



The El Estero Echoes

El Estero Presbyterian Church

490 Camino El Estero, Monterey, CA 93940

Office: 831. 375-6622 Fax: 831. 644-0597

Pastor Ted's Office Phone Number at El Estero: 831 644-0687

E mail: elesteropc@gmail.com Web: elesteropc.org

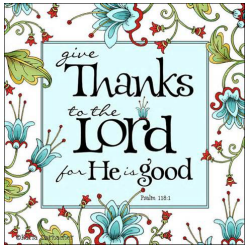
Pastor Ted Esaki

February Vol. 2016. Issue 2

Pastor Ted's Message

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

*The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
He enables me to tread on the heights. Habakkuk 3:19*



I want to begin by thanking the El Estero Church family and friends for your thoughts and prayers for my daughter Sherry as she spent 40 days in the hospital from December 19th to January 27th. She is currently staying at my sister Jane's home in San Jose where she is undergoing outpatient physical therapy at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. Although at a recent visit to the University of California at San Francisco the doctor told us that the medical team is still confused about her diagnosis, we give thanks that Sherry is making great progress. Even though she is still unable to walk, she is determined to get well and day by day she is getting stronger and stronger. Hopefully Sherry will be able to come back to Monterey by Easter.

Looking back over the past 2 months, Sherry and I truly do see the Sovereignty of God through this challenge. Funny, but Sherry's illness has really turned out to be a blessing in disguise. We have seen the hand of God at work in so many ways that we would not have experienced if not for this illness.

I was so grateful that Sherry was home from school in Massachusetts when she became ill. It would have been extremely difficult to have her sick and to be back on the east coast. Not only was she close to home, but she had the opportunity to be hospitalized at UCSF which is the number 4 hospital in the nation for neurological diseases. As I thanked the head of the neurological department at UCSF, he thanked me and said that their goal is to become number 1. Not only was she able to be hospitalized at UCSF, SCVMC is considered to be one of the best rehab facilities on the west coast. During the past two months, Sherry has been able to receive some wonderful medical care. We have been so grateful for all of her doctors, nurses, physical therapist, occupational therapist, recreational therapist, etc.

Another blessing was that we have received great support from family. One of the reasons that I wanted to return to Monterey was to be closer to family. During Sherry's illness, family has been a great source of support and encouragement. Being in Northern California where most of the family live, everyone has taken time out of their busy schedules to visit and support Sherry for which we are truly thankful.

Sherry and I both believe God has orchestrated all of these events in her life. It is not a coincidence or an anomaly but truly an act of God's Sovereign goodness and grace to us. Sherry is quite confident that God will use this for His Glory and His purposes in the years to come.

Thank you again for your support and prayers. In Christ, Pastor Ted

Session Meeting Highlights

Devotion. Rev. Ted Esaki. Sees the sovereignty of God reflected in what has transpired with his daughter. He believes it was God's Plan to have him move here and become the Pastor. It was difficult for Sherry when he made the decision to come to El Estero as her friends were down in Southern California. He sees God's sovereignty when looking at the impact the move here has made on Sherry's medical treatment. It has been a blessing for them to be here in Monterey when Sherry was stricken. Dr. Wayne Shen visited her at CHOMP and suggested she transfer to UCSF where he knew a neurologist. Sherry's physicians at CHOMP later came to the same recommendation. UCSF is one of the finest hospitals in the country for those with neurological injuries and ranked in the Top 4. After being at UCSF, Sherry was transferred to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. It has the best Rehabilitation Department in the West. This high quality of care would not have happened if they were living in LA or if the onset of disability had occurred 2 days earlier when Sherry was still back East. It is evidence of the sovereignty of God: that they were both here, Wayne knew a neurologist at UCSF, his sister, Jane's, friend was a key nursing staff member at UCSF and that the Hongo's knew the former supervisor of the SCVMC Therapy Department. Both the UCSF and SCVMC contacts took a personal interest in Sherry's Treatment and Therapy Plan. Believes it all is more than a coincidence, further proof of God's sovereignty. He has seen it over and over in his life, in this, the 40th year since he committed his life to Christ. God makes known He is still in control by causing everything to work together.

Clerk's Report. Lynn Gunter. The Annual Statistical Report and Clerk's Annual Questionnaire for 2015 were submitted to the PC(USA). The Polity and Governance Committee of the Presbytery of San Jose will review Session Records in March. The Elder Communion Server schedule for 2016 has been released. Past Elders are also able to serve and may contact Lynn to sign up. Membership: George Tanaka passed away on December 31st. He and Jean, his wife, joined the church in 1965. George went on to serve terms as a Trustee and then as an Elder from 1968-1970. He was giving of his time and energy serving as the volunteer gardener for church over more than 20 years. It was his wish to have a private family gathering which has occurred. He is greatly missed.

Pastor's Report. Rev. Ted Esaki. Expressed appreciation for time off to be with his daughter during her hospitalization. Sunday School is covering: Christ, Lessons of Holy Spirit, and Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit. Worship Service for month will be on Spiritual Gifts and everyone learning where they belong and staying focused on their mission. Will be conducting a New Members class on February 20th. New members to be received February 28th. He officiated at the private funeral service held for Susie Mitchell on February 6th at request of John, her husband, and June, her daughter. A friend has offered to provide 50 tickets for our members to view the new Christian movie, "Miracles from Heaven" on Palm Sunday, March 20th. More information will follow. There will be a Good Friday Service on March 25th. Wintersburg Presbyterian will be providing a Grant of \$5,000 in 2016 to assist Pastor with Outreach expenses locally. He will be leading a Tour to Holy Land in the Fall.

Church Corporation. Don Chin, Chair and Yuri Wong, Treasurer. 2015 Inflow \$218,157 and Outflow \$216,353 with a transfer \$30,000 from Reserves. High expenses mostly attributed to Stair Replacement Project.

Deacons Report. Marilyn Kodani. They will meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:30 AM. They will elect their officers at their next meeting. Sent out Valentines cards to homebound and visited hospitalized/recently discharged members. All of new Deacons have attended the Safe Church Training. They continue to seek donations of portable DVD players so members can watch missed Worship Services.

Session Actions. Session voted to notify the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery that it would like to extend the Stated Pastor Agreement with Rev. Ted Esaki. A signed Letter of Agreement was forwarded to COM. Approved: Concert by Randy and Gaye Hongo on Saturday, May 14th. An 11:30 AM lunch will be followed by the concert at 1 PM. Conference with Dr. Pat Zukeran, Hawaiian Christian Apologist, speaking and Junko, Christian singer/songwriter, performing on Saturday, June 25th. The special event will begin at 4 – 8 PM. Light dinner will be provided. Dr. Pat Zukeran will also give the Sunday sermon message after the JEMS conference.

Election of Church officers, Chairs of Branches and Sub-committees. Church Treasurer: Yuri Wong. Clerk of Session: Lynn Gunter. **Church Corporation** Chair: Don Chin. Corporation Treasurer: Yuri Wong. Corporation Secretary: Lynn Gunter. **Administrative Branch** Chair: Dick Wong. Building and Grounds Chair: Dick Wong. Finance Committee Chair: Don Chin. Personnel Committee Chair: Yae Kuwatani. Publicity Committee Chair: Marilyn Kodani. Church Nominating Committee Chair: Lynn Gunter. **Outreach Branch** Co-Chairs Richard Marquez and Yae Kuwatani. **Spiritual Growth Branch** Chair: Don Chin. **Presbytery of San Jose Commissioner:** Dick Wong. Elders will meet in Session on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:30 AM. The Joint Elder and Deacon Meeting will be April 21st at 10 AM. Outreach Event: the congregation is invited to come on March 1st at 10 AM to help make mochi for Girl's Day.



EASTER IS A SIGNIFICANT HOLY TIME IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIVES. THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS AND HIS RESURRECTION IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH. THIS TIME OF THE YEAR ESTABLISHES JESUS AS THE SON OF GOD AND GIVES US HOPE AND THE BELIEF OF AN EVERLASTING LIFE WITH CHRIST. AN EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED AND IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH. PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THIS **HOLY WEEK** WITH:

Sunday, March 20, Palm Sunday Service: Worship service from 10:30 – 11:30. Coffee/tea to follow downstairs in the social hall. Movie "Miracles From Heaven" at the Del Monte Center. "Free of charge" tickets will be provided and are being donated by a friend from Wintersburg. Sign up for tickets on the downstairs bulletin board. Time of the afternoon movie will be announced at a later date.

Friday, March 25, Good Friday Service: Worship service from 11:30 – 12:00.

Sunday, March 27, Easter Sunday Service: Worship service from 10:30 – 11:30. Coffee/tea to follow downstairs in the social hall. A church photo will be taken after worship service. So don't forget to wear your biggest and best smile for our group church photo.

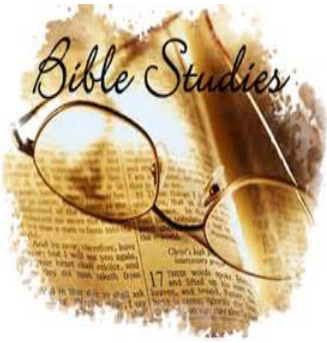
PER CAPITA DUES

Our annual Per Capita Dues are due to the Presbytery in February. Per Capita dues for 2016 is **\$36.50 per member**. Please make your check payable to **El Estero Presbyterian Church**. Indicate "Per Capita" on your check and please keep your per capita check separate from your offering or pledge. Thank you for attending to this compensation to the Presbytery.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

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

Children's Sunday School: Every Sunday during worship service.



Adult Sunday School: Every Sunday morning, 9:30 – 10:15. Lessons and discussion on Systematic Theology. Current lessons include “The Return of Christ” and “Who is the Holy Spirit?”

Bible Study: Every Wednesday morning, 10:30 – 12:00. Discussion follows Sunday's worship service study guide.

Evening Bible Study: Pastor Ted hosts an Evening Bible Study at his home. This Bible Study meets on the first and third Friday of the month, 6:00 - 8:30 pm, with a dinner before studies begin. Studies are based on the book, Growing Strong in God's Family.

THE WORK OF THE DEACONS

The Deacons continue visits, calls, sending cards, providing food, and most importantly prayers. Thank you for letting us know of members of our church family who are in need of our attention. Please also remember that we are continuing throughout the year to collect non-perishable food for the Food Bank of the Monterey Peninsula and the Salvation Army. The food barrel is located in the entry or the Sunday School room. Thank you for your contributions.

Joys and Concerns

Please continue to pray for

Royal and Hiro Manaka, Bobby Kuwatani, Bill and May Wong,
Bob, Joan, and Val Ouye, Marilyn Uwate, Junki Kitahara,
Lily Uyeda, Nami Uyeda, Sherry Esaki,
the Tanaka family with the passing of George
the Mitchell family with the passing of Susie



A Wishlist for our Seniors

We have several homebound seniors who are not able to join us at church for Sunday Worship Service. They would like to be able to follow Pastor Ted's sermons at home but they do not have computers with internet access to view the El Estero website. Our Spiritual Growth committee would like to loan portable, stand alone, compact DVD players to these folks. Our multimedia technicians would provide weekly DVDs of Pastor Ted's sermons. If you have a portable, stand alone DVD player to donate to our church for our homebound seniors, it would be greatly appreciated and put to wonderful use. Please contact Don Chin or call the church for further information.

A Ladies' Group


The Session has approved of an El Estero **Ladies' Group** at our church. This group will meet once a month, on the second Thursday, 10:30 am to learn and share ideas, enjoy the fellowship of the women of our church, and to support each other in our Christian lives. Everyone is welcome to join the group.



On Thursday, February 11, 10:30, we were knitting. We learned to knit and we took home yarn and needles to practice our knit and purl stitches. We will be creating knitting projects in April.

Next month on **March 10, 10:30** our Ladies Group will be weaving palm crosses for Easter. All ladies are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please call the church or talk to Marilyn K. or Yuri W.



March	Leader	Greeters	Ushers	Coffee	Flowers
6 Communion	Pastor Ted	Johnnie M. Emiko M.	Kiku K. Dick W.	Jean T. (LENT)	
13	Pastor Ted	Taye S. Yae K.	Dori C. Richard M.	Yvonne H. (LENT)	
20 Palm Sunday	Pastor Ted	Marian K. Reiko K.	Yae K. Marilyn U.	Yuri W. (LENT)	
27 Easter	Pastor Ted	Junki K. Gene L.	Jean T. Dick W.	Dori C.	El Estero

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO FILL WORSHIP TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

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

Please let Dori C. or the church office know if you need to make a change or substitution.

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Service 10:30 am Communion will be on the first Sunday of this month						
		1 10:30 Mochi Making for Girls' Day	2 10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Ukulele Class	3 10:30 am Deacons' Meeting	4 6:00 – 8:30 pm Bible Study at Pastor Ted's home	5
6 9:30 am Adult Sunday School Children's Sunday School Communion Noon Outreach Meeting	7	8 9:30 Session Meeting	9 10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Ukulele Class	10 10:30 Ladies Group: Weaving Crosses for EASTER Worship Service	11	12
13 9:30 am Adult Sunday School Children's Sunday School	14	15	16 10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Ukulele Class	17	18 Echoes Articles Due 6:00 – 8:30 pm Bible Study at Pastor Ted's home	19
20 PALM SUNDAY 9:30 am Adult Sunday School Children's Sunday School Movie "Miracles From Heaven", time to be announced later, Del Monte Center	21	22	23 10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Ukulele Class	24 Fold and Mail The Echoes	25 GOOD FRIDAY 11:30 Worship Service	26
27 EASTER SUNDAY Church Photo	28	29	30	31		

El Estero Presbyterian Church

490 Camino El Estero
Monterey, CA 93940

831.375-6622

E mail: elesteropc@gmail.com

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3