



The El Estero Echoes

El Estero Presbyterian Church

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Pastor Ted Esaki

July Vol. 2015. Issue 7

Pastor Ted's Message

Have
Faith
in
GOD

LET GO AND LET GOD

There once was a man driving too fast on a mountain road. As he went around a curve, he lost control of his vehicle. The car went over the cliff and plunged hundreds of feet to the ground and crashed and burned. Fortunately, just as the car was going over the cliff, he was able to jump out and grab onto the limb of a tree. He hung there shocked for a few minutes and then as his muscles began to ache and get tired, he cried out in a loud voice, "Hello is there anyone up there?" A few moments later, he heard the voice of the Lord come back and say, "Yes, I am here; what can I do for you?" The man asked the Lord, "Can you save me?" The Lord said to the man, "Yes, I can say you; do you believe that I can save you?" The man replied, "Yes, Lord, I believe you can save me." Then the Lord told the man, "Let go of the limb and I will catch you." The man looked down at the burning car and then looked up at the top of the cliff and yelled out in a loud voice once again, "Is there anyone else up there?"

Have you ever asked yourself, "Is there anyone else up there?" Have there been times in your life when God has asked more from you than you could handle or bear? Have there been times when you have found yourself in situations when you couldn't make sense of what God was trying to do in your life?

I think that there are times in our lives when we question God, especially during those times of difficulty or tragedy. Just because we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior does not mean that we are immune from difficulties. Christians have bad days, go through struggles, get frustrated, and experience disappointments. Christians get fired from jobs, get sick and have children that have problems. In fact, Christians face the same problems that non-Christians do. So what difference does it make in becoming a Christian? Just this, the Christian life is never really lived alone. We have the promise of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

As we look through Scripture, we see that there were many godly people who walked with God and yet encountered struggles. Job was a righteous man but lost his health, his wealth and his family. Daniel was thrown in the lion's den; many of the apostles died a martyr's death, the apostles Peter and Paul were imprisoned on several occasions. Although these godly followers encountered great difficulties, their trust in God never wavered.

There is I believe, a difference between faith and trust. Faith is confidence that God is able to do what he says He will do. Trust is active. Trust involves and element of risk. Trust involves

dependence upon God. Trust means that we let go of the limb. What God desires from us is not only faith but trust and dependence as well.

For the man hanging onto the limb, he had faith, but he lacked trust. He was unwilling to let go of the limb and totally trust the Lord to catch him. Is that true in your own life as well? We say that I have faith in Jesus and believe that he can help me, but when the Lord asks us to let go of the limb, we cry out and ask, "Is there anyone else up there? Is there anyone else that can get me out of this situation?"

I know that is a lesson that I need to continually learn. Often I have faith in God but lack the trust that pleases Him. I must remember that God has not promised us that we would never have problems. God has not promised us that we would never have cancer, face surgery, lose loved ones, experience heartbreaks, etc. But God has promised us that he will never abandon us that we will never be alone, and he loves and cares for us.

It is my prayer that when we come to those difficult times in our lives when we question God, that we will let go of the limb and fully trust him to catch us.

Safe in His Loving Arms, Pastor Ted



On Saturday, July 11, at church the Elders of El Estero Presbyterian Church held their monthly Session Meeting after the Elder and Deacon Retreat.

Clerk's Report: Lynn Gunter. Our national Presbyterian Church (USA) requires the Clerk of Session report church attendance to them. Requests reminding usher to place weekly attendance report in her downstairs mailbox.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Ted Esaki. He has been going through the book of James in his Sermon series. His next study will focus on 1 Peter dealing with suffering, "Why do believers go through difficult times in their lives?" He has been assisting with coordinating coverage during the church pianist's 2 month absence. He arranged for the Wintersburg Ukulele Group to provide Worship Music while our pianist was on vacation. Christian recording artist "Junko" (Junko Nishiguchi Cheng) www.junko.com/ performed during Worship Service in July. He hosted Junko as well the Rev. Dr. Pat Zukeran, an internationally known featured speaker and radio personality, who delivered the Sunday Message from the pulpit as our Guest Speaker on July 5, 2015. www.evidenceandanswers.org/about/

Jack Ninomiya, passed away in June. He was the husband of the late Yae Ninomiya and father of Sharon, Marsha, and Kathy who all grew up in our church. He was elected and served terms in the church office of Elder and later as a Trustee during the late 1960's through late 1970's. Session voted to approve having his Memorial Service at the church and having Rev. Ted officiate. Rev. Ted conducted the private graveside service for the family on Tuesday, July 11, 2015. The public Memorial Service will be held at El Estero on Saturday, August 1, 2015. The reception will be at 12:30 PM at the Hyatt. Members do not need to bring food for a reception. Johnnie Montoya, will serve as the General Chair.

Church Corporation: Don Chin, Chair. Treasurer, Yuri Wong, reported on the financial status for the month ending June. Outflow was high due to the construction cost for Stair Replacement Project. The estimated cost of the total project was \$35,000. Costs are expected to be less than the estimate.

Church Branch Reports & Actions - Administrative Branch: Dick Wong, Chair. Exterior Stair Replacement Project is near completion. Parts for the stove are no longer available. A member has stated he/she would donate cost up to a set amount. Session approved purchase of a new stove. Building and Grounds to facilitate procurement and installation. Finance Committee will meet during July to begin planning 2016 Church Budget. **Outreach Branch:** Richard Marquez, Chair. The Branch will meet every 3rd Sunday. The next meeting is Sunday, July 19, 2015. He will schedule an Asian Art Fair (AAF) meeting. **Spiritual Growth Branch:** Don Chin, Chair. Many were inspired by the Wintersburg Ukulele group to pick up their instruments. A member of a local ukulele group has volunteered to teach our ukulele group. Session approved use of the church for Ukulele group on Wednesdays after Bible Study. Christian Education: Marilyn Uwate, Marlene Sato and Nora Shen will be meeting to do lesson planning for children Don Chin will train those interested in learning how to make the Power Point slides used during Worship Service. Dick Wong will attend the next Presbytery of San Jose Meeting on September 26 at Gilroy Presbyterian and represent our church as Commissioner. Session voted to continue to allow the Trinity Christian High School Mothers In Prayer Group to use our facility once a week during the 2015-2016 school year.

Dr. Pat Zukeran

Dr. Pat Zukeran was our guest speaker at El Estero during worship service on July 5. Pat is an apologist, an author, a teacher, a radio talk show host, and a national and international speaker. He teaches, studies, and works in Hawaii. As an apologist, he defends the Christian faith by following historical evidence and reasoning to examine life's questions and important current challenges. On Sunday he shared his views with our congregation on world religions, the Bible, and national and international issues facing our nation guided by biblical truth. After worship service folks stayed for lunch and an informal open conversation with questions for Pat ranging from current cultural issues to historical explanations of the Bible and our faith.



You can follow Dr. Zukeran on his website www.evidenceandanswers.org.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join our El Estero study groups.



Children's Sunday School: Every Sunday during worship service starting on Sunday, August 9.

Adult Sunday School: Every Sunday morning, 9:30 – 10:15
Lessons and discussion on Assurance

Bible Study: Every Wednesday morning, 10:30 – 11:30
Discussion follows Sunday's worship service study guide

Evening Bible Study: On August 7, Pastor Ted will be starting an evening Bible study at his home at 499 Archer Street, Monterey. This Bible Study will meet on the first and third Friday of each month from 5:30 - 8:00 pm. There will be a light dinner before studies begin. This evening Bible Study will be open to families, as well as individuals. All are welcome to join the group. Please call or contact Pastor Ted if you are interested. pted.eepc@gmail.com or his office phone at El Estero, 831 644-0687.



Joys and Concerns

Please continue to pray for



Royal and Hiro Manaka, Bobby Kuwatani, Jenna Escobar, Bill and May Wong, Bob, Joan, and Val Ouye, the Shiozaki family with the passing of Shiz, the Kakishiba family with the passing of Karen, Nancy Nakajima and family with the passing of Clifford, the Ninomiya family with the passing of Jack, Hisao Yamanishi and family with the passing of Kunio, Hisao's brother, victims of the earthquake in Nepal.



In Memory of Shiz Shiozaki

Shiz Shiozaki was welcomed into the kingdom of Heaven on July 15th. She will be remembered by her church family for her warmth, cheerfulness, and love for family and friends. Roger, her husband, preceded her in death in 2013. Her children, Michele Ann (Walt) and Steve (Marice) and grandchildren, Monica and Derek Takehara, Janelle and Ethan Shiozaki, brought her great joy. A service celebrating her life was held at El Estero on July 25, 2015 with Pastor Ted officiating.

The Work of the Deacons

The Deacons have an inventory of medical equipment available to borrow as needed. Please contact Nora at 375-6622 to leave a message if you are interested.

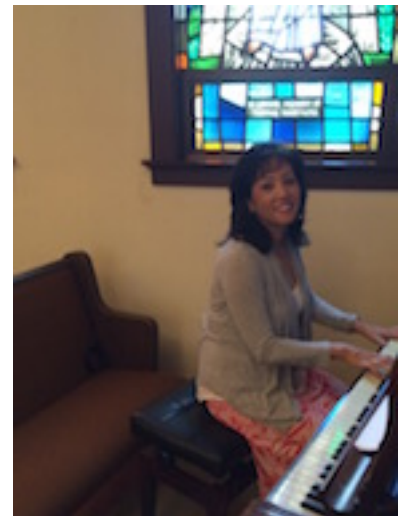
Help Wanted: Volunteers needed to share their faith with children!

A Sunday School program is planned for the upcoming school year. Teachers are needed. All lessons and crafts are ready to go. Volunteers will accompany students from the sanctuary after the praise songs, read a Bible story, and help students do a simple craft. Volunteers can work in pairs, if desired. Please see Marilyn Uwate to sign up or for more details.

SUMMER MUSIC AT EL ESTERO CHURCH



Heidi Toy



Junko Nishiguchi Cheng
www.junko.com

While Teruyo, our pianist, and her family were on vacation in Japan during June and July, Marilyn Uwate arranged for musicians to play for worship services. Kimberlee Uwate, the Wintersburg Senior Ukulele Group, Heidi Toy, and Junko Nishiguchi Cheng filled our church with beautiful music and joyful singing.


Thank you to Marilyn U. and these musicians for sharing their musical talents with our church.

El Estero has a ukulele group!!! There were 8 people who met on Wednesday at 12:15 for a lesson with Gordan. As beginners and advanced players, they are starting to learn basic chords and are singing some songs. If you would like to know more about the group, talk to Yuri Wong or Marian Kageyama. Come and join the ukulele players and share in the joy and fellowship of music and singing.



Sermons online

You may view Pastor Ted's sermons online at elesteropc.org

August	Leader	Greeter	Ushers	Coffee	Flowers
2 Communion	Pastor Ted	Ralph H. Gene L.	Lyle Q. Marilyn U.	Nora S.	El Estero
9	Pastor Ted	Marian K. Reiko K.	Dick W. Dori C.	Dori C.	
16	Pastor Ted	Hiroko K. Yae K.	Marlene S. Vince U.	Jean T.	
23	Pastor Ted	Lyle Q. Meja Q.	Yae K. Junki K.	Marilyn U.	
30	Pastor Ted	Johnnie M. Emiko M.	Richard M. Jean T.	Yuri W.	El Estero

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO FILL WORSHIP TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

Please let Johnnie know in which position you may be called to serve.

Also let Johnnie and/or the church office know if you need to make a change or a substitution.

August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Service 10:30 am Communion is the first Sunday of each month.						1
2 9:30 am Adult Sunday School Communion	3	4	5 10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Ukulele Practice	6 2:00 pm Deacons Meeting	7 5:30 - 8:00 pm Bible Study	8
9 9:30 am Adult Sunday School Children's Sunday School Noon Session Meeting	10	11	12 10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Ukulele Practice	13	14	15
16 9:30 am Adult Sunday School Children's Sunday School Noon Outreach Meeting	17	18 10:30 am Finance Committee Meeting	19 10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Ukulele Practice	20	21 Echoes articles due 5:30 - 8:00 pm Bible Study	22
23 9:30 am Adult Sunday School Children's Sunday School	24	25	26 10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Ukulele Practice	27 Fold and Mail Echoes	28	29
30 9:30 am Adult Sunday School Children's Sunday School	31					

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«First_Name» «Last_Name»

«Address»

«City», «State_or_Province» «Zip_Code»

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We have shared together the blessings of God.
Philippians 1:7