMURA

Charlene Nakamura

Fr. Butch Discretionary Fund:

Kiyo/Kazie Higa

Margaret Yuki

Charlene Nakamura

Capital Fund:

BETSY NAKAMURA

Margaret Yuki

LEROY ICHIDA

Alice Suyeoka

Anonymous

Spirit/Yamazaki Garden:

Alice Ito

DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Flowers in memory of:

NAMIE NAKAMURA

KIYOME NAKAMURA

Stanley Nakamura

YOSHIHARU/KONAE SAKABE

M/M Jim Sakabe

RYOJI KAKO

Frances Nishibayashi & family

SUSUMU KOYAMATSU

Koyamatsu family

MOTOKAZU YOKOYAMA

M/M John Yokoyama

Poinsettias in memory of:

J NISHIBAYASHI

S. Nishibayashi/M.D. Hacker

RUBY CHUMAN

Daniel/Paul/Takako Chuman

LOUISE YAMAZAKI

Peter Yamazaki & family

SAKUZAEMON & FUDE WATANABE HEISHI, MINAKICHI

& TSUMA ABE SAKUMA

May Porter

SUEO HIRASHIMA

Yuri Hirashima, Pam/Randy

Hamashita, Brent & Corey,

Barbara Ikegiri & Jeffrey

IDA/PETER AKAHOSHI

Susan Mahoney

ASAE OSHITA

M/M Clarence Yamamoto

Candles in memory of:

ALICE ISHIBASHI

AIKO SAKAMOTO

Kuwa Iwataki

IRMA WYNNE

CORA/WILLARD HOWARD

Lauretta Herndon & family

LOUISE YAMAZAKI

Peter Yamazaki & family

MICHAEL AKAHOSHI

Susan Mahoney

Altar Guild Memorial Fund:

BETSY SAWANO NAKAMURA

Stanley Nakamura & family

YOSHIYE MAE

TOM TOMIYAMA

Amy Yamamoto

GRACE YABUKI

M/M Stan Furuta

TED YONESHIGE

Irene Yoneshige

KIYOE TAUCHI

Fukiko Tauchi

Deceased family & friends

M Shikata & family

AUNTIE MARGARET

John/Fumiko Raynon

AA SOONG

Esther Lee



A big thank you to the elves who came to help set up the crèche and prepare for our Christmas Festival: Faith, Margaret, Tosh, Irene, Betty, Marian, Kazie, Clarence and Maxine Yamamoto and Marcy Yuki-Hashimoto. A lot of work was necessary to prepare for the festival: 50 bags were prepared for Santa and cosmetic procedures were performed on the animals and characters in the Nativity scene. Carlos Ramirez gave up some time from his vacation to wire and strategically place the Star of Bethlehem. The crèche was lovely and enhanced the church pageant and festival.

More thank yous to the angels who spent their Saturday morning, Christmas Eve, to beautify the church and parish hall: Fumi Miyatake, Clarence/Maxine, Faith, Yo, Irene, Fusa Sugawara, Marian, George Oshita and Margaret. After completing their task, the angels enjoyed Krispy Crème donuts (donated by Clarence/Maxine), friendship bread (Margaret) and macadamia nut candy (Gloriann Yamamoto, Faith's mom) with coffee.

A special thank you to Carlos for taking down the star and packing it away prior to the Saturday after the arrival of the wisemen. On Saturday, the following people came to pack up the crèche and Christmas decorations: Yo, Irene, Clarence/Maxine, Marian, Fusa, Margaret and Marcy. Also, thank you Marcy for the delicious cookies and coffee. Again, thank you, mahalo, muchas gracias, arigato to all the helping hands. -- Margaret Yuki

About our members . . .

INTO ETERNAL LIFE

TAKESHI "TAK" HAMAGIWA, 79, passed away suddenly on January 6, 2012 at St. Jude Medical Center. Services were held on January 19 at Cerritos Baptist Church, with burial at Rose Hills Cemetery.

He was predeceased by his wife, Lillian Wong; survived by wife, Keiko; son, Steve (Brenda); daughter, Stacey; brother, Ichiro; sister, Hatsume (Tom) Tsubokawa; stepchildren, Christy (Mike), David, Gregg (Stacy), Garrett (Susan) and Daniel (Carli); grandchildren, great grandchildren; many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

BRUCE SAKAE "SNAP" MORI, 89-year-old Sacramento-born Nisei, passed away on January 16, 2012 in Anaheim. In accordance with his wishes, there will be no service. In lieu of flowers or koden, please give to the charity of your choice.

He was predeceased by his son, Bruce Jun, killed in action in Vietnam, and is survived by his wife, Frances Yuriko; son Brad Ken (Naoko); sister Kimi Shipley; many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

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



Concretely, in 2011, my focus has been on the following:

- Getting to know you, and giving you the chance to get to know me
- Vestry and leadership development
- Team-building and individual development with the staff (what a great staff!)
- Enlivening our worship through attention to music, liturgy and logistics
- Strengthening our fellowship and worship across language and cultural lines
- Learning about St. Mary's history, the Japanese-American experience, and the immediate neighborhood
- Prayer, prayer and more prayer, for you as individuals, for our church, for our future, for our shared ministry

In 2012, here's what we're going to do:

- Feed our souls and strengthen our spirits. As I mentioned above, we're going to need our faith for this journey! This will include ongoing attention to worship and music, as well as strengthening small groups and providing a variety of opportunities for spiritual growth, Bible study and community-building through both traditional and new methods.
- Celebrate together. It's all good to celebrate the past and strive toward our future, but right now we are God's people and God's love for us is real. The present is what we hold in our hands, and we need to make sure we remember to rejoice and give thanks at every opportunity.
- Continue to develop our bilingual worship and fellowship, and strengthen and prepare our Spanish service for growth.
- Strengthen our ministry with children and youth.
- Explore and deepen our relationships in the local community, especially with neighboring Episcopalians. We will continue to worship and work with Trinity Church, discerning ways that we might share resources and strengthen one another as neighbors. The Vestry has accepted Bishop Diane Bruce's invitation to take new steps in getting to know our Korean neighbors and discern how we are called to offer faith, hope and love to the growing Korean community in our neighborhood. In this, we will be part of a larger Diocesan effort to strengthen Episcopal ministry in the Asian immigrant communities that are such a large part of the 21st century scene in Southern California.
- Gather the extended family in May. It won't be Bazaar. Some things are too wonderful to try to replicate in lesser form. But mark your calendars! We're going to do something fun the Sunday after Mother's Day. It will include worship, food, fun, art, entertainment, and a chance to gather the far-flung extended family that is one of St. Mary's great gifts.
- Learn from others who are also "making the road." Other historic Japanese congregations, Christian, Buddhist and other faiths, other churches in multicultural neighborhoods, other efforts from around the country, all have things to teach us about this journey into the unknown.
- Be creative, and let the Spirit guide us! Hang on tight. It's going to be an adventure.

In peace and love, *Mother Anna+*

Upcoming Events . . .

MOTHER ANNA'S INSTALLATION – FEBRUARY 26

The St. Mary's extended family, along with guests from around the Diocese, will gather to formally welcome and install Mother Anna as St. Mary's fifth rector on Sunday, February 26 at 4pm.

After the service there will be a potluck dinner and we are asking people to bring main dishes, salads, appetizers, and finger foods. Cake will be provided by St. Mary's, so it is not necessary to bring dessert. Potluck sign ups will be on Sundays or email the office. The color of the day will be red, so we are encouraging St. Mary's members to wear red.

JAPANESE CONVOCATION EDUCATION/SCHOLARSHIP FUND – FEB 19

The Japanese Convocation is asking for donations for their education/scholarship fund on Sunday, February 19th, which coincides with the National Day of Remembrance (the day Pres. Roosevelt signed EO 9066). Funds raised will be used for education materials we may use at our convocation meetings, helping those without the means or support of their local congregations to attend meetings, and aid for seminary students of Japanese ancestry. Checks can be made to St. Mary's Church and in the memo please write "Japanese Convocation" Thank you for your support. *--Gayle Kawahara*

ASH WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 22) AND LENT

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22. We'll have two services with imposition of ashes: noon and 7pm. Mother Anna will also be out and about offering ashes, as part of a joint neighborhood project with Trinity Church. She'd love to have company, so please be in touch if you're up for an Ash Wednesday neighborhood adventure. Stay tuned also for updates on prayer gatherings in various geographical areas during Lent.



SAVE THE DATES! EAM CONVOCATION JULY 4-8

The EAM Japanese Convocation will be held on July 4-8, 2012 at Camp Mokule'ia, O'ahu, HI, with other activities planned in Honolulu and at Good Samaritan Church. We will be staying in a lodge/cabin setting. We welcome families to come and share this time together, as we will have activities for the entire family. For more info, or if you are interested in attending, please contact Gayle Kawahara 310-516-6184 or gkscdds@sbcglobal.net.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND – JULY 15-25

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land July 15-25 with the Revs. Keith Yamamoto and Pat McCaughan. For more information please go to http://web.me.com/keith.yamamoto/Holy_Land/Pilgrimage/Pilgrimage.html

Parish News . . .

VESTRY CORNER – SR. WARDEN'S 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

This has been a very busy year for the Vestry and a year of transition for St. Mary's. A year that began with much anticipation and uncertainty about our future has transitioned into a time with still much anticipation but with hope for our future.

Our year started with our Rector Search process moving ahead at full speed. The Discernment Committee, led by Bruce Hoffman did an amazing job reviewing all the candidates for rector and presenting their findings to the Vestry. Then the Vestry went to work meeting with the candidates. Being a commuter parish where Vestry members travel anywhere from 13 to 40 miles to get to church, finding the time to meet and interview our rector candidates was a tremendous commitment for the Vestry and I would like to extend a big thank you to each vestry member for their dedication and effort on behalf of St. Mary's. This rush of activity all took place by the end of April culminating with the calling of St. Mary's fifth Rector, The Rev. Anna Olson. I would also like to thank The Rev. Marilyn Omernick who served as our Priest-In-Charge for almost three years for helping St. Mary's through this difficult transition time after the passing of The Rev. Alix Evans.

The vestry is still very busy now but in a different way. With Mo. Anna's help, we have begun to explore and pray about the new paths that the Spirit of God is calling St. Mary's into the future. We have begun looking outward into our local community towards the Spanish speaking and Korean neighbors around us. As stated in our Parish Profile, we made the commitment to grow our Spanish speaking congregation and have begun working new strategies to help this blossom. We also continue to be a presence in the Diocese and National Church as one of the leaders in Episcopal Asiamerica Ministry (EAM) and we have recently hosted several EAM events. With our close relationship to EAM we are also looking at ways to begin connecting with our Korean neighbors.

I believe that the future is bright for St. Mary's and we have a tremendous opportunity to reestablish St. Mary's as a cultural, spiritual and community center for our neighborhood.

■ *Carl Kubota, Sr. Warden*

THANK YOU TO THE CHRISTMAS ANGELS AND ELVES

Everyone knows that the seasons of Advent and Christmas follow Thanksgiving, but somehow in 2011 they snuck up on many of us. First of all, thank you to the following Santa gift bag donors: Toshi Kurihara, Faith Ichida, Kisa Ichida, Bernice Miguel, Irene Yoneshige, Betty Yoshimura, Marian Kubota, Yo Guzman, Kazie Higa, Margaret Yuki, Kazumi Suzuki, Bobbie Higa, Ruri Miura, Kumi Gerber and Michelle Miyatake-Kuruma.