H. Suzuki

1960 ANNUAL REPORT

1960
1948
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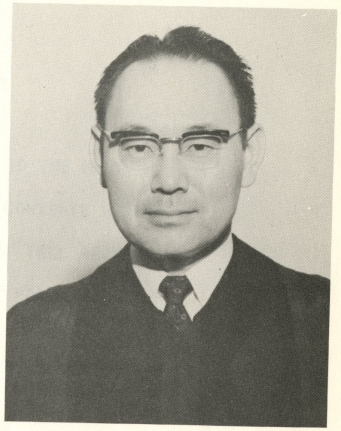
CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, CHICAGO, ILL.

THE REVEREND GEORGE AKI

Synopsis of his 11½ years' work in Chicago

HE CAME -
On a wintry day in March of 1949.

HE FACED -
1. A small (35) and inexperienced membership.
2. No church home - rented quarters.
3. No parsonage.
4. A scattered congregation.
5. A limited budget.



HE RESOLVED -

"I know that I often place many things before the church people which seem bothersome and unnecessary such as greater financial goal for missions giving; greater cooperation with other churches. I have done so in order that this church might grow in the stature of Jesus Christ. My wife and I shall continue to build a church which other ministers would want to come to minister."

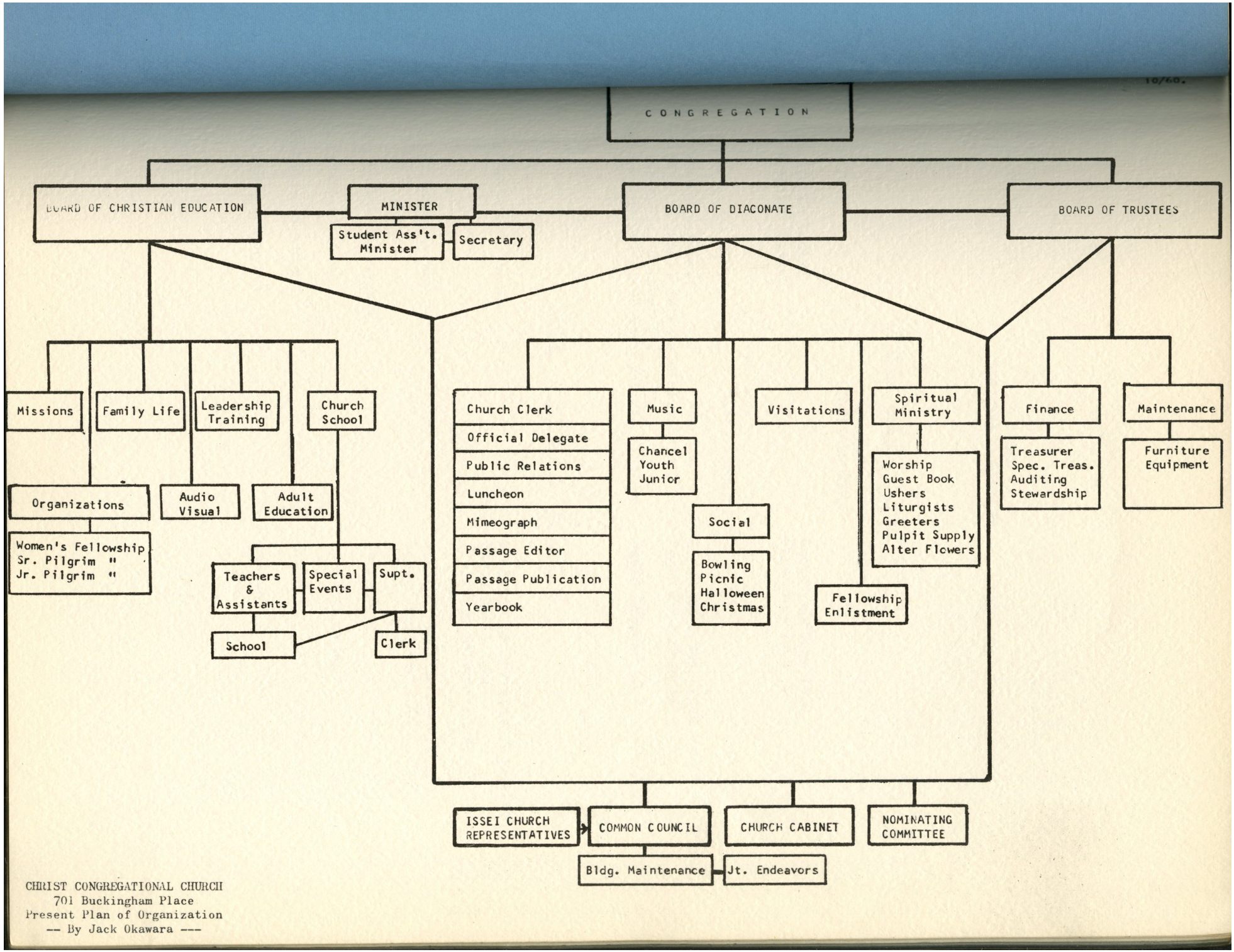
- Minister's Report, 1953
Annual Yearbook -

HE ACCOMPLISHED -
1. Growth of congregation from 35 to 225.
2. Budget expansion from $4,300 in 1949 to $24,000 in 1960.
3. Institution of Family Church Plan - simultaneous worship for all ages.
4. Location and purchase of our present church home in 1954.
5. Established youth groups - Tri C, Jr. and Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship, Crusaders, sponsorship of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.
6. Created "My Church" class series.
7. Established Confirmation training program.
8. Saw the urgency and wisdom for Board of Christian Education.
9. Recognized need for teachers training program.
10. Instituted annual teachers and church school workers retreat.
11. Started observance of Easter Sunrise and Maundy Thursday services.
12. Impressed upon us the obligations of Stewardship resulting in revitalized Stewardship program.
13. Recognition and commissioning of youth campers.
14. Instituted the Annual Yearbook (Jumbo Passage).
15. Turned our concern from within our church to our community and foreign mission responsibilities - overseas relief, refugee sponsorship, Christmas needy family gift, Veterans of the Cross.
16. Nurtured growth of the Sunday School from an enrollment of 3 in 1949 to 250 in 1960.
17. Encouraged and guided the Women's Fellowship to its position of outstanding service and aid to all within and outside the church.

Without doubt this list could be multiplied a hundredfold to cover the results of his many contributions to this church and to each and everyone of our personal lives.

The Reverend George Aki has kept his resolution!

(From the presentation by our First Moderator, Henry Suzuki - August 7, 1960)



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
701 Buckingham Place
Present Plan of Organization
-- By Jack Okawara ---

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SOBETSUKAI DINNER FOR REVEREND AKI FAMILY

August 7, 1960
5:30 P.M.

Reverend George Aki, Misaki, Joanne, Gaien and Jimmy

Dr. Joe Nakayama, Toastmaster

Hostess	Honker Hirabayashi
Dinner Grace	Dr. Chukichi Yasuda
Dinner	
Introductions	Joe Nakayama
"This Is My Father's World"	Primary Class
	Teacher: Miya Okawara
Junior Pilgrim Fellowship	Diane Ohka, Treasurer
Senior Pilgrim Fellowship	Jimmy Mukoyama, President
Women's Fellowship	Seesue Shintani
Special Announcement	Joe Nakayama
Issei Church	Mr. Otto Kushino
"Living for Jesus"	Choristers
First Moderator	Henry Suzuki
Superintendent of State Conference	Dr. C. F. McCall, Jr.
Wellington Avenue Congregational Church	Rev. J. C. Caskey
Moderator	Kiyo Ikenaga
Response	Rev. George Aki
"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"	Everyone
Benediction	Rev. George Aki

Dinner Committee

Honker Hirabayashi - Hostess
George Kimura - Set Up
Flora Tanaka, Isamu Harakawa, Yoshitaro Sakai - Food
George Nakamura, Roy Hanaoka, Ann Hori, Joe Fujimoto - Program
Yoshitaro Sakai - Photography

FAREWELL DINNER REPORT

The potluck dinner for Reverend George Aki and family held in the church social hall was attended by 337 members and guests. After dinner there was a program with the three generation memberships--Issei, Nisei and Sansei--participating. A special word of thanks was extended to Dr. and Mrs. McCall, Jr., and Reverend and Mrs. Caskey for being with us on this momentous occasion. The moderator in behalf of the church presented Reverend Aki a desk set appropriately inscribed, "For 11½ years of faithful and devoted service to Christ Congregational Church." The Women's Fellowship gave the Aki family a serving platter with a similar inscription.

The atmosphere created by this fellowship can be described in the words of Harry Emerson Fosdick who wrote the great church hymn, "God of Grace and God of Glory"--

"GRANT US WISDOM, GRANT US COURAGE,

FOR THE LIVING OF THESE DAYS"

CHURCH SCHOOL

This has been a very interesting and progressive year for our Church School. First and most important was the formation of the Christian Education Board. The Church School programming has been more efficient with this Board.

It was a busy year for our teachers, as you will note by the calendar of events which follows:

March 15 - Five teachers attended the Pilgrim Series Spring Workshop at the Congregational Church of Jefferson Park. The highlight of this workshop was a devotional led by our Reverend Aki.

March 18 - General teachers' meeting was held at church with eighteen teachers present. Lieutenant Walsh, from the Chicago Fire Department, gave an informative outline on fire drill methods. The Lenten Devotional was led by Ted Daniel.

March 31 - Ted Daniel resigned as Director of Religious Education. Although Ted was gone, the Church School carried on with the ideas and knowledge that he had instilled in our minds.

August 27-28 - Second Annual Teachers' Retreat was held at Tower Hill, Michigan. It was truly an educational and inspirational event for the seventeen teachers and their families. Much credit should be given to the Co-Chairmen of the Retreat: Jack Oda and John Takemoto. This year's emphasis was on the Workshop basis led by our talented Chisa Tamura, and I know that all of our teachers enjoyed every moment of this fellowship.

September 24 - All-Church School promotion service was conducted in the social hall rather than in the sanctuary. There was more meaning to this new type of promotion service in which the children participated.

September 26 - Nine teachers attended the Fall Pilgrim Series Workshop in Des Plaines, Illinois.

November 25 - Arts and Crafts Workshop was held at church. Ten teachers were present at the Workshop that was ably led by Chisa Tamura.

Our Church School enrollment is about the same as last year. Our average Sunday attendance has been approximately 170 pupils.

We lost many Church School personnel this year with the departure of Ted Daniel, Shige Kanai, Susie Mizukami, Misaki and Joanne Aki to other parts of the country. Additions to our staff are Ikue Itami, George Nakamura, Rosie Namba, and Martha Oye.

THE PASSAGE

The Passage is the official "newspaper" of our church and is published every other week. The job of the Editor involves editing, arranging the news items to fit the allotted space and stencil cutting. Meeting deadlines is perhaps the most difficult part of this assignment, both for the editor and the reporter. However, it has been a great pleasure carrying out this job with my husband, Makoto, Co-Editor. Together we were able to work in our home and at our free time.

This past year has been a great personal challenge and a most rewarding experience as Editor of the Passage. My grateful thanks to Martha Hikawa, former editor, for her valuable help at the outset; to Gordon Osakada, an able and cooperative Publication Manager; and to Reverend George Aki, who gave his time and patience and whose personal visits, suggestions and constant encouragement allayed many fears and anxieties.

The real task concerning the Passage is found in those who report the news, and to this group I acknowledge the following: Reverend George Aki, who reported much of the news in copy form ready to be typed on the stencil; Kiyo Ikenaga, Deacon Aide; Helen Kitabayashi, who reported the personals and became a great help and morale builder since Mr. Aki's departure; Jim Kawakami reporting from the Church School; Yo Ikeda, Seesue Shintani and Martha Hikawa from the Women's Fellowship; Fusa Matsuoka from the Chancel Choir; Lil Hirata and Honker Hirabayashi regarding the Bowling News; Tak and Iku Itami about Social Activities, and to many committee chairmen and others who have contributed at various times.

The year 1960 has been one of many changes and the Passage too has had to change to serve better the needs of our church. The Congrenews was introduced by Dr. Edgar Ross to keep in close personal contact with the membership. After Dr. Ross's death, the Passage resumed, using the format of the Congrenews, and so it is now being published every week in letter form.

The Christian experience and spirit I have found here as Editor have helped me to grow in the greater knowledge and understanding of our church and its wider fellowship. It has been an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with the activities, functions and membership of this church.

I am grateful for the opportunity of serving our church in this capacity and for the encouragement and support I have received from all of you who reported and read the news.

Aya Fukuda
Passage Editor

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Officers and Chairmen of Standing Committees

President.....Martha Hikawa
Vice President...Matsuko Tamura
Secretary.....Ann Hori
Treasurer.....Ikue Itami
Historian.....Sue Kimura
Finance.....Honker Hirabayashi
Spiritual Life...Rose Nakao

Friendly Service..Mary Fukui
Hospitality.....Dorothy Ito
House.....Helen Kitabayashi
Kiyo Takemoto
Nominating.....Helen Miyaki
Mabel Nishimura
Seesue Shintani

Adventures in Reading.....Aya Ishizuka
Christian Family Life.....Toshi Oda
Missionary Education.....Miya Okawara
Social Action.....Cherie Nakayama
Chairman of Circles.....Betty Ezaki

Chmn, Cedar Circle.....Matsuko Tamura
Chmn, Cypress Circle.....Miya Okawara
Chmn, Magnolia Circle.....Honker Hirabayashi
Chmn, Sycamore Circle.....Lillian Aki

* * * *

Installation of the Women's Fellowship officers for the year was held at church in June, 1960, with Missionary Education committee, under the leadership of Miya Okawara, chairman. Miss Marguerite Davison, Executive Secretary of the Women's State Board, installed the officers. Address was given by Reverend James Smucker, Associate Superintendent of the Congregational Conference. A delicious smorgasbord dinner was prepared and served by the Girl Scout Troop. Chisa Tamura was emcee for the evening.

A special clothing drive in July to send packages to earthquake torn Chile resulted in contribution of eleven boxes of winter clothing by church members. Mary Fukui and committee of Friendly Service efficiently handled the entire drive.

During August the Women's Fellowship annual picnic was held at Montrose Beach, with Dorothy Ito and Kiyo Takemoto co-chairing the event. Despite the not so ideal weather, we had a large group enjoying swimming, volley ball, baseball and refreshments.

At the first gathering of the fall meeting, members became fully aware of the absence of one of their most faithful members who since the beginning of the organization had helped in the growth and direction of this group. With the departure of Reverend George and Misaki Aki from this church, their close association, guidance, and friendship will be sorely missed by every individual.

The September meeting was spearheaded by Friendly Service Chairman, Mary Fukui. A movie showing the work done by Church World Service Center was presented. It may be noted that the work of Friendly Service overlaps into that of Missionary Education and Social Action, or vice versa.

Women's Fellowship Report Cont'd - 2.

Also at this first fall meeting reports from the circles, of which there are four, indicate they are all being firmly established and have become organized enough to plan and carry out extensive and varied activities. It is obvious that some of the purposes for creating circles have begun to bear fruit; namely, the development of leadership and the acquisition of new members! Our aim is to have these circle leaders and members integrate into and give toward the larger effort of the Women's Fellowship and its work with the church. There still needs to be more coordination and welding together of these separate circles to each other and to the Women's Fellowship organization itself.

October meeting was in charge of Miya Okawara, Missionary Education Chairman. Keith Torney, Student Assistant Minister, was the speaker. He related his very interesting experiences and hopes about Christianity in the Far East during his year of overseas' workshop.

November meeting was canceled due to the sudden death of one of the most popular and active members of the church, Jack Okawara. All hearts and hands turned to give moral and physical comfort to Miya and family during this trying and sorrowful time.

November Bake Sale brought in $57.00 to the treasury. As might have possibly been said before, the generous contributions and help of the entire church made this possible. Kiyo Takemoto and the Sycamore Circle were in charge.

December meeting, as is customary, was a potluck supper with members supplying the table load of delicacies. Guests were Reverend and Mrs. Nishimoto and Keith and Judy Torney. A Christmas program of songs and movies was enjoyed by the fellowship with the Cedar Circle heading the arrangements.

All circles participated in turn at helping with first quarter of church monthly luncheons in cooperation with Mabel Nishimura, Luncheon Chairman.

Women's Fellowship members were busy during the summer months with wedding catering. All money received into the treasury goes out during the year in the form of gifts and donations to various organizations and institutions, as well as to our church and its need.

We look forward to future meetings under the direction of standing committees. All women who are interested in the place and the work of the woman in church are cordially invited to attend these meetings.

Lord God, whose grace has called us to thy service,
How good thy thoughts toward us, how great their sum!
We work with thee, we go where thou wilt lead us,
Until in all the earth thy kingdom come. Amen.
- Shepherd Knapp

Martha Hikawa
President

GIRL SCOUTS

The Girl Scouts of Troop 1726, like all other Girl Scouts, do many interesting things; such as hike, explore and learn about the wonders of nature, sing and play games together, put on plays and have fun making things, learn how to take care of pets and enjoy doing things for other people.

The realization of a dream came true for members of Troop 1726 this summer after two years of planning and preparation for a New York trip. On June 26 five girls from our church were among the delegation from Chicago going to New York for one week to attend the United Nations meetings, visit Radio City, etc. They were accompanied by Mrs. Misaki Aki, Mrs. Memmy Hirakawa, and Mrs. Matsuko Tamura.

Since September the girls have been busy working on the Tenderfoot rank for the new members and proficiency badges for the older. With the help of Mr. Chisa Tamura, to whom we are deeply grateful, the Troop produced three puppet shows for the church bazaar. To help honor the birthday of Juliette Gordon Low, founder of Girl Scouts, the girls participated in an outdoor rally. They also cooperated in the annual city-wide Girl Scout Cookie Sale. The Troop held its first Court of Awards this season and plans to include in its program a hike to the Chicago Historical Society and training in First Aid to Animals at the Anti-Cruelty Society.

The Troop is sponsored by the church where our meetings are held every Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. Our present membership is composed of fifteen girls. Any girl, 10-13 years of age, is cordially invited to join and share in the fun. The road to adventure is opened when the Girl Scout promises: "On my honor I will try to do my duty to God and my country, to help other people at all times, and to obey the Girl Scout Laws."

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Misaki Aki for her five years of devoted service to the Girl Scouts as a troop leader.

Memmy Hirakawa)
Seesue Shintani) Co-Leaders

SENIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP

(9th grade and over)

We are very happy to join the other organizations of this church in dedicating this 1960 Annual to Reverend George Aki, the founder of our group four years ago. His guidance will always be a source of inspiration to us.

We have grown from an initial body of ten members to two groups, the Senior and Junior Pilgrim Fellowships with more than fifty active members.

The fall and winter programs consisted of several new projects. We have published our own paper entitled, "The Pilgrim Post," which is edited by Janet Turuda. We held a very informative discussion on "Our Racial Problems" led by Judy Hirano. We also sponsored a dance for the benefit of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, with invitations extended to the entire North Area Pilgrim Fellowship membership. The annual planning retreat was held during the winter vacation. Included in our future plans are a Spaghetti Dinner, in conjunction with Slave Auction to raise funds for our Workday for Christ, a study of Evangelical and Reform relations, and a program on the United Christian Youth Movement.

We are very fortunate to have the guidance of two very capable and able advisers: Mr. Richard Hikawa, who has been with us for three years; and Mr. Chisa Tamura, a newcomer this year. Judy and Keith Torney have also given us much additional aid. The time and effort exerted by our advisers in our behalf are greatly appreciated.

The Senior Pilgrim Fellowship is very grateful for the cooperation the entire church gives us in all of our undertaking, and wishes to thank everyone.

Jimmy Mukoyama
President

OFFICERS FOR 1960 - 61

President	-	Jimmy Mukoyama
Vice President	-	Eugene Kadoyama
Secretary	-	Dennis Ishibashi
Treasurer	-	Elaine Yamada
Action Chairman	-	Patsy Shintani
Fellowship "	-	Richard Yamada
Faith "	-	Judy Hirano
Historian	-	Pauline Nagatani
Publicity Manager	-	Janet Turuda

BAZAAR

The Seventh Annual Church Bazaar held on Saturday, October 15, 1960 was highly successful. From the moment that the doors were opened, a steady and constant stream of eager and expectant visitors flowed into the bazaar area. Here their olfactory nerves were pleasingly tempted by the delicious and tantalizing odors of the chicken teriyaki, hot dogs, tacos, rice curry, udon, sushi and home-baked pies and cakes. How well the throngs were tempted and how they satisfied their appetites are attested to by the figures which revealed that over 600 servings of chicken teriyaki, 800 plates of sushi, and 900 tacos were consumed with the rest of the food being completely sold out before the end of the evening!

Children, young in age; and adults, young at heart, were given the opportunity to try their luck and skill at the various game concessions set up for their amusement and pleasure. Bargains galore and wonderful gifts and works of art awaited the discriminating shoppers at the White Elephant Sale, Handicraft and Oriental Art Goods Concessions.

This, in brief, was the annual Church Bazaar of 1960. The success of the event was made possible by the long hours of preparation and toil, willingly and cheerfully given by the members and friends of the Christ Congregational Church. It is not possible to list all who so generously worked for the Bazaar, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the chairmen of the various committees:

Games Concessions:	Isamu Harakawa, Joe Fujimoto, Mak Fukuda
Finance and Tickets:	Joe Nakayama, Gerald Kimura
Publicity:	George Nakamura
Waiters and Waitresses:	Mas Ishida, Don Ikeda
Kitchen Help:	George Ito, Roy Hanaoka, James Ezaki
Booth Set-up:	Henry Fukui
Tacos and Hot Dogs:	Roy Turuda
Restaurant:	Vic Shintani, Yosh Sakai, Henry Suzuki, Yukio Hashiguchi
Oriental Art Goods:	Gordon Osakada, Jack Okawara
Handicraft:	Mrs. Katayama, Matsuko Tamura - Cedar Circle
White Elephant:	Lillian Aki - Sycamore Circle
Bake Goods:	Miya Okawara - Cypress Circle
Sushi Take-out:	Chiz Yamagiwa - Magnolia Circle
Posters:	Tay Nagai, Tak Matsui
Decoration-Paintings:	Hiro Tanaka
Puppet Show:	Seesue Shintani - Girl Scouts
Issei Liaison:	Mrs. Oyama, Mrs. Kashima

Jack Oda
Chairman

BOWLING

The 1959-60 bowling season (September-April) ended successfully under the Chairmanship of Makoto Fukuda. At the bowling party held at church, the following awards were given:

	Kind of Tournament	Women Bowlers	Men Bowlers
High average		Doris Matsumoto (153)	Frank Nakashima (181)
High series	scratch	Mitzi Ogi (510)	George Hirata (591)
" "	handicap	Honker Hirabayashi (623)	Tom Ozawa (625)
High game	scratch	Lil Hirata (194)	John Mayahara (244)
" "	handicap	Helen Nakashima (224)	Jack Okawara (257)

The winning team comprised of:
George Nakamura (Captain)
Rhea Fujimoto
Hiro Hamano
Jack Oda
Bessie Ozawa

The second place team comprised of:
Isamu Harakawa (Captain)
Makoto Fukuda
Alice Oda
Mitzi Ogi
Victor Shintani

Special plaques, donated from the A.B.C. and W.I.B.C., for the most improved bowlers were won by Bessie Ozawa and Katsumi Ohka.

Our rivalry with the Christian Fellowship Church terminated with the Christ Congregational Bowling Teams winning the perpetual trophy.

At the end of the season, the League donated two film strip projectors to the church for the Church School.

The 1960-61 season opened on September 18 at 2:00 P.M., at the same location (Marigold Arcade) with ten teams participating. The first big event held was the ham roll for Thanksgiving on November 20 with the following winners in their respective divisions:

Joe Fujimoto — Ikue Itami
Tosh Hirabayashi — Bessie Kimura
Gordon Itami — Nancy Nagai
Minor Namba

We are anticipating a very competitive program and have scheduled another ham roll in the spring and a big party at the end of the season.

Many thanks to our hard working Secretary, Honker Hirabayashi; and our Treasurer, Roy Turuda. Our Vice President, who will be in charge of the party, is Frank Kajikawa.

Tak Itami
President

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Name	Date	Parents
Loreen Hashimoto	4-15-60	Ann & Jim Hashimoto
Andrew Saburo Matsui	4-19-60	Pat & Tak Matsui
Roger Shiro Hatanaka	5-20-60	Sada & Howard Hatanaka
Ronald Yoshikazu Tanaka	6-23-60	Sadako & Fred Tanaka
David Gregory Mita	7-8-60	Peggy & Jim Mita
Diane Watanabe	9-3-60	Kimi & Jim Watanabe
Ralph Fujiwara	9-17-60	Eleanor & Tio Fujiwara
Arlene Reiko Sugai	10-8-60	Frances & Ray Sugai
Jill Emiko Nakao	10-12-60	Rosie & George Nakao
Nancy Ann Nakagi	10-20-60	Sue & Jon Nakagi
Nancy Eiko Oda	12-10-60	Toshi & Jack Oda
Brian Shimizu	12-12-60	Iku & Mito Shimizu

Marriages

Alice Miyamoto and Ciry L. Ramirez	4-8-60
Chieko R. Suzuki and Gerald T. Kimura	5-29-60
Nancy Watanabe and Hiro Nagai	7-2-60
Masako Kobayashi and Arata Ronald Yamaga	7-30-60
Miwako Fukuhara and Hiro Miyamoto	8-27-60
Gail Teraoka and Mas Yamaji	9-4-60
Jane Teruko Hori and Akira Ike	12-17-60

Deaths

Jack Okawara

Child Baptisms

Judith Ann Kushino	Joseph S. Nakao	Karen Ruth Hanaoka
Gail Kushino	Steven Hiroshi Tanaka	Richard Wayne Hanaoka
Alan James Kawakami	Ronald Yoshikazu Tanaka	Paul Masashi Oda
Julie Ann Nakamura	Andrew Saburo Matsui	Robert Hiroshi Oda
		Jane Midori Oda

New Members

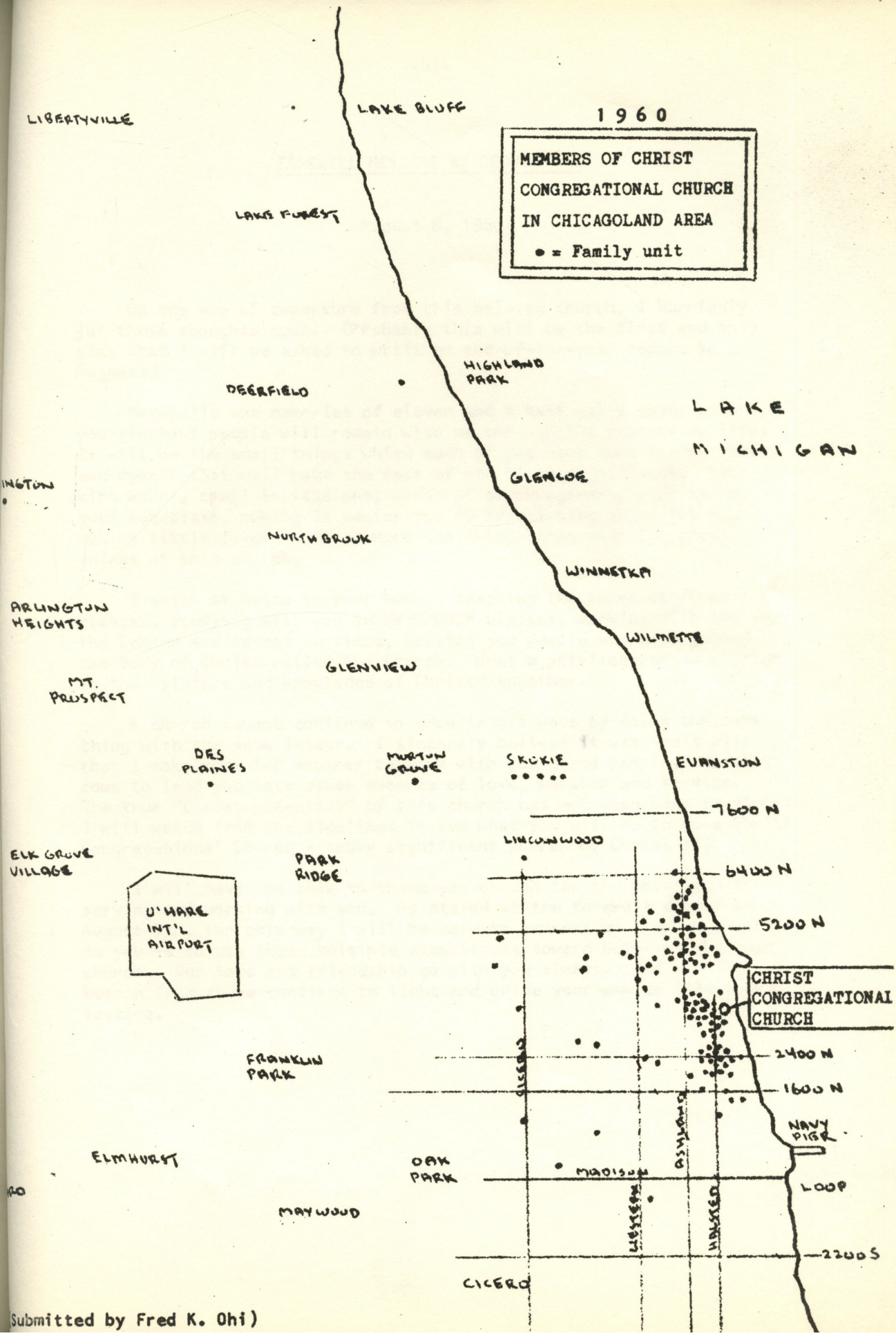
Frank A. Shimizu	Hiroko Nakamura	Peggy S. Mita
Yoshiko Shimizu	Earl D. McGlone	Charles Kimura
Chieko R. Kimura	Shirley McGlone	Grace Kimura
Jimmy Mukoyama	Judith Elizabeth Torney	E. Keith Torney

Confirmees

Alyce Hirata Jo Ann Hirakawa

Dismissed by Transfer

Robert Kanai	Rev. George Aki	Sharon Kanai
Shigeru Kanai	Misaki Aki	Joanne Aki
	Emma Horiuchi	



(Submitted by Fred K. Ohi)

FAREWELL MESSAGE BY GEORGE AKI

August 8, 1960

On the eve of departure from this beloved church, I hurriedly jot these thoughts down. (Probably this will be the first and only time that I will be asked to write an end-of-the-year report in August!)

Naturally the memories of eleven and a half years spent with you glorious people will remain with me through the rest of my life. It will be the small things which each of you have done for my family and myself that will make the rest of our lives significant. Your kind words, small invitations, words of encouragement, your smile, your handclasp, making it easier for me by thinking ahead for me, making little jokes -- these were the things that made for great things at this church.

I think of being in your homes, teaching the three confirmation classes, studying with you in MY CHURCH classes, working with you for the Lenten and Advent services, meeting you people who have joined the body of Christ called the Church. What a privilege to have grown in the "stature and knowledge of Christ" together.

A church cannot continue to grow in all ways by doing the same thing with the same leader. I sincerely believe it was God's will that I make room for another to work with you grand people. He will come to lead you into other avenues of love, worship and service. The true "Christ-potential" of this church has not even been scratched. I will watch from the sidelines to see what you will do to make Christ Congregational Church a truly significant Church of Christ's.

I will never be able to thank you enough for the privilege of serving and working with you. As stated at the farewell dinner on August 7th, the only way I will be able to express my eternal thanks to you is to use these multiple experiences toward building the next church. Our love and friendship go with you always. And may the beacon from above continue to light and guide your way to life everlasting.

WORDS BY THE CHARTER MEMBERS

Of the original twenty-nine charter members of the Christ Congregational Church, there are still twenty who are actively working for the church. With the dedication of this Yearbook to Reverend George Aki, our first minister, it is appropriate that they say a few words in appreciation and gratitude to someone who was instrumental in making our church what it is today.

"By your encouraging us to attend the Congregational Association meetings, it opened our eyes to the position of high esteem which our church has in the eyes of the other Congregational churches. We have gained this prestige through your untiring efforts and services. We wish you much success in your new church"..... Betty and James Ezaki.

"We are fortunate to have seen our church grow from a seed into a beautiful tree. Following Reverend Aki's guidance on what the mission of the church should be, our church has become a symbol of what enthusiastic members and many other devoted groups can do. You have shown us what can be done, when done in the Christian way".....Mary and Henry Fukui.

"During the vital and formative years of the Christ Congregational Church, Reverend Aki was our leader and teacher. The present and future generations of members, friends and associates will always reflect the influence and everlasting effects of his leadership" .....Betty and Kenji Kushino.

"For his untiring determination and effort in organizing and building the foundation of our church to what it is today, we are deeply grateful".....Ellen and Shig Matsumoto.

"Reverend Aki led us toward a positive solution to the problems that our people experienced in the early and crucial days of our church life. He was instrumental in our growing and changing congregation; vital and effective in our quest for spiritual development. We are indeed indebted to him for having given his best during his tenure as our leader".....Helen and Kazuma Nagai.

"Reverend Aki led us out of the wilderness of our beginnings with his faith and teachings to the wonderful church we have today".....Joy and Shinro Matsumoto.

"The extraordinary growth of our church was a direct result of Reverend Aki's dedication and conviction to his work and in us. His unflagging enthusiasm and meticulous organizational ability cannot be forgotten".....Henry Suzuki.

"The friendly manner in which Reverend Aki fulfilled my religious needs and gave me helpful counsel on various occasions will indeed remain close to my heart".....Dorothy Ito.

Words by the Charter Members Cont'd - 2.

"The fine ministry of Reverend Aki to this church was terminated by his health. May he regain his health and carry on at his new call".....Hide Tokumasu.

"All through the ages men have erected places of worship to express their beliefs in God and their ideas of religion. We are greatly indebted to Reverend Aki for his guidance in laying the foundation on which the Christ Congregational Church stands today"..... Thomas Ozawa.

"Even though the entire Yearbook is dedicated to Reverend Aki, who has guided us from our small quarters to this wonderful church, we could not begin to express our feelings of gratitude and thanks. But with his outstanding services, leadership will not be forgotten" .....George Ozawa.

"Reverend Aki is a well-spoken minister, effective leader, and representative of our church whom we could be proud of; but equally important, he is always a good and understanding friend. Dignified and never aloof, he always had time for a hand shake and a few friendly words. As a charter member of the church, I can remember the strength and leadership he gave us in securing our own place of worship. Afterwards he gave it warmth and life. During the early days of our church, just having come from Japan and not being able to understand English well, it was very hard for me to adjust to the American way of life. Through the church and Reverend Aki's understanding and guidance, I was able to integrate into the new way of life. I will always be grateful for his personal help at a time of need and remember him for the human touch in his moral and spiritual guidance".....James Ozawa.

"We are certainly indebted to Reverend Aki for giving his best in establishing the wonderful church that we enjoy today. We are indebted not only to his devotion to the Christ Congregational Church, but for his services to our community. We are grateful to him for opening our eyes to the fuller meaning of Christian stewardship. Our grateful thanks go also to Mrs. Aki, who has done so much for the Church School and the Girl Scouts".....Cherie and Joe Nakayama.

(Compiled by Joe Nakayama 12/60)