

MAYHEW TORCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF MAYHEW COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

VOLUME 61 ISSUE 1

MAY 2021

PASTOR MIKE'S MUSTARD SEEDS...

I want to thank each church member for all that they do. Even though Covid shut us down for over a year, Mayhew continues to be a light in the community. As the covid dies down, we will begin to reestablish ministries. We're also looking at starting new ones. I would like you to be in prayer as we begin to reengage in mainline ministries.

There was still ministry happening like continuing to work on the nursery and bathrooms. Doug, Stephen and I have been fixing up our nursery in order to get it ready for more children. Every church growth plan includes at the top of the list a shiny clean and modern nursery. Well, it is on its way. All contact ministries had to be put on hold. This has been a traumatic year for the whole world. We were not able to do funerals and weddings. Hospital visits were shut down. My dad, like so many, died in the hospital without our family by his bedside. It's been a rough row. There have been many churches that have had to close their doors. I received a letter from a realtor asking if we were interested in selling the church. On this flyer was a listing of thirty churches for sale in our area alone.

Well, Mayhew is not for sale! God still has so much more for Mayhew to do. And until God tells us we are done, we are to keep serving Him, each other and our community. We have had a few new people start coming to the church already.

I want to remind the church that it is God's task to cause growth in the church. Paul tells us that clearly. Our task is to worship Him first then love our neighbor as ourselves. That is God's plan for His church. Growth always happens on His timeline. We can't make it happen or stop it from happening.

Heb. 5:5-9

5What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? They are servants through whom you believed, as the Lord has assigned to each his role. **6**I planted the seed and Apollos watered it, **but God made it grow.** **7**So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, **but only God, who makes things grow.** **8**He who plants and he who waters are one in purpose, **a** and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. **9**For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

So I hope all of you are ready to put our hands to the plow and don't look back.

But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." **Luke 9:57-62**

In Christ, Pastor Mike





BIBLE VERSE FOR MAY

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Flowers by Lillian



IMO's

Ron and Audrey Sato, IMO John and Mary Sato
Kinjiro K. Nakatogawa, IMO John Murata
Shig & Ann Hamachi, IMO Fumiko White
Thomas & Judith Nishimura, IMO John Murata
Ikio, IMO Sam Furuike, by Kathy Fukushima
Kay Yomogida, IMO John S & Mary Sato
Anne Chapman, IMO Jim Schnase

The Lord Takes Home Vesta Cudworth

Our long-time and faithful parishioner, Vesta Cudworth, passed away at the age of 88 on March 15, 2021 as a result of cancer. Vesta was married to Reverend Daniel Boyden Cudworth, Jr., until his death in 2003. She later married Murray George Flint at 79 years young. They met at Neil Orchard Senior Activities Center across from the church. Murray was a member of the Lutheran Church in Rancho Cordova and he and Vesta would alternate coming to his church and MCBC. Vesta volunteered as a Monday Receptionist and served on the Advisory Board as an At-Large Member of the senior center, enrolled in classes and enjoyed attending special events and socializing with friends at the center.

Vesta earned an associates degree from American River College and taught arts and crafts to senior citizens for 30 years. She enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles, playing cards, travel and cruises, as well as family game nights, bowling and square dancing. Vesta was active at Mayhew CBC and was a member of Women's Red Hat Society and the Widowed Persons Association of California. She was a much-loved mother of seven children, 19 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. Vesta was a joy to all and will be missed very much.

Fumiko White Goes Home to Jesus

Our sweet, quiet Fumiko was called home to be with Jesus on March 12. By speaking with her, one would never guess the hardships she had endured. She lived in Nagasaki, Japan and was a surviving victim of the A-bomb. She endured much physical suffering. Later, she came to the United States as a war bride and had four children, all boys. Fumiko lived close to the church on the north side and worked at Mather Field taking care of the barracks.

Fumiko came to Mayhew CBC over 50 years ago, and considered it her home. She was serene, quiet, polite and giving, a steady presence within the church. Newcomers always commented how good they felt when they were welcomed and greeted by Fumiko. Our loss is heaven's gain.

Easter Event for Children

A lovely Easter event was held Saturday, April 3, at the church. This outdoor event was planned and coordinated by Florene LeBlanc, Hannah Guro, Erin Satow and Valerie Natsuhara. There were gifts for the children, lots of food and amazing fellowship. Thanks to everyone who helped and to all who attended.



UPDATE ON CHURCH SERVICES AND MINISTRIES

Worship Service: The church opened services inside on Palm Sunday. Service is at the usual time of 11:00 a.m. For the first few weeks, temperatures were checked. The cellophane between the pews remains up for now. Once everyone who wants to be vaccinated is 14 days past their second shots, the cellophane may come down if people are comfortable with that. If needed, it could remain up for a while in one section. Masks will still be required in the Sanctuary. Those who seek not to wear a mask will still be able to be in Satow Hall. When someone is wearing a mask, please take that as that is an indication the person wants to maintain distance and not be hugged, etc.

Pastor's Sermon: Videos of Pastor's weekly sermons will be posted on the church's website. The entire service will not be videoed.

Men's Bible Study: Carl's class has resumed in-person meetings on Wednesday's at 6:00 p.m. All men are welcome. Contact Carl at (916) 519-6004 for information.

AGAPE: The group has resumed in-person meetings on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. in Satow Hall. Contact Kojo at (916) 821-1820 for information.

ABWM: Meetings have resumed, the first one being after service on May 23.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

During the COVID-19 period, certain work still has progressed.

Panic Bar failure in the hallway exit door. See article entitled "Panic." Thank you, Trustee, John Sprague, for ordering the needed part and repairing the exit bar.

Trees: The branches of the Magnolia trees along Ellenwood had become so low that they needed to be cut back for security purposes. Carl's son, Albert, did a beautiful job of cutting them and he and Carl hauled off the limbs.

Fallen limb: A large limb from a tree behind the shed, and on the apartment's property, cracked and fell on the shed's roof. The apartment was notified and immediately had their crew take it down, cut it up and remove all debris. They also cut down the tree.

Sprinklers in the quad area: The quad area is expensive to keep watered. It was decided to dig up the line that runs East-West in front of the shed and replumb it so that it will run off two separate banks. The school dug up the line and then Pastor and Doug changed the configuration and put the lines back in.

Nursery and bathrooms. Doug and Pastor have been working very hard on the repairs to these areas. Stephen from the school also has been helping. Things are really coming along now.

Stained glass breaks: There have been four separate glass breaks. Three are by the front door of the Sanctuary and one is by the Satow Hall door. Two by the front were broken at separate times by a transient and are our responsibility. The other two are the school's responsibility. All of them are more expensive than a prior event because in all these instances, the lead was also damaged. They are being repaired by a qualified company.

Cont. on p. 5

Cont. from p. 4

Church pews: Two of the long pews had come loose from the floor. Pastor devised a unique method to prop them up, drill new holes through the carpet and concrete, then center the long bolts that were underneath them and slip them down into the new holes. It was amazing to watch this process. Thanks, Pastor Mike and Doug for getting these pews functional again.

Refrigerators: A Refrigerator Committee (RC) was established to research replacements and to establish a fundraiser. So many people have pulled together on this! Remember, Baptists like to eat! Of the three aging units, one was completely out, another was unplugged and questionable, and the third is also an electric hog. Between them, they cost a little more than \$600 per year just to run, vs. \$150 for three new energy-efficient ones. This became a fun project, headed by Valerie, and with the help of Hannah, Lorene, Florene, Tanya and Anne as ex officio. To start with, a parishioner was moving to another house, needed a different refrigerator and gave the current one to the church – free! It's like new, has an ice maker, is huge and energy efficient. After much effort, Pastor Mike and Doug managed to get it out of the house and into Pastor's trailer. Oh, but the fun was just beginning! It wouldn't fit through the door of Crone Hall. Undaunted, Doug and Pastor took the frame off the door opening. Bingo – a new refrigerator! Ha Ha – it wasn't quite that easy

A search is on for the second one (to be delivered) and for SMUD to pick up an old one and pay us \$50. Contributions are still being collected to purchase a third refrigerator. If you wish to donate, please indicate on your check or envelope "Refrigerator Fund." Thanks to everyone who gave resources and is helping with this project. PS – Thank you, Dora, for all the ice you make and bring to the church. Please continue, as the new ice makers cannot compete with what you bring.

Parking lot: It has been deteriorating for many years. Oscar used to seal all the cracks to extend its life. It has gotten beyond that now. Prior tree roots also have done some damage. The Trustees have had three firms come out to estimate the cost. The estimate from the third firm is pending. It is "far too expensive" to overlay the entire parking lot, which would last for a long, long time. The other option is a combination method, which the Trustees have decided to use. This has been done before and will add years of usability to the parking lot. Even so, the lowest bid thus far is \$16,725. There will be more information in this later. It is hoped to be able to accomplish this before winter.

Routier Road strip: The weeds have been cut down to the dirt. This is a good time to refurbish this area. Since the Trustees no longer plan on putting grass there, it's time for them to decide what to do with this long strip, possibly drought-resistant ground cover, i.e., fast-spreading perennial creepers and occasional bright-colored ice plants, etc. It also is possible to get free chips. All ideas will take some man power and labor. If anyone wishes to help, please be in contact with Carl at (916) 519-6004. Thank you!

Church cleaning crew: Quite some time ago, it was decided to let our Janitorial Service go and to take this on between the church and the school. Now that we are open and the school is also in session, the plan is to have everything in place by the fourth week of May. The more volunteers the church has, the less time each person will need to perform this function. The school, when in session, will be responsible for cleaning before Sunday mornings. The church will be responsible to clean after service and after special events. Teams of two parishioners each will be assigned and a schedule set up. Cleaning, emptying trash restocking supplies, etc. will be limited to the rooms in the main building. This will be a structured process with cleaning forms in each area and a place for the date and initials of the person(s) performing tasks. If everything is kept up, it should be easily managed. Florene will coordinate the cleaning of Crone Hall with another crew. Individual ministries will be responsible for wiping down tables, etc., after their meetings. Thank you to everyone who has responded. If you have not signed up to be a part of this and wish to, please contact Diane at the church office.

Cleaning day: In preparation for reopening the church to inside services, Sunday School, etc., a huge cleaning day was held on the Saturday before service. While the men were getting the sound and other equipment up and running, the ladies got right down to the nitty gritty of deep cleaning. As you can see from the pictures, this was serious business. The hard work is much appreciated.



A MOMENT OF PANIC



Have you ever panicked over something, only to realize that you couldn't believe it and it didn't make any sense? Let's look at our wonderful, strong and competent Chair of the Board of Trustees! Yes, you know him, Carl Piepenburg, who suddenly found himself *Locked Inside the Church with No Means of Escape!*

Go back a few days prior to this "event." The exit bar (also known as a *panic bar*) on the door by the sound room suddenly lost its pin and the left side would come out of it bracket and up into the air. Oh, it worked ok, just drop it back in and open the door. Little did we know, it would develop a more serious problem, which fortunately didn't occur during service or another gathering, but waited just for Carl to be there by himself, helpless and alone, with night coming on! Ha ha.

It was Wednesday, the night of Men's Bible Study. Everyone was gone and Carl was winding things up. As he went to exit that door, it wouldn't open! Try again, push the bar. It was locked shut! Panic set in. He was now completely locked "inside" the church! He knew the front door was locked and there was no way to get outside to unlock it. Now, are you getting the picture?

Adrenaline is a powerful hormone that kicks in to protect us during fight-or-flight situations. His must be working well, wouldn't you say? He finally managed to exit the building through the front door, found something to temporarily repair the faulty bar and fixed it.

So, what about the other doors available to exit the building - the Ellenwood and Routier doors, the one in front of the sound room, and the doors in Satow Hall? All that adrenaline blocked out any knowledge of them!

Thanks, Carl, for a good laugh!

Submitted by Anne Chapman

Thank you, Mrs. Kilowatt !

Did you know that Lorene Smith, President of our ABWM and a Cabinet member, has a new name? It's Mrs. Kilowatt, and she's been knee deep in those little units of power. It all started when Yattyir School went on one of their breaks. They are here three months, off one month, etc. They also have grown from 29 students to over 50. It was a good time to reevaluate their usage (or non-usage) of utilities and other matters for which they reimburse the church. The Trustees were having a hard time coming up with a formula, so they reached out to Lorene for help.



As many of you realize, Mrs. Kilowatt has a brilliant mind and when she sets it on solving something, it's unstoppable.

Oh, I have to admit that at first, I wasn't exactly following her with all the formulas that were coming forth. At one point, I thought we may have had a return of Katherine Johnson from Hidden Figures! Finally, the light went on and I understood her methods. She was using two separate ones. They are too complicated to explain here. Besides, we may patent them!

The primary usage by the school is utilities, with SMUD and water being the largest and most complicated. The SMUD invoice arrives 30 days after the prior month's billing cycle, which can be anywhere from 28 to 31 days. The billing cycle in no way corresponds to the school's on and off cycle. Therein is the first nightmare. Adding to that are special water situations, such as periodic water leaks, some of which are major. How does one account for that when all the time actual water usage fluctuates tremendously due to the weather? The water billing cycle also does not correspond to the school's presence.

As a side note here, Diane has spent many a time with her head in the hole where the water meter is housed. Every black widow and beetle know her by name. She takes pictures of the meter and sends them to us. That helps to know if there is a leak at present.

After much time and effort, Mrs. Kilowatt produced a myriad of figures and calculations, using both of her methods. Amazingly, they matched! Then, a third, more generic method was used as a last check. It matched as well. Was the space shuttle ready to launch? Not quite yet. There was still one more calculation. Should we bill the school when they are here and not bill them when they are on break, or figure out a formula and bill them every month regardless? The one thing none of us want is more paperwork. The second option was chosen and another formula was created. Everyone agreed.

Another side note: Caltronics, our copier company, set up additional log-in codes so we can know exactly how many copies (and paper) the school uses. While none of this will resolve the need for income to increase, it does balance out the school's usage and reimbursement.

For a long time, Lorene had offered to help with tasks and projects that were needed. This was a whopper! Thank you, Mrs. Kilowatt! Great job! You are much appreciated.

Submitted by Anne Chapman



REFLECTIONS OF LIFE

I am old, so very old; my bones are rusty, and I am thin. I have lost many of my youthful features. By looking at me, one would never guess all I have been through.

I have seen some delightful places where living conditions were of the best sort. I have also seen the worst; things that would make your blood turn to ice. But I guess I was made to be hard.

I have seen the places of crime and sin, where people live and die as dirt. I have been used by these people, and have been the victim and cause of many a crime. Many a time I have been thrown down and trampled upon, having my face scratched and scarred.

Yet, as I said, I have visited the good places too. Once in a while I even made it to a church. I may not have represented much, but at least I was there. I have been treated kindly and handled with care and affection. I have taken part in organizations and helped the poor to be fed and well clothed.

An exciting life, isn't it! But as I mentioned, I am old and worn; yet, thoughts and memories remain strong and alive.

Yes, I am valuable, far more than you humans know. For to you, I am merely a small, forgotten coin taking up a small space on a yellowed page of a collector's book.

* * *

By Alice Anne Atkins, December 1, 1961
(aka Anne Chapman)



Blessed is the one who reads, and those who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Revelation 1:3

*** * * STAND BY * * ***

Pastor Mike will be giving a session on the End Times, about 14 weeks. It will be held on Sunday Evenings and utilize the work of Irvin Baxter, founder of Endtimes Ministries. Exact Date and Time will be Forthcoming

Have you had trouble remembering the sequence of events spelled out in the *Book of Revelation*, and mentioned in numerous other books of the Bible such as *Matthew*, *Daniel*, *Ezekiel*, and *Joel*. Or have you always wondered about what's ahead but never have had a chance to delve into it?

When will the End of the Age happen? Jesus says, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." Matthew 24:36. Jesus also said, "Truly I say to you that this generation will not have passed away until all these things shall have taken place." Matthew 24:34.

What are the "things" that have to come to pass? Have some of them already occurred? What lies ahead for us who are in the "Church Age," and what happens thereafter?

What is The Rapture of the Church?

Will we be part of the 7-year Tribulation, "The Beginning of Sorrows," and what about the last half of it, "The Great Tribulation?"

What is meant by the Antichrist and the False Prophet?

What is the Mark of the Beast?

What happens to all the Nations?

What will happen so that the world is not entirely destroyed?

When will Christ return and start his Millennial Reign. Who will be part of this?

What is the Final Judgment?

What is the New Jerusalem and where does it come from? Where will we be for eternity?

There are numerous interpretations of the end times. It is important to be in constant confirmation with the

Word



*** * * COME AND SEE * * ***



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Andorful Gaisie has been appointed by the Cabinet as Chair of the Board of Christian Education. He also will serve as a member of the church's Cabinet. As with all Cabinet appointments, the term runs to the end of the calendar year, at which time annual appointments are subject to the regular election process at the church's business meeting.

Congratulations and Welcome Aboard.

* * * * *

Tamaryn Crossman has been doing some amazing things! She also has received the Cabinet's blessings to go forward with them. Both the Diaconate and Sunday School agreed.



Resume "Prayer before Service" on Sundays, from 10:45 – 10:55 in the Cry Room off the foyer. Tamaryn will be the guide to pray for Pastor's message, for those who are sick and any other needs. Please come on in.

Prayer Requests via the purple/blue cards turned in during service: Tamaryn will receive confidential copies of such prayer requests and will faithfully lead a prayer team during the week. Tamaryn is very discerning and will not release confidential information in any way. A special lock box also will be purchased and parishioners can put prayer requests directly into the box. More information will be forthcoming.

Young children who stay with their parents during service will have something to keep them from fidgeting and also help them to understand Pastor's message. Tamaryn will give each child who is staying a packet which contains a scriptural page for coloring with colored pencils. It also will have a Scripture verse that matches Pastor's message for the day. It was very well received during a trial run, when two of the children excitedly called Tamaryn during the week to say, "Yes, we remember what Pastor Mike said, that God put in the jar! They were "tears."

Great job, Tamaryn! What you are doing is so important to God's kingdom.



“Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it.”

- Unknown

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Mayhew CBC's Wall of Honor

Tamaryn Crossman encourages the recognition and use of the church's Wall of Honor located in Satow Hall on the East side. It is to honor active men and women in the military. There are brochures/handouts available as well as a prayer list. Please sign up yourself, family and friends for prayer. Include names, branch of service and whether a veteran or active. Occasionally during the year, it would be nice to receive updates regarding the people serving in the military, where they are and what's happening, etc. Thank you, Tamaryn, for making this important mission personal and meaningful.

* * *REFRIGERATOR FUND * * *

Help has been needed to replace our ageing refrigerators! Valerie put together a Refrigerator Committee (RC)

This is an Update on this Effort.



The Crone Hall refrigerator was completely out of commission and one of the two in Satow Hall is of concern. All three are very old, have been heavily used, and use a lot of electricity.

As noted in the Trustees' Report on page 5, we have been blessed by the ability to replace two of them thus far. A parishioner was moving to another house, needed a different refrigerator for the new place, and kindly donated the previous beautiful energy efficient refrigerator to the church. It has been placed in Crone Hall. Enough funds have come in to fully cover the price of a second refrigerator which will be placed in Satow Hall.

The RC reports there is still money left toward the third refrigerator; however, the goal has not yet been reached. For those of you who are just learning about this, if you find it in your hearts to assist with this effort, donations may be mailed to the church, as follows, with a clear notation it is for the "Refrigerator Fund."

Mayhew CBC
ATTEN: Refrigerator Fund
3401 Routier Rd.
Sacramento CA 95827

Please note on your donation itself that it is for the "Refrigerator Fund."

THANK YOU SO MUCH, to all who are contributing to this project, and to all the members of the Refrigerator Committee!

MIRACLE CORNER**“The Shoes”**

Many a times we’ve said “Is anything too small to be a miracle?” The answer is always no. A parishioner recently told me that after coming to church for a number of years, she is realizing just how many things the Lord has done for her that she missed at the time. For God, a miracle is a miracle. They aren’t dependent on size. For God, no miracle is more difficult than any other one. They all are things we can’t make happen on our own.

This particular day, I was getting ready to attend an outdoor wedding. I had found a pretty, flowing, skirt and top in my closet that I hadn’t worn for years, washed them and thought I was all set. Opps, there was an oversight. The shoes that went with them would be too unsteady on the grass. Plus, almost all shoes hurt. Here was this beautiful white skirt with splashes of orange and green and no shoes. Now what! There were only about three hours before I needed to leave the house, so no time to go very far. Walmart! Of course, they’d have flat, white shoes that wouldn’t make me crash to the ground.

They had nothing. It was a useless trip, except I ran into Mabel and also Quinton and it was nice to see both of them. So, I told God that I was going back home and please help me not to trip. Backing out of the parking space, a thought came into my mind. Go to Ross. Why, on earth, would I do that? I’d never looked for shoes there in all these decades. I’ve learned not to ignore such promptings no matter how subtle, so, I turned left and went to Ross.

I walked up to the ladies’ shoe section and my size to look for white flat shoes. I couldn’t tell you a single thing about any of the shoes there except one! Right in front of my eyes as if staring me right in the face, was a pair of sparkling flat sandals – with orange and green! No way! There was only one pair, and they didn’t hurt!

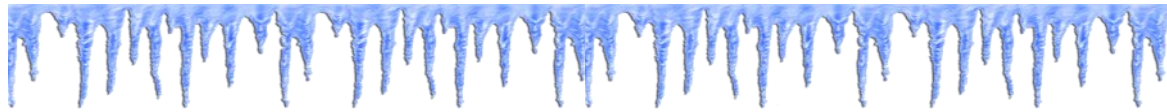
How does God do that? How does He do anything and everything He does? Because He is God, our creator, and the creator of the entire universe, heavens and earth. Why does He do these things – the little things? I believe He is saying, I’m “always” here with you and “I love you.” “You are my child and I am your God.”

In an article entitled “No Small Miracles, Jesse Pingenot notes that the phrase “small miracle” is not found in the Bible. He goes on to say “. . . you shouldn’t compare one miracle with another. The standard of a miracle isn’t against other miracles; it’s against the way things are without them. There is no such thing as a small miracle. . . . Don’t overlook miracles. God is doing amazing things all around you! . . . So **expect** God to do miracles. Look for them! And when you see them, don’t try to explain them away. CELEBRATE them! They are confirmation that God is with you in what you’re doing! . . . God does miracles among His people so that they will be encouraged as they share the Gospel.”

By Anne Chapman



Forever



ICE

STORM

Some of you will remember in February when Pastor Mike had to leave very suddenly and drive to Oregon to help his mother who was stranded by a severe ice storm. The huge storm devastated a large triangular area from Salem, Oregon to Vancouver, Washington, with her town of West Linn being in what was considered the most severely impacted area. Homes and cars were crushed and even the roof on Safeway collapsed under the weight of the ice. Honestly, it all started with a little fun – pretty icicles on the bedroom window – that quickly turned into a midnight disaster which lasted eight days.

While the following is somewhat long, it is a thank-you letter from Pastor's mom to those who helped her and her husband during this dangerous time. It is most interesting and makes us thankful for what we have, and gives us a glimpse of what she terms as a possible "preppy" for what may lie ahead. Here goes:

To each one of you who receive this letter, please consider that it is the only way that I can express my gratitude for your personal involvement in my life in a time of need. It was written on Feb. 14th which was only on day 2 of the test and trial ahead but it gives you the gist of the circumstances and portrays an attitude of gratitude to each of you.

So Welcome to Iceland:

The Iceland referred to is not the global north country as we know it but it, for me, is our residence at West Linn OR. For me, it could easily be a trial run for a "preppy" and what may be a trial run for our future. Yes, I heard this storm was coming and I got much ready to face it. I did a lot of preparation, hoping to cover all the conveniences that could possibly be taken away.

Some of my preps: For the animals-a gallon of cat food out in the barn for our feral cat and hoping the raccoons would not find it. Also, I got a gallon and a half of cracked corn to throw out the back door for the birds.

Wood: Since we have a woodstove and it is our only source of heat, I made our small back porch look like a wood shed. And now I see the supply dwindling and yet for the moment plenty. Yet I wonder if it will be a picture of the widow in the Bible story of Elijah where her supply ended when the need ended. I am thankful that I can cook on the wood stove also. I even prepared for myself the luxury of brewing a pot of coffee on Friday before the electricity went out Friday night. Warmed up coffee has never been to my liking but such a luxury to sit and drink it as I am writing this on Sunday morning the 14th. (Oh yes, the wood lasted.)

Water: When the power goes out we are without water so there is no dishwashing, no toilet flushing, no showers, etc., but in all these things we have taken them for granted. Recently, I learned just how much we take these conveniences for granted when talking to an immigrant from Africa. Her first impression of America was in the abundance of water for a shower because in Africa, where she lived, the people would soak an article of clothing in seepage and then wring the water out of it into a cup to drink. America, we are so blessed. But now, back to my letter of gratitude. I had a large supply of bottled water to drink and more out in our pole barn which is probably frozen solid by now and it is too dangerous for me to go out for more anyway because of the ice on the ground outside. As for supplying myself with more wood and water, it is too dangerous to slip on the ice and fall. Only God knows when the break of this ice storm situation will end. I also supplied for us 4 buckets of water to flush the toilet but I can't even do that with each bathroom trip because a flush has also become a luxury.

CC

Cont. on p. 16

Cont. from p. 15

Light/electricity: It is another luxury we so take for granted. It is unreal how many times when it is gone that I have flipped on an empty switch. A habit in the dependence. I had charged up flash lights and our two cell phones and using the cell phones sparingly because my only source of recharging them is the car out in the pole barn, across the field /yard of ice. The landline and internet are gone. We have been given a small taste of back to the pioneer days.

I made a flashlight taped onto my husband's walker for him to see getting to the bathroom. (First walker with a headlight but we still need to perfect a dimmer switch.) The first time he was up, I was awakened and got up to help him but then the next time there was evidence he managed alone. He likes to eat cheese and drink milk during the night but with no light in the refrigerator for his search for the cheese, he defrosted the refrigerator. So now instead of ice cream we have melted ice cream/milkshakes. But since it is 31 degrees outside, I have set the milk outside on the porch, plus I have put ice into a cooler for the future front porch refrigerator. So, what if some of my ice chunks have leaves in them. It is a needful commodity and the ice is so plentiful and is also falling from the trees. It could be an instant brain concussion. God has met my need. It looks like with the falling ice that someone dumped a huge ice cube tray outside.

But right now, it is very hard dealing with my dependent husband who cannot cope well with the darkness, the lack of electricity and usual amenities plus the overall war-zone like situation. Also, at the time I am now writing this on day 2, we were out 8 days without power. My son, Mike, from California came, and with the help of a neighbor, got intermittent power with our generator. That was so good and a great help but still not the normal we take so for granted.

The rain has started and the wind picked up and the ice is falling from the trees. I am saying to myself, "Please Lord, just let it be ice and let it be the heavy ice laden limbs just unloading." God has promised us that He has not given us the spirit of fear but I am thinking, how about it Lord? Am I allowed just a little bit of anxiety? Yet, be anxious for nothing but in all things be thankful. Yes, I am thankful my needs are met.

Yes, a thump now on the roof is ice and not limbs as before. The limbs initially are what made me call 911 when a limb ripped the powerline to the shop out of the roof/side of the house. The call that brought the Tualatin Valley Fire Department that is stationed just up Mountain Rd. who wouldn't come right down to the house because of the falling limbs but when they did come, they said, we have got to get you out of this house, pack up to leave. Yes, pack up. Oh yes, try to remember with a brain that is frazzled what to gather up for what our need might be. BUT they were not going to be able to get my husband in the fire truck. (I will add this now in the time of my writing. That was Friday night and when we were brought back home on Saturday afternoon, a huge limb from the big black walnut tree had come down in the very spot where the fire truck was parked in front of the house. It would have demolished the fire truck and your lives were in danger. That was a miraculous window of timing for all of us.)

So, the firemen ask me where is your car. It was parked in the pole barn but also the drive way to the pole barn was blocked by huge fallen limbs. No car, no solution for my husband being able to leave. In my frazzled mind, I thought of the helpful neighbors across the road. They had a Jeep which he could get into. So, they did and we were transported to their house. Talk about a whirlwind of circumstances, oh my.. But it was not in my thinking at the time that the neighbors have a large house and could be able to take us in for the night. So, in the saga of the night, we were deposited on their doorstep, only I did not know that instead of being "wedding crashers", we were "birthday crashers". It was her birthday party. They had out of town stranded guests and the house was already full. We were quickly given a bedroom which had been intended for a visiting couple and we settled into one of the most luxurious beds that I have ever experienced. The mattress, sheets, pillows and a down comforter should have given me such sweet, peaceful sleep but sleep was fleeting.

Cont. on p. 17

Cont. from p. 16

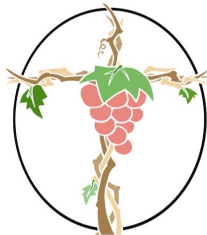
I laid and watched the hands on the clock beside the bed go past midnight before sleep came but then that was interrupted 4 times during the night to take a confused man to the bathroom. It grieved my heart when I got up, to realize the couple who had given up their room for us was sleeping on two couches in the living room. I had such a desire to get back home because I knew that our woodstove would be going out and our water pipes could freeze with no heat in the house.

THEN, my beloved little dog, in all his confusion - a little dog who does not potty in our house - took on the image of the "dog from hell" in their beautiful home. I cleaned up 4 different bowel droppings and there were so many peed places that it was unreal. I wondered just how much could these neighbors endure for us. But, as the ice started falling from the power lines, it was decided we could come back to our house. The neighbors supplied us with hard hats to get us into the house. Home at last. I got the fire started, cooked dinner on the woodstove and got ready for bed before we lost daylight to see and get around in the house without flashlights. But with being home and the warmth of the woodstove, I had a restful night.

And now, Sunday morning after getting up 3 times to put wood in the stove, I am so blessed with a warmed-up cup of coffee and realizing that with the defrosted refrigerator, we now have more food than we can eat but there is a huge supply of ice outside for my cooler. Then the rain starts and I am concerned for a little while until I see the thermometer starting to inch up and the ice, while looking like snow before is starting to look transparent. Thankful for the roof thuds being only ice from the trees. Thankful when I look out, I see no structural damage to the buildings but the whole place looks like a war zone for limbs and parts of broken trees. We can't get out the back door because of limbs. The big oaks have taken the biggest hit but if I was looking for future wood for the stove, I am blessed. I am thankful that the heaviness of the ice on our flattish roof did not make the roof collapse because of the weight of probably an inch and one half of ice. The warm rain on ice is as welcome in the winter as the cool rain of summer on a hot day. But now in the closing and disappearing of daylight for this day, Sunday Feb. 14th, I will soon go to bed and look forward to the dawning of a new day. A lesson learned for a "preppy."

Now to all of you who receive this letter which was penned in the beginning 2 days of the storm, I write it to you to express my gratitude for your help and intervention in our lives in our time of need. Neighbors and fire department all working together, I give you thanks. I could list you by name but you know in your hearts what each of you has done. For me it is with such thanksgiving to see such giving hearts. Yes, this is long but it takes the amount of information given to let you know my feelings. Thank you and blessings on your day.

* * *



To all Torch Recipients: If you see anything in here, i.e., birthdays, anniversaries, dates, spellings, or if someone has been missed, please let the office know. Leave a message at (916) 363-6145. Or please send an email to Mayhewcbc@gmail.com. Would you like to put an article in the Torch? Need help with it? Contact Anne at aachapmanaa@gmail.com. THANK YOU!

BIRTHDAYS



JANUARY

Birthdays

- 3 Yasuko Yoshino
- 5 Ocille Perry
- 12 Doug Holcombe
- 28 Floyd Gipson
- 30 Glenn Natsuhara

Anniversaries

- 6 George & Gladys Okino
- 24 Ivan & Darnice Thacker

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

- 1 Desmond Dietz
- 6 Shirley Motley
- 7 Keiko Kurosaki
- 10 Julie (Yuko) Kesek
- 14 Valerie Natsuhara
- 18 Nicholas Waits
- 19 Dora LaVern Doolittle
- 19 Doris Malone
- 22 George Okino
- 23 Morena Holmes Reynolds
- 23 Rock Ferriera
- 24 Louis Carter
- 27 Bill Kitagawa
- 28 Randy Kurosaki

Anniversaries

- 11 Randy & Naomi Kurosaki

MARCH

Birthdays

- 1 Ann Guro
- 1 Raymond Reed
- 4 Holly Crossman
- 6 Tina Sprague
- 8 Marquita Arnold
- 10 Robin Satow
- 17 Ed Jones
- 19 Lois Kramer
- 22 Jodi King
- 26 Andorful Gaisie
- 26 Roy Boyd
- 27 Becca Viola
- 28 Julia Natsuhara
- 30 Anne Chapman

Anniversaries

- 2 Willie & Morena Reynolds
- 21 Bill & Ruth Kitagawa

APRIL

Birthdays

- 16 Rachel Kitigawa
- 17 Teresa Reed
- 19 Glenda Spann
- 23 Michael Smith
- 23 Otha Piepenburg
- 30 Lance Richard

Anniversaries – N/A

MAY

Birthdays

- 2 Aisha Motley
- 3 Mike Grady
- 5 Janae Grace Felton
- 6 Eleanor Natsuhara
- 7 Steve Pas
- 8 Chrystal Johnson
- 8 Michael Guro
- 10 Jessica Brown
- 14 Shaliese Motley
- 14 Sharidonn Motley
- 16 Hannah Guro
- 28 Jeff Jefferson
- 28 Hope Nelson
- 29 Agnes Deguchi

Anniversaries

- 12 Roy & Donna Boyd

JUNE

Birthdays

- 1 Liz Waits
- 2 Margaret Michels
- 2 Tamaryn Crossman
- 3 Joylene Satow
- 3 Brian Burnley
- 6 Ivan Thacker
- 7 Patrick VanNorman
- 19 Bernice Ingram
- 21 Lodie Gipson
- 22 Kelly Schnase
- 26 John Sprague
- 28 Isaiah Wm Felton
- 30 John Sarbacher
- 30 Quinton Malone

Anniversaries – N/A

JULY

Birthdays

2 Lillian Kawamura
 7 Linda Hauch
 13 Ted Satow
 14 Zoey Gumbs
 16 Lan Ly
 16 Florene LaBlanc
 16 Lorene Smith
 23 Mary Shafer
 25 Carl Piepenburg
 27 Beverly Kennedy
 27 Celine Dietz

Anniversaries

14 Melvin & Doris Malone
 26 Herbert & Glenda Spann

AUGUST

Birthdays

3 Kay Yomogida
 6 Marvin Lewis
 8 Sheila Daniel
 9 Pastor Mike Schnase
 13 Leroy Kennedy
 14 Kumi Guro
 18 Karen Woods
 31 Hector Hernandez

Anniversaries

10 John & Diane Sarbacher
 17 John & Erin Takechi

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

7 Salvesh Nadan
 10 Naomi Kurosaki
 10 Ruth Kitagawa
 11 JoAnne Treiber
 12 Lauren Takechi
 14 Paulene Conaway
 15 Jennifer Emmons
 16 David Harter
 17 Lee King
 18 Cynthia Schafer
 20 Rick Crossman
 24 Shaam Nadan
 24 Louise Carter
 26 Anthony Janis
 28 John Takechi

SEPTEMBER Cont.

28 Anthony Williams
 29 Nella Dietz

Anniversaries

25 Glenn & Valerie Natsuhara
 26 Michael & Hannah Guro

OCTOBER

Birthdays

3 Kojo Gaisie
 3 Archana Nadan
 5 Mieke Cone
 18 Irv Horton
 22 Colleen Lancaster
 22 Prudence Crossman
 29 Luanne Schnase

Anniversaries

6 Perry & Karen Woods
 13 Ted & Joylene Satow
 28 Carl & Otha Piepenburg

NOVEMBER

Birthdays

3 Diane Sarbacher
 3 Fred Deguchi
 6 Zachary Choyce
 6 Lisa Dudham
 11 Debbie Neal
 26 Bonnie Alexander
 29 Mabel Tierce
 30 Erin Satow

Anniversaries – NA

DECEMBER

Birthdays

1 Crystal Newton
 3 George Sato
 7 Tammy Jensen
 15 Beverly Gumbs
 22 Kenneth Banks
 25 Derrick Dietz
 29 Robert Neal

Anniversaries

18 Raymond & Teresa Reed
 22 Bob & Hope Nelson
 23 Floyd & Lodie Gipson

& ANNIVERSARIES

Mayhew Community Baptist Church
3401 Routier Road
Sacramento, CA 95827

Phone: 916-363-6145
Fax: 916-854-6104
E-mail: MayhewCBC@gmail.com
Website: mayhewcommunitybaptist.org



Church Hours:

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Torch Editors: Anne Chapman
Diane Sarbacher
Staff: Paulene Conaway



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