



Christ Church of Chicago  
6047 N. Rockwell  
Chicago, IL 60659  
Phone (773) 338-8170  
Fax (773) 338-8730  
ChristChurchChicago.net

## **THE PASSAGE**

### **JANUARY - APRIL 2016**

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The hike wasn't a particularly arduous one. There were changes in elevation totaling 680 feet as we worked our way up and down the hills, but few were very steep on the North Kettle Moraine Trail in Wisconsin. Westyn and I decided that we would take a short trip for spring break and do some backpacking and get some R&R. I use the term "backpacking" very loosely as we only hiked about eight miles. But, I was wearing a trail-rated backpack, so I'm technically not exaggerating when I use the term.

The first part of the hike started with a 2.5-mile loop that began at the lookout tower giving views all the way to Lake Michigan. Once we completed the loop, we took the Ice Age Trail that ran adjacent to it and started heading north on a straight trail that went for some 32 miles. Our intention was to walk about six miles of it before turning around.

It occurred to me as we were walking just how much more difficult it was to walk a straight trail than a loop. While there isn't the great sense of anticipation that you get with a straight trail as you wonder what you may encounter ahead, the loop gives a certain feeling of comfort knowing that you will eventually come upon familiar ground and know you have completed your journey. When you are walking a

straight trail, you really have no sense of how much farther you have to go and there is the constant desire to turn around due to the nagging reality that the farther you go, the farther you have to return.

I was telling myself to keep going and resisting that lazy instigator in my head that gave me every reason to turn around: It was supposed to rain later. We might get hungry. A herd of deer might rush out of the woods and run us over. We could get attacked by wild rabid rabbits and the nearest hospital was miles away. You know, all of those perfectly rational grounds for giving up. Ok, so I may be a little facetious here. As we made our way past a bog and heard the distressed cry of a heron, the muses broke through the chatter and spoke to me showing me what a great metaphor this trail was for life. I pointed out to Wes that I had just a momentary stroke of genius - he wasn't impressed.

Genius or not, the sentiment is true. We are much more comfortable taking a route in life that will lead us back to where we started. It might not be a healthy place or one that is in our best interest, but at least it is familiar. If we dare to take the straight trail and foray into new territory, challenging ourselves, and taking risks that lead to unknown possibilities, there is the disconcerting possibility that we may fail.

But so what? What if we do fail? We get up, dust ourselves off, and try a different way. What's the worst that can happen? What are we afraid of? Some may worry that not enough people will support our endeavors. If we do what we know we should be with conviction, the right people will follow.

Alyce and Rocky Yamanaka  
Alyce and Rocky Yamanaka  
Alyce and Rocky Yamanaka  
Terry Yamagiwa  
Karen and Dick Yamasaki

Christmas Offering  
In Memory of Akiko Saito, Alyse Azuma  
In Memory of Gayle Yamaji, Kay Yamagiwa  
In Memory of Yurie Kushino  
Christmas Offering

### **Easter Offering**

Neil Brown  
Gary & Joy Fujiwara  
Robin Hirano  
Rose Kaihatsu  
Amy Kato  
Cheryl Hara and Dan Kawako  
Chieko Kimura  
Janette Koga  
Susan Kuse  
Marcia Kushino  
Jim & Peggy Mita  
Evelyn Morikado  
Sue Nakagi  
Donna and Scott Nitahara  
Kenny & Jackie Nitahara  
Suzanne Ogawa  
Rose Okabe

Atsumi Ozawa  
Bess Ozawa  
Pavlatos Family  
Roger and Erin Payton  
Peggy Sakai  
Pat & George Schlauder  
Jim & Lois Shikami  
Will & Andrea Smith  
Bill Steele  
Sachi Suzuki  
Steve & Sue Takaki  
Alvin & Jenny Tamura  
Hiro & Dahlia Toyama  
Joan and Bruce Toyama  
Juana and Willie Wong  
Gayle and Mas Yamaji  
Alyce and Rocky Yamanaka  
Pat Yoshino

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Thank You.*

Christ Church of Chicago is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We invite you to join us at our weekly church service held at 10:30 Sunday mornings.

## DONATIONS

Thank you to all the Friends and Members of Christ Church of Chicago for your generous donations during the period of January - March.

Norrie Andow	In Memory of Kay Yamagiwa
Yoneko Berenz	
Yoneko Berenz	
Fran's Friends	Donation
Harriet Ito	OGHS
Elaine & Darrel Kaneshiro	OGHS
Cheryl Hara and Dan	Kawako Christmas Offering
Lynne Kawamoto	In Memory of Don Kawamoto
Abner and K. Kuschel-Cunningham	
Marcia Kushino	In Memory of Akiko Saito and Alyse Azuma
Marcia Kushino	In Memory of Kay Yamagiwa
Marcia Kushino	In Memory of Tony Neeno
Marcia Kushino	OGHS
Yuko Nasu	Christmas Offering
Yuko Nasu	Woman's Fellowship
Donna and Scott Nitahara	Christmas Offering
Donna and Scott Nitahara	In Memory of Kay Yamagiwa, Akiko Saito
Jackie and Ken Nitahara	In Memory of Akiko Saito
Jackie and Ken Nitahara	OGHS
Rose Okabe	OGHS
Fukuko and Shig Oki	
Bess Ozawa	In Memory of Alyse Azuma
Peggy Sakai	Christmas Offering
Diane Sakai-Furuta	In Memory of my Dad-Yosh Sakai
Donna and Santos Santiago (3)	Offering
Pat and George Schlauder	Karate Donation
Pat and George Schlauder	OGHS
Lois and Jim Shikami	OGHS
Lois and Jim Shikami	In Memory of Kay Yamagiwa, Alyse Azuma
Tracey and Jon Shimabukuro	OGHS
Mikiko and Henry Shimabukuro	
Sachi Suzuki	In Memory of Alyse Azuma
Joan and Bruce Toyama	Christmas Offering
Dahlia and Hiro Toyama	In Memory of Kay Yamagiwa
Nancy Toyama	TE Thanks
Sue Uyeda	In Memory of Alyse Azuma and Tad Sasamoto
Sue, Susan, Andrew Uyeda	In Memory of Leslie Saiki
Woman's Fellowship	Benevolence
Juana and Willie Wong	OGHS
Masako and Arata Yamaga	Passage Appreciation
Terry Yamagiwa	In Memory of Yurie Kushino
Gayle and Mas Yamaji	Christmas Offering
Mas Yamaji	In Memory of Gayle Yamaji

If God has made us for a certain purpose, aren't we going to succeed in fulfilling that purpose? Too many of us are living in fear and timidity because we are uncomfortable with the unknown. Well, take a chance anyway and see what happens. See that trail there running alongside the loop? Take it. Go as far as you can, and should you stumble, get back up, laugh it off, and keep walking. Because that trail was made for *you* and only *you* can walk it.

The wet touch of a cool, light rain on my head brought me back from my epiphany. Wes and I looked at each other and nodded as if to say, "Yep. Better head back just to be safe." After all, everyone knows that a sprinkle is just God's gentle warning to turn around and get back before the Noahic deluge begins. In the end, I wasn't really tired at all. By the time we got back to the campground, the rain had stopped and we played a couple of one-on-one basketball games. I had all this energy, not even being fatigued and all. So when he suggested we play a full court game and called me a lazy old man for protesting, I gently reminded him that it would be a long walk back to Chicago.

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## A Just Harvest Community Kitchen

The Community Kitchen serves dinner to anyone in need 365 days a year and relies upon volunteers to plate, serve, and bus tables in their restaurant-style service. It's an impressive operation, and we are happy to be sending a team of 6 people to serve dinner every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. Thanks to those that have served! Sign up sheets are at church or email Elaine at [deckanesh@gmail.com](mailto:deckanesh@gmail.com).



*Pictured: Back Row (Left to Right): Alyce Yamanaka, Dahlia Toyama, and Lois Shikami. Front Row (Left to Right): Atsumi Ozawa, Dorothy Miyake, and Rose Okabe.*

### **40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHURCH BANNERS**

April 6, 2016 marked the 40th Anniversary of the two church banners hanging in our church, called "Symbols of Our Faith". They were made by the Woman's Fellowship and designed by Lois Shikami. and presented in 1976. For several months, we have been recognizing the women who worked together to create such a lasting, beautiful monument to Christ Church of Chicago. This is just one of the many illustrations of how the Woman's Fellowship has maintained the spirit and sense of community at Tri-C. We appreciate you all.

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### **CORRECTION**

Correction from our November/December 2015 Passage. Setsuko Monma's generous donation was attributed wrong. It should have read 'In Memory of David Monma, Dorothy & George Ito & Yosh Sakai'. We apologize for the error.

## **CHRIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

### **OFFICIAL NOTICE**

The Annual Meeting of Christ Church of Chicago, Chicago, IL, will take place on Sunday, June 19, 2016, following the morning worship service.

A quorum necessary for the meeting is 50 members, including proxies. The church budget requires approval at this meeting.

Please make every effort to attend. If for some reason you are unable to attend, please get a signed proxy to the church office before the meeting.

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Because I cannot attend the Annual Meeting on June 19, 2016, I appoint \_\_\_\_\_ to cast my vote for me.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Stewardship Season!

Watch for your Stewardship mailing!

Thank you for returning your financial pledge on Sunday, May 8. We will celebrate our gifts and enjoy a wonderful Christian Family Luncheon!

We hope you will join us!

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## Official Announcement

Our Annual Church Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 19, 2016 following Worship Service. Your attendance (or proxy) is needed so that we have a quorum.

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## In Memoriam

*With sadness, we share the passing of members and friends.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with their families:*

Aiko Amino

Mary Maruyama

Edith Takaki

Sadako Tanaka

Akiko Saito

## UDON/BAKE SALE THANK YOU!

I want to thank so many people for making this year's Udon/Bake Sale a successful one.

To our chefs Gary and Jon for the delicious Udon, and the crew that worked tirelessly with the many chores in the kitchen.

To all the bakers and cooks who made delicious cookies, pies, cakes, brownies, Japanese treats like ohagi, kurimanju, the variety of mochis, maki-sushi, age and spam musubi.

To George Schlauder for table set up. To the cashiers and people manning the baked goods booth. To the many people who waited on tables. And last but not least, to all the people who cleaned up and put things back in order.

It is a wonderful experience when everybody comes out to help and things get done like a well oiled machine. Once more, THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!

*Juana*

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## Garden Team Update: April 25, 2016

“Love is the greatest gift any of us can give. It is an act of love to care for God’s creation. Humans do not and cannot exist in isolation from plants, animals, water, air or soil. Our earth is in peril. What greater mission could there be than to take care of all creation?”

Enticed by all things spring, your Garden team has been meeting to discuss ways to green up our front lawn. Eager to get started on the wonderful plan developed by Milo, landscape architect by day, karate instructor in George and Pat's karate school on the weekends, we've decided to install much of his vision in phases, as we are able to raise the necessary funds.

The initial stage will involve the removal of the lawn sign, defining new soil beds to frame out the front lawn, and the installation of specimen trees and hardscape. We are looking at planting a 6-7' serviceberry on the northwest corner of the front lawn (left of the sidewalk off the main entrance into church), installing a 7-8' Chanticleer pear tree in the northeast corner of the main lawn, adding a soil berm with pine tree and boulder at the southeast corner, and two smaller multi-stem crabapple or dogwoods on either side of the sidewalk to the smaller front door. Installation of the trees in the first phase will allow them to take root and mature while funds are raised for additional phases in which shrubs, ground cover and flowers will complete the garden make over, which also extends out to the parsonage.

I have worked with a landscaper who I am personally familiar with to establish a working budget to realize phase 1. I estimate that it will cost around \$4,000. The challenge I put forth to the entire Christ church family is, of course, to either help us identify ways to raise the funds or to generously contribute to our garden fund. And, if you have a desire to help plant, raise funds or provide your input, please feel free to speak with anyone on this team: Kent & Annie Ijichi, Gary and Joy Fujiwara, Josie Sugai, Chelsey Dolinar-Hikawa, Brent Hope, Jon and Sandra Lovestrand, Tracey Shimabukuro, Bill Steele, or me.

We plan to begin defining the soil beds on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> around 9:00. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated! Please bring spades, flat edged shovels, ropes or garden hoses to help us draw the beds along with abundant enthusiasm and energy! I hope to see you there!

*Russ*

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## **Open and Affirming!**

We are happy to announce that TRI-C and i2i (Invisible to Invincible: Asian Pacific Pride of Chicago) is co-hosting a monthly gathering for LGBTQ persons and families of origin and chosen family. This is an affirming space where people can share stories, information, resources, discuss and provide support to one another.

*Consider joining us if you or your family member:*

~Is questioning about sexual orientation or gender identity or identifies as LGBTQ

~Would like to be in community with other Asian Pacific Islander LGBTQ people and their families

~Has questions about "coming out" to family, friends, or communities

~Would like to listen and share about experiences with people who may share racial, ethnic or cultural identities with you.

We are meeting at Christ Church of Chicago from 3:00 – 5:00 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday each month.

For more info: contact i2i at [chicagoi2i@yahoo.com](mailto:chicagoi2i@yahoo.com) or TRI-C at [pastor@christchurchchicago.net](mailto:pastor@christchurchchicago.net)

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