



West L. A. Connections

Where **N**urturing **E**mpowerment **W**elcoming **S**ervice Happens!

A Monthly Publication of the West Los Angeles United Methodist Church

June 2013

West Los Angeles United Methodist Church

1913 Purdue Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90025
Phone: 310-479-1379
Email: wlaumc@aol.com
Website: www.wlaumc.org

Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 9AM to 1 PM

Pastors' Office Hours:

Rev. Gary: Tues-Fri, 9 AM to 1 PM
Rev. Janet: Tues-Fri, 9 AM to 1 PM
Rev. Becky: Sat, 10 AM to 12 PM

Sunday Worship Services

◆ 9:30 AM

English Language Worship
Child Care and Sunday School

◆ 10:30 AM

Fellowship Time for both congregations

◆ 11:00 AM

Japanese Language Worship

Staff

Rev. Gary Oba, Senior Pastor
Email: obagary@gmail.com

Rev. Janet Cromwell, Associate Pastor
Email: jlcromwell8@gmail.com

Rev. Rebecca Hirata, Local Pastor
Japanese Language Ministry
Email: pastorwlaumc@yahoo.co.jp

Lina Yamaguchi,
Secretary and Newsletter Coordinator
Email: wlaumc@aol.com

Our Mission Statement

Our Mission is to promote spiritual growth - Building a community of faith and making disciples of Christ by reaching out with compassion, forgiveness and love. At West LA UMC, building a community of faith is what we are about.



At the recent forum, “Saving the Environment: A Spiritual Perspective,” sponsored by our Social Action Commission, Dr. Douglas Christie, one of the presenters, made a startling statement. Doug, who is Professor of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University (and married to Jennifer Abe), said he could not recall a time when, while growing up in the church, he heard a sermon on the environment.

As I thought back to the sermons I’ve preached over the years, I found Doug’s statement to be fair. I’ve never really devoted a single sermon to an environmental theme. This isn’t to say that the primary source for sermons, i.e. the Bible, particularly the New Testament, lacks references to nature. Jesus often used images from nature, such as the wind and the rain, the birds of the air, the fish in the sea, etc. in his parables. But as I mine the scriptures each week in search of God’s Word, I realize I automatically gravitate towards Jesus’ words about relationships with human beings and with God rather than with nature.

Doug believes such a narrow focus is detrimental to our souls and our environment. When we view nature as something to serve rather than sustain us, we will either ignore or exploit nature. When nature is degraded, we lose a source of inspiration, renewal, and perspective, i.e. our souls are damaged. He recommends a deeper reflection or contemplation, like that engaged in by the 3rd and 4th century Christian monastics or mystics, who through contemplation became convinced of our oneness with creation. Such a conclusion will prompt persons of faith to an awareness of the actions needed to reverse the environmental degradation that imperils all of life.

Doug presents his ideas about a contemplative ecology in a beautifully written and newly released book, The Blue Sapphire of the Mind (Oxford University Press). He is convincing when he writes that attentiveness to our souls and to nature is one and the same and necessary for the salvation of both. May we heed his call for the sake of our souls and our world.

Peace,

REV. GARY OBA
Senior Pastor

Prayers

Connecting and Nurturing through Prayers

As a community of faith, we support one another through prayer. To add or remove a prayer request, please contact one of the pastors or the church office.

We give thanks to God and rejoice for:

- To those who prepared food and served the meal food for PATH on May 13.
- Our wonderful Music Program, including the Praise Band, Choir, Bell Choir, Children’s Choir, soloists, and instrumentalists.
- Church family members and friends who are healed and getting better each day.
- Mother’s Day and the love and care that mothers provide.
- Youth Group, Children’s Choir, and Dave Cook for leading the Mother’s Day Worship Service.
- Jennifer Abe, Doug Christie, and Jenny Price who led a fascinating and informative presentation on the relationship between faith and the environment.
- Outreach & MemberCare Committee and Youth Group for providing refreshments in May.
- Out-of-towners who attended our church during the winter months and have now returned home for the summer.
- Guests and friends attending West LA UMC.

We pray for those seeking healing and comfort:

- For the family and friends of those who have recently passed-away.
- Those under-going medical procedures and treatment.
- Those with on-going health issues.

Lectionary Readings for June

These readings serve as the foundation for the Wednesday morning Bible Study and Sunday morning Worship Services. By reading these scripture lessons during the week, you can prepare your heart and mind for Sunday worship.

June 2	1 Kings 18:20-39 Psalm 96	Galatians 1:1-12 Luke 7:1-10
June 9	1 Kings 17:8-24 Psalm 146	Galatians 1:11-24 Luke 7:11-17
June 16	1 Kings 21:1-21a Psalm 5:1-8	Galatians 2:15-21 Luke 7:36–8:3
June 23	1 Kings 19:1-15a Psalm 42	Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39
June 30	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20	Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-62

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West LA Prayer Ministry

Each Thursday morning at 9:30 AM, a small group gathers in the sanctuary to pray for persons on the church’s prayer list. If you would like to be a part of this prayer ministry but are unable to meet at the church on Thursday mornings, please contact Lina Yamaguchi, Church Secretary at 310-479-1379. An updated prayer list will be emailed to you.



Worship & Studies

Growing in Faith through Worship and Studies

June 9:30 AM Worship Services

June 2 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Family Worship / Holy Communion

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Luke 7:1-10
Theme: God responds to faith wherever and in whomever he finds it. Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message. Children remain in worship.

June 9 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Luke 7:11-17
Theme: Tragedies will happen but God's compassion is everlasting. Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

June 16 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Father's Day service led by the youth. Our 2013 Graduates will be recognized.

June 23 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Luke 8:26-39
Theme: There is no demon that Jesus cannot overcome. Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

June 30 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost Worship with Praise Band

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Luke 9:51-62
Theme: Following Jesus requires a kind of tunnel vision. Justin Yamaguchi sharing about the Japan Mission Trip.

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## **Let's "Proclaim the Word" A Refresher Course**

This time we will meet on a Sunday! Come and join us on July 14, 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM in Room 1.

This meeting is for everyone who wants to participate in worship services as a liturgist or scripture reader. Whether you're very experienced or just beginning, there's something beneficial for you in the Proclaiming The Word "refreshers" offered by Pam Sase Ryder and Jack Ong. Even seasoned public speakers can benefit from new tips while refreshing our skills in an informal, encouraging and informative setting.

Everyone is invited to practice and support the new proclaimers. One participant said, "The practice sessions are fantastic, I now get so much more when I read and hear the scriptures."



## Sunday School and Bible Studies

### **Children's Sunday School**

Sunday School is the perfect place and time for children to learn about God, the life of Jesus, and important lessons in the Bible. Children of all ages will enjoy these Sunday School classes:

- Toddlers Nursery (located next to the sanctuary)
- Grades K-5 Explorer Room 3
- Grades 6-8 Trekker Room 2
- Grades 9-12 Youth Room 8 (located upstairs)

### **Women's Bible Study Group**

Mondays 1:00 to 2:30 pm

In June our study "A Call to Holy Living" focuses on the hope that Jesus inspires for those who are suffering with lessons from 1 and 2 Peter. The women take turns leading the class discussion using the Adult Bible Study series. New members welcome!

### **Men's Bible Study Group**

The Men's Study Group is on recess until further notice. For future meetings, contact Fred Hifumi.

### **"Alive Now" Study Group**

Wednesdays, 9:00-10:15 AM in Room 2.

This study focuses on the lectionary text that will be the basis for Sunday's sermon. (See page 2 of this Newsletter for a list of scripture lessons.) New members are welcome.

### **Thursday Bible Study**

Thursdays, 7:30-9:00 PM in the Learning Center.

Rev. Gary continues to lead a study on 2 Corinthians, using the Immersion Bible Studies Guide by James L. Evans. The group will take a summer vacation break in July and August.

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Summer Book Study



Recently, a number of books have been published on individual's descriptions of heaven during near-death experiences. This summer, we will discuss "Revealing Heaven: The Christian Case for Near-Death Experiences" in a two-session Book Study on Tuesday evenings, July 16 and 23, 7:00-8:00 PM. In his book, Lutheran pastor, Rev. John Price makes the case for how near-death experiences can be gifts from God and are fully compatible with Christian spirituality and the Bible. Please join us for this fascinating and reassuring Book Study.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Supporting Families in Spiritual Growth and Discipleship

The Children's Choir

A Children's Choir sang during worship on Mother's Day, May 12. The Children's Choir was directed by West LA UMC's Music Director, Chris Heckman, and coordinated by Pam Sase-Ryder. Bravo to the children who participated. We look forward to more opportunities for the children to sing in the future!

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Asian Camp



Asian Camp will be held July 28 – August 2 at Camp Sierra. This camp is open to students who have completed 9th Grade through their second year in college.

Please submit your Registration Form to Rev. Janet Cromwell asap if you plan to attend Asian Camp this year. Reserve your spot at Camp and on the Camp Bus today!

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Graduate Recognition



Graduation is just around the corner. We want to acknowledge the accomplishments of our West LA UMC students graduating from all levels.

Please send the names, schools from which students are graduating, degree title, and future plans to the Church Office by June 9. Graduates will be recognized on June 16 (Father's Day weekend).

Vacation Bible School – July 8-12



This year's VBS is "Everywhere Fun Fair: Where God's World Comes Together!" Each day, children will learn what it means to be a good neighbor.

Mark your calendar for July 8-12 and register your children, grandchildren, and friends for a fun week of Bible stories, singing, games, science projects, crafts, snacks, and more! Priority Registration ends June 9, so register today!

VBS Volunteers will meet on Sunday, June 9 at 11:00 AM in Room 1 for a planning meeting. This is the perfect time to learn more about the Bible stories and each day's mission focus.

VBS Youth Volunteers will meet on Friday evening, June 21 in the Learning Center. After supper, the youth will have a preview of VBS as they prepare craft projects and test science projects. Youth Volunteers are students going into 6th through 12th Grade.

Registration Forms for participants and youth helpers are available online or by contacting the church. See the back page of this Newsletter for more information!

We look forward to seeing you at the Fair!

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WANTED: New or Gently Used Books for Children and Youth

As you do your end-of-the-school-year cleaning, please donate your new or gently used children's picture and chapter books to the Church. We will sort through donations for the Church Library and Second Chance Store at the Bazaar. The remaining books will be part of a book drive for BookEnds, a nonprofit organization that provides books for schools and youth organizations in desperate need. The books should be "clean" without markings or damage. Please contact Jeri Okamoto Floyd at jerifloyd@ca.rr.com for more information.

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Sawahata Scholarship Application

Applications are being accepted for the Sawahata Scholarship. Eligibility criteria include being a graduating high school senior who is going to college, a member of WLAUMC, active in the youth group, and GPA. Please see Dave Cook or Yosh Setoguchi for an application form. Deadline for submission is June 9.



Disneyland Day and Youth Overnight

The Youth Group of United Japanese Christian Church in Clovis, CA, has invited our High School Youth to a Day at Disneyland on Friday, June 28, followed by an Overnight at West LA UMC. West LA Youth will travel to Disneyland from the church on Friday morning and can be picked up at the church on Saturday morning. The UJCC Youth Group will travel back to Clovis after breakfast on Saturday, June 29.

The church has coordinated discount tickets for the one-day Disneyland park-hopper ticket, and will pay for lunch and dinner for West LA UMC Youth Group Members who participate.

We are delighted to build relationships with the UJCC Youth Group and look forward to a fun day and overnight on June 28-29!

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## Church Library – Open Hours

The Church Library will be open for reading and borrowing books on Sunday, June 2 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Come and see the Library and use the many resources that are available to church members. Please contact Jean Dote for more information.



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Information on Baptism

From the earliest times, children and infants have been baptized and included in the church. As scriptural basis for this ancient tradition, some scholars cite Jesus' words, "Let the little children come to me for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs" (Mark 10:14). As United Methodists, we understand baptism is a sign of God's grace already involved in a child's life.

Are you thinking of having your child or grandchild baptized? Please contact Rev. Janet Cromwell to arrange an appointment to discuss this meaningful sacrament in the life of children.



Thinking Orange



Throughout the last month, a number of parents, Sunday School teachers, and Youth Leaders have been reading and discussing "Parenting Beyond Your Capacity: Connect Your Family to a Wider Community." This insightful book by Pastors Reggie Joiner and Carey Nieuwhof has drawn our attention to the importance of the church partnering with parents to encourage and deepen the spiritual lives of children and youth.

The authors use the color **Orange** to remind us of the transforming power of combining the **Red** heart of home and the **Yellow** light of Christ in the church. *Combining* two influences will make a greater impact than just two separate influences.

The book acknowledges that no one has more potential to influence a child than his/her parent. However, a parent is not the only influence in a child's life. When parents learn to parent beyond their capacity, they tap into other influences that also have to potential to impact their child's future. Parents can decide to become *intentional* about inviting other leaders into their child's life. Therefore, they suggest, a parent's influence is best realized in partnership with the church.

Thinking Orange encourages a lifestyle as a parent that...

- Widens the circle by intentionally inviting others to help shape and determine the direction of children's lives.
- Imagines the end by focusing energy and effort on issues that make a lasting impact.
- Fights for the heart by creating a culture of unconditional love within the home to fuel the emotional and moral health of children.
- Creates a rhythm by tapping the power of quality moments together and building a sense of purpose through everyday experiences.
- Makes it personal by allowing your kids to see how you strive to grow so they can understand how to confront their own limitations and pursue character and faith. (Read more on pages 35ff.)

Whether you are a parent of a newborn baby or a teenager, the concepts and practical ideas in this book can provide helpful insights on building a network of love, support, and guidance for your children.

At West LA UMC, we welcome opportunities to partner with parents by providing quality programs for children and youth, intergenerational events that build relationships and trust, and resources that can be used in your home to assist in growing in faith as a family.

Please contact me if you have ideas of how our church may assist you as we **Think Orange!**

Rev. Janet Cromwell

Outreach & Social Service

Serving Our Community and World

GO GREEN!

"Green" gets garnished with more significance during Spring, it seems... as we refresh our gardens, trudge toward Spring cleaning, and even become inspired with new creativity after Winter! Look at member #1 in the photo who collects tabs from



aluminum cans and makes tab bracelets... even setting a watch in one! Will this member be adding jewels in the near future?

We discovered that member #2 is quite the Green Guru, a true champion for environmental quality... and has sent some very fascinating facts, tips and suggestions. Long story short, member #2 has inspired me to start composting... and I even purchased a composting bucket from Kohl's (guaranteed not to smell up my little apartment). Okay, the bucket is still in the box, but I will be composting soon. That should be an adventure!

Member #3, always generous with helpful hints, has directed me to a website filled with information about how long foods and products can stay fresh. One article has caught my attention: "Sturdy Staples: 9 Foods That Can Outlast You"! See www.stilltasty.com.

At the May 5 event "Saving the Environment: A Spiritual Perspective", Dr. Jenny Price mentioned that every single one of us can do something to help, starting in our own homes. That reminded me how little effort is required to unplug our computers and appliances when we're not using them; turn off our heating pilots in warm weather; use cold water to wash dishes and laundry; and simply by remembering to REUSE, REDUCE, RECYCLE and REPAIR!

Going green is good for all of us! Share your green tips by sending them to jack@jackong.com.

By Jack Ong



REUSE! REDUCE! RECYCLE!

STOP HUNGER NOW

Church members have two opportunities to participate in this international program to end hunger. We will be packing meals on June 22 at Kardia UMC, 1637 Butler Avenue, and on August 3 at Wilshire UMC, 10497 Wilshire Blvd. Set-up begins at 9:00 AM and packing begins at 10:00 AM. Join us!



MANZANAR BECKONS

Manzanar was one of ten relocation centers in which the Japanese were incarcerated during World War II. Located between the towns of Lone Pine and Bishop, California, Manzanar was the camp where those who lived in the West Los Angeles area before the war were sent.

After a year hiatus, following six consecutive tours to the Manzanar National Historic Site, the West Los Angeles United Methodist Church is once again sponsoring a tour September 21-22, 2013.

A ranger will board our bus and guide us through the camp site to view the excavated Merritt Park, a Japanese garden designed and built by Mr. Kuichiro Nishi (including a restored bridge by Barry Amos), a reconstructed barrack and mess hall, as well as the Visitors' Center. The tour also includes a visit to the Eastern California Museum in Independence. Various other points of interest will be visited along the journey with an overnight stay in Bishop.

Reservations are now being taken for the interesting educational tour. The cost is \$195.00 for a single or \$140.00 each for a double which includes bus, lodging, donations to two museums, gratuities for bus driver and park ranger, Sunday lunch and incidentals. Deadline for reservations is July 1, 2013.

Through a generous gift from Bart and Kirsten Maeda, a scholarship will be provided for children and youth under sixteen years (accompanied by a parent). This is a wonderful opportunity for children to experience a part of the history of Japanese Americans.

For more information, please contact Manzanar Committee members Rose Honda, Sadie Hifumi or Eleanor Nakano.

**WLAUMC and WLAUMW
Covenant Partners of Wesley Foundation
Serving UCLA**

At its 85th Anniversary Celebration, the Wesley Foundation service UCLA, recognized both the WLAUMC and the WLAUMW as Covenant Partners of its campus ministry.

Campus Pastor, Jeanne Roe Smith acknowledged and expressed appreciation of our continued support of donations and services to assist in its outreach programs. A meeting spot, provided by St. Albans, gives students a place to worship, study, participate in creative and educational programs, receive personal counseling, and free meals.

The celebration, attended by students, friends, and members of local United Methodist congregations, began with a worship service centered on the themes: God's People Gather, The Word Proclaimed, God's People Respond, Going Forth to Love and Serve.

Special guest speaker was Beth Ludlum, Director of Student Faith and Leadership Formation at the General Board of High Education and Ministry in Nashville.

The service was followed by dinner and a program featuring students who shared their thoughts and talents, as they spoke of the positive impact of the foundation on their lives, read their original poems, displayed their art works, and entertained diners with exciting and colorful Mexican folk music and dancing.

The worship service had ended with congregation singing, "Blest be the tie that binds..." and the dinner/program closed with prayer, picture taking, informal interaction... "The fellowship of kindred minds..."

The celebration brought fuller understanding and special meaning to WLAUMC and UMW being Covenant Partners with the Wesley Foundation Serving UCLA.

Submitted by Michi Matsuda

Thank you!

I wanted to thank you for all the love and support that you bring to us the students from the Wesley Foundation at UCLA. It has made a huge difference in my life to see all the support because it brings me reassurance that you will be here for students like me when we need help. Thank you very much!

UCLA Student and Wesley Foundation Leader

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**Annual Conference Meetings**

Lay Leader, Youth Representative, Rev. Gary Oba, Rev. Janet Cromwell, and Rev. Becky Hirata will attend the Cal-Pac United Methodist Annual Conference from June 12-15 at the University of Redlands. This annual meeting of pastors and lay persons includes time for worship, prayer, business, and fellowship. The Annual Conference sessions are led by Bishop Minerva Carcaño.

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Two Spirits - One Heart

On Sunday, June 9, Marsha Aizumi will share her compelling story of parenting a young woman who came out as a lesbian, then transitioned to male. Her book, *Two Spirits, One Heart*, chronicles Marsha's personal journey from fear, uncertainty, and sadness to eventual unconditional love, acceptance and support of her child who struggled to reconcile his gender identity.

Marsha Aisumi is a mother, educator, author, and LGTB Community Advocate, who serves on the PFLAG National Board of Directors. Aiden Aizumi is an activist who is recognized by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and The Trevor Project Youth Advisory.

The presentation and book signing will take place at Centenary UMC, 300 S Central Ave, Los Angeles at 1:00 PM. For more information, call 213-617-909.

News from the Trustees

The Trustees have approved a new Medical Release Form that will be used for all off-campus church activities. There is one form for adult participants and one for minors (under age 18) that requires a parent's signature. Thanks to our resident attorneys for their assistance in revising these forms.

In addition, the Trustees invite everyone to the All Church Clean Up on Saturday, September 7, beginning at 9:00 AM. Together we will clean and prepare the church facility for fall programs, including the Church Bazaar.

Otto Nakano, Chairperson

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**All Church Picnic**

Sunday, July 21  
Noon to 4:00 PM  
Cheviot Hills Park



Summertime! Ain't it grand?  
Soon we will be enjoying our annual All Church Picnic!

Everyone is invited to the Joint English/Japanese Worship Service on Sunday, July 21 at 10:30 AM, followed by the All Church Picnic at 12:00 Noon at Cheviot Hills Park (Rancho Park, 2551 Motor Ave, off of Pico Blvd). The picnic area is located on the hill near the tennis courts.

We will be grilling hot dogs and enjoying a delicious potluck lunch. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the Social Hall for potluck items.

Bring your friends and enjoy the food, games (with prizes!), crafts, and face painting. Fun for all!

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Bingo Prizes Needed for Picnic



One of the highlights of our All Church Picnic on July 21 is the Bingo Game open to all picnic attendees. We rely on the generosity of our members to provide the prizes.

Please set aside small prizes that you would enjoy winning, such as fun items (stuffed animals or small toys), practical things (Kleenex, hand soap), nice things (plants, picture frames, etc.), food items (candy, senbei), and gift coupons in small denominations. Use your imagination as you consider donations of prizes.

Bring your donation of Bingo prizes to the church by July 14. Thank you for helping to make our Bingo game such a fun time!

WLA JACL Scholarship Award Dinner

The West LA JACL will hold its annual Scholarship Award Dinner at the Aki Restaurant, 11513 Santa Monica Blvd., on Wednesday, June 12, at 6:30 PM. Scholarship Awards will be given to graduating high school seniors from area schools. Also, a Chiyo Hattori Medical Scholarship Award will be awarded to a qualified recipient currently attending medical school. Dinners will be \$30 including tax and tip.

Everyone is invited and urged to attend to support this important program, which has resulted in tens of thousands of dollars awarded to graduating seniors of local schools in their search for education.

Please call or email Sandy Toshiyuki, 310-399-4526 (sanfran508@gmail.com) or Jean Ushijima, 323-980-8225 for reservations or information. Thank you.

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**Japanese Film Nights**  
*Friday, June 28, 7:30 PM*



Japanese Film Night on June 28 features "Mother" aka "Okaasan." This film was directed by Miikio Naruse in 1952, is 98 minutes long and in black & white.

An introduction to the film, including background information on the director and actors, is provided at the beginning of each film. The movie starts at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Admission is free and open to the public.

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Tanoshimi-kai Outing

Next Tanoshimi-Kai Outing is on Thursday, June 6, to see the Watts Tower Art Center followed by lunch and then a tour of the Space Shuttle Endeavor at the California Science Center.

Contact Eleanor Nakano for more information.

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**Annual Church Bazaar**  
**Save the Date! September 28**

Our annual West Los Angeles United Methodist Church Asian Cultural Bazaar will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2013 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM with food, entertainment, children's games and crafts, a silent auction, plants, door prizes and cultural displays. Bring your friends and family to a joyful day of faith, food, music and more!

For more information and to volunteer to help, please contact Stan Shimotsu, Doug Yamaguchi, or Sonia Dixon.



# United Methodist Women

Women Learning, Growing, and Serving Others

## **A Welcome Outcome of the Women's Retreat**



During the Women's Retreat held at Aldersgate on April 13-14, two women talked about the UMW. The discussion following the brief presentation was eye-opening not just for the women attending, but the UMW members present. It was revealed that the younger women assumed UMW was an exclusive organization of older women and the UMW members realized that they had been negligent in not openly inviting younger women to join UMW.

The women learned that all it required to join the UMW was to believe and support the purpose of UMW "to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church" and to donate \$10.00 Pledge to Missions which is sent to the District UMW.

Having cleared some misconceptions, we are delighted to WELCOME 10 NEW UMW MEMBERS!

We know that with your enthusiastic support we will continue to fulfill the mission of the UMW.



## **Metro Art Tour in June**

Since the program was established in 1989, Metro Rail has commissioned over 300 artists to create artwork that reflect Los Angeles' diverse cultures.

UMW has reserved a Metro Art Tour for Saturday, June 15, 2013. We will meet a docent at 10:00 am in the Union Station. The tour is free, lasts two hours and involves 90% walking. The docent will lead us on and off at various stations to view artwork created for each specific site.

The tour is open to interested women. Space is limited so priority will be given to UMW members and as space permits, on a first come, first served basis. Deadline for reservations is June 2. After all the reservations are in, we will inform participants about carpooling, lunch, etc.

## **A Swinging Jam Session!**

A call for help brought a number of volunteers and the UMW Jam Session on Friday, May 3 resulted in 104 jars of strawberry freezer jam by 12:00 Noon! Our thanks to all the UMW members and volunteers for their hard work. Special thanks to the women who chaired the workshop. After their labor, everyone enjoyed fellowship together with lunch provided by UMW women.

The jam and home baked goods were sold after Pentecost Sunday Service, May 19. The UMW membership decided to donate the proceeds to the youth representative to be used on the mission trip to Ishinomaki, Japan, site of the devastating earthquake and tsunami, to be used wherever and however it would do the most good. Thanks for your support!



*Women package barley soup mix at the 2013 Women's Retreat to distribute to families in need of nourishing food.*

## **2014 Women's Retreat Update**

Following the success of this year's Women's Retreat, the Planning Team has set March 22-23, 2014 for next year's Retreat! We will return to the beautiful Aldersgate Retreat Center in Pacific Palisades. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this wonderfully relaxing and enriching overnight event.



## **2013 Altar Flowers**

You may dedicate altar flowers on Sunday mornings throughout 2013. Please contact the church office at 310-479-1379, Ext. 100 for available dates for altar flower donations.

# JAPANESE MINISTRY

## 「吉田亀太郎」

先月のニュースレターで、石巻教会史について書いた。吉田亀太郎牧師が始めた自宅の教会が始まりであった。

神様がどのように、若き亀太郎の心をとらえて行ったのかを紹介したいと思う。

1873年、16歳の若き亀太郎は、化学の勉強をするため、東京に上京した。たまたま、研究所の隣にアメリカ人宣教師が住んでいて、讚美歌やメッセージを遠耳に聞いていた。キリストの香りのする所にいたと本人の証に書いてある。

そして、研究所で働いていた老夫婦は、いつも何かを歌っていた。ある時、老人の持っている本を取り上げた。老人は困っていたが、亀太郎は2階に行つてその本を静かに読んでみた。

「ナザレのイエス様が世界人類の為に十字架につけられた」という事が書いてあった。直ちに、亀太郎はイエスに同情して、涙を流して感激した。亀太郎が十字架について、涙を流した初めであった。

亀太郎は、いつも人を連れて伝道説教を聞きに行っていた。だんだんと信仰の事が分かって来た亀太郎はパーム師（スコットランド出身、宣教師の息子、医者、メディカル・ソサィティより派遣された宣教師）より洗礼を受けた。日曜日になると教会に行く亀太郎をよく思わない会社の人がいっても、ますます信仰熱心になった。石油製造の事業をやめて、上京。パーム師の塾（伝道者養成所）に入ることになった。

それから、亀太郎の人生は一転してしまうのである。（続く）

平田

## “Kametarō Yoshida”

Last month, I talked about Pastor Kametarō Yoshida who started Ishinomaki church in 1885. This month, I would like to share how God captured Kametarō's heart.

In 1873, at age 16, Kametarō went to Tokyo to study chemistry. Next to the lab where he studied, there was an American missionary living. Every day, Kametarō heard hymns and message, like the fragrance of Christ was always present.

At the lab, there was an older gentleman working and always singing hymns. One day, Kametarō was so curious and took older man's book. Older man was very much troubled by Kametarō, but he was so interested in this book.

Kametarō read “Jesus of Nazareth was crucified on the cross for all the people.” Immediately, he was touched by Jesus and started to cry.

Kametarō always went to listen to the message with his friends. Little by little, he understood about Christ. He decided to get baptized by Dr. Palm (a missionary from Medical Society Mission, born in Scotland, a surgeon).

But, his co-workers did not like Kametarō going to church every Sunday. Yet, his faith was growing stronger and stronger. He decided to leave oil manufacturing company and study at Dr. Palm's school (Christian worker training school). From this point, Kametarō resumes a life of Christian disciple.

Pastor Becky Hirata 平田

## Nichigo's June Calendar:

|         |       |                         |
|---------|-------|-------------------------|
| June 2  | 11:00 | Nichigo Worship         |
|         | 12:00 | Nichigo Council Meeting |
| June 9  | 11:00 | Nichigo Worship         |
|         | 12:00 | Lunch Fellowship        |
| June 16 | 11:00 | Nichigo Worship         |
|         | 12:00 | Bible Study             |
| June 23 | 11:00 | Nichigo Worship         |
|         | 12:00 | Bible Study             |
| June 28 | 7:30  | Japanese Film Night     |
| June 30 | 11:00 | Nichigo Worship         |
|         | 12:00 | Prayer Time             |

## Joint Worship and All Church Picnic

Please mark your calendar for the combined English and Japanese Worship Service on Sunday, July 21 at 10:30 AM, followed by the All Church Picnic.

# **Join us at the Fair!**

## **Vacation Bible School – July 8-12**



Comes Together!”

Children ages 3 through entering 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are invited to a fun week of Bible stories, singing, games, crafts, mission projects, snacks, and more!

Vacation Bible School is an ideal time for children to make new friends while they grow in faith. This year’s focus on being a good neighbor provides

### **Register Today!**

Everyone looks forward to Vacation Bible School! This year’s theme is “Everywhere Fun Fair: Where God’s World

valuable lessons on being friendly, giving, bold, forgiving, and welcoming.

### **VBS Mission Projects**

This year’s Vacation Bible School will be assembling gift packets for various groups. Donations of small cosmetic bags (the type given away with Department Store promotions), sample-size bottles of shampoo and lotions (like those provided at hotels), and school supplies (glue, glue sticks, crayons, etc.) are welcome. Donations may be brought to the church and placed in the boxes in the Social Hall.

Thank you for your support of Vacation Bible School!

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## **West LA United Methodist Church**

1913 Purdue Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025

wlaumc.org  310-479-1379

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