

The Aldersgate Press

May/June 2015 • Vol 20 • www.AldersgatePA.org
• A Reconciling Congregation, open to all

Church Bazaar - May 2!

SERVING YOUR CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Roger Morimoto
rvm878@gmail.com

Your AUMC Staff:

Send **Sunday bulletin**
information to:
Mimi Funabiki - bulletin editor
mfunabiki_retired@juno.com

Submit **newsletter** articles by the
15th of the month to:
Brad Shirakawa - newsletter editor
bradaumc@yahoo.com

Lori Wong does everything else
lori_wong@yahoo.com

Sunday service starts at 10 am. Sunday
school available for toddlers through
12th graders.

**Aldersgate United
Methodist Church**
4243 Manuela Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94306-3705
ph: 650-948-6806
www.aldersgatepa.org

ALDERSGATE

SHARING

BUILDING

COMMUNITY

Words With Rev. Roger

Healing the Church and the Spirit



In March, we hosted an evening with a psychic medium, Tammy Langowski. Tammy shared her perspective on what she does, did some amazing readings and closed our time together by leading the 31 participants in a grounding meditation. It was an insightful and moving experience for all present.

Now, some people would ask, “Are you supposed to do this in church?”

To answer this question fully, one would have to look historically at the development of the Church and it’s relationship to what some may call the spiritual realm. Let’s do that.

In the earliest Christian movements (first and second centuries A.D.), the majority of Christians were gnostic in nature and perspectives. This meant they believed in a spiritual realm and reality that engaged us in our natural world. Spirituality was rooted in the experience of being connected and communicated with the reality of the spiritual realm.

Jesus had such experiences. Jesus’ encounters with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4) and with Nathanael (John 1) are two such examples. For Jesus, the psychic phenomenon was not the primary experience but it did point to a deeper spiritual reality.

As the Christian movement grew and as it moved away from Jesus’ era, and as the institutional structure grew, orthodoxy sought to monopolize and control all that was spiritual. This culminated when Emperor Constantine united the Roman political and military power with the Church in the 4th century (A.D.).

Over the next several centuries, all that was spiritual was routed through the hierarchy of the church. Only the Church could give absolution and determined who entered into heaven. It became the gatekeeper not only to heaven but also to connection and communication to the spiritual realm. To attempt

— see Rev. Roger, next page

Words With Rev. Roger

- continued

such endeavors outside the church meant punishment and even death with the promise of eternal damnation (as defined) by the church.

Thus, people with the spiritual gift were forced into hiding for centuries and they became occult (or hidden.) Spirituality became about adherence to church doctrine, dogma and beliefs as opposed to experience of the Spirit.

While the decline of the Roman Empire and eventual Protestant Reformation weakened the power and ability of the Church to control the experience of spirituality, the Protestant churches in many instances still held its prejudices against spiritual experience outside of their defined practices and beliefs.

In 2015 and since the 1960's, there has been a shift in American culture that has opened the door for such experiences. Ironically, in this period where science and technology has become the new doctrine and dogma, direct spiritual experience has also grown and is beginning to enter into the mainstream in ways never imagine in recent history. (eg. - Shows like the "Long Island Medium.")

In science, the multiverse, multi-dimensional reality, dark energy and dark matter even begin to suggest a scientific plausibility to the spiritual. Advances in brain science is suggesting possible mechanisms to such experience even though it has spawned new debates of whether these experiences are only within the mind or transcend outside of the mind. Regardless, we are in a new era to explore what it means to be spiritual.

The time has come to heal the ancient rift between the institutional Church and the direct experience of the spiritual. Clearly, we are not going to all agree since our "experiences" all vary, but we need to have open minds to the possibility rather than to be influenced by ancient prejudices that are rooted in ancient desires for control and power.

We are in a new spiritual era. I encourage you to grow in your spiritual quests and in your experience of the divine.

Roger

Donate Your Car To Aldersgate



Wondering what to do with that old clunker? Donate it to Aldersgate! The process is simple, just ask Lori Wong, who donated her car through **donatingiseasy.org**.

AUMC is now listed on their website, so find us there! **Donatingiseasy.org** will take care of picking up the car and auctioning it. The church receives 70% of the sale price, minus a fee for processing.

Coming Up!

Family Night

Friday, May 15 at 6:30pm

"Game Night"

Roger's short ribs are the main course!

Memorial Day

Sunday, May 24 - Special Schedule

9:30am Interfaith Service at Alta Mesa Cemetery

10:30am Abbreviated worship at Aldersgate

Guest Speaker: Glen Narimatsu

Harmony 84 31st Annual Concert

Saturday, May 30 • 6pm, here at AUMC • free admission. Contact Fumiko at FumikoiAllen@me.com

Church Picnic

Saturday, June 7 at 10:30am at Mitchell Park

Volunteer Needed!

We need someone to run the soundboard during Sunday service. It's easy! Let Rev. Roger know if interested.

"A place to explore the intersections among science, art, culture, healing and spirituality."

Center For Spiritual Life

Science and Spirituality:

Making Room for Faith in the Age of Science

Sunday Sermon, May 3 • 10am – Sponsored by the "Science and Spirituality" Module

Speaker: David Copeland

David will introduce us to the book, "Science and Spirituality: Making Room for Faith in the Age of Science" by Michael Ruse. This book offers a new analysis of the often troubled relationship between science and religion. Arguing against both extremes, he asserts that science is undoubtedly the highest and most fruitful source of human inquiry. Yet, by its very nature science restricts itself and is unable to answer basic, significant and potent questions about the meaning of the universe and humankind's place within it.

Book Study

Date/Time to be determined

David Copeland and Roger Morimoto will lead a book study on "Science and Spirituality: Making Room for Faith in the Age of Science." Even if you do not read the material, you are welcome to come listen and join the discussion. We encourage all to join. If you would like Rev. Roger to order you a book, please email him (rvm878@gmail.com) or call the church office.

Intuitive Meditation Workshop

Tuesday, May 5 • 7:30 to 8:30pm

Tammy Langowski's final session, don't miss it!

The Positive Enneagram

Tuesday, May 19 • 7pm

by Matthew Schlegel

The Enneagram is often described as a "negative system" because it tends to differentiate types by their negative characteristics. This approach is enhanced by the fact that the enneagram characteristics are more pronounced as individuals are in their defensive modes/stances. These enneagram characteristics are less visible as individuals evolve and mature. However, each of the enneagram types/dynamics clearly have very positive qualities and characteristics. This workshop will present the Enneagram in their positive light and qualities.

Sermon & Art Exhibit by Asia Morganthaler

Sunday, June 14

Asia is a graduate student at Sophia University in Palo Alto studying Women's Studies and Spirituality. Rev. Roger and the Center for Spiritual Life invited Asia to share about her art work and artistic/spiritual journey. She will be speaking at the morning worship and showing her work during and after worship.

Coming later this year:

* Basic/Beginner's astrology class – late summer by Alice Phipps

* "Spirit in Stone" photography exhibit in the fall by Mark Hatasaka

Easter



Above: William Cope-land performs Prelude from Partita #2 in E major BWV1006, by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Right: Mika Iwasaki helps decorate the Easter cross.



Below: Melody King warms up before her performance



Above: Patty Sakuma's deviled eggs were a popular treat during fellowship hour. Photo by Paul Sakuma



Above: Before service, Lily Shibuya took time to arrange flowers for the altar.



Kenta Yanagisawa (far left), Max Robinson, Tyler Pennebaker and Sola Takahashi play a game combining cell phones and music. Don't ask.



Matthew Yu, Zack Dunn and Wendy Sakuma sing with the youth choir.

A Working Vacation

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Cory Gong was one of seventeen Gunn High students who traveled to Guatemala for ten days during spring break. The goal of their trip was repair two local schools and a home. A junior, he wrote this for the newsletter and supplied the photos.

We took a red-eye flight out of SFO and once we landed, I quickly noted the difference between Guatemala and Palo Alto. There was poverty everywhere. Trash surrounded the city, homeless people sleeping on the streets and people walked barefoot around rural areas.

We arrived during the Easter celebrations so there were also several religious processions; some lasting for up to ten hours.

On our first work day, we drove to a small school in El Hato, just outside of Antigua, Guatemala. We started off painting primer onto one classroom and the kitchen.

Both areas had dirty and faded blue walls. I tackled the classroom and although it was a small classroom, two coats of primer and a final coat of red and yellow paint seemed endless.

We did not have fancy rollers or paint trays to apply the paint, only 3" and 5" wide brushes and small cups. We didn't have any ladders and I was elected to paint the tall portions of the walls closest to the ceiling.

Luckily, I found an old broom handle and taped it to my paint brush. Everyone was getting tired and our necks and arms were sore. Our guide, Brian, told us that this painting project was a surprise to the students and so we pushed onwards.

On the second work day, we went to



Cory Gong (green shirt) and his fellow Gunn High students mix cement on the ground for the foundation, using just shovels and their bare hands.

a local family's home to lay a cement floor. The "home" looked more like a shed; it was not much bigger than the dining room at my home, the walls were made out of old rotted termite infested pieces of lumber with big holes and not properly sealed at all.

We could see through all four walls. Before, the family had a damaged stone and dirt floor to stand on while cooking at a fire pit, inside the house.

We couldn't believe that a family of five lived here. Although we were exhausted from our previous day of work, my friends and I gathered together and said "Let's do this!" and off we went.

We shoveled and created a dirt

"bowl" in the ground to mix the cement in. I stabbed the bags of cement with my shovel to open them up.

In order to mix the cement, we added water we retrieved from an old well and quickly shoveled and stirred the cement until the water was thoroughly displaced.

This was very difficult because the cement was heavy and thick, plus it was extremely hot and muggy outside. We had one wheelbarrow with holes in it to transport to the inside of the home.

We had to be consistently mixing the cement and adding water. Most of our group had never mixed cement before and this was much more tir-

Guatemala *continued*

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Students Sean MacPherson and Natalie Perreault lay cement next to a furnace in the kitchen, in a very small home in El Hato.



ing than painting. This project took us four full days to complete. Now, the family has a sturdy, solid floor for their kitchen.

The father was so grateful and thankful that our group had flown all the way out from the United States to help his family and home. He kept thanking us and said he wanted to somehow repay us back.

The last couple of days of our trip, we went back to the schools we spruced up and were able to help in the classrooms and play soccer and basketball with the students.

I brought the school supplies and clothing which were purchased from all the generous donations received from Aldersgate. The teachers and students were very grateful for everything.

One of the little boys told the group that the room felt more "alive" when he walked in this morning. Aurora and I handed out one pencil to each student in the second grade class and

each said "Muchos gracias" with a huge smile on their face. The students looked like they received an iPhone since that is how much they value education.

Prior to going on this service trip, several people asked me why I didn't just go on a family vacation or college viewing trip during the spring break.

True, who wouldn't want to go to Disneyland or just kick back and have fun for a week, and in fact, it's been about four years since my family and I have been on any type of vacation together.

However, I knew there were other people out there in the world that needed our help. Our group was fortunate to meet and talk at length

with some students at La Union School who told us they only get three hours of sleep each night because they are so poor. They have to go to work to help support their family, help at home plus go to school. Education is very important to them, but they can't afford food or basic necessities if they don't help bring in an income too. None of my new friends at La Union School have ever been on any type of family vacation together either.

Through this trip, I have come to appreciate the little things, some as simple as a smile. The people in Guatemala have such a positive energy that radiates and infects others; only making the happiness flow through more people. I hope we can all appreciate all that we have, because in Guatemala, they are living the happiest life they possibly can, with far less resources than us.

Thank you to everyone at Aldersgate for their generous donations, I was able to purchase enough school supplies for two classrooms.



Aurora and Cory hand out pencils in El Hato.

Funds Raised to Fight Malaria

Aldersgate elevated its game during our second shot to raise funds to beat malaria.

Warm weather contributed to an enthusiastic group of youth and adults, who competed against each other, shooting free throws.

The youth reached their goal, making 100 free throws with five and half minutes to spare, and made a total of 130 within their 20 minute timeframe.

The adults made 98. Losers.

In 2008, The United Methodist Church as a denomination committed to join the global fight against malaria, embarking upon a \$75,000,000 "Imagine No Malaria" fundraising campaign.

To date, The Global Fund has received over \$8.5 million in payment from this campaign. UMCOR has directly implemented over \$6 million for malaria programming.



Matthew Yu

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Irene Iwasaki



Emi Iwasaki



Jade Lum

Aldersgate UMC Bazaar

Saturday, May 2 11 am to 4 pm

**Bento • GREAT Teri chix • Manju • Udon
Collectibles • Crafts • Our Art Gallery
will include Modern & Internment Art**

4243 Manuela Ave Palo Alto

www.aldersgatePA.org

The Last Page

Special Gifts

from March 22

In memory of Fumi Joo Joo Family	Carolyn Hart	M/M Paul Sakuma M/M Glen Narimatsu M/M Mits Uchida M/M Ted Noguchi Rhina Nakamura Judy Wong D/M Dale Uriu Dale Ah Tye M/M Steve Shiozaki Hitoshi Takahashi & Midori Nishimura Kelly Ebisui Paul Ebisui Mary Murata M/M Craig Yanagisawa D/M Mare Shibuya D/M Harry Hatasaka Fred Ishizaki M/M Michelle Dunn M/M Tom Tamaru Robert Chinn & Lori Tamura Jerry Chang & Leslie Itano Joo Family M/M Jay Sasagawa Harry Mizote Atsuko Nelson M/M Vince Iwasaki Isamu Morimoto	Nellie Nakamura Fund David Nakamura	Brent Yamashita & Carol Uyeno M/M Steve Shiozaki M/M Steve Murata M/M Mits Uchida Sue Nakamura Sachiyo Yamasaki M/M John Pennebaker R/M Roger Morimoto Mary Murata M/M Harvey Wong M/M David Shieh M/M Jay Sasagawa Mary & Kimi Tsukushi M/M Ted Noguchi M/M Harry Hatasaka M/M Sam Motooka David Nakamura
In memory of Jim Shizuru M/M Jay Sasagawa M/M Tad Sasamoto	In memory of Masaji and Terry Goto M/M Joe Sato		LYFE D/M Mare Shibuya	
In memory of Kazue Ashikawa Jim Ashikawa	Thomas' Baptism Judy Wong M/M Harold Sunoo M/M Russell Wong		Enneagram D/M Harry Hatasaka	
In memory of Alice Oku Sachiyo Yamasaki D/M Harry Hatasaka M/M Ernie Murata Tamiko Honda Kimi & Mary Tsukushi M/M Sam Motooka M/M Harvey Wong	Easter R/M Roger Morimoto Sachiyo Yamasaki M/M Lee Ozawa Kimi & Mary Tsukushi Gayle Oshima M/M Jason Ura R/M Lloyd Wake Janet Kakimoto Paula Lau Pua M/M Jay Sasagawa James Takasugi & Mona Nakamura Sue Nakamura M/M Bill Ono Tosh Tsubakimoto M/M Tom Hikido M/M Denis Imazeki M/M Harry Tamura Tami Oshima Robin Vroom & Alice Kawasaki Grace Kozen		Kitchen Fund David Nakamura	
In memory of Marvin Ozawa Grace Kozen Atsuko Nelson Sue Nakamura Judy Wong M/M Tak Nishiura M/M Randy Suzuki Tomoko Ozawa Kimi & Mary Tsukushi M/M Sam Motooka Hero Tsukushi Claire Haratani			Imagine No Malaria Dwight Brown & Audrey Ishizaki D/M Harry Hatasaka Jean Schaffert D/M Mare Shibuya Gayle Oshima M/M Tak Nishiura M/M Jay Sasagawa Hitoshi Takahashi & Midori Nishimura M/M David Shieh M/M Sam Motooka M/M Harry Hatasaka Ann Shimakawa R/M Roger Morimoto M/M Ted Noguchi	Youth Fund M/M Chris Robinson Satoko King
		CSL James Takasugi & Mona Nakamura D/M Harry Hatasaka	Guatemala Atsuko Nelson Hitoshi Takahashi & Midori Nishimura	Building Fund Gayle Oshima
				Upper room M/M Sam Motooka
				CSL M/M Hiroki Asada M/M Steve Shiozaki Gayle Oshima Joo Family M/M Jeff Sasagawa

Special Thanks!

Thank you to Team C for providing refreshments through the month of April.

A special thanks to those who help out every week with the little things that keep the church running. Our thanks to the newsletter crew and Sunday service offering counters. FIG (Fix It Group): fixing and maintaining things at the church.

Ogasawara Landscaping: keeping the grounds groomed each week. Satoko King for coffee supplies & Lori Wong for buying church supplies.

Phone Directory Update

Had a change of phone, email or address? Please contact Brad or Rev. Roger. The new directory will be out shortly.

Ansel Adams Manzanar Photographs

Go to **SFgate.com** to read Brad Shirakawa's commentary about Ansel Adam's photographs taken at Manzanar internment camp.
<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Ansel-Adams-Japanese-internment-WWII-6206027.php>

This newsletter covers two months, so look for the next issue in late June!
Want your Aldersgate news via email? Email Lori Wong and let her know.