



**The El Estero Echoes**  
**El Estero Presbyterian Church**  
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Pastor Ted Esaki

**April** Vol. 2018. Issue 4

The Mission of the El Estero Presbyterian Church is to Glorify God  
through a Grateful Commitment  
to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

Pastor Ted's Message



### **Our Comforter, Counselor And Helper**

For the past four months, we have been going through a study on the Book of Acts. The theme of Acts is the birth and expansion of the early church. When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost and filled and empowered the early apostles and disciples, these followers of Jesus took the message of God's salvation from Jerusalem to Judea, to Samaria and to the outermost parts of the earth (Acts 1:8). Many have referred to the book of Acts as the Acts of the Holy Spirit.

I have often told people that the Holy Spirit is most misunderstood and neglected person of the Trinity. In the Old Testament, the primary figure of the Godhead was God the Father. During the 33 years of Jesus life on earth, He was the primary figure of the Godhead. Before Jesus went to the cross to die on the cross for the forgiveness of sins, he told his disciples in John 16:7, **"But I tell you the truth, It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but If I go, I will send him to you."** The promise of Jesus was that He would send the Holy Spirit.

The moment, we accept Jesus into our lives, the Holy Spirit comes and takes up residence in our lives. Jesus told His disciples in John 14:17, that the Holy Spirit would not only be with them, but would be IN them.

The Greek word for Counselor is *paraclete*. The word *paraclete* means to come along side of. That is just what the Holy Spirit does. He comes along side of us to encourage us. Various translations of the Bible translate the word *paraclete* as counselor, comforter, and helper.

As the Holy Spirit dwells in believers, He also gives believers the capacity to be a comforter, counselor and helper. At times, everyone needs encouragement, comfort, counsel and help. It is at these times when we can be a living reflection of the Holy Spirit by coming along side of others to help them in their times of need.

As you go through your daily routines I want to encourage you to keep your eyes open for others that you can come along side of to comfort and encourage. Maybe it will be through a spoken word, a letter, or taking time to sit and listen to their struggles. Whatever the situation, Acts 1:8 says that we will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us.

I invite you to come and join us over the next few weeks as I will be preaching and teaching on the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit. Because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we can minister God's love and help to others. May God help us all to come along side of others to help them in their time of need!!

Blessings In Christ, Pastor Ted

## COME AND JOIN A BIBLE STUDY

*Magnify \* Maturity \* Membership \* Ministry \* Mission*

Please join us.



Let's learn together.

**Sunday Morning  
Adult Study**

**Prayer Meeting:** Every Sunday, 8:30 – 9:15 am.

**Adult Discipleship:** Every Sunday morning, 9:30 – 10:15 am.

This Bible Study is structured as small group studies with 5 or 6 people in a group. We are studying the Book of Acts. There is a weekly study guide for your daily Bible reading at home and questions to guide your studies. Discussion follows in the small groups on Sunday morning. Everyone is welcome to join us at any time during our studies. Discipleship Adult Bible study will continue through June 10. After that we will take a summer break and will resume studies on the second Sunday in September.

**Wednesday Bible Study:** Every Wednesday morning, 10:30 – 11:45 am.

A follow up of Pastor Ted's Sunday Worship Service message. Discussion follows a review of Sunday's sermon with the Sunday worship study guide. This Bible study also reflects on the Discipleship reading of the previous week as Pastor Ted links his message to the Discipleship studies.

**Evening Bible Study:** Bible study at Pastor Ted's home will meet on the first and third Friday of each month, 6:00 pm. College students and young adults are welcome.

## DISCIPLESHIP SMALL GROUP BIBLE

Every Sunday morning at 9:30, before worship service, Pastor Ted leads an Adult Sunday School Discipleship Bible Study. For the past 14 weeks we have been studying the Book of Acts. Each Sunday we receive homework for the week to guide our study. Then when we meet on Sunday morning we break into small groups to discuss our responses to the homework and our studies. We have 5 small groups of 5 to 6 participants in each group. Here are some thoughts about Discipleship Bible Studies from our participants.



"The Discipleship group has helped me have a more consistent Quiet Time...the time is a precious way to start the day! The readings have helped me grow deeper in my understanding of God's Word and Jesus...the group has allowed me the opportunity to deepen my relationships with other believers! Grateful and blessed!"

"Each week I look forward to our Sunday morning Discipleship group. Doing the written homework and meeting with our group has strengthened my Christian commitment and increased my understanding of the Bible."

"It was interesting to hear others in our group about their childhood memories. Similar to mine. I'm beginning to read the Bible more on a daily basis."



"Discipleship bible studies help me more aware of Jesus's love and try to live life pleasing to God. Improve my knowledge of Bible."

"Our discipleship Bible studies have helped me to get to know the members of our group better and to be inspired by their faith in my study of the Bible and in my Christian walk."



"In addition to a new look at the New Testament passages, I have appreciated the opportunity to bond with my small group members and feel our sense of faith community strengthened."

"I have been encouraged to be more consistent in reading His word daily. Some of the questions have made me look introspectively to discern how I can be a better Christian. I especially appreciate that Pastor Ted's sermons continue to reflect on the studies just discussed that morning, giving us greater understanding ... and application."



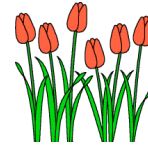
"The Discipleship Bible Studies have been rewarding in many aspects of my life's journey with Jesus. Present in my discipleship class was an atmosphere of comfort and belonging as our group leader made it a point for all to participate. We shared, we communicated, and we prayed together which in my opinion is the foundation of a lasting friendship."

Everyone is welcome to join Discipleship Bible Study at any time. The homework is designed to accommodate new participants throughout our Discipleship studies. Please join us.



## Joys and Concerns

Please continue to pray for



Sherry Esaki, Seon Hashimoto, Ginny Heun, Reiko Kageyama, Kiku Kuwatani, Dorothy Maceira,  
 Royal and Hiro Manaka, Susie Marquez, Marilyn and Mike Masatani, Franco and Renee Mola,  
 Takeko Nishida, Joan Ouye, Lyle and Meja Quock, Lily Uyeda, Nami Uyeda,  
 Hisao and Setsuko Yamanishi, May Wong, George Wooding,  
 the Heun family with the passing of Ralph .




## Mother's Day Breakfast

The men of our church are planning a Mother's Day breakfast on Sunday, May 13, 9:00 – 10:00 am. Everyone is welcome to come for breakfast ... mothers, grandmothers, aunts, friends, family ... also dads, grandpas, uncles ... please join us. Every year we are treated to a delicious and elegant breakfast cooked and served by the gentlemen of the church. It is always a wonderful way to start your Mother's Day.

Due to the cost of printing, paper, and postage, the Echoes "staff" would like to encourage our readers to choose email copies of our newsletter over USPS mailed copies. If you are receiving hard copies in the mail and would like to change to email copies, please email the church at [elesteropc@gmail.com](mailto:elesteropc@gmail.com) with your name and email address. Or please tell Marilyn K. or Don C. your email information. We will make the change to a digital Echoes for you. Thank you !



## Our Service Volunteers for May 2018

May	Leader	Greeters	Ushers	Coffee	Flowers
6	Pastor Ted	Ginger K. Dave R.	Dick W. Dori C.	Evelyn K.	<div>El Estero</div> 
		Communion Servers Elders: Don C. and Lynn G. Deacons: Lyle Q. and Nora S.			
13	Pastor Ted	Taye S. Sherry E.	Junki K. Yuri W.	Nancy H.	
20	Pastor Ted	Marian K. Adele K.	Yae K. Tom G.	Yuri W.	
27	Pastor Ted	Johnnie M. Emiko M.	Lyle Q. Don C.	Dori C.	

### VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO FILL WORSHIP TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

Please let Dori know in which position you may be called to serve. New greeters, ushers, and coffee volunteers are welcome. Please see the sign up sheet on the hallway bulletin board. You may sign up with a relative or a friend. Please let Dori or the church office know in advance if you need to make a change or substitution.

# May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Worship Service starts at 10:30 am Communion will be on the first Sunday of this month.						
		<b>1</b> 9:30 Finance Meeting	<b>2</b> 10::30 – 11:45 Bible Study 12:15 Ukulele Practice	<b>3</b> 10:30 Deacons' Meeting	<b>4</b> 6:00 pm Bible Study at Pastor Ted's home	<b>5</b> 10:00 – noon Open Art Studio
<b>6</b> 8:30 –9:15 am Prayer Meeting  9:30 – 10:15 am Adult Discipleship  COMMUNION  Children's Sunday School  Noon: Outreach Meeting	<b>7</b> 10:30 am Ukulele Practice	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10::30 – 11:45 Bible Study 12:15 Ukulele Practice	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>  9:00 – 10:00 am MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST  Children's Sunday School	<b>14</b> 10:30 am Ukulele Practice	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10::30 – 11:45 Bible Study 12:15 Ukulele Practice	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Echoes Articles Due  6:00 pm Bible Study at Pastor Ted's home	<b>19</b> 10:00 – noon Open Art Studio
<b>20</b> 8:30 –9:15 am Prayer Meeting  9:30 – 10:15 am Adult Discipleship  Children's Sunday School	<b>21</b> 10:30 am Ukulele Practice	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10::30 – 11:45 Bible Study 12:15 Ukulele Practice	<b>24</b> 10:00 Fold and mail The Echoes	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Hiking Fellowship
<b>27</b> 8:30 –9:15 am Prayer Meeting  9:30 – 10:15 am Adult Discipleship  Children's Sunday School	<b>28</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10::30 – 11:45 Bible Study 12:15 Ukulele Practice	<b>31</b>		



**The Hiking Fellowship** will meet on Saturday, April. 28, 9:00 am at The Grill at Lover's Point, Pacific Grove. The walk will follow the ocean bike trail west toward the PG Golf Course and back again. See you then for a beautiful morning walk.

## **El Estero Presbyterian Church**

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“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you  
have shown him as you have helped his people and  
continue to help them.”

**Hebrews 6:10**