



*Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.*

Psalm 84:4

Dear NCC Members and Friends,

These past couple of weeks, as our *For Faith, Hope & Mission Capital Campaign* has begun to unfold, I have been impressed by the dedicated and creative responses of the Capital Campaign team members, *and* I have been amazed and delighted by the joyful response of...the Sunday School children!

When asked if they would like to help raise funds to “fix” our Sanctuary, they were enthusiastic and excited. After they had decided on a lemonade stand fundraiser, their next concern was: how much to charge? One dollar was the agreed upon number.

I am proud to report that on Sunday, July 23rd, our first contribution to the campaign was from the children who raised \$205 with their lemonade stand! (A BIG *Mahalo* to all who handed over more than \$1 and said, “Keep the change!”)

What a joyful start! What a blessing that it is from the efforts of our youngest members.

Kudos to their Sunday School teachers, Becky Kanenaka, Carol Hamada, and Donna Chung, who included them in our Capital Campaign, because the work that we do to enhance our church will benefit our children the most. They will be the direct inheritors of our effort.

By this I am not referring to the buildings and grounds (as important as they are). Rather, it is the example of commitment and generosity that they are witnessing, and taking part in, that will make a deep mark on who they are and who they will become.

As our children observe their parents, grandparents, and church family’s faithful response to God’s mission through NCC, they will remember. They will learn how God’s Spirit can move people to hope and possibility. How wonderful it is that they are already a part of this new era of welcome and service!

What a blessing that in a season of scarcity for many churches, our lay leadership had the vision to consider what was necessary for NCC to faithfully serve our neighbors in Christ’s name. This kind of faithfulness has been who we are for nearly 140 years.

From that first outreach to Japanese immigrants, to young people in need of safe lodging while going to school, to families in need of temporary housing as they get on their feet, NCC has always served God by caring for others in whatever way was possible for us.

This latest iteration of our desire to be a meaningful part of the community was revealed through thoughtful, faithful care by our lay leaders. They have prayed and dialogued and listened to God's Spirit as they sought to know how best to "share the joy of Christ's love by welcoming and serving." Their diligence in preparing for this campaign—and their own generous support—persuade me that this effort will succeed in its central goal of joyfully welcoming and serving the community *for generations to come*.

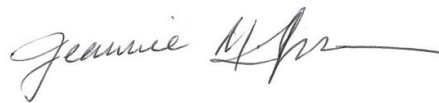
It is with all of this in mind that I invite you to prayerfully start asking yourself that same question now.

We know that "every good gift comes from God," and faithful stewardship involves giving back whatever we can for God's purposes in our community. How is God calling *you* to participate in God's loving, joyful and welcoming kin-dom "on earth as in heaven"?

While the amount of your capital campaign pledge is important toward our overall goal, what matters most to me is that your gift comes from a place of anticipation, hope and trust in God's ability to provide beyond our wildest visions.

Please prayerfully consider your own contribution in light of other obligations, then make the most generous pledge possible without reluctance or compulsion, "for God loves a cheerful giver" as the apostle Paul writes. Let me leave you with the very next verse: "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." [2 Cor. 9:8] May it be so, now and always!

With hope and anticipation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jeannie D. Thompson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jeannie D. Thompson
Pastor