

Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

1850 West Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803

Office (626) 284-3229; FAX (626) 570-4144

Website <http://www.sgpumc.org>

Email: sagegranadapark@gmail.com

Office hours: Mondays: Closed; Tuesdays– Friday 8am-1pm

July 2017 E-Thymes

Our Vision: We are a multi-cultural and inclusive church united in the love of Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement: We are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Congregational Goals for 2017:

- * Growing into stewardship with our gifts and strengths
- * Strengthening our outreach ministry in San Gabriel Valley
- * Vitalizing our Sunday worship service to reach out to the un-churched & de-churched

“From Here to There”

by *Rev. George Martzen*

Summer brings vacation time, summer school, air conditioning bills, BBQs, and Annual Conference. Two members of Sage Granada Park UMC attended the 33rd session of the California Pacific Annual Conference on June 14-17, Janice Hurtado and Elaine Chung, as well as myself as a clergy member.

The theme for this year's session was “From Here to There,” a reminder that Methodism is a movement that connects the many dots from here to there. The church is not defined just by special events, but by the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It's hard to summarize four days of business, inspiration, and sometimes disagreement. My key take-away words are Mission, Compassion and Faith.

Mission is primary, according to our new Bishop, Grant Hagiya. While some would have us divide, we need to stay together for the sake of that mission for

transforming the world in Christ. Four areas need to be transformed: leadership, individual lives, congregations and the world. The local church is the key to transformation, and the annual conference is there to provide resources to local churches so they can become vital congregations.



2017 Ordination Ceremony

Bishop offered five specific goals for congregational vitalization. Every church should: 1) reach out and bring 10 new people to Christ every year; 2) increase average worship attendance by 10%; 3) make 25% of the current congregation living disciples; 4) give 100% apportionment; and 5) find new creative ways to raise funds. The Bishop urged the churches to focus on God's mission, including learning how to give verbal witness for Christ.

He also offered several Annual



Rev. George Martzen, Pastor

gmartzen@gmail.com

Shelly Bitner, Editor/Admin. Asst.:

sagegranadapark@gmail.com

Kris Taniguchi, Organist

ktani28@hotmail.com

Jean Taniguchi, Choir Director

tan1g@aol.com

Sunday School, Sally Bell

sallycbell@gmail.com

Wedding Director, Leslie Hutchins

macychick@aol.com

Conference goals: 1) Double our vital congregations; 2) Start 20 new faith communities in the next three years; 3) Create comprehensive revitalization of local church programs; 4) Improve our leadership, discipling, and community engagement systems.

Several videos highlighted churches which have grown or expanded their ministry by taking God's mission seriously.

We need to practice **Compassion**. God in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit is the core and foundation of our compassion. We cannot accomplish the above goals without the compassion that Christ inspired, demonstrated and enabled through his life, death and resurrection. The focus on compassion has varied in our time, but is not limited to human rights, peace and justice, sexuality and gender equality, poverty and homeless concerns and specific plan like "Imagine No Malaria" (The conference raised over \$68 million). "You have been treated generously. Now live generously," Bishop said.

We also need imaginative **Faith** to keep us from flying apart at the seams. We have a vital mission, but the reality of differences and threats of separation will derail us if we don't think and believe creatively. As an annual conference of 354 churches, we must not focus solely on the statistics of decline, but be open to new ways. Bishop Grant Hagiya shared a story from his Sansei friend, whose family

moved from the city to start a farm. Arriving at the barren landscape, family members complained that they would rather go back to the conveniences of the city. But the father, gazing at the expanse, had a vision. They stayed and the father transformed the dry and barren land into a rich and lush farm. Many of the nine children and grandchildren went on to college and became professionals - all because of one person's faith and vision.

At Sage Granada Park, we also need to uphold the mission of the church. We need to be energized by the compassion of Jesus, and we need to practice the faith that will move mountains. As we pass the one-year anniversary of my appointment here, let us continue to celebrate God's faithfulness and take the steps necessary to be a vital congregation.

While Rev. George is away between July 5-19, Rev. Sangman Shin, Sierra Madre UMC, will be on call. He can be contacted at the church office : 626-355-0629.



MIRACULOUS
HEALING
by *Rev.*
Dickson Kazuo
Yagi

Shin Buddhists, Zen Buddhists, and Quakers clearly prohibit intercessory prayers—faith healing. They claim that intercessory prayers come from

our ego. It is making God our servant, when we should be God's servants. The Shin Buddhist worship manual writes, "We don't believe in magic and intercessory prayers."

Sometimes in a Baptist church a call goes out for emergency concentrated prayer. There was a traffic collision and a church member is in critical condition in the intensive care unit. If he makes it through the night, he will live and recover. All church members, friends, and family are recruited to bombard heaven with prayers for miraculous healing. What they do not say, but what they are aware of doing is to change God's mind, so the outcome is beneficial to us. That is, they want to bend God's will so that it is our will that gets done. So Shin Buddhists, Zen Buddhists, and Quakers prohibit intercessory prayers to bend God's will to our will.

My nephew on the Big Island in Hawaii, a retired high ranking officer in the Air Force, wrote something new to me. Whenever he is tempted to pray for a miracle, he remembers that we humans are the miracles that God created to solve problems on earth. The amazing development of our frontal brain, our emotions, our central nervous system, our will power, and endurance. Individually and as groups within society, we are God's miracles to solve earth's problems. Instead of praying for miracles, we should pray for wisdom to solve problems individually and as groups within

society. We are God's miracle. Wow! That is a powerful thought. What do you think?

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Shafer Family, Violet Tomei, Steve Meza, Lucy Sogioka, Flo Griffen, Barbara Houck, Elvis S. Gershom, Lucy Villegas, Robin Nakahara, Duane Martin, Isabel Reyes, Sada Mayeda, Marilyn McIver, Elizabeth Kells, Phillip & Nenita Marquez, Betty McIver, Dana Ichikawa, Amy Mori, Toni Tomita, Echavarria Family, Barbara Stolley, Vivian Zamora, Pearl Matsumoto



SUMMER SCHOOL HAS BEGUN!

We are accepting Summer School Registration. Please contact the school office for information about our summer program at (626) 284-5006.

We are also now accepting Registration for the 2017-2018 School Year. Call the school for more information at 626- 284-5006, or visit our web site at <http://gpumnsk.org>



2017 Cal-Pac Annual Conference

The theme of the 2017 Cal-Pac Annual Conference in Redlands was "Getting from Here to There." Since Elaine Chung and I were commuting we went from here to there and there to here three times!

How do we get from here to there? --by transforming lives, transforming vital congregations, transforming Christian leaders and transforming the world.

When Elaine and I arrived at the East District breakfast on Thursday, June 15 we were so excited to see Rev. Sunyoung Park. She said that she was personally asked by superintendent Jan Wiley to return to east

district. She will be part of the Box Springs Parish in Riverside. Ho Paul will remain in Missouri for another year and then will apply for a teaching position back in California.

At breakfast we were presented with a certificate for giving 100% to the apportionment covenant in 2016.



We also got to catch up with Paul and Jason Takagi and Rev. Nestor Gerente. It was wonderful to re-connect with old friends. Nestor especially had fond memories of his time at Sage Granada Park—he's the udon king after learning how to make it for the church bazaar!



Each day of the Annual Conference began with morning worship and messaging moments. We heard from clergy and laity from around Cal-Pac. It was uplifting to learn about all the good work that is being done in all the districts—East, West, North, South and Hawaii. Many of the speakers were young adults or were working directly with them. It was so gratifying to know that the future of our church is in good hands.

The afternoons mostly involved the business aspects of Annual Conference. We participated in discussions, presentations and voting about different recommendations, resolutions and rule changes. We discussed

controversial issues, but everyone seemed respectful of each other. We were reminded that our strength is in our differences.

My first Annual Conference was an exciting, positive experience. It was so wonderful to be surrounded by others who were filled with the Holy Spirit and committed to being disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

~ Janice Hurtado



Vacation Bible School 2017

Shepherd of the Hills UMC and Sage
Granada Park UMC

WE HAVE A PLAN!

God's Backyard Bible Camp
"Where Kids Have a Blast
Serving God"

All ages from Pre-School to Adults
are welcome!

Dates: July 24-28 Mon – Fri

Time: 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Theme: Teaching Kids to Serve

Light Dinner served nightly

WE HAVE THE PLACE!

Shepherd of the Hills UMC

333 S. Garfield Ave.,
Monterey Park 91754

NOW ALL WE NEED ARE THE PEOPLE!

Let us know how you'd like to
help:

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:

- Registration Table
- Assist with Dinner
- Supervise Free Play and Organized Games
- Assist Arts & Craft Activities
- Leaders for Opening and Closing Time:

*Opening: Introduce the
Day's Theme and Story

*Closing: Recap Theme &
Story

*Singing (Opening and
Closing)

*Teaching the Theme Bible
Verse (Opening and
Closing)

Teachers and Assistants Needed:

Preschool

K-2nd

3rd-4th

5th-6th

Jr.-Sr. High

To Volunteer, Contact:

Sally Bell -

sallycbell@gmail.com

Or Rev. George Martzen -

gmartzen@gmail.com



Sunday School will take place
throughout the summer @ 9:45 a.m.:
Pre-school & K-4th grade with
Sengdeuane Tom or Ashley Parks and
5th Grade & above are with Pyoung
Hwa Lee.



COFFEE-TEA FELLOWSHIP

We gratefully acknowledge the
following:

June Refreshments:

Marquez Family
Janet & John Furukawa
Roberta Echavarria & Steve Meza
Shihoko Tatsugawa
Mariko Garrett
Tom Family
Yoshie Tomei
Elaine & TC Chung
Bea & Sho Tabata

Additional Acknowledgements:

Elaine & TC Chung for the gallon
of apple juice and bottled water;
Aphuno Chase-Roy & Rev. Roy for
bags and bags of miracle spinach
from their garden; Rev. George
for the cherry tomatoes picked
from the church garden to share
with the congregation.

On Pentecost Sunday, June 4, a
joint Potluck luncheon was
enjoyed with the Church of India
Congregation. Janet Furukawa,
Sengdeuane & Ernie Tom were
our wonderful sandwich makers—
egg salad and tuna salad. A
variety of salads and desserts
were brought by attendees.

On Sunday, June 11, after
Fellowship Time, the young girls
of the Chinese Dance Troupe
entertained us by performing
several dances in brilliant
costumes. As always, your
support and cooperation is
gratefully acknowledged.

We will need extra helpers during

Fellowship Time due to vacations—if you can help, please let me know.

Helpers during the month of June were: Elaine & TC Chung, Helen Ikeda, Mariko Garrett, Fred Miwa, Jean Taniguchi, Sengdeuane Tom, Janice Hurtado, Louise Garcia, Janet Wong, Bea Tabata, Alan Kitsuse, Jim Bell.

Please don't forget to sign up for refreshments on our calendar in the church office so our committee can plan accordingly.

In love and gratitude,
Sets Tani

Alhambra Performing Arts Center Presents

CUBAN CARNIVAL CONCERT!

Under the direction of Chef/Artistic Director Bill Yee, APAC presents the Cuban Carnival Concert with award-winning Latin jazz artist Murray Middleman and the Cuban virtuoso pianist, Gustavo Ramirez.

Murray Middleman grew up in a musical family in Philadelphia, and directs Park Avenue West Entertainment, which provides outstanding live music for many of Los Angeles'



top fund-raising events. Murray has performed with Buddy Rich, Sammy Davis, Jr., and the Jazz Stars of the Count Basie Orchestra. He was the featured saxophonist for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines Jazz Cruise in Mexico, Colombia, Aruba, Panama, and Costa Rica. Murray's CD "Love Songs for the Galaxy" is an upbeat musical journey around the world and features an international line-up of outstanding musicians.

Pianist Gustavo Ramirez studied music at the International School of Music in Havana, Cuba. His music is driven by brilliant jazz-fusion lines, coupled with strong funk-rock and Afro-Cuban influences.



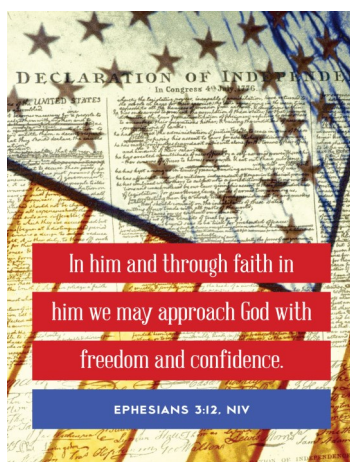
When: Sunday, July 23, 2017, at 7:00 PM

Where: Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church.

Admission: Free. Donations will be accepted during intermission.

Refreshments: by Le Cordon Bleu trained chefs.

Contact: Bill Yee (626) 230-5435 or e-mail bizwind@yahoo.com



Korean Food Family Camp Fundraiser!



July 16 following the Worship

Service. Purchase Bibimbap for only \$8.00 each! It will be Rice with Beef and Assorted Vegetables. Pre-orders will be taken in person on Sunday, July 2 and Sunday, July 9. Orders can also be placed with Ruth Chon at (917) 749-6462 or ruthchon@hotmail.com.



**Did you
know there
is an
additional**

way of supporting Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church financially just by making on-line purchases of things you would normally buy? Check out UMCmarket.org. It's kind of like purchasing something from Amazon Smile. There are thousands of vendors, some offering free shipping, discount pricing, or special incentives, who will donate a percentage of your purchase back to our church. All you need to do is go to the website, sign up, choose Sage Granada Park as your designated church, and create your own UMC market secure profile. Why not give it a try? It's an easy way to give an additional donation to SGPUMC!





July Fourth Word Search





R	D	H	X	M	S	H	J	G	A	U	N	Z	P	V
I	M	O	D	E	E	R	F	U	M	D	O	W	L	Z
G	H	J	T	S	K	R	O	W	E	R	I	F	Q	W
H	O	A	M	S	E	X	U	Y	R	E	T	P	K	Q
T	T	A	C	Y	C	N	R	I	I	V	A	E	H	J
S	D	E	I	B	N	O	T	L	C	O	R	V	N	X
A	O	Y	D	A	E	S	H	U	A	L	A	J	K	N
E	G	T	T	R	D	R	C	C	J	U	L	Y	J	H
X	S	I	M	B	N	E	Q	O	N	T	C	T	P	G
V	O	L	V	E	E	F	Z	I	L	I	E	R	A	E
N	F	A	D	C	P	F	T	E	D	O	D	E	R	K
Q	Z	U	P	U	E	E	T	Y	S	N	N	B	A	I
D	X	Q	R	E	D	J	X	J	W	R	I	I	D	A
S	S	E	R	G	N	O	C	P	S	F	J	L	E	M
X	W	P	T	H	I	R	T	E	E	N	U	F	K	S

ADAMS
AMERICA
BARBECUE
COLONIES
CONGRESS
DECLARATION
EQUALITY
FIREWORKS

FOURTH
FREEDOM
HOTDOGS
INDEPENDENCE
JEFFERSON
JULY
LIBERTY

NATION
PARADE
REVOLUTION
RIGHTS
STATES
THIRTEEN
UNITED



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9:30am Worship	3 No Ukelele	4  Church Office Closed	5 Rev. George gone until 7/19.	6	7 7:30pm Boy Scouts	1 8 COI 5—10 PM
9 9:30am Worship with missionary Rev. Claudia Yamamoto Church Family Camp Fundraiser: Bibimbap	10 1:00pm Ukelele 	11 7:00pm Trustees Mtg.	12 	13 7:45pm Chinese Choir	14	15 
16 9:30am Worship	17 1:00pm Ukelele 	18 No PAC Mtg.	19	20 7:45pm Chinese Choir	21 7:30pm Boy Scouts	22
23 9:30am Worship 7:00pm APAC Concert	24 1:00pm Ukelele 	25	26	27 7:45pm Chinese Choir	28	29 
30 9:30am Worship	31 1:00pm Ukelele 					