



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

August 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.com

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
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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.

Recently a friend posted an article about young adults and the church on his Facebook page. It was entitled, “Change wisely, dude,” by Andrea Palpant Dilley, who has authored a memoir about her departure and eventual return to the church. In her article, she describes how, in her early twenties, she returned to the church after a personal crisis.

For a few years, she attended a non-denominational church called Praxis that had a young, hip pastor, rock anthem praise music, and a buffet-style communion where people were invited to serve themselves whenever they felt so moved. During a baptism, the pastor hoisted an infant and said, “Dude, I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

After a time, however, Dilley, who grew up in the Presbyterian church, grew weary of the anti-traditional nature of Praxis. She writes, “When I slipped back in, I wanted what my own parents had wanted in their hippie youth back in the 1970s: an anti-institutional church that looked less like a church and more like a coffee house. But after two years at Praxis, the coffee tasted thin. I felt homeless in heart. I missed intergenerational community. I missed hymns and historicity, sacraments and old aesthetics. I missed the rich polity – even the irritation – of Presbytery.” Now in her thirties, she and her husband attend an Anglican church where every Sunday morning the clergy process up the aisle wearing white vestments and carry a 6-foot cross.

Dilley’s words offer a ray of hope. This isn’t to say that a church like ours can ignore the culture and expect to be relevant, forward-looking, and alive. We’d be a Wesleyan version of the Amish if we did. It is to say, however, that there are aspects of tradition worth saving which can provide a branch to those young and old who feel as if they are being carried away by a rapidly moving and dismissive culture.

To mainline churches who are tempted to radically change the way they are doing things to attract a younger demographic (in Dilley’s words, “out with the organ, in with the Fender”), her advice is, “Don’t. Or at least proceed with caution. Change carefully; change wisely, with thoughtfulness and deliberation.” As our church plans for its future, this is advice worth heeding.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Gary Oba

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.

West LA Prayer Ministry

Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM, a group prays 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.



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## **Lectionary Readings for August**

*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.*

|         |                                          |                                       |
|---------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Aug. 4  | Hosea 11:1-11<br>Psalm 107:1-9, 43       | Colossians 3:1-11<br>Luke 12:13-21    |
| Aug. 11 | Isaiah 1:1, 10-20<br>Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23 | Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16<br>Luke 12:32-40 |
| Aug. 18 | Isaiah 5:1-7<br>Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19       | Hebrews 11:29-12:2<br>Luke 12:49-56   |
| Aug. 25 | Jeremiah 1:4-10<br>Psalm 71:1-6          | Hebrews 12:18-29<br>Luke 13:10-17     |

# Worship & Studies

Growing in Faith through Worship and Studies

## August 9:30 AM Worship Services

### **August 4 – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Family Worship / Holy Communion**

Guest Speaker, Pastor Jack Ong.  
Valerie Harada giving children's message.  
Children remain in worship.

### **August 11 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Guest Speaker, Mr. Scott Shimotsu.  
Stanley Shimotsu giving children's message.

### **August 18 – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Native American Ministries Sunday**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Luke 12:49-56  
Theme: God's Word divides as well as unites.  
Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

### **August 25 – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Worship with Praise Band**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Luke 13:10-17  
Theme: The importance of healing.  
Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

## **Church Library Open Hours**

The Church Library will be open for reading and borrowing books on Sunday, August 4 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Come and see recent additions to the Library, including four books by Joni Eareckson Tada (Aiko Inouye's niece), Asian American novels, and delightful children's books. Contact Jean Dote for more information.



## **2013 Graduates**

We are happy to add Evan Echeverri to last month's list of 2013 graduates. He graduated from Cal Poly Pomona on June 16, 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. Congratulations!



## **Join West LA UMC's Facebook Page**

Get the latest church news and prayer requests on Facebook. Just search for "West LA UMC" and "Like" us! You'll see photos of church activities and enjoy connecting with church friends.

## 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 Room 9.

In August we will continue our series on the theme "God's People Worship" with lessons from the books of Isaiah and Ezra. The women take turns facilitating the class discussion using the Adult Bible Study series. New members are welcome.

### **"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. See Rev. Gary Oba for more information. No meeting on July 31 or August 7.

### **Thursday Bible Study**

The Thursday evening Bible Study is taking a break in August, and will resume on September 5, 7:30-9:00 PM in the Learning Center.



## **Vacation Bible School**

West LA UMC was delighted to host 38 children and youth for Vacation Bible School July 8-12! We sang songs, heard Bible stories, assembled mission projects, made crafts, played games, ate good food, and explored science projects. Thanks to VBS Director Jeri Okamoto Floyd and our many volunteers for a memorable week of VBS!

# Outreach & Social Service

Serving Our Community and World



## STOP HUNGER NOW

### Volunteer August 3 at Westwood UMC

United Methodist Churches on the Westside of L.A. will be gathering at Westwood UMC, 10497 Wilshire Boulevard, L.A. 90024, to package 50,000 meals on Saturday, August 3. Set up will begin at 7:30 AM and packaging will take place from 9:00 AM–11:00 AM.

All ages can lend a hand, including young children. This will be a great opportunity to meet local United Methodists as well as working to stop hunger in our lifetime. For more information, check out <http://events.stophungernow.org/UMCLA> which was set up for this event.

For more information and to sign up to volunteer, please contact Bob Bailey. A sign-up sheet is also available in the Social Hall.

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Japanese Film Night

Friday, August 30, 7:30 PM



Japanese Film Night on August 30 will feature "Hotaru" or "Firefly." The film was directed by Yasuo Furuhashi in 2000, is 91 minutes long and in color. Cast: Ken Takakura, Yuko Tanaka. The movie starts at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Admission is free and open to the public.

Greg Shikata, Japanese Film Night Coordinator, provides an introduction to the film, including

background information on the director and actors, at the beginning of each film.

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### Manzanar Bus Trip

September 21-22

West LA UMC members and friends will travel to Manzanar National Historic Site for an educational tour. We appreciate Rose Honda's leadership in planning this informational and insightful trip.

## GO GREEN!

"Today, paper makes up 35 percent of our waste stream, but only 48 percent of the paper products we use are recovered for recycling. That means over half the paper we use is filling up our landfills and rotting in our trash." — Megan Prusynski, *Green Options*

Reducing the amount of paper we use and reusing paper is good for the environment. It is also a good idea which helps control waste disposal problems.

- Get off junk mail lists to save paper.
- Use your local library and other public amenities – it saves money and printing resources.
- How many phone books do you need? Stop getting those bulky throwbacks -- simply contact the manufacturer (their contact information is usually listed on the phonebook's inside cover) and ask to be taken off their mailing list. Use online phonebooks or search the web to find what you need instead.
- Keep files digitally - think twice before printing computer files to save time, money and natural resources.
- Print less. Do you really need a hard copy of that e-mail? Do you really need to print your first draft? Think before you print, and print wisely.
- Get rid of your fax machine. How often do you send or receive faxes? And yet, the fax machine is on all the time, probably 24 hours a day, sucking up energy. You have to print out your document to fax it, and then it prints out again, somewhere else! That's two print-outs per faxed document, not to mention cover sheets and confirmation pages. You can get an Internet fax service; it uses no paper and no more energy than your network uses already.
- Shrink your print jobs. Here's where you'll find the greatest paper savings. Printing on both sides of a page reduces paper usage by half. Print two pages' worth of text on each side for another 50% reduction.
- Recycle your paper! This includes not only copy paper, but newspapers, junk mail, folders, boxes — anything that tears. Around 80% of the paper products you use can be recycled, and more than once.
- Buy only recycled paper products, from copy paper to toilet paper, from cups to coffee filters. The higher the percentage of recycled content in the paper product, the more trees you're sparing. So of course, 100% recycled paper is the best to use!

Going green is good for all of us! Share your green tips by sending them to [jack@jackong.com](mailto:jack@jackong.com).

By Jack Ong



REUSE! REDUCE! RECYCLE!

## Ishinomaki Mission Report



*"I am the vine;  
you are the  
branches. If you  
remain in me  
and I in you, you  
will bear much  
fruit; apart from  
me and you can  
do nothing."  
John 15:5*

As a disciple of God, it is our duty to show God's love and support to those who are not aware of such things. But I did not know how much it would affect me. Before I went on this mission trip, I believed that all mission trips were basically reading God's Word and trying to make them convert to Christianity. Boy was I wrong!! "Actions speak louder than words" was all about this mission trip. We showed God's love through our ACTIONS only.

The day that we entered Ishinomaki, Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, I was actually surprised at how well the town had actually developed. Before entering the town, I thought that it would be a very small town with no buildings of any sort left, and that their industries would not be up yet. To my surprise, it was the exact opposite. It was a fairly big town with many new buildings although there are still many empty spaces where there used to be buildings. We were briefed on what we would be doing for the next few days. Visit those in the temporary homes, work in the fields of a nearby fishing town, and help prepare for their upcoming big concert.

At 8:30am next day, the physical labor workers (or those who were able to work in the fields, in our case) left for the nearby coastal town of Yoriki. We were given gas powered weed-wackers with a gigantic saw-looking blade and told to cut down as much weeds as we could. When I first walked onto the site, I honestly just wanted to scream "NOPE!!!!" The weeds were at least three feet high. This ended up being an easier job. For our next job, we traveled about 300 meters uphill on a tiny street, were given shovels, and told to clear the side of the road, which was absolutely CAKED with rotting leaves and water, making it super heavy. This was 100 times tougher than cutting weeds! We managed to clear the roadside, throwing the leaves over to the bushes. Boy, I slept well that night!

The day after, for me, was the day I was looking forward to the most. We were going to a middle school! I was in charge of recording the event. Students were singing and playing instruments. I felt and saw the joy and happiness in every one of the students. After, we headed straight back to Grace Mission Tohoku, and got ready for another big event that night, a music concert. We helped set up the community center, prepare dinner (oden with rice) for about 200 expected guests. It was an amazing time! The concert started and it consisted of two Japanese singers and a Korean singer, pianist and saxophonist. All of the music was touching so many people's hearts. That was one of the best parts of the trip-seeing so many people happy at one time and enjoying the moment, conversing with each other. By the time that the concert was over, no one wanted to leave.

Our last day at Ishinomaki was Sunday. Our mission team attended 11:00 AM Worship Service to the church nearby. It was about the size of two of our little classrooms put together. The service was all in Japanese, so I really did not understand much that was going on.

However, listening to a service in foreign language really didn't bother me as we were all feeling the same thing in our hearts! After the worship, the church served lunch and we began to play games of bingo. It was another wonderful bonding time with people. While we are playing bingo, I met many people, listened to their stories and what has happened in their lives since the devastating earthquake and tsunami.

One woman I was talking to told me that her daughter was killed in the tsunami while she was in school. She didn't know what to do first. But God does His work in mysterious ways, and now she found Him and she has a new hope in life! Her story made my trip all worth it! To add to my joy, I also won the bingo game!! I received a melon as a prize and I gave my winning prize, melon to her (melon was the most expensive prize.). She was surprised and asked why I was giving her the fruit. I shared with her what I learned from the Ohana Group at our church many years ago; "God is love, God loves you, pass the love forward." That day, I made a new friend!

We also had an opportunity to tour around Ishinomaki and surrounding towns. The water in Ishinomaki was over 20 feet high, about a quarter of a mile inland, where it then hit a hill side. You could never tell that Ishinomaki ever had so much damage because the town had come together to rebuild. One of the hopeful stories we hear was about a simple lamp. This lamp was found in the rubble of the tsunami still lit, floating around. To remember such the tragic event, the town placed the lamp in a little box, keeping it lit 24/7 with little wood chips that people collected in the rubble. It is still lit. We also were able to go inside the damaged middle school. Though the building was still there, the lower floors were totally destroyed. Loose wires still hanging around the hallways and rubble was still in the class rooms.

It was also during this time that your donations were being put to use. In a little town called Shizugawa, there is no convenience store for people to buy their food or necessities. They are barely making it through, even two years after the tsunami. Rev. Becky and I decided to use the money that was donated to help those people. We were able to provide fresh fruits and vegetables. We bought 1,000 cucumbers, 500 tomatoes, boxes of cherries, and rented four vans/cars to help distribute the food across the town. People receiving bag of goods were lit up with joys and thanksgiving.

We are all the branches of God! Each branch has different responsibilities and different functions. I am blessed that I was able to visit my homeland with your loving support and prayers. I've learned history, experienced the culture and got the taste of brotherhood. Your continuing love, compassion and prayers for those whom which we helped will bear much fruit, the fruits of the Spirit! Thank you very much.

*Submitted by Justin Yamaguchi*

# Annual Asian Cultural Bazaar

Faith, Food, Music, and More!



## Annual Church Bazaar

September 28 – 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Our annual West Los Angeles United Methodist Church Asian Cultural Bazaar will be held on Saturday, September 28 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.

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Silent Auction!

Now is the perfect time to consider donating items to the Silent Auction at this year's Bazaar on September 28!

We welcome your donations of:

- Amusement Park Tickets
- Antiques & Collectibles
- Concert Tickets & Movie Tickets
- New or Gently Used Items*
- Online Gift Cards
- Professional Services
- Restaurant Gift Cards
- Retail/Store Gift Cards
- Sports Event Tickets
- Theater Tickets
- Vacation Condo/Resort
- Vintage Items

Your special gifts and talents (hosting a gathering, cooking, baking, entertainment – be creative!)

If you would like a receipt from the church, please fill out a donation form and attach it to your donated item(s). Forms will be available in the Social Hall and the church office.

*No books or clothing please.

Bazaar Wish List

The following items are needed for the Bazaar. If you would like to donate an item, please notify Frances Uchida, 310-478-6996, or sign the sign-up sheet in the Social Hall with your name and donation.

Food Items

- Barley Tea Bags
- Green Tea Bags
- Granulated Sugar – 5lb or 10 lb
- Mirin
- Shoyu
- Soft Drinks (cans)
- SPAM (regular)
- Water (bottles)

Paper Supplies

- Chopsticks
- Cold Cups – 8oz, 9oz.
- Hot Cups – 8oz, 9oz.
- Masking Tape – 1", 1 ½", 2"
- Napkins
- Paper Lunch Bags
- Paper Towels
- Plastic Wrap – rolls
- Plastic Forks
- Trash Bags – 13gal. and 33gal.
- Wax Paper – rolls
- Ziploc Bags – sandwich, quart, gallon bags

Other Items

- Plants
- Postage Stamps
- Raffle Prizes

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## Bazaar Art Exhibit

Youth and children are welcome to participate in the Art Exhibit in the Sanctuary during Bazaar. If your child is interested in submitting one or more art projects, please contact Rose Honda.

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Bring Your Family & Friends

Families will love the many children's activities at this year's Bazaar!

Come for games, crafts, and face painting! Plus, kid's love snow cones, baked goods, and great food!

United Methodist Women

Women Learning, Growing, and Serving Others

UMW WELCOMES A NEW BABY!

UMW is delighted to welcome a baby boy, Nicholas James Yeo, born to UMW member, Diana Lock and her husband Geoff Yeo. Congratulations! Needless to say, it has been a looooooong time since we have had a baby among our membership and we are thrilled. May God bless Nicholas and his parents and keep them in His care always.

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## A SUMMER TEA

Saturday, August 24

If you have not done so already, please be sure to get a ticket for UMW's "A Summer Tea," to be held on Saturday, August 24, from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM. After enjoying a luncheon of tea sandwiches, dermatologist, Margaret Olsen, M.D., will share "Skin Tips from Head to Toe."



The tea is free and open to all women of our church. However, seating is limited and entrance is by ticket only. If, after receiving a ticket, you find you are unable to attend, please return the ticket so someone else can take your place.

Don't miss this special time of fun and fellowship and opportunity to make new friends!

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BINGO TIME AT KEIRO

On Sunday, July 14, thirteen UMW members and a friend gathered at Sea Empress Restaurant for a delicious lunch of dim sum. Thus fortified, we continued on to South Bay Keiro Convalescent Hospital.

First, we distributed boxes of tissue to each bedside as gifts for the approximately 96 patients. Then we gathered in the newly remodeled recreation room to play Bingo with approximately fifty patients. Pat Hirata greeted the patients in Japanese and Lois Tateishi called out the winning numbers. The winners enjoyed selecting from a variety of prizes UMW members had donated. And, as always, UMW members were happy to bring a little fun and enjoyment to the patients.

Thank you to Fusako Hamamoto for making the arrangements (which she has done for many years) and Kathi Yamazaki for assisting her.

METRO ART TOUR

On Saturday, June 15, ten UMW members, four husbands and Stephanie Kinoshita set forth on a tour of Metro art. Since its establishment in 1989, the Metro Art program has commissioned over 300 artists to create artwork that reflect Los Angeles County's many and diverse cultures, specifically for their transit sites. The art program is funded through a mandated five percent of the Metro budget. Tours are offered free of charge and private tours are available for groups of fifteen or more.

We agreed to meet at the Culver City terminal of the Expo line to ride the train to Union Station where we were scheduled to meet our docent at 10:00 am. We gathered at 9:00 am and it was fortunate we had given ourselves an hour because by the time we "technology deficient" seniors had purchased our Tap card and added our senior fares to the cards, we barely made it to meet our docent on time. It was fortunate we had younger members, Stacey Hirose and Sharon Kinoshita, to guide us through the process.

Our docent, Morley Helfand, first took us to view some of the artwork in the Union Station. Then he gave us each a Tap card that was good for rides all day until 2:00 am. We all hopped on the Redline subway to marvel at the artwork in the Universal City Station and afterwards, the Hollywood and Vine Station.

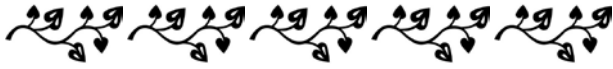
When we returned to Union Station after our tour, we decided to walk two blocks to Philippe's, a landmark Los Angeles restaurant famous for their dip sandwiches since 1908. We returned to Union Station via the colorful and festive Olvera Street. Somehow, despite a few false moves, we were able to return to the Culver Station and to our cars.

The Metro Art Tour was a wonderful revelation of "treasures" to be found in Los Angeles City and we highly recommend the experience.

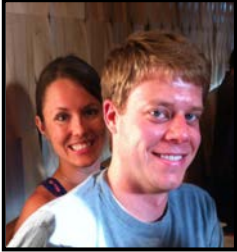
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The international United Methodist Women's Assembly will be held in Louisville, Ky., at the Kentucky International Convention Center, April 25-27, 2014, with an optional, pre-event Ubuntu Day of Service on Thursday, April 24. Registration for Assembly will begin August 1, 2013. For more information and to register, <http://new.gbmg-umc.org/umw/assembly/>.



### Thank Note from Minneapolis. . .



Dear WLAUMC family,  
 Thank you so much for your thoughtful send-off and for the gifts – we will think of you all often and fondly (and every time we use our newest LA UMC coffee mugs – which is a lot!).  
 Thank you also for the

thoughtful gift and recognition of Brooke’s residency graduation. We miss you all already!

Take care & God Bless,  
*Brooke Smars & Kale Langley*

### 2013 Annual Conference Report

This year, the California-Pacific Annual Conference was held from June 13-15, with the theme of “How Firm a Foundation”.



I went to this conference knowing basically nothing about what was going to happen, but because of this it gave me lots of time to take in the information that all the pastors, lay members and the bishop were saying. I learned that this year, a new bishop, Bishop Carcaño, had taken leadership. She seemed to have almost everything under control, except for how long the people in the plenary sessions talked. Every day there was an hour and thirty minute plenary in the morning and another three hour and thirty minute plenary in the afternoon WITHOUT any breaks! During these plenary sessions, we talked about the business aspects of the church like budgets, etc. One of the only things that I understood from the plenary sessions was that one year, the Cal-Pac district was around three million dollars over budget, and we were now facing the consequences.

In addition to the daily plenary sessions, there were very wonderful services in the evenings and sometimes in the mornings. Coming from a musical background, the music was the one thing that I paid most attention to, and it was absolutely wonderful, ranging from small groups less than ten people to whole church choirs with over fifty people. Not only was the music excellent, but the sermons were also excellent and actually funny. The pastors that talked added a few jokes into the beginning of their sermons, hooking me into the rest of the sermon.

Another thing that was also surprising to me was that there were many more children than I thought. Overall, I would have to estimate that there were around some 30-40 kids there as a low estimate. And actually many of them were younger, mixed with high schoolers and young adults. All the children (almost all, at least) showed up to all the adult sessions, including the plenaries, as there was no other sessions for the youth to attend. Almost all of the sessions that the kids went to were business related, making it harder for the youth to understand. But besides this fact, I was able to learn more about the United Methodist Church and would gladly like to attend next year if it is possible!

*Submitted by Justin Yamaguchi*

*West LA UMC was delighted to have Lay Leader Stan Shimotsu and Youth Member Justin Yamaguchi attend this year’s Annual Conference with the church’s three pastors. Next year’s Annual Conference will be held June 18-21 at the University of Redlands.*



# JAPANESE MINISTRY

## 「サマーミッション」

6月17日から26日まで、15名のチームで、石巻へボランティアに行ってきた。神様が与えてくれた恵み多きミッショントリップであった。東関東大震災から2年以上にもなるが、瓦礫がないだけで、復興はほとんど進んでいない。

教会の礼拝で、スライドショーを見せたので、多くの方は内容を把握出来たと思う。全ての奉仕内容が紹介出来ないが、先週届いた志津川からのお便りを紹介したいと思う。

被災地での活動、ご苦労様でした。志津川への提供を心から感謝します。皆様が大変喜んでおりました。まだまだ先の見通しが見つからない中で、温かい支援は心を豊かに致します。本当に感謝です。スタッフも心から喜んでおりました。また、機会がありましたら是非ともお目にかかりたいと願います。  
南三陸クリスチャンセンター

今回はレンタカーを借りて、車一杯にきゅうり1000本とトマト500個を買って積んだ。南三陸には、スーパーがないので、1時間離れた隣町である石巻で買い物をした。本当はスイカが欲しかったが、車のスペースに問題が出てしまった。

仮設住宅の若い夫婦が待っていてくれて、クリスチャンセンターのスタッフと一緒に仕分けをした。大変な作業だが、これを怠ると、仮設住宅では喧嘩になるらしい。不公平はいけないと言う事である。

新鮮な野菜と果物は、とても嬉しいと言われた。来年も来て欲しいと言われ、帰った。2年前と違って、今回はお話しも出来た。本当に嬉しかった。

神様の愛が届くようにと祈りたい。

平田

## “Summer Mission Trip”

From June 17<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, we went to Ishinomaki for Summer Mission trip. It has been over two years since 3.11 earthquake and tsunami. The debris may be gone, but no buildings are yet to be built. People are still living in the government housings.

I cannot explain all the service activities, but I would like to share a nice message from Minami-Sanriku Christian Center that I received last week.

Thank you for helping Shizugawa village. People at government housing were very happy to receive food. Please remember that you have given us a heart-warming support. It always enriches our heart in the midst of despair. Our staff is grateful as well. We look forward to seeing you again.

Minami-sanriku Christian Center

This year, we bought 1000 cucumbers and 500 tomatoes. I really wanted to buy watermelons, but there was no space in a car. At the Christian center, a young couple was waiting for me to arrive. We had to bag the vegetables to avoid any problems (like fighting).

Unlike two years ago, I was able to talk to them! They were craving fresh vegetables/fruits. They asked me to come back again next year. I was truly happy and thankful for this short time with them.

May the Lord bless Shizugawa village.

Pastor Becky Hirata 平田



## Nichigo's August Calendar

|           |          |                     |
|-----------|----------|---------------------|
| August 4  | 11:00 AM | Nichigo Worship     |
| August 11 | 11:00 AM | Nichigo Worship     |
| August 18 | 11:00 AM | Nichigo Worship     |
| August 25 | 11:00 AM | Nichigo Worship     |
| August 30 | 7:30 PM  | Japanese Film Night |

## Nichigo Pastor Schedule

August 3-4, Serving as a main speaker at Northern California Nichigo Conference.  
August 12-25, Summer Vacation.

# August 2013

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Monday                                                                                                  | Tuesday                                                 | Wednesday                                                                                          | Thursday                                                         | Friday                                      | Saturday                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>To see the latest news and calendar, visit <a href="http://www.wlaumc.com">www.wlaumc.com</a>.</b></p>                                                                                                      |                                                                                                         |                                                         |                                                                                                    | <p>1<br/>9:30am Prayer Meeting<br/>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p>     | <p>2</p>                                    | <p>3<br/>7:30am Stop Hunger Now Set-up, Westwood UMC<br/>9:00am Stop Hunger Now Meal Packaging, Westwood UMC</p> |
| <p>4 Family Worship/Holy Communion</p> <p>9:30am Worship in English<br/>11:00am Worship in Japanese<br/>11:00am Church Library Opens</p>                                                                          | <p>5</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible</p> <p>6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg</p>                                   | <p>6</p> <p>11:30am 80+ Women's Lunch</p>               | <p>7</p> <p>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>6-9:00pm Promise AA Mtg</p>                               | <p>8</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Meeting<br/>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p>  | <p>9</p>                                    | <p>10</p>                                                                                                        |
| <p>11</p> <p>9:30am Worship in English<br/>9:45am Sunday School &amp; Youth<br/>11:00am Worship in Japanese</p>                                                                                                   | <p>12</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible</p> <p>6:00pm PATH Meal Service<br/>6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg</p>     | <p>13</p>                                               | <p>14</p> <p>9:00am "Alive Now" Study<br/>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>6-9:00pm Promise AA Mtg</p> | <p>15</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Meeting<br/>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> | <p>16</p>                                   | <p>17</p>                                                                                                        |
| <p>18 Native American Ministries Sunday</p> <p>9:30am Worship in English<br/>9:45am Sunday School &amp; Youth<br/>11:00am Worship in Japanese<br/>11:00am Christian Education &amp; Family Ministries Meeting</p> | <p>19</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible</p> <p>6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg<br/>7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal</p> | <p>20</p> <p>8:30am Fat Tuesday Men's Breakfast Mtg</p> | <p>21</p> <p>9:00am "Alive Now" Study<br/>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>6-9:00pm Promise AA Mtg</p> | <p>22</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Meeting<br/>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> | <p>23</p>                                   | <p>24</p> <p>12:00 UMW Summer Tea</p> <p>4:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal</p>                                        |
| <p>25 Worship with Praise Band</p> <p>9:30am Worship in English<br/>9:45am Sunday School &amp; Youth<br/>11:00am Worship in Japanese</p>                                                                          | <p>26</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible</p> <p>6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg</p>                                  | <p>27</p> <p>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>                 | <p>28</p> <p>9:00am "Alive Now" Study<br/>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>6-9:00pm Promise AA Mtg</p> | <p>29</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Meeting<br/>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> | <p>30</p> <p>7:30pm Japanese Film Night</p> | <p>31</p>                                                                                                        |

# Asian Cultural Bazaar

Saturday, September 28

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM



West LA United Methodist Church will once again open its hearts, minds and doors to our community with our annual Asian Cultural Bazaar. This event, which we have celebrated over the decades, has always been a memorable part of the unique fabric of our Church. This year's focus will again be on coming together as a family and community of faith under God, and an opportunity to joyfully demonstrate Faith In Action.



The Bazaar features delicious food items, baked goods, beautiful plants and flowers, games, crafts and face painting for the kids, door prizes, silent auction, and a Second Chance Store. Entertainment will be provided throughout the day. Cultural and historical presentations will be on display, along with original creations by our Church artists.

Bring your family and invite all of your friends. Free parking is available at the Trident Center Building. ***We look forward to seeing you!***

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## West LA United Methodist Church

1913 Purdue Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025

wlaumc.com ☎ 310-479-1379

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*If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter  
please call us at (310) 479-1379 Ext. 100  
or send us an email at wlaumc@aol.com*

Change Service Requested

August 2013

West Los Angeles United Methodist Church  
1913 Purdue Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

West Los Angeles United Methodist Church

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