



# El Estero Echoes

El Estero Presbyterian Church

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## Thanksgiving Message

Thanksgiving means many things to many people. Many people think about spending time with family, as this is one of the busiest travel weekends of the year. Other people look forward to watching the football on TV, as many teams play on Thanksgiving every year. Thanksgiving is thought of as commemorating the Pilgrims and their sharing the earth's bounty with the Native Americans. And we too celebrate the blessings that God has provided for us each day. It is only right that we should consider how we Biblically observe Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is the perfect time of year to remind us about learning to give God thanks especially in the toughest of circumstances. There are many scripture references that are related to giving thanks.

**Psalms 95:2-3** "Let us come before him with Thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods."

God commands us to give him thanks. In this specific passage, he asks us to do this with music and with song. Thanksgiving is a time for us to glorify his name through praise and worship. Giving praise to the Lord is closely related to giving thanks to God. This is one of the best ways to praise God for just how great he is in our lives.

**1 Corinthians 1:4-5** "I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way--- in all your speaking and in all your knowledge."

We are not worthy of the love that God has for us. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Despite our own shortcomings, God has given us grace anyways. We don't deserve his mercy and grace, but he gives it to us because he loves us. We have so much to be thankful for, as none of us deserve eternal life. It is only because of what Jesus did for us on the cross that we can have eternal life. At the end of the day, that is all that really matters.

**Ephesians 1:15-16** "For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers."

Jesus loves us! He loved us so much that he gave his one and only son for us to save us from eternal darkness. This should be enough to give him thanks! Thanksgiving is the ideal time to address the unconditional love of Jesus.

*from: <http://EzineArticles.com/6661707>*

**Thanksgiving Offering envelopes are enclosed.  
For those receiving Echoes electronically envelopes are available at church.**

## **Vacant Pastor Position**

With a vacancy in the pastor's position at El Estero Presbyterian Church it is the responsibility of session to begin the process of finding a new pastor. This can be a long and strenuous task. Session will be meeting with the Commission on Ministry representative of the San Jose Presbytery for guidance in this endeavor. Please pray with the leadership that God will provide according to His plan.

## **Deacons**

Thanksgiving Food Collection: For the month of November, Please bring canned goods, dry foods and cereals for the Food Barrel by the front door. Items collected will be given to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry.

With regrets the Deacons accepted the resignation of Deacon Secretary Peter Silzer. Thank You Peter for your years of service and duties to El Estero Church.

## **Pledge Letter**

The leadership has been working hard under difficult circumstances and have come up with the 2015 budget for final approval by session. The finance committee has tried to pare back the expenses. But as Emma Sato would say "*God will provide.*" Session will be mailing the Pledge Letter in November that includes the new budget. Pledge cards will be included. There are plans to have a congregational forum to discuss the church's finances..

## **Session Reorganization**

Because of vacancies in session it has been necessary to change personnel assignments to the branches and some committees. Session will keep the congregation informed of changes as they occur. With only five elders remaining it is necessary for the leaders to work closely and share responsibilities with each other. Members have been willing to step forward to fulfill the needs of the church. Please share your gifts and talents when asked.

**Personnel Committee** The Personnel Committee is now being chaired by Yae Kuwatani. Other members appointed to the committee are Yuri Wong and Dori Chin. They will be meeting with Aiko and Teruyo to become acquainted with these staff members.

**Treasurer:** Yuri Wong has stepped forward to replace Sharon Kawamoto as treasurer. She has been duly elected by session and brings with her the experience of running her own business. She will be transitioning to the position with Don Chin filling the Finance Committee chair position vacated by her husband Elder Dick Wong.

**El Estero Crafts and Food Fair** The Committee for the El Estero Crafts Fair will be meeting in late November or early December to plan the affair tentatively scheduled for March 2015. Yae Kuwatani, and Naomi Pich have stepped forward as co-chairs. Nora Shen and Marlene Sato have stepped forward as co-vice chairs. For those who were helping before and still have crafts they are working on, please contact the chair and vice chairs for the fair. All who are willing to give us a hand with ideas and help are always welcomed. Information and future notices will be coming soon. We are confident that God is guiding us in this time of transition for the El Estero Church.

## Offerings 9/28/2014 through 10/19/2014

Kuwatani, Robert   Hasegawa, Chris   Hattori, Rick&Ellie   Shen, Nora  
    Vahey, Leo   Lee, Rev. Joey  
    Manaka, Royal&Hiro-Lunch Bunch-in appreciation for Kindness & Love  
    Uyeda Robert&Diane-Lunch Bunch-in remembrance Grdpa Uyeda Birthday, Alan Miyamoto 1year

### Memorials

Yamamoto Hideko-Wayne's sister, Jenny                      Yoshida Kiyo- Randy Yamamoto  
    Kuwatani Yae-Ichiuji Endowment Fund-In Memory of: Father Torazo 55yr; Shiro Ino, Yuri Wong's brother;  
    Wayne Shen's sister, Jenny; Miyo Oka's brother; In Memory of family members who passed away in  
    month of October-George& Emi Kuwatani, Jimmie Kuwatani

### **In Memory of SUZANNE RENE MARQUEZ**


Marquez Henry & Miles, and Marquez, Yanuska Families  
    Kitahara Junki   Silzer Peter&Sheryl   Yoshida Kiyo

### Peacemaking Offering/Peace & Global Witness Offering

*FAITH CONNECTS "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you" - John 14:27*  
    Chin Don&Dori   Gota Cary&Joyce   Gunter Lynn   Hasegawa Chris   Kageyama Reiko  
    Kawamoto Sharon   Kuwatani Kiku   Marquez Richard&Natsuko   Matsuyama Aiko   Mitchell John  
    Montoya Johnnie&Emiko   Okazaki Yoshie   Suzuki Robert&Taye   Tachibana Bob&Mickey  
    Uyeda Lily   Uyeda, Namiko   Yamamoto Irene

### PRAYER CONCERNS Let us remember in our prayers

Bill & May Wong - Hiro & Royal Manaka  
    Bobby Kuwatani - Hedy Yamamoto—Cary Gota—Skye Gota  
    Clifford & Nancy Nakajima—John & Susie Mitchell  
    Susie Marquez—Miles Marquez in Afghanistan

NOV	LEADER Speaker	GREETERS	USHERS	COFFEE	FLOWERS
2	Richard Marquez Rev. Julie Kim	Yae Kuwatani	Jean Tanaka Marilyn Uwate	<i>Deacons</i>	
9	Marilyn Uwate Rev. Ted Esaki	Ralph Heun	Marian Kageyama Yae Kuwatani	Marilyn Kodani	
16	Don Chin Dr. Wayne Shen	Marian Kageyama	Junk Kitahara Lyle Quock	Yvonne Han	
23 Thanksgiving	TBA	Kaz Matsuyama	Aiko Matsuyama Jean Tanaka	Susie & Natsuko Marquez	
30	TBA	Junki Kitahara	Richard Marquez Marilyn Uwate	<i>El Estero</i>	

If unable to attend to your duties, please make other arrangements. Please sign up for Flower display.  
    Help is needed for more **Ushers, Greeters and Coffee.**

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Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

*Psalm 100:4-5*

<b>NOVEMBER 2014</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Communion on First Sunday of the Month - Sunday Worship Service 10:30 AM						1
2 Worship	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Worship	10	11 Veterans Day 6PM Session	12	13	14	15
16 Worship	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Worship	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30 Advent Worship						