Summer is upon us. For GVBC this means we travel and take good news with us because the Kingdom of God is within us (Luke 17.21). Later this month our Youth Ministry will again serve with our sister church City Lights in its neighborhood in Long Beach. Tommy Morse is in Japan for one year teaching English, Youth Discipleship, and Evangelism. Michael Hill will go to Alaska to do evangelism with CRU, formerly Campus Crusade for Christ. Globally, we have a team in Brazil right now and later this summer a team will head to Japan. In the fall, Tommy Shirota will serve with National School Project, mentoring at a high school campus.

Being a follower of Jesus means we are a disciple to anyone, anywhere, anytime. Discipleship is not a program, a class, or something to memorize. Rather, it is a state of being. Being a disciple means embracing a Kingdom Culture. This is an integrated pattern of knowing, believing and behaving — emulating the ministry of Jesus. Remember 1 John 4.17 says, “In this world we are like Jesus”.

In a community this culture is reflected by the shared values, practices and goals found in Jesus and His followers. Frequently in the New Testament this is revealed through the demonstration and declaration of the Kingdom of God. Being a disciple to anyone, anywhere, anytime requires flexibility. Jesus adjusted His language and approach depending on whom He was speaking with. To the highborn Jew, Nicodemus, He talked about spiritual birth (John 3), but to the Samaritan woman, He spoke about living water (John 4). In responding to Father God, Jesus was flexible and adaptable and Paul followed His example.

Paul simply adapted his approach to different groups. His speeches in Acts provide an insight to His approach. Paul’s speech to a simple, rural crowd in Lystra found in Acts 14 is very different from his speech to the scholars and philosophers of Athens found in Acts 17. He describes his approach in 1 Corinthians 9.19-22,

“Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”

We also are free and belong to none except Christ Jesus. Yet, as we learn to live a Kingdom Culture, which means a Biblical culture, may we too be a disciple to anyone, anywhere, and anytime.

For the Kingdom,

Pastor Doug
Your Board of Deacons convened in April and May. The Board unanimously welcomed four new members to the GVBC family. In April the Board welcomed new members, Theresa Harrison & Yasuko Ogasawara. During the May meeting, Rudy Carruolo and Jean Kohama were voted in. One member was removed from membership as Fujino Jean Miyata has gone to join her place with our Lord and Savior.

Pastor Daniel Matsuda presented his plans for his upcoming sabbatical. We hope Daniel’s time spent will be a blessing and he will grow closer to God and Linda.

Rex Hayashi provided the Treasurer’s Report for March 2018. Year-to-Date revenue through March 31 was $287,423 with Expenses of -$350,933. The Net Revenue/Expense is -$63,510. Receipts for Nehemiah 5 were $30,901 for April.

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**General Fund - April**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income received</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$180,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Fund - Jan-Apr 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adopted budget</th>
<th>Income received</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$550,000</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nehemiah 5 - cumulative thru April 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Straightline Goal</th>
<th>Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,600,000</td>
<td>$1,400,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Donations and Flowers given in honor or loving memory**

**FROM**

- Henry & Sanaye Nagami
- Donna Matsumoto
- Merrick Yoshida, & Jodie, Voltaire & Julie Rivera

**TO**

- Rex Hayashi’s mother
- Uncle Wayne Chinen
- Mrs. Kazuko Ishimoto

Monetary donations given in honor or memory of loved ones support College Scholarship Fund, unless specified.

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**One Great Hour of Sharing**

During the month of June we will be collecting for the American Baptist Church’s One Great Hour of Sharing fund which helps those in need around the world during a disaster.
Yuma Inagaki experienced deep joy and satisfaction, after becoming a Christian. In earlier years, Yuma had no purpose, feeling passionless and deeply frustrated about life. While attending a private Japanese high school in Tokyo, his lack of motivation led him to skip school and his studies. He was nearly expelled.

**INTENT ON NOT BECOMING A CHRISTIAN — A STRANGE CULT**

Following high school, Yuma studied for the Japanese college entrance exam for two years. Changing his mind, he decided to come to the U.S. to pursue a college degree which he felt would provide him with more opportunities. In 2011, he came to Gardena as a home-stay student. He attended El Camino Language Academy, followed by El Camino College (ECC). At ECC, a fellow Japanese ESL student invited him to a Christmas party. His reaction was one of shock when he realized upon arriving at the destination, the party was at a Christian church. This church was GVBC and the party was our annual Christmas potluck. Yuma met and was warmly greeted by Nihongo members. He enjoyed the party, but was intent on not becoming a Christian. His perception of Christianity was, it was a strange cult.

Following the party, Nihongo members would continually text Yuma, inviting him to the Sunday morning worship services. He felt they were pester ing him then eventually attended a service. Grinning, Yuma said, “I am now happy they were so persistent!” As he listened to the sermon, it started to make sense. This resulted in his returning to GVBC to learn more about God and eventually realize he needed Jesus as his Savior. In spring 2012, Yuma received the Lord and was later baptized by Pastor Eiji Osato.

**GOD’S HEALING LOVE**

As Yuma got to know Jesus and seek Him through prayer and reading the Bible, God gradually healed him of major insecurities. He had struggled with pride, envy, lust, jealousy, etc., but God gradually removed them all. “It was a miracle!” Yuma confirmed. In their place, God gave him a genuine love for God and people. In particular, he had a passion for the Japanese International Students (JIS), understanding them, being one himself. He no longer craved prestige which he formerly thought could be attained by getting a degree at a top university and finding a good job.

Yuma soon had a yearning to attend Biola University (BU) where he could discover and pursue his real interests — public speaking and teaching. He also wanted to learn more about God and received insight through his Bible classes. He is grateful to BU for the wealth of knowledge he received. In May 2017, he received his BA in Communication Studies from BU.

**A PRODUCTIVE AND FULL LIFE IN CHRIST**

In May 2017, Yuma’s parents could see the remarkable change in him when they came for three days to attend his BU graduation. They couldn’t help but see how joyful, satisfied, and happy their son was and his life in Christ was productive and full. Although earlier, they were against Yuma being a Christian, his positive change led to their change of heart. They attended GVBC with Yuma and saw him joyfully involved in the Nihongo ministry. Upon returning to Tokyo, Yuma’s parents sought out Christianity and found a Christian church to attend.

**GOD ALWAYS LEADS**

Following graduation from BU, Yuma experienced another miracle as God provided him with a job. He spent a few months applying for 15 to 20 jobs, but nothing materialized. One of his church friends, whose company had been looking to fill a position for a few months, learned about Yuma’s job search. He acknowledged, “God used her to direct me to apply at this company where I was hired. God is always leading me no matter what I do.”

At the end of July 2018, Yuma’s visa sponsorship will expire. Unless he gets a new visa sponsorship (which is difficult to get), he will be required to return to Japan. If God wants him to stay and continue to serve at GVBC, he would like to pass this on to JIS as the GVBC body helped him experience God’s love.

If Yuma is able to stay by receiving a visa sponsorship, he plans to pursue his goal of Teaching English as a Second Language. This would require further education. Please be in prayer, if it is God’s will, a visa sponsorship will be available for him. He acknowledges in the end, “God will determine the best possible path for my future.” As stated in Yuma’s favorite Bible passage, Proverbs 3:5-6, he trusts in the Lord, feeling secure about his life and the future.
**Our Missions Field**

**FRED & JANE TANAKA, CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF JAPAN**

The Tanakas thank you for your prayers for the TCE Level 1 Intensive Course, which was held in May. There were five attendees — four young people and one married woman. They all passed the course. In spite of short notice, Fred brought the opening message. The Tanakas are thankful for Yutaka and Kayoko (from Yamaguchi Prefecture), Surim Ko, Megumi Ryu (translator plus Instructor of Teachers), Noriko Tokita (Associate Hokkaido Prefecture Director), Yoshiko Nakamura (Associate IOT from Tokyo), Junko Matsushita, Sachiko Sakurai, and many volunteers who helped in different capacities. The final class for the TCE Level 1 Course is scheduled at the end of June, but the Tanakas pray there will be an additional course in September for the year. During June, Good News Club Child Evangelism Teacher Training classes continue. A Devotions Camp for children will be held from June 8 — 9 in Ibaraki Prefecture and from June 15 — 16 in Fukushima Prefecture. There will be a DC for teachers from June 28 — 30. Thank you for keeping the ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) of Japan in prayer and also Fred and Jane’s health. Fred has some limitations caused by stiffness in his legs, but continues to work on updating some of the CEF literature with the part-time help of Yusuke. He is also working on the relatively new task of going through monthly financial reports. Please pray for wisdom as Fred finishes the reports and for Jane as she posts them on Excel. Because of the continual stiffness in Fred’s legs, Fred was given an MRI. Please pray the results will be curable and not serious.

**JAMES CHOUNG, INTERVARSITY**

Beginning this year, GVBC is financially supporting James Choung of InterVarsity. In 2016, James was the main speaker at the annual InterVarsity camp in Texas. Gaby, a scholarship star from Brazil, attended the camp along with her basketball teammates. James gave the invitation to receive the Lord and Gaby stood up, accepting Christ as her Savior. Jesus does know me! I know that now. I don’t have it all together and I need him,” she shared. In 2017, Gaby co-led a Bible study for her basketball teammates. After graduating, she became assistant coach of Sul Ross State’s basketball team. She started a new chapter of InterVarsity and leads Wednesday night Bible studies for the team when they’re not on the road. “InterVarsity changed my life,” Gaby acknowledged. “It not only strengthened my relationships with friends I already have, but also brought into my life people whose faith make my faith grow even more. I thought I was good before, but when I gave my life to God and felt His love for me, I realized I was far from good. I actually lacked everything.” In 2018, God used James to speak and lead at churches and conferences outside of Charlotte, Phoenix, Milwaukee, Missouri, and Seattle. He and Ryan Pfeiffer are currently writing a book on revival which they hope will be ready for publishing by InterVarsity by 2019. Please pray Ryan and James will write what’s on God’s heart over the course of this year.

James’ wife, Jinhee, has been going over to her parents’ house almost daily now to care for her mother who shows increased dementia. Pray for Jinhee and other caregivers for strength and wisdom to care for Jinhee’s mother. James and Jinhee’s oldest child, “Ice” (nickname for Isaiah), decided to publicly confess his faith. Our Senior Pastor Doug Brown baptized him at on Sunday, April 29 [see his testimon in the May 9 Issue 5 Spirit newsletter. “Please pray his public declaration to follow Jesus would be followed with a life which allows Jesus to be both Lord and Savior,” writes James. Praise God! James confirmed, “If everyone gives as they pledged to the end of June, I’ll be fully covered for yet another academic year. Thank you for your support.”

**TOMMY DYO, EPIC CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST**

Spring has been busy! Tommy has been training senior leaders, networking with key leaders, and gearing up for summer missions. During this time, he went to Texas twice and also Washington D.C. On April 13, 2017, Dylan Stump was involved in a tragic car accident which took his young life a few days later. Dylan is with the Lord, but continues to serve others. He donated his organs and his mother and father, Dana and Dan, met the heart recipient, Erika Heranic, and her husband Jeff in April. “It’s been amazing to watch the Stump family serve others and glorify Jesus Christ through such tragedy. May the Lord continue to cover and protect the Stump family,” writes Tommy. Please keep the Stump Family in your prayers.

Please pray for the summer mission teams. They will serve in East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Japan. Tommy will be in Japan, debriefing the summer mission team. For the first time, he and his family will all be in Japan at the same time. In April, Tommy attended Cru’s Senior Leadership Initiative (SLI) in San Antonio, Texas. The program identifies, equips, develops, and coaches emerging leaders of all cultures for national and global positions. Being a member of SLI’s design team, he helps oversee meaningful assignments, leadership assessments, coaching, and research projects. Tommy felt so blessed to spend time with such an amazing and diverse group of people who helped him further grow professionally, personally, and spiritually. Cru has a website which seven million people visited. Just over 115,000 asked Jesus into their lives. Praise God! As a final prayer request, Tommy asks for prayer for graduating college students transitioning into the next phase of ministry.

**GVBC JAPAN 2018 TEAM UPDATE**

Dear GVBC Family and Friends, We are so excited to be sending another team to Japan this summer. This year’s team consists of Kate Bun, Tammy Cosare, James Hirano, Naomi Kaneshiro, Eltheia Shiozaki, Brandon Tasaki, and Erik Uratsu. It has been exciting to hear how God has worked in each of our lives to allow us to take this step of faith for
missions. And for James, Naomi, and Tammy, this will be their first time traveling to Japan.

It has been seven years since the devastating tsunami in Japan, yet, there are still many people living in temporary housing shelters. To the outside world, the Japanese have moved on with their lives, but inside, many are still grieving from the trauma they experienced. Japan has one of the lowest percentage of Christians, particularly in the Tohoku region, where Oasis Chapel is located. There is still a sense of hopelessness that permeates in the lives of the people in Japan, even the children. Oasis Chapel was one of the first churches to reach out to their community after the tsunami and continue to reach out, despite being victims of the tsunami themselves. As in previous years, our main focus will be to provide support and encouragement - physically, emotionally, and more importantly, spiritually - to the members of Oasis Chapel, as well as to GVBC friends and family that are now living and working in Japan. In fact, Oasis Chapel members think of themselves as an extension of our GVBC family because we have taken the time to build those relationships year after year. Although we are the ones being sent, we know we cannot do missions on our own. So we ask you come alongside us as our prayer partners. Below are some things that you can pray about.

Thank you church family for your generous support and prayers! ~GVBC Japan Team 2018

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**Prayers for the Team**

- for team unity and flexibility
- to have a servant’s heart of humility, self sacrifice and sensitivity to God’s leading so that we may be able to share His love, kindness and encouragement for the Japanese people
- for spiritual discipline as we prepare our hearts so that we continue to look to Christ to sustain us
- protection from spiritual warfare that would distract us from what God has planned
- protection for our families while we are in Japan
- safe traveling mercies as we travel to different locations to work alongside Oasis Chapel members

**Prayers for Japan & Oasis Chapel**

- that more people will hear and receive the gospel
- for the emergence of young Christian pastors and leaders
- that returnees can connect with a church and continue to follow Christ
- for Oasis Chapel and their continued efforts to reach out to the people in their communities
- that our own GVBC members residing in Japan are a light to their neighbors and colleagues

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**FAMILY NEWS**

**OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES GO OUT TO**

To Robert Fujino and family in the passing of his father, George, on Thursday, May 17. Robert was able to say goodbye to his dad on Wednesday. The funeral service will be held on Saturday, June 23 at 3:00 p.m. at Green Hills Memorial Park.

To Kent & Jody Komae and family in the passing of Kent’s mother, Jean Komae. The funeral service will be held at Green Hills Memorial Park on Friday, June 15 at 11:30 am. Pastors Steve Langley and Sam Tonomura will co-officiate. The burial will follow.

To the family of Yukio “Yuk” Nakamura who passed away on Sunday, June 3. The funeral Service will be held on Friday, June 22 at 11:30 a.m. at Green Hills Memorial Park and officiated by Pastor Annette Kakimoto.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLYWEDS**

Dennis & Sharon Yamanaka’s daughter, Jackie, was married to Samuel Ho on June 2 at the Hilton in San Gabriel.

Officiating the wedding was Pastor Dan Low from the Bread of Life Church in Torrance.

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT**

Congratulations to Paul & Monica Matsushima in the birth of their baby girl, Mika, who was born on Friday, June 8 at 9:17 am. Little Mika weighed 7 lbs. 13.1 oz. and she was 20.5” long. Her proud family is big brother Marty, grandparents Bob & Teresa Matsushima, Uncle Daren & Aunt Diana Lou, and cousin Kota Lou.

**LETTERS TO OUR GVBC FAMILY**

Dear GVBC Family, Thank you for blessing Nancy and me with the beautiful flowers while I am recovering from surgery. Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and well wishes through the healing process of back surgery. Pastor Steve & Nancy Langley

Dear Church Family, We deeply appreciate your kind expression of sorrow on the passing of my mom, Belen P. Valenzuela. Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you for the beautiful flowers. In His Name, The Kagawa and the Valenzuela Families.

Dear Gardena Valley Baptist Church, On behalf of the Gardena Human Services Food Pantry, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of $500 in the month of May [from our LOVE Fund], 12 bags, 10 1/2 cases, 4 boxes of food and 1 bag of hygiene supplies in the month of April. You helped fill our pantry! Thank you for your support and assistance in helping our residents and our community. With Gratitude, Jaclyn Coppa, MSW, Community Service Counselor, Human Services Department, City of Gardena
**Newcomers’ Welcome**
First Sunday of the month after each worship service. All newcomers welcome. Come and meet our senior pastor, Doug Brown, pastoral staff, and Board Members.

**FUN with FRIENDS & FAMILY EVENTS**
- Saturday, June 30—Painting Nite @ Mimi’s Café, Lakewood—$25 per person.
- Friday, August 10—Hollywood Bowl—Star Wars—A New Hope in Concert—$36 per ticket.
- Sunday, September 2—Hollywood Bowl—John Williams—$30 per ticket.

To make reservations or for more information, see Joanne Morimoto on Sundays in the Courtyard between services or call the church office.

**Volunteers needed for the JCI Carnival**
Volunteers needed for Sunday, June 24. The 6:00 — 8:30 p.m. shift is available. Contact Cindy Matsuda at cindy@gvbc.net or visit the Guest Center in the Courtyard after the worship services.

**Women’s Ministry Event**
Saturday, June 23, 4:30 PM—6:30 PM at PV Bowl. Women of all generations are invited. Even if you do not bowl, come for fellowship! No sign ups required.

**Rolling River Rampage Vacation Bible School**
Monday, July 16 to Friday, July 20, 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Some classes are still open.

**All-volunteer VBS Meeting**
Sunday, June 24 after the worship services in Room 218.

**Donations need by June 24**
- For decorating: Sturdy cardboard, duct tape, blue tape, sharpies (black-fine and thick), grocery-size brown paper bags.
- For Refreshments for VBS staff: Due to severe allergies and sensitivities we are not accepting snacks with nuts of any kind: peanuts, peanut butter, walnuts, almonds, macadamia, etc. Also no oats of any kind such as granola bars, oatmeal cookies/bars, muffins, oatmeal, etc. We are accepting: fruit, veggies, cheese sticks, rice crispy treats, egg salad sandwiches, potato chips, chocolate chip cookies, etc. Please drop off your donations to the church kitchen during the week of VBS. Contact Wendy Hirano wendysuehirano@gmail.com if you would like to help in this way. Sign-up fliers in the church Narthex.

**Hula Yard Sale**
Saturday, June 30. [retraction from announcement in the May 9, 2018 Spirit Issue 5: The proceeds from the yard sale do not support the Japan mission trip].

**Office Closed**
Wednesday, July 4 Independence Day

**Restore, Healing, and Rest Concert**
Sunday, July 8 from 3:00 — 4:30 p.m. Free admission. This special concert is by Wendy Katagi and the Vineyard Band with Terry Butler and Zoe Stretch. Refreshments with homemade cookies served after the concert in the Courtyard. Bring your family and friends.

**Two Christian Faith Seminars**
Monday, July 9 and Wednesday, July 11 from 7:00 — 9:00 p.m. Dr. Patrick Zukeran is an international Bible and Apologetics speaker (http://evidenceandanswers.org/). The seminars are on Science and Faith, Buddhism and Christianity. For info contact Cindy Matsuda at cindy@gvbc.net or visit the Guest Center in the Courtyard after the worship services.

**Youth Summer Camp**
Sunday, July 29 to Friday, August 3 at Oak Glen. Contact Michelle Law, Youth Director at michelle@gvbc.net.

**Summer Ice Cream Social**
Monday, August 13, 6:00 — 8:15 p.m., hosted by the GVBC Evangelism Ministry. This outreach is about inviting our unchurched friends and those whom you’ve been praying for to a fun summer event for all ages. We want to welcome them to GVBC and discover Jesus and His love through our friendship, music and hula program, ministry and hobby exhibits and activities. Consider volunteering for greeters or display your hobby or ministry exhibit, serving ice cream, being on the friendship relations team, helping children with games and crafts, performing hula or playing ukulele. Save the date and watch for flyers and volunteer signup sheets.

**19th Annual GVBC Golf Tournament**
Friday, August 17, Rio Hondo Golf Club in Downey, 12 PM shotgun start. **Early Bird fee is $165.** After July 22, $175

We would be very thankful for any support such as:
- Corporate sponsorships
- Tee sign sponsors. Tee sponsor forms are on the Narthex counter next to the brochures.
- Raffle gift donations such as gift certificates, golf equipment/accessories, tickets to sporting events, etc.
- Merchandise, small appliances, gift baskets, etc.
- Golfers

For more information and to register, pick up a brochure on the Narthex counter.

**Primetimers’ 2018 Tours**
- September 18-22 (Tuesday – Saturday) – New York City, $2,985 per person double occupancy ($3,580 single) includes: Orchestra seats for a Broadway show. Up Close and Personal experience with a Broadway actor. Visit Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. Backstage Tour at Radio City Music Hall. Admission to the National 9/11 Museum and Memorial. Carriage ride in Central Park. Tour Cathedral St John’s the Devine and more. **DEADLINE:** Final balance due Sunday, July 8

Make checks out to GVBC with Primetimes’ and your tour name in memo line. Contact Keiko Imatomi or the office for more info or to sign up.
OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE: GVBC MEAL TRAIN

Galatians 6:10 says, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

The Meal Train Target Ministry started in 2015 with this theme verse to show the love of Jesus by providing meals for people in our congregation who are not part of a community group but have a short-term need. The ministry delivers meals to:

- Families who’ve welcomed a new baby into their lives.
- Families who have immediate family members just discharged from the hospital.
- Families who’ve recently had a death in the family.

When we are notified of a need, Lauren Butt sets up a meal train online, and notifies you via email so you can sign up online to deliver a meal. Home cooked meals are great but a good take-out meal is also a perfectly fine way to show you care. We currently have over 40 faithful volunteers signed up so you do not have to provide a meal every time.

If you’re interested, please email peggy@gvbc.net and you will gratefully be added to the list of volunteers.

GVBC’S CHRISTIAN SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS

This scholarship is given as an encouragement to GVBC college students (or those who will be in college this fall) who volunteer in Christian service. Up to $750 will be awarded to applicants. See application in the Narthex for requirements. Application & recommendation DEADLINE is June 20.

For info contact Wendy Nakano, ext. 672, wendy@gvbc.net.

NEXT SPIRIT ISSUE

Available online Wednesday, July 11 at www.gvbc.net “Our Newsletter.” Hard copies available in the Narthex and the back of the Community Hall. All articles should be submitted by Sunday, July 8.
Happy Father's Day!

Sunday, June 17

English Worship Services: 8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Children’s Sunday School concurrent
Nihongo Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.
Children’s Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Room 206

Sunday, June 17/Father’s Day
Powering Down to Power Up

Sunday, June 24

Sunday, July 1/Communion