

Crystal Springs United Methodist Church



Spirit

Winter 2017 –2018

Pastor: Rev. Hee-Soon Kwon
Contributors: The People of Crystal Springs Church
Editor: Laura Johnson
Web Site: www.csumchurch.com

2145 Bunker Hill Drive
San Mateo, CA 94402
(650) 345-2381
E-mail: crystalspringsumc@gmail.com

Pastor's Corner

Dear Family of Crystal Springs,

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40: 31)

As we reflect on the continuing of our ongoing ministries to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” that touch the lives of women, men, and children, with which we experience through this church, we are mindful of the many who faithfully lead us. However, we both, clergy and laity, require constant renewing of the spirit of God; and because of God’s grace, those who work in God’s ministry find the empowering energy demanded. As we come to report on the ministries of the past year, let us begin with thanksgiving for the renewal of strength, which God provides along the journey.

We seek to become an authentic community with open minds and open hearts. Throughout the past year, we have gone through another amazing and blessed year. As a Church, we continue to function well. As we begin to think how God challenges us, now and for the future, we continue to listen to God’s small voice and calling, with spiritual discernment and faithfulness to carry out our ministry in a valuable way. When we reflect on continued programs, ministry, and community service, this congregation provided many years of faithful service to this particular area. Thank you to all who witnessed and served in this particular time of our ministry.

The two themes, which enable us to be faithful in our time, are Stewardship and Mission. They have been around for a long time, however, especially in today’s world, I am not sure we know what they mean. It is clear to me that our ministry will continue to be strong if we seek God’s direction for us, commit our time and resources to

that work, and seek others to join us in the journey.

Because of that belief, I challenge all of you to pray, meditate and study more, to develop more appropriate stewardship programs for the time, and reach out to the unchurched in the community with more creative invitations to join us in our ministry. I work with committees, to think of ways to respond to this challenge. Stewardship and Mission—Caring, Nurturing, Reaching Out, Social Justice & Spirituality—these already developing programs are appropriate to our needs as well as to the community. The Church offers more new opportunities for study, prayer, and meditation. Your leadership is attempting to offer these ministries. We urge more of you to become involved in these ministries, with open minds and open hearts.

I am very proud and amazed at our spirit of commitment as a small congregation. At the same time, I have appreciated our unique and creative spirit which has allowed us to serve our community well. I pray that God continues to show us the way, and let us continue to sense the presence of the Holy Spirit among us as we go. I look forward to continuing our journey together.

Pastor Hee-Soon



New Treasurer

Jenny Franklin has stepped down as the church’s treasurer. We thank her for 7 years of devoted service as treasurer, from January 2011 to September 2017. Many thanks to Jenny for working so hard behind the scenes!

Andy Coltart will be the new church treasurer. We are grateful for Andy as he will take care of the church’s finances.

Christmas Schedule



- 12/3 1st Sunday of Advent Service (10:00 am)
 Advent Puppet Show for children (10:00 am)
- 12/9 (Sat.) Family Christmas Party
 Potluck, Making Ornaments, and
 Christmas Tree Decorations) (6:00 pm)
- 12/10 2nd Sunday of Advent Service
 Christmas Music Celebration (10:00 am):
 Advent Puppet Show for children
- 12/16 (Sat.) Christmas Play: “The Star in the Night” (8:00 pm) and Reception
- 12/17 3rd Sunday of Advent Service (10:00 am): Advent Puppet Show for children:
- 12/24 (Sun.) Christmas Eve Sunday Service (10:00 am): Advent Puppet Show for children
- 12/24 (Sun.) Christmas Eve Candlelight service and Children’s program (7:00 pm)
- 12/25 (Mon.) Merry Christmas!
- 12/31 (Sun.) New Year’s Eve Service 11:30 pm (Tongan & English Bilingual Service)
- Presents for Jesus’s Kids: Toys and Coats Drive (11/26-12/10)
 —These gifts will go to Samaritan House

Crystal Springs United Methodist Church Christmas Music Sunday

December 10th at 10:00 am

Crystal Springs UMC Choir Directed by Bill Alley

Pianists: Diane Musgrave, Jonathan Wing

Instrumental Soloists: Gale Edwards, James Dunning

Please join us for refreshments in the Fireside Room following the service.





FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY & HAM DINNER

**Saturday, December 9, 6–8 PM
In the Fireside Room**

Everyone is Invited!

**Come join us at Crystal Springs United Methodist Church
for dinner and an evening of Christmas Crafts
Make an ornament for the sanctuary Christmas Tree.**

Please bring a dish to share

We will be making photo Christmas ornaments, all materials supplied.

I have photos of our Sunday School children and most of the congregation; but if you have a special photo or picture you want, just bring it with you! The photo should be about 2.5 x 2.5 to fit the space.

Presents for Jesus's Kids

Toys and Coats Drive



Please bring unwrapped toys and coats for children (ages 0 to 17) and place them in the barrel.

The drive is from November 26th to December 10th, 2017.

These gifts will go to Samaritan House for children in need.

DEDICATE A POINSETTIA

In Memory or in Honor of:



No. of Poinsettias _____ @ \$10 each = \$ _____

CASH _____ CHECK _____

Donator(s):

*Please put this form with your payment into the offering basket. Please write "Poinsettia" on the memo line of your check.



TV Donation

Joy Eaton recently donated a Samsung 50" Smart TV to the church. It was funded by Todd Wees's Memorial Fund. We are excited that the TV will be used for many special occasions and the congregation will enjoy it!

Support Group for Caregivers

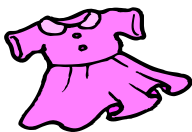
Taking care of a family member is sometimes difficult. Communication with others that have had similar experience can help. Our support group meets every 3rd Monday at the Crystal Springs Church at the bottom of Bunker Hill Drive, 2:00–4:00 PM in the Fireside room. A caregiver is available to take care of your loved one while we talk. Our goal is to assist you in finding help, equipment and support.

In addition to the monthly meetings, we send information about available classes and helpful caregiving tips by e-mail.

Dianne Weitzel 867-7298, kona_caves@juno.com

Sewing Machine Donated

Veronica Fern, a friend from the Highlands neighborhood, generously donated a sewing machine (model Bernina 1010) for the sewing group, Making Little Dresses for Africa.



Little Dresses for Africa

The Third Thursday, 1–4 p.m.

Join Linda Litz to make dresses for children in Africa. You don't have to know how to sew to help.



Rex Castell hosted this past Fall GGRO Concert. It had an autumn theme: "Harvest."

Welcome to Loretta and Alexander Fukofuka

Loretta Fukofuka and her son Alexander Fukofuka came to Crystal Springs UMC through Nia Orecchia, Loretta's aunt. Loretta grew up in Hayward and is originally from Tonga. In 1985, Loretta, her parents and her six siblings immigrated to the United States from Tonga. Loretta works as a caregiver. And, her hobbies are taking pictures, making collages, and creating photobooks for her friends.

Loretta has one son, Alexander, who is 9 years old and in the 4th grade. Alexander loves sports, especially rugby.

One thing Loretta would like for everyone to know about her that is interesting is she likes to volunteer and help people.

Welcome to Loretta and Alexander! And, congratulations on Alexander's baptism on November 12th.



Welcome to Paul and Amy Jaw

Paul and Amy Jaw came to Crystal Springs UMC through the church website. They are both from Taiwan. The two met during college at Taiwan Theological College. They moved to the US in 1973 where Paul attended three schools: Lexington Theological Seminary, Calvin Theological Seminary, and Drew University.

Paul and Amy lived in New Jersey for most of their lives. Paul served as a UMC pastor in New Jersey for 38 years. They recently retired and moved to California.

They have three children: Karen (41 years old), Timothy (39 years old), and Christine (37 years old). They also have four grandchildren: Henry (7 years old), Mabel (5 years old), Layla (2 years old), and Erol (8 months old).

Paul enjoys volunteering at local churches, singing in the choir, and filling in where the church needs are. Amy enjoys playing the organ and used to be the music director in New Jersey at the church where Paul was serving as a pastor.

Welcome to Paul and Amy!



Welcome to Gem and Ida Paloma

Gem and Ida Paloma came to Crystal Springs UMC after Ida saw the church sign on her way to Safeway. They came to the Highlands neighborhood in August 2017 after living in Daly City for three years. They originally immigrated from the Philippines in 2013.

Gem is a caregiver in the San Mateo Highlands area, and has been doing this for two years.

Gem and Ida met through Ida's sister and together they have four children and four grandchildren. Their children's names are Joy (39), Cyrus (38), Zen (37), Geofrel (35). And, their grandchildren's names are Erin (13), McZeal (13), Alexis (3), and Alexa (2).

Some things Gem and Ida would like people to know about themselves is: Gem likes to sing, plant and garden. Ida likes to cross-stitch and sew. She also loves people, especially children and is adventurous, enjoys traveling from place to place.

Welcome to Gem and Ida!





Steve's View

All of us have a physical flaw or a personal behavior or both that we would rather not have that we battle all our lives. My physical flaw is kidneys that, for some reason, were susceptible to an autoimmune disease called IGA. IGA eventually will destroy the functions performed by the kidneys.

The symptoms of the disease showed up when I was a kid. Protein in the urine is an indicator of problems and once in a while this symptom showed up and then disappeared again. This did show up when I first entered the Navy and the doctors ran numerous tests, but thought that I just had a urinary tract infection and just put me on antibiotics. Had they thought I had IGA I probably would have been discharged. I continued to be treated for the infection off and on over the next two years when my time was up and I went to work for Proctor and Gamble. They too picked it up and again I was off to another nephrologist. He basically ran more tests and again treated me for infection.

I was beginning to learn that doctors' knowledge of kidneys is limited. In any case, P&G accepted me so I again dodged a bullet and I ended up working there for 30 years, eventually spending most of that time here in South San Francisco at Folger's Coffee. I continued to have visits with various doctors to follow up. By the 80s my doctor knew that the problem was not an infection at that point, but something more serious. My engineering training led me to plot the creatinine level in my blood. I could tell that I was slowly increasing the level, which was not a good thing.

By the late 80s, the doctor had tried various medications like prednisone to slow the kidney decline without any success. So he did a biopsy and diagnosed the IGA disease. By late 1994 I had to do something, as the kidneys were in poor condition.

My lovely wife was found to be a match and in early 1995 I received one of her kidneys. This kept me going until about two years ago when her kidney started to go downhill. Several weeks ago the decision was made (probably a little late) to put me on dialysis. I've done three weeks of this in 3.5 hour sessions three times a week and will need to continue.

Now this is a major life-changing event. I am tied to a machine. In fact, without the help of the cleansing machine used for dialysis, I would just fade away. Not a comforting thought, but just something I have to deal with. My hope is that the artificial kidney being developed at UCSF may be ready for trial next year. The artificial kidney will be a God-send for lots of people—if it works.

During the period I was fighting the early stages of the disease and during the period with the transplanted kidney I had numerous problems associated with the disease and the transplanted kidney. First, when I was put on fairly high doses of prednisone I developed internal bleeding, which is a possible

(continued on last page)



Crystal Springs Players

Rex found an old award winning short film from about 1945 called "Star in the Night" that would make a good play. So

Rex has written a play script based on the movie and will try to get people to put on the play this Christmas on December 16. The play takes place out west and mimics the Christmas story. He is currently working on getting a cast.

The movie is on the internet, for those who would like to look at it. It's about 20 minutes long. —Steve Schlichter

Thanks to Nia

Thank you Nia for your flower ministry. The sanctuary looks beautiful with the flowers you decorate it with. You have dedicated flowers almost every Sunday this year, and we are grateful. May God bless you!



Join us for Masterworks' Festive Holiday Concert & Market

Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 4:00 P.M.

Add sparkle to your holiday with our festive program!

Harken to the rousing spiritual, "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow," the heartwarming "Winter Wonderland" and "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year." Enjoy hauntingly beautiful settings of "Ave Maria" by Franz Biebl and Gustav Holst, as well as the shimmeringly harmonic "Lux Aurumque" and "Lux Nova" by Eric Whitacre. Do join us in singing carols!

After the concert, savor our traditional cookie buffet, and jump on your holiday shopping at our local artisan craft market (also open from 3—4 p.m.). Don't miss the fun!

**Congregational Church of San Mateo
225 Tilton Avenue, San Mateo**

**Tickets: \$30 advance purchase/ \$35 at the door/
\$10 with student ID**

www.masterworks.org/ 650.918.6225

STEWARDSHIP

Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service

Prayers



Renado Salomon, Sarah Crane, Sister Atonian, Ian Mackenzie, Bill, Carl, Karen G., Ivoni and Susana, Steve Schlichter, Dianne Weitzel & Family, Raj, Glen Campbell, Baby Frances, Princess Taone & Family, Mindy Spitz, Eric Vereyken, Genevive Poteat, Nijay & Cynthia, Becky Cuthbert, Felisita & Family, Lisa Anderson, Ana Manistisa, Chris Flores, Papa Dosslin, Linda Litz, Helen Kim, Sharon & Joe Garcia Family, Bob & Jenny, Jamie & Eric, Epi & Family, Happy & Family, Potts Family, Anthony H., William Orecchia & Family, Kelly, Lois Scott, Lillian Boyles, Florence Chan, Frank Saelua, Kate Musgrave, Laura Peterhans and the family of Mike Peterhans, Fergusons, Flints, Don Diehl, Esther Kim, Middle East, Our Troops, Our Government, Kurdish people, North Korea, Refugees, Syria, Turkey, Victims of Natural Disasters, the Immigrants, Venezuela, Sierra Leone, Charlottesville, VA, Barcelona, Spain, DACA, Florida, Carribean, Gulf Coast, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Victims of Fire and Natural Disasters.

Please! Use the Buckets!

At each door at the end of each service, you'll find a small bucket (small so you can fill it!). The idea is to bring your pocket change to church to put into the buckets for Apportionments. While "small change" will in no way pay our Apportionments, it will go a long way toward reminding us of our share of Apportion-Meant for others.

Samaritan House needs: disposable diapers, baby food, nonperishable foods, personal hygiene products, toys, games, blankets, towels, used automobiles and trucks in good condition. Put food, etc. in the barrel in the Fireside Room.

Presence

Attendance at church
service
(Morning/ Tongan After-
noon Service)

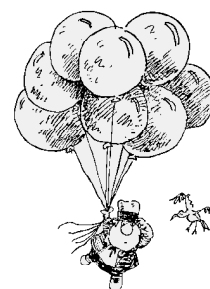
9/3	38	10/22	70
9/10	38/16	10/29	39/18
9/17	39	11/5	36
9/24	48/20	11/12	75
10/1	35		
10/8	39/18		
10/15	40		

Our Purpose

To be a caring Church family that nurtures creative spiritual growth within ourselves and the community.

December, January, February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Dec. 2	Emily Humke	Jan. 19	Becky Cuthbert
Dec. 3	Sivale Saelua	Jan. 25	Ingrid Humke
	Wally & Carrie Rutherford (A)	Jan. 27	Jim & Ineke Bolander (A)
Dec. 12	Matt Rodney		Johanna Anton
Dec. 17	Connie Mobley-Ritter	Jan. 29	Johanna Norman
Dec. 18	James Paquette	Jan. 30	Hee Soon Kwan
	Conor & Laura Johnson (A)	Feb. 1	Cheryl Pierson
Dec. 24	Kurt Schlichter	Feb. 9	Roland Bunch
Dec. 25	Nicky Mobley-Ritter		John McEvoy
Dec. 28	Karl Pope	Feb. 10	Angela Bunch
Dec. 31	Steve Schlichter	Feb. 17	Jim Bolander
Jan. 1	India Gay	Feb. 18	Joy Eaton
Jan. 2	Eric Humke	Feb. 21	Robert Garcia
Jan. 15	Foa Mafile'o	Feb. 27	Bob Franklin
Jan. 18	George & Jeanette Hobbs (A)	Feb. 29	Jeff & Marsi Riley



(Steve, from page 6)

side effect. That resulted in two hospital stays. The source of the bleeding was never found, after many tests, of course, but the bleeding stopped.

Now, when you receive a transplant like this, you have to take immunosuppressants to keep the kidney from rejecting. This is good thing, but the bad news is that it does suppress the immune system, making you a potential target for all sorts of bugs. The other thing that it does is slowly ruin the kidney it is supposed to protect. Eventually it destroys the kidney itself as it did for me.

My compromised immune system caused all sorts of issues, some of which put me in the hospital. I got a CMV infection, which perforated my bowel, resulting in losing a section of my large intestine and use of a colostomy for several months. Down the road these two surgeries resulted in an abdominal hernia. Then there was shingles, MAC lung infection and perhaps pneumonia.

Was it all worth it? Yes. Not dealing with the strict regime of dialysis was a definite benefit. And I lucked out that the IGA worked so slowly. It can happen very quickly and it took me over 30 years.

Last month I discussed the problems that the Navy had with two destroyer collisions. Now the results of the inquiry are in. The issue in both cases was the result of poor performance on the bridges of the Navy ships. In the case of the USS Fitzgerald the bridge personnel did not follow proper procedures to avoid

collisions and, in addition, the senior leadership was not present on the bridge during a congested passage. The personnel on the USS McCain had an inadequate knowledge of the ship's control console and this distracted them. So the Navy has to get back to basic seamanship training to avoid these preventable accidents.

Crows have become the top birds in the area. Normally they are found in the rural areas where they can feed on left-over crops in the fields after they have been harvested. Now, they have figured out that city life will also provide them with food, including what we humans leave around. So they have in some ways taken over. Years ago I rarely saw crows in the area. Now I see many flying around and we have two regular visitors that appeal to us for bread scraps. Our two visitors are pretty vocal about their presence as well.

The downside is that we no longer see as many of the jays and other birds that used to show up around the house. The crows aren't tolerant of the hawks that inhabit the area either.

Crows have always been a favorite bird of mine. They are pretty intelligent as birds go. When I was a kid we would see miles and miles of crows flying overhead. In the morning they would fly from their roosting area out to their feeding ground and then reverse their flight in the evening. The takeover by the crows is just another example of how nature is constantly changing.

—Steve Schlichter

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