



***Together, the Body of Christ;
Individually, Its Parts” 1***

Corinthians 12:27

JAUC is a Christian community seeking to reach out, especially to Japanese and those who are interested in Japan in the greater New York City area, with the purpose of sharing faith in Christ and growing together in Christian discipleship through worship.

**Since Rev. Yugo Suzuki retired the end of July, there will be no “Pastor’s Message”. The sermons printed in the “Sunday Worship Sermons” section were delivered by guest speakers.*

◇ Sunday Worship Sermons ◇

■ **Sept. 11: Rev. Andrew Yamamoto “Missionary God”**

Genesis 12:1-14 When we know a good restaurant, we want to recommend it to our friends. To tell God’s joyful message to others, that is the meaning of Christian mission. Genesis 12 shows the missionary work of God Himself. In Genesis, chapters. 1 through 12 describe the rebellion of human beings against God. After Chap. 12, the remainder of Genesis and the Bible itself, describes God’s efforts to make human beings return to His side. God promises Abraham that through him all the nations will be blessed, and this promise came true through Christ. The people of Israel, and indeed, we Christians, were elected by God to serve as His messengers, to convey this joyful news to all the world. This mission is a joy for us too. Consider whether Christ is the source of your joy in your hearts. ◆ Revelations 7:9 describes the numerous people, from all nations, gathering in front of God’s throne and offering Him their worship. Throughout history, God is working to bring reconciliation to the world. We are also part of this history and we are invited to work together with Him.

■ **Sept. 18: Rev. Taka Ishii “Forgiveness” Genesis 50:15-21**

Forgiveness is a very important component of Christianity. Because God has forgiven our sins, we must forgive others. Still forgiveness is difficult to practice. If your child is bullied, you feel difficulty in forgiving the bully. It is difficult to forgive criminals; there are many people who insisted that the government should not spend money for prison reform because criminals do not deserve good treatment. ◆ Let us see the story of Joseph. Joseph was hated by his elder brothers, and they threw him into a deep hole to kill him. Joseph was taken by a slave trader of Egypt and went to Egypt. After many tribulations, he became the Prime Minister of the country. Then the land of Joseph’s brothers was struck by famine, and they came to Egypt to seek food, without knowledge that Joseph

was alive and now ruling the country. If you were Joseph, what do you do with the brothers? Will you forgive them, because they are your family? But very often the worst kind of feud breaks out within a family, and once such a conflict starts, it is very difficult to bring reconciliation. ◆ Joseph could forgive his brothers, not because of his brotherly love. When he saw his brothers, Joseph said with tears: “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place?” Since he knew that he could not sit in the place of God, he decided to forgive. This is the true teaching of forgiveness. It is difficult to forgive. However, we must always remember the Cross; we must always place Christ, who died for our sins, in front of us. Let us consider whether we really have the heart to forgive others.

■ **Oct.2: Rev. Taka Ishii “Big Faith and Commitment”**

Luke 17:5-10 What is the greatest problem of today’s Christians? I think that the problem is, we tend to underestimate what the power of our faith can do for our lives and for this world. What are the prior concerns in our lives? The first thing that may come up in our minds may be our salary, status, or hobbies, etc., while we tend to confine our faith into a limited space. ◆ Considering these things, we envy the Apostles. They directly saw Jesus healing the sick, resurrecting the dead, feeding five thousand with small portions of food, and quieting the storm on the sea. They directly experienced that, by following Jesus they could live their days with hope in God. When they asked Jesus “Increase our faith!” (v.5), they expected something big. However, Jesus taught about a small thing: a mustard seed! “If you had faith like a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and be planted in the sea’; and it would obey you.” If faith as small as a mustard seed could bring such a miracle, we must seek bigger faith as we want to contribute to God’s work. ◆ How can we have a big faith? Our faith does not grow automatically even if we are baptized and attend church services. Our faith grows as we serve God daily, do our own work, and work for our Lord even after we finish our work (v.7-v.8). We should not think only about ourselves but also about others. By serving God, Christians give hope to the world. There is no such thing as retirement or graduation in church life. Do you have a determination to serve God throughout your lives? ◆ After we work for the Lord, God prepares a table for us by Himself, and this love is indicated in the Communion. The Communion teaches us how much He loves us. ON this day of the World Communion Sunday, let us remember the love of Jesus Christ and our commitment as Christians.

◇ Church Activity & Schedule ◇

■ **Building Restoration Work Plan** In order to complete the remaining work for Phase 1, the Building Restoration Team has been considering various estimates from the architects. They decided to commission Mr. Alfred Nazari / Sevan Constructor to complete the project. The contents of the works are: (1) To put stucco on the façade of the church; (2) to set the Ansul System (a new fire detection & extinguisher system) in the kitchen, following the Fire Department's regulations; (3) to set emergency signs and lights inside the church; (4) to obtain a "Certificate of Operation" from the city authorities. Once we get a building permit, the above works will be completed within a relatively short period.

■ **Guest Speakers for Sunday Services** The following pastors will speak on Sunday: Oct. 16 - Rev. Takako Terino; Oct. 23 - Rev. Brian Kido. Oct. 30 - Rev. Kei Okada. Rev. Andrew Yamamoto will conduct Christmas service.



■ **Fall Alpha Course**

The Christian Basics course Alpha started Sept. 14 and will end Nov. 30, (13 sessions). The sessions are held every Wednesday, from 7PM. The topics are:

Oct. 12 - "Why and how do I pray?"; Oct. 19 - "How does God guide us?"; Oct. 26 - "Who is the Holy Spirit?"; Oct. 28 - "What does the Holy Spirit do?"; Nov. 2 - "How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?" For further details, contact Ms. Rika Marubashi Downs.

■ **Fujinkai** At the September meeting of Fujinkai (Sept. 18), Ms. Kaori Ichikawa shares her painful spiritual journey and explained how God granted her the Grace to reconcile with her mother, with whom had been alienated for many years. At the October meeting (Oct. 16, from 1:30PM), Dr. Takumi Fukunaga will come as a guest and introduce several daily exercises to maintain good health.

■ **Praise Meeting (by Ms Chizuko Imado)** We had a praise time program after worship on September 25th. This praise time was planned to worship our God by singing praises to Him. Although it was short notice, about 15 people joined. We sang 12 contemporary worship songs and we hope that everybody enjoyed. We thank Ms. Naoko Aita, our Music Director, for accompanying us on the piano. We have not scheduled this as a regular event, but we would like to continue to have such a blessed time. All volunteers who would like to lead worship, play instruments or select songs and anthems are welcome. Please let me (Ms. Imado) know if you are interested.

■ **Movie Nights** There is a plan to hold several movie nights at JAUC between October and January. The Details will be announced later.

■ **Zamzam's Picture** Since this spring, the Fujinkai has been supporting a girl named Zamzam in Tanzania through World Vision. We recently received her new photo and profile sheet. They are posted on the bulletin board of the social hall.

■ **Church Library** One copy of the photo DVD of the "Discovery Children's Camp 2011" was donated to the JAUC Church Library by Rev. Jun Yoshimatsu. Before moving, Rev. Yugo Suzuki also donated a dozen books. Recently the Library purchased two English books: Elisabeth Elliot's *A Chance to Die: The Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael* and Mother Teresa's *In the Heart of the World*.

◇ Aishukai Retreat ◇

Our annual retreat Aishukai will be held at the Warwick Retreat Center from Saturday, Oct. 8, to Sunday, Oct. 9. The theme of the retreat is "What is to be a Christian?" Based on Lord's Prayer, Romans 12:1, and other Scripture verses, we will consider: (1) As Christians, our whole lives are a spiritual act of worship; (2) As Christ Himself states in John 15, we can do nothing unless we abide in Christ; (3) By relying on God's Grace, we can be used as His instruments and bear much fruit. We will not invite a guest speaker, but Rev. Taka Ishii will join us for part of the Saturday evening program. There will be a campfire with marshmallows. ♦ There will be no worship service at JAUC on Oct. 9. If you are not able to join us for Aishukai, please attend the Sunday service at your local church. Copies of the list of the recommended churches are available in the social hall.

◇ Church Members & Friends ◇

■ **Mr. Motoi's Book!** Mr. Keijiro Motoi published his book *Columbus and the Caribbean Sea* from Bungei-sha Publisher. The book is sold at Kinokuniya bookstore in Manhattan. The e-version is also available in: www.boon-gate.com (500 yen)

■ **Celebration of Marriage!** The wedding of Ms. Yukiko Tanaka, baptized at JAUC, currently a member of Redeemer, and Mr. Milen Pablov was on Aug. 20. A celebration gathering for the couple was held at JAUC on Sept. 17. After some questions for the couple (For example: Q-"Where did they meet each other for the first time?" A-"a Salsa dance class."), Yukiko, a pianist, played "A Maiden's Prayer."

■ **Correction** In the previous newsletter article about the wedding of Ms. Naomi Mikami and Mr. Takumi Fukunaga, the name of Ms. Kaoru Kobayashi, who arranged flowers for the

ceremony, was missing. Ms. Kobayashi decorated the sanctuary and the social hall with flowers for the wedding.

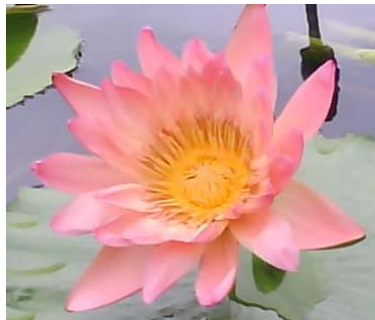
◇ Local Church Network ◇

VIP Meeting At the VIP Meeting on Sept. 12, Rev. Akio Iyoda shared the story of how he was called to be a messenger of the Gospel. Though Rev. Iyoda went to JAUC's Sunday School and summer camp during his childhood, he later left church life. However, he started going to the English ministry program of a Korean Church, because his wife was a Korean Christian and he wanted to teach his child Korean culture. In 2006, he went on a short mission trip to Kenya through the church, and there, as he read the story of the demoniac man healed by Jesus (Mark 5), something touched his heart. In this story Jesus tells the man "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you." According to Rev. Iyoda, he felt as if these words were "burning." He reached the conclusion that perhaps God was telling Him to spread the Gospel to the Japanese, he decided to take Christian classes in school. At first he wanted to continue his business, but God decisively closed that option. Despite the many difficulties he experienced during the first period of his missionary work, he has determined to live as a messenger of Christ. ◆ At the VIP Meeting on October 10, Rev. Jun Yoshimatsu will talk about the faith expressed in the European masterpieces such as Rembrandt and Van Gogh. ■ **Rev. Takako Terino** Rev. Takako Terino, who started her work as the SMJ (Special Ministries to the Japanese) Director in August, will be ordained at the Brick Presbyterian Church in Upper West Manhattan on Oct. 23. ■ **SMJ Lecture Series** SMJ will hold a lecture series "What happened after the Bible – Part 2" by Dr. Paul and Dr. Yasuko Grosjean on Oct. 29 and Dec. 3, from 10AM. The lectures, delivered in English with Japanese translation, will cover the religious history of Europe since the fall of Rome to the Reformation. It will be held at Tenafly Presbyterian Church (55 Magnolia Ave., Tenafly, NY). For further inquiry: Mr. Junsuke Motai (junmotai@gmail.com) or Rev. Takako Terino (smjdirector@gmail.com) ■ **Rev. Yoko Asada** Rev. Yoko Asada, who was appointed as the interim pastor of The Union Japanese Church in Westchester, obtained her visa and arrived in NY on Sept. 8.



◇ From JAUC History ◇

The Japanese Christian Institute, one of the three original churches of JAUC, was publishing weekly newsletters called *The Progress*, with the messages of Rev. Sojiro Shimizu. Even



today, these messages leave strong impressions in our minds. Here is one example: "**Let us fix our eyes on Jesus**" **Hebrews 12:1-2** Those who do not know God have only four directions in their lives: North, south, east, and west. Therefore, when

suffering and tribulations come from these directions, they immediately lose their way and fall into despair. These people live in the world with only one dimension; they may believe that they are making progress, but in reality they are just going around the same place again and again. However, Christians have the direction "above" in addition to the four directions, and this is a hidden source of power for true believers. Remember Paul's words: "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed." (2 Corinthian 4:8). The foundation of this faith is Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for us, and fixing our eyes to Him is the only way given by God to overcome sufferings in this world. (January 28, 1946)

◇ Prayer Requests ◇

Please remember the following people in your prayers: The sufferers of the Earthquake in Japan, Rev. Barbara Alexander, Hisayo Asai, Michiko Gorman, Yuko Ito, Toshio Iwasa, Rev. Arthur and Mrs. Lily Kamitsuka, Yone Kanzaki, Sue Kubo, Harry Kuwada, Fumiko Matsumoto, George Mukai (Bayside), Tazuko Hosaka, Ai Oguchi (Westminster Japanese Church), Hisako Okuda, Akira Yamazaki (Ms. Horiuchi's brother), George and Kimi Yuzawa

JAUC Small Group Ministry

Small Group is the JAUC program for church members' spiritual growth. Through fellowship in a group, we will think and share how we can live as Christians in our daily lives. You may join one of the small groups below which can / you expect to meet your need(s).

- SG1. Bilingual Women's Group: 2nd & 4th Saturdays 1pm at Sonoda's
- SG2. Japanese Women's Group: 2nd Tuesdays 11am at Kusakabe's
- SG3. Bilingual Men's Group: 2nd & 4th Sundays 9:30 at JAUC (Kusakabe)
- SG4. Japanese Small Group: 2nd Sundays 2pm at JAUC (Kasuga)
- SG5. "The Vine" Japanese: 4th Sundays 2pm at JAUC (Kobayashi)
- SG6. "Testimony & Prayer Meeting": Last Friday 7pm at Sagae's
- SG7. English Small Group: 3rd Sundays 1:30pm at JAUC (Yoshida)