

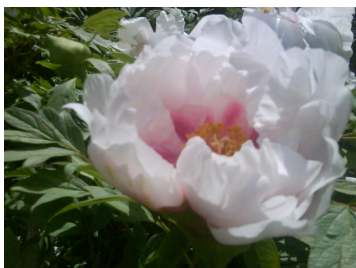


Together, the Body of Christ; Individually, Its Parts-
“Corinthians 12:27”

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, fellowship, study, evangelism and mission.

◆ Pastor's Message ◆

On May 31 there was a joint memorial service held with the Buddhist church at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Students from the Japanese schools in NJ and NY were in attendance. I was one of the invited speakers. My speech went along the following line. ◆”Today is Memorial Day. As you know, the word memorial comes from memory. Memory is different from time. Whereas time past never comes back, memory returns many a time. Whereas time is measured quantitatively in terms of length, memory is measured qualitatively in terms of depth. ◆The quality of human life depends on what kind of memory one values in one’s life. Imagine you are on your deathbed and reflecting on your entire life. What memory would you cherish as the most determinant element of your life? Would it be, “How much money have I made?” Would it be, “How high a social status have I reached?” Would it be, “Have I been well liked and popular?” I guess not. ◆I believe your question to yourself on your deathbed is this: How much have I loved and how much have I been loved? The most important memory that determines the quality of your life is love. Love is what binds human beings together. Love is what makes human life truly human. Truly worthwhile life is a product of our efforts to make love as our most important memory of life.” ◆The students were quite attentive to my speech despite the strong sun and oppressive heat. After the service, a young mother came to thank me. She said, “My son listened very carefully with me to your words. You made us stop and think. I appreciate that very much.” ◆On the last Memorial Day, I was reminded afresh that love is what binds us humans together. Love is what makes our human life truly human. Love is what makes us stop and think.



◆ Sunday Worship Sermons ◆

■May 30th “Two Kinds of Hope” Romans 5: 1-5 Paul writes to the Christians in Rome, “We know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance produces character, and character produces hope. Hope does not disappoint us.” Our Lord Jesus does not promise us the material comforts and splendor of this world, but the hope to live in this troubled world as conscientious, honest, and authentic human beings. ◆And yet, this hope, empowering and liberating though it, does not free

us from nagging questions that constantly trouble us. So with Job, we cry out, “Why do the righteous suffer and the unrighteous prosper?” As Jeremiah, “Why are you silent when the innocent are victimized by the arrogant?” We need another kind of hope. And Jesus gives it to us which is that in God’s own time, all our tears will be wiped away and that our suffering and pain will receive complete healing, and death will be no more. This is the hope for eternal life. We cannot describe in detail what eternal life looks like because it belongs only to God. All we have is God’s promise. That is enough. So we are given two kinds of hope. 1) the hope to live in this world as children of light. 2) the hope for eternal life in which death, tears, and suffering will be no more. This is what Paul meant when he said, “Hope does not disappoint us.”

■June 6th “God’s Smile” Matthew 6:25-34 Jesus said to his disciples, “Do not be anxious.” We wonder, because we are living in a world where so much goes wrong. When I was a young boy, I attended a summer camp sponsored by the YMCA. One afternoon, we forgot to anchor our boat. Next morning we found the boat floating in mid lake without an anchor. Apart from faith in Christ, our visible world looks like that anchorless boat. ◆Jesus is saying to us that our visible world, however dark and however forlorn it seems, is nevertheless surrounded and sustained by the invisible world. We are living not only in this visible world, but we are also living in the invisible world. Imagine your bedroom that is dark and musty, and yet, at the same time, your room is surrounded by the sunshine that is warm and bright. ◆When our eyes are open to this truth, we will not be overcome by the sad reality of our visible world. God always provides us with a possibility to be reflections of the invisible world. Let us remember. Our entire history of sobs and cries of pain meets God’s tender smile that lifts us up. It never fades away no matter what. Therefore, do not be anxious.

◆ Repairs to Church Building ◆

In order to formulate a solid plan for a repair of the JAUC building, the Building Repair Team is holding meetings in weekly basis. The first necessary step is to ask professional engineer to inspect our building and list up all the places which need repair. The Team has already had interviews with several engineers, and we are considering which engineer we should choose. ◆Since this repair will become a major project which needs considerable amount of money and time, cooperation of each church member is essential. The Board of Directors decided to have a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 27, from 12:50 to report the present condition of the project and to ask the congregation to approve the expense for inspection. For the details, please check the invitation letter. ◆ If you are interested in this project, please contact the Church Office for details. The co-chairs for this team are Mrs. Elizabeth Suzuki and Mrs. Rika Downs.

◇ Summer Camp and Retreat ◇

■ **Children Summer Camp 2010:** The bilingual “Discovery Camp” will be held at Camp Quinipet on Shelter Island from July 25 to August 6. The Camp director is Rev. Masahiko Sagara of the Union Japanese Church.

■ **2010 East Coast Family Camp:** The 2010 East Coast Japanese Church Family Camp will be held at Ellenville, NY, from Saturday, Sep. 4, to Monday, Sep. 6. The guest speaker will be Rev. Hiroshi Sakakibara, the famous pastor and director of World Vision Japan, widely known through his TV evangelism. Leading Christian Musician Mr. Makoto Iwabuchi will also attend. There will be simultaneous English translation for those who do not speak Japanese. This is a very rare occasion when hundreds of Japanese Christians living in the US gather and praise God together. Please join! The secondary deadline for reservations is July 11. Please check the details of the Camp brochure, available at JAUC. Additional News: Mr. Iwabuchi is planning to have a concert at JAUC on Sep. 7. Do not miss this special event!

◇ Church Members News ◇

■ **Memorial Service of Mary Yamada:** The memorial service of our beloved sister Mary Yamada, who had passed away in April, was held at JAUC on May 30, from 2pm. During the service, Mr. Michael Miyasato (Mary’s nephew), Ms. June Goldberg, and Ms. Sayoko Yoshida delivered touching eulogies and shared their memories regarding the amazing life and character of Mary, who always kept a positive attitude toward life. ◆ From Mr. Miyasato’s eulogy: “Yes, up to the very end she [Mary] seemed to be in a positive, happy mood. And I truly believe that she is in heaven looking down on us and saying: ‘I am up here in heaven thanking God for giving me a very fulfilling and happy life. Also, thank you all for making my life a happy one! Now don’t worry about me, I am OK. Now, you all go out and enjoy life to the fullest. I did!’”

◇ Church Activity News ◇

■ **Summer Schedule:** July 5: Study group led by Rev. Suzuki for Japanese pastors and theological students at Social Hall, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. ◆ August 12: Speech by Dr. Shigeaki Hinohara, the director emeritus of St. Luke Hospital, Tokyo. Time and topic will be announced later. ◆ August 29: Sermon by Dr. Yasuo Furuya, emeritus professor of International Christian University. Sermon title: Christian Nurture

■ **Schedule Change for Small Group Meetings:** The Bilingual Women’s Group meeting (SG1) is held basically on 2nd and 4th Saturday. However, the schedule is subjected to changes. If you want to attend the group meeting, please contact the coordinator Ms. Eika Clarke beforehand and check whether there is any schedule change.

■ **Visit of Dr. Shigeaki Hinohara:** Dr. Shigeaki Hinohara, the director of St. Luke (Sei-loka) Hospital in Tokyo and a well-known Christian author, will visit NY in August. There is a plan to have a talk at JAUC. A more definite schedule will be formalized later, so please follow the updates.

■ **Fujinkai Bazaar:** Fujinkai held a bazaar at JAUC on Sunday, June 20, from 2pm, and about \$1,300 was raised. Funds will be donated to both the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund and JAUC’s building repairs. Thank you for supporting this event!

■ **VIP Meeting:** The June VIP meeting was held at JAUC on June 14, and Rev. Hirokazu Matsuoka shared his interesting life which was completely changed by Christ – He had been a devout Buddhist monk, but he converted to Christianity and became an ardent pastor!

■ **JCFN Conference:** The JCFN (Japanese Christian Fellowship Network)’s Central Conference was held in Judson University during the end of May, and four JAUC members attended. The purpose of this retreat was to learn and consider what God’s Will means to us and how it works in our lives. The main guest speaker was Rev. Tetsuya Fukusaku, the pastor of Vancouver Japanese Gospel Church.

■ **Church Library:** Our friends Mr. and Mrs. Kazuo Ito (now living in San Francisco) visited JAUC on June 13 and donated a CD of Kumi-Ko, a Japanese Christian singer.

■ **Church Music:** Thanks to a very generous gift from Suzuko Kern in memory of her husband, Larry, we now have 50 new United Methodist English hymnals. We have been using these during the 10:30 Praise Time and would like to use them for all our worship services. However, we need more. ◆ The red hymnals we are using were published in 1966. They have served us well for years but many are in shabby condition, and that edition can no longer be purchased. It is now out of print. The new hymnal is a very good devotional resource and has more hymns, which can be paired with our Japanese hymns. ◆ Our goal is to have a total of 125 new hymnals. Why? We anticipate using them for 20 years or more, and need enough for our congregation to grow. We also encourage members to purchase a copy to use at home. ◆ We invite all members and friends to give one or more new hymnals to JAUC. The cost for one hymnal is \$25. They can be given ‘In Memory of ...,’ ‘In Honor of ...’ or ‘To the Glory of God.’ Please make checks payable to JAUC with a notation on the memo line, “for new hymnal.”



■ **Guest speaker Rev. Christian Zebley & Alpha Celebration** Come and meet the Alpha graduates of Spring 2010 on Saturday, July 17th from noon. Schedule: lunch from noon, introduction of Alpha graduates, the message from 1:30pm, refreshments from

The Japanese American United Church, Vol. 60, July & August 2010

2:30pm (provided by Alpha Team) ◆ **NYC Getting Started Day of Training for Alpha, ESOL Alpha and Marriage Course:** Date: Saturday, July 17th from 10:00am to 6:00pm, Place: Trinity Baptist Church, 250 East 61st Street, New York, NY, Fee: Individual \$35, Group \$30, Student \$25pp, Day of Rate \$40pp (lunch, drinks and snacks are provided) Registration is required. More info: please contact Rika M. Downs: rikamdesign@gmail.com

■ **Haruyama Scholarship Fund:** On June 17th, Haruyama Scholarship Committee was held by 8 members including Rev. Suzuki. Eight seminarians applied for the scholarship, and the Committee decided that four should be awarded \$1,000 and remaining four were awarded \$500 this year.

◆ Prayer Requests ◆

Please remember the following people in your prayers: Roberto Acevedo, Jayne Arbon (Mrs. Kasuga's daughter-in-law), Michiko Gorman, Yuko Ito, Toshio Iwasa, Yone Kanzaki, Sue Kubo, Noriko Kumada, Seika Liu, Fumiko Matsumoto, Minako Noma, Ai Oguchi (from Westminster Japanese Church, Atlanta GA), Hisako Okuda, Despina Prodromidis (Ms. Hogan's daughter), Junji Yoshida

◆ My Favorite Bible Verses! ◆

■ **Ms. Naoko Aita** "My favorite scripture is Matthew 11:28-30. Every time I read this passage, the tear wells up in my eyes. This is passage makes me realize that the lord is my comforter: 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'"

■ **Ms. Kaori Ichikawa** 2 Corinthians 12:9-10: "And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.'" Psalm 42:1: "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God." Psalm 42:11b: "Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God." Romans 8:34: "Christ Jesus ... who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us." John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son..."

Receipt & Expense Report	May	Y-T-M
Receipt	71,607	92,124
Pledges	28,214	28,744
Other offering	18,506	12,721
Fund Transfer	18,599	43,643
Interest & Dividend	6,288	7,016
Expense	65,440	95,600
Net Income	6,167	-3,176