



# 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

September 2013

**West Los Angeles  
United Methodist Church**  
1913 Purdue Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
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Email: [wlaumc@aol.com](mailto:wlaumc@aol.com)  
Website: [www.wlaumc.com](http://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](mailto:obagary@gmail.com)  
**Rev. Janet Cromwell**, Associate Pastor  
Email: [jlcromwell8@gmail.com](mailto:jlcromwell8@gmail.com)  
**Rev. Rebecca Hirata**, Local Pastor  
Japanese Language Ministry  
Email: [pastorwlaumc@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:pastorwlaumc@yahoo.co.jp)  
**Lina Yamaguchi**,  
Secretary and Newsletter Coordinator  
Email: [wlaumc@aol.com](mailto: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.



Summer has really flown by. It's already September and, before you know it, we'll be making plans for Christmas. Are you feeling this way, that time is passing quickly?

Perhaps this feeling is related to age. Older persons who have passed the mid-point of life may feel time is passing more quickly than those who have many years ahead of them. It's related to mortality or death, I suppose. As we age, we realize the limited number of years left in this life, and so feel the passing of each day more acutely.

It could also be that modern life is so darn busy that we tear through days the way we rip off pages from the daily calendar. In our culture, particularly in a place like Los Angeles, with so many things competing for our attention, we cram each available moment with busy-ness and, before we know it, significant amounts of time have passed.

We have been busy at the church. Every month has been filled to the brim with programs, meetings, and special services. This summer has been particularly busy, with VBS, Meiji Gakuin visit, benefit concert, and picnic all taking place within a short amount of time. For many, summer at the church has been exhausting.

It is important to remember that we are a church and not another institution such as a business or school. We are a spiritual body, the body of Christ, and, like any body, we need to alternate activity and rest to be our best selves. Jesus modeled this when, after intense periods of activity, he would go up into the mountains to pray. This rhythm of intense activity followed by rest is an essential pattern for the church.

As we prepare to enter the busy season of the church, namely the stretch between Rally Day and Christmas, let us be mindful of our body's rhythms, i.e. the need to alternate activity and rest, so that we may offer our best selves to God and the church.

Yours in Christ,

*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.*

## Lectionary Readings for September

*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.*

Sep. 1	Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1, 10-16	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14
Sep. 8	Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33
Sep. 15	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14	1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10
Sep. 22	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Psalm 79:1-9 or Psalm 4	1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13
Sep. 29	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16	1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31

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## 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.



## Church Picnic – July 2013



# Worship & Studies

Growing in Faith through Worship and Studies

## September 9:30 AM Worship Services

**September 1 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Family Worship / Holy Communion**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Theme: Humility. Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message. Children remain in worship.

**September 8 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Luke 14:25-33

Theme: Finish what you start!

Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

**September 15 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Luke 15:1-10

Theme: Helping others to find their way home

Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

**September 22 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Luke 16:1-13

Theme: On the proper use of riches

Special guest giving children's message.

**September 29 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost  
Worship with Praise Band**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Luke 16:19-31

Theme: Compassion is more important than possessions. Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

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**Farewell Reception for  
Chris Heckman**

Sunday, September 1, 10:30 AM

Chris Heckman has served as West LA UMC's Director of Music and Technology. We have been blessed by his enthusiasm and talents, and now want to wish him well as he begins his new position as the Chair of the Film Composition Department of North Carolina School of the Arts.



Please join us for a Farewell Reception for Chris on Sunday, September 1 at 10:30 AM in the Social Hall.

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**World Communion Sunday**

Sunday, October 6, 10:30 AM

Mark your calendar and come to the combined English and Japanese Worship Service on Sunday, October 6. Together we will celebrate World Communion Sunday at 10:30 AM and a delicious Potluck Lunch following worship!

## 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:

- Infants & Toddlers Nursery (next to the sanctuary)
- Age 3 – Grade 3 Explorer Room 3
- Grades 4-8 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.

We will continue our series on the theme "God's People Worship". Our lessons from the book of Ezra give us a perspective on worship in Jerusalem after a remnant of Israel returns home from exile in Babylon. The women take turns facilitating the class discussion using the Adult Bible Study series. Join us!

### **"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 Sept. 25 and Oct. 2.

### **Thursday Bible Study**

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

In response to a request to explore apocryphal literature (texts that were not accepted into the canon of the Bible), the group will begin a study of the gnostic gospels, including the gospels of Thomas, Mary, and Judas. The study will meet weekly on Thursday evenings beginning September 5 (except for Sept. 26 and Oct. 3). New persons are welcome. Please see Rev. Gary for class materials.

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**Rally Day Sunday!**

Sunday, September 8, 9:30 AM

West LA UMC looks forward to a wonderful year of spiritual growth and learning through Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Studies. On Sunday, September 8, we will recognize our teachers and celebrate the many ways that God is blessing the educational ministries of the church. Plan to attend Worship at 9:30 followed by a delicious Hot Dog & Potluck Lunch at 10:45 in the Social Hall. Everyone is welcome!





# Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Supporting Families in Spiritual Growth and Discipleship



## Asian Camp

West LA UMC was delighted to have four youth attend Asian Camp this summer. Steven, Makito, Sean, and John had a terrific time meeting new friends, going deeper into the scriptures, experiencing meditation time under the stars, and participating in the many fun, educational, and cultural activities held throughout the week.

Thanks to the many West LA UMC members who contributed to the Asian Camp Scholarship Fund and everyone who supported our students through prayer.

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## Sunday School Plans for Fall

We anticipate a great year for our children and youth in Sunday School! On Rally Day Sunday on September 8, children will move to their new classes to meet their teachers and begin a new year of learning and growing in faith!

This year, the class room ages will be configured in a new way. After last year's successful "Be Brave" Retreat, it was clear that our 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders had a lot in common *and* enjoyed each other's company. They demonstrated excellent reading skills and the ability to "go deep" into the scripture stories, while still enjoying hands-on craft and mission projects. With this in mind, the Christian Education Team is recommending the following age groupings for Sunday School Classes:

- |                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Infants & Toddlers | Nursery (next to the sanctuary) |
| Age 3 – Grade 3    | Explorer Room 3                 |
| Grades 4-8         | Trekker Room 2                  |
| Grades 9-12        | Youth Room 8 (upstairs)         |

Our Sunday School Teachers are dedicated to preparing fun and memorable lessons for our children and youth. They love being with their students on a regular basis and rejoice in the growth they see over the course of the year.

Plan to make Sunday School an integral part of your children's lives this year.

## Special Needs Ministries

The Christian Education and Family Ministries Team wants to be sure that West LA UMC is open and welcoming to all people – children, youth and adults – including persons who may have special needs. To succeed in this goal, we are aware of our need for continual training and education in creating environments that welcomes everyone. Therefore, the Team will be hosting several opportunities for Sunday School Teachers, Youth Leaders, parents, friends, and church members to learn more about various types of special needs and how to be a fully accessible and welcoming church.

The first program will be held on Sunday, October 20 at 1:00 PM in the Social Hall. We will hear an informative presentation from Janet Hifumi Gunter and Mariko Yamazaki, both of who serve as Occupational Therapists working with children. Watch for more details in the October Newsletter.

If you have a heart for special needs ministries, or have suggestions of topics and/or possible presenters, please contact Rev. Janet Cromwell. We look forward to increasing our knowledge and expanding our ministries to *all* of God's children!

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## Music Feeds the Soul Benefit Concert

West LA UMC hosted an amazing night of music on July 20 with six outstanding bands, including our own Praise Band! The evening event brought together church and community members for music and support for *Stop Hunger Now!* and the Food Pantry at the Wesley Foundation Serving UCLA! As a result of the Concert, the church donated funds to the August 3 *Stop Hunger Now!* meal packaging, and numerous canned goods to students at the campus ministry!

Thanks to all of the volunteers who made the Benefit Concert a huge success, particularly Tim Yasui and Pam Sase Ryder for their leadership.

# Outreach & Social Service

Serving Our Community and World

## Ralph's Market Rewards Program Scan Our Barcode!! TIME TO RE-REGISTER

Thank you to all who regularly use their "Ralph's Club Cards" on behalf of WLA UMC. Ralph's Supermarkets provides a percentage of all sales receipts to WLAUMC which is used for the work of our Social Action Commission.

Please note that Ralph's requires customers to re-register their cards every year on September 1. There are several ways to re-register your Club Card. You can register on the Internet at [www.Ralphs.com](http://www.Ralphs.com) or by taking the following "bar code" to your Ralph's cashier and have them scan it and your Ralph's Club Card or telephone number. Thank you for re-registering your Club Card and for supporting this program!

NPO# 90163

WEST LOS ANGELES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## Japanese Film Night

Friday, September 13, 7:30 PM



Due to the Church's Annual Bazaar, the Japanese Film Night in September will on Friday, September 13. We will feature "Kabei" or "Our Mother." The film was directed by Yoji Yamada in 2008, is 133 minutes

long and in color. 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.

## 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!

Are the plants, veggies and flowers in your outdoor garden thriving this summer? How about all your indoor plants? This is a fine time to remember the "grey water effect"...simply collecting the runoff water in your kitchen, bathrooms and showers, then using that precious H2O to water your plants!

Here are some helpful Green Tips for summer and every season. To do the maximum for environmental quality, we should make these everyday habits.

- Put green plants in your office. Plants cheer up the area, improve air quality, absorb toxic gasses from office equipment, and maintain humidity.
- Save energy and increase the life of your computer by putting it to sleep during the day instead of using screensavers. At night, turn it off completely.
- Drive green! Save 55 gallons of gas a year and prevent 1,200 lbs. of CO2 by maintaining a steady driving pace and choosing routes with the least idling.
- Don't let your car idle. If stuck in traffic, drive-thru lane or gas station lines, turn off your engine. Idling cars spew much of the 1.7 billion tons of annual auto emissions.
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash instead of at home. A modern car wash reuses water and prevents oil and road grime from entering drainage systems.
- Properly inflated tires roll easier, last longer, reduce engine wear, improve gas mileage, and prevent 250 lbs. of CO2 a year from polluting the atmosphere.
- How about this statistic to encourage recycling: if U.S. citizens would recycle half their annual waste, we would recycle a 280-million ton mountain of trash, the equivalent of 550 Empire State buildings!
- Replace your old toilet with a low-flow version. This conserves 23,000 gallons per year—the equivalent of three swimming pools—for a 4-person household.
- Switching to CFLs (compact fluorescent lights) eliminates 300 lbs. of CO2 a year. If everyone switches to CFLs, that's the equivalent of eliminating 7 million cars from the road!

Share your favorite green tips; email them to [jack@jackong.com](mailto:jack@jackong.com).

By Jack Ong



REUSE! REDUCE! RECYCLE!

## Library Updates

The Church Library will be open for reading and borrowing books on Sunday, September 1 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.



The Library Committee would like to thank the following persons for their book donations: Fusako Hamamoto, Rose Honda, Aiko Inouye, Keiichiro Imai, Keiko Kikuta, Diana Lock, Greg and Jean Shikata, Mitzi Takimoto, Harriet Woo, and Sidney & Kathleen Yamazaki.

The following library committee members have donated time on the first Sunday of the month: Pat Hirata, Keiko Kano, Haru Nakata, Midori Tashiro, Sets Yamashita and Jean Dote.

Thanks to everyone for their donations and time.

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## Thank You from the Asian Pacific Women's Center

Dear WLAUMC,

On Behalf of the Asian Pacific Women's Center, thank you for your generous donation of beautifully prepared school supplies and women's clothing.

With your support APWC provides a safe haven for survivors of domestic violence as they acquire personal strength and the necessary skills for self-sufficiency, dignity, and inner peace. During the 12 to 18 month period that clients stay at the transitional shelter, they receive supportive serves in a culturally sensitive environment, including case management and counseling, parenting classes, employment readiness training, and a variety of life skills workshops.

Please feel free to visit [www.apwcla.org](http://www.apwcla.org) or call the APWC office at 213-250-2977 to inquire about other ways to get involved such as proving special skills volunteering. Thank you again for your generous contribution. We wish you all the best.

*Warm Regards,  
Venus Sotir, Fiscal Director*

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## Thank You from the Wesley Foundation

Dear Friends at West LA UMC,

Thank you for the incredible gift of over 40 cosmetic bags filled with toiletries and bookmarks assembled by children at your VBS program. The college students have already been enjoying these wonderful gifts! At a recent transfer student welcome event, *everyone* wanted one of the hand-make bookmarks because they reminded them of their own younger brothers and sisters! And your donation of food is shared with so many thankful students.

*With love,  
Jeanne Roe Smith, Wesley Foundation Director  
And the 580 Café Student Ministry Team*

## All Church Clean-Up Day

Saturday, September 7, 9:00 AM

There will be an All Church Clean-Up on September 7, at 9:00 AM in preparation for the upcoming Bazaar. We will need members and friends to help in this cleanup process. Ken Harada and Rose Honda are in charge and have made a list of items to be cleaned by location and/or Room number. The lists will be posted on each of the doorways.

All cleaning materials will be provided by the Trustees so we just need your presence. A sign-up sheet will be available on Sundays so that we can get a head count. Thanks you!

*Submitted by Otto Nakano  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees*



## Asian Camp Reunion

### OUR JOURNEY, OUR STORY, OUR FAITH

Asian American Summer Camp is excited to celebrate its 40th anniversary of inspirational ministry. We are blessed to have a community which has yielded lifelong relationships and empowered both spiritual and emotional growth. This unique experience in which we have come to share is ours.

The Reunion will take place on Saturday, November 9 at the Crowne Plaza Redondo Beach and Marina, 300 North Harbor Drive, in Redondo Beach, from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM.

From 1973 to 2013, we invite our entire camp family and friends to a weekend of fellowship, worship and reunion hosted in Southern California. Register for Saturday's luncheon, and plan on staying for evening socials (times and activities may change) and a camp-dedicated service on Sunday. You'll hear stories, testimonials and music from all generations and truly feel the spirit and magic of camp. Mark your calendars and help us continue the camp legacy.

Tickets for Adults are \$50 and Kids are \$25. You must purchase a ticket to attend the Luncheon. Purchase 8 tickets and reserve an entire table! If you have a seating preference, please email [asiancamp40@gmail.com](mailto:asiancamp40@gmail.com). Bring your family! Free daycare will be available during the Luncheon.

You can make a donation when you buy your tickets online. If you don't plan on attending the event, you can click on "Get Tickets" and put in a donation only, or if you prefer, you can also mail in a donation.

Mail a check to: NJAUMC (memo: Asian Camp Anniversary) Wesley UMC at 566 N. 5th Street, San Jose, CA 95112.



# Annual Asian Cultural Bazaar

Faith, Food, Music, and More!



## Annual Church Bazaar

September 28 – 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

The 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.



## Silent Auction!

Now is the perfect time to donate items for this year's Silent Auction at the Bazaar!

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 1/2", 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

## 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.



## 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

## SAVE THE DATES FOR UMW'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

### September

As usual, most of the UMW members will be busy working in the food booths during our all-church **ASIAN CULTURAL BAZAAR** on Saturday, September 28 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Some of the food they will be helping to prepare and/or selling include Chirashi sushi, Teriyaki Chicken plate, Chinese Chicken Salad, Kalbi Beef plate, and Udon. If you don't have an assignment as yet, please let Frances Uchida know when you are available to help cook and serve. In addition, members are asked to contribute their home-baked goodies to the Bake Sale on the morning of the Bazaar. Let's all work together to make this a welcoming event for our friends and neighbors!

### October

We will be packing layettes for newborn babies in Alaska on Friday, October 18 from 9:30 AM. Please let Grace Seto know if you would like to make donations to the project because there are special requirements for the layettes. Lunch will be served so please let Sadie Hifumi know if you are able to attend.

### November

A planning meeting for the 2014 calendar is scheduled for Sunday, November 17 from 11:00 AM in the Learning Center. We hope that all UMW members will make a special effort to attend, especially our new members, so that everyone will have an opportunity to express their ideas and interests. Lunch will be served.

### December

A holiday luncheon outing with date, time and place to be announced.

## Bazaar – Calling All Bakers!

We need help with donations of bake sale items for this year's church Bazaar on Saturday, September 28. Please bring your bake sale items in a non-returnable container to the "Bake Sale Booth" that day. We prefer you pre-package all items if possible in little baggies. Cakes can be left whole. We are looking for cookies, bar cookies, cupcakes, cakes, candies, breads, jams, mochi and manju. Please label your bake sale items if it contains nuts, due to food allergies. If you have any questions, please contact: Allison Brush at [allisonb@brushmarksllc.com](mailto:allisonb@brushmarksllc.com) or 213-248-2478.

## Visit with Pastor Karen Yokota

On a recent short visit to Seattle to see Joe's elderly brother, we were able to squeeze in a visit with Rev. Ed Iwamoto at the re-hab hospital in Kirkland where he is undergoing therapy. To our surprise and joy, we were pleased to see him doing well making good progress. Please keep him in your prayers during his continuing convalescence.

An added pleasure was having dinner with Pastor Karen Yokota. I met Pastor Karen when she worshipped at WLAUMC one Sunday early in her studies at Claremont School of Theology and as the recipient of the Terasaki scholarship. Many of you who traveled with the *Tanoshimi-Kai* group met her during a visit to the Claremont Chapel. Upon graduation in June, she received her first assignment – an appointment ministering to two small churches: Whitney Memorial UMC, formerly located in Tacoma, WA, and now in Puyallup, and the Milton UMC.

The dinner conversation focused on the challenges she faces moving to an area completely new to a native Californian, having to learn about the Pacific Northwest and, most importantly, becoming acquainted with members of TWO churches. She has two offices, both with no secretary, and must now develop a network and people to trust. During her first Sunday service, she was already worrying about the time factor of a 10:00 AM service at Milton, then driving to Puyallup for an 11:30 AM service at Whitney.

Young, optimistic, enthusiastic, energetic, Pastor Karen faces the future with a very positive attitude. We departed in the restaurant parking lot wishing her well with all the challenges she now faces, but knowing she will succeed with her last words, "... all things are possible with God's help."

Grace Seto



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.gbgbm-umc.org/umw/assembly/>.



# JAPANESE MINISTRY

8月3-4日、アシロマ conference center で北加日語修養会に講師として参加した。サンホゼ合同メソジスト教会日本語部が主催して、北加にあるブエナビスタ合同メソジスト教会、パイン合同メソジスト教会、フレズノ合同教会などが一緒に毎年行っている修養会で、出席者は30名位であった。

縮小する日本語部が北加の日系教会の現状であると聞いた。

私は WLA 教会に来て、6年目を迎えた。主の憐みにより、日語ミニストリーは続いている。ハーフタイムではあるが、確実に主が新しい人々を送って下さる。それは、私の力ではない事をよくよく知っている。洗礼を受ける人が与えられ、奉仕に参加するまで信仰が成長する。こんな嬉しいことはない。主の憐みによる聖霊の働きである。

英語部の兄弟姉妹の心遣いも嬉しい。いつも、しっかりと祈られている確信があるのも心強い。今度は何を話すのか、バイブルスタディは何をするのかと、考える時が悩みでもあり、喜びでもある。私達の教会の良いことを考えると、きりが無い。どんどん出てくる。これは、祝福だなと、感じた。

主の祝福を感じて奉仕が出来るのは感謝である。この場を借りて、教会の皆様に感謝したい。

「御言葉を宣べ伝えなさい。時が良くても悪くてもしっかりとやりなさい。」(第2テモテ4:2) 若い伝道者テモテが先輩伝道者パウロから受けた言葉である。

ますます主の恵みを受けて、しっかりと奉仕出来るように続けて祈って欲しいと思う。

平田

From August 3-4, I attended Northern California Nichigo conference at Asilomar conference center. There were about 30 people attending this conference. (Wesley UMC, Buena Vista UMC, Pine UMC, Fresno Union Church) I heard that Nichigo are getting smaller and smaller in Northern California. It made me think about our Nichigo.

This is my 6<sup>th</sup> year serving WLA Nichigo group. Although I serve as a half-time pastor, the Lord blesses our ministry. He sends new people to our group. I just have joy in my heart seeing God's Spirit working in Nichigo people, getting baptized and growing to serve the Lord. (I am fully aware that this is His thing, not my merit at all.) Do you know that I appreciate Eigo-bu people's love & care? I know that I have a very special prayer support. If I count God's blessings, there are just too many in WLA!

"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season." (II Timothy 4:2) Just like Timothy, a young minister, received a charge from Paul, a senior minister, I am also encouraged by the Word of God constantly to serve His people.

Please continue to pray for me and Nichigo, so that I may serve His will in Nichigo ministries.

Pastor Becky Hirata 平田

## Nichigo's September Calendar



Sep. 1	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
	12:00 PM	Bible Study
Sep. 7	9:00 AM	All Church Clean-Up
Sep. 8	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
	12:00 PM	Bible Study
Sep. 13	7:30 PM	Japanese Film Night
Sep. 14	10:00 AM	So. Cal Nichigo Federation at Union Church – Guest Speaker: Mr. Trey Hillman (L.A. Dodger's Coach & Nippon Ham Manager)
Sep. 15	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
	12:00 PM	Bible Study
Sep. 22	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
	12:00 PM	Bible Study
Sep. 28	11:00 AM	Annual Church Bazaar
Sep. 29	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
	12:00 PM	Prayer Group
Oct. 6	10:30 AM	World Communion Sunday Joint English/Japanese Worship And Potluck Luncheon

# September 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Family Worship/Holy Communion</p> <p>9:30am Worship in English 10:45am Farewell Reception for Chris Heckman 11:00am Worship in Japanese 11:00am Church Library Opens</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible 6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11:30am 80+ Women's Lunch 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00am "Alive Now" Study 10:30am Tai-Chi Class 5:30pm Promise AA Mtg 7:30pm Finance Mtg</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Meeting 10:30am Tai-Chi Class 7:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00am All Church Clean-Up</p>
<p>8 Rally Day</p> <p>9:30am Worship in English 9:45am Sunday School &amp; Youth 10:45am Rally Day Lunch 11:00am Worship in Japanese</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible 6:00pm PATH Meal Service 6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00am "Alive Now" Study 10:30am Tai-Chi Class 5:30pm Promise AA Mtg</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Meeting 10:30am Tai-Chi Class 7:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30pm Japanese Film Night</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30am Trustees Meeting 10:00am Admin Council</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30am Worship in English 9:45am Sunday School &amp; Youth 11:00am Worship in Japanese 12:00pm Bazaar Planning Mtg</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible 6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30am Fat Tuesday Men's Breakfast Mtg 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00am "Alive Now" Study 10:30am Tai-Chi Class 5:30pm Promise AA Mtg</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Meeting 10:30am Tai-Chi Class 7:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Manzanar Trip Departs</p>
<p>22 Fair Trade Sale</p> <p>9:30am Worship in English 9:45am Sunday School &amp; Youth 11:00am Worship in Japanese Manzanar Trip Returns</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible 7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>*No "Alive Now" Study</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Meeting <i>*No Evening Bible Study</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p>Bazaar Set-Up Day</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11am – 5pm Annual Asian Cultural Bazaar Invite your friends and come!</p>
<p>29 Worship with Praise Band</p> <p>9:30am Worship in English 9:45am Sunday School &amp; Youth 11:00am Worship in Japanese</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible 6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>			 <p>Remember to "Like" West LA UMC on Facebook!</p>	

# Asian Cultural Bazaar

Saturday, September 28

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM



**Delicious Food**  
**Baked Goods**  
**Silent Auction**  
**Plant & Flower Sale**  
**Children's Crafts**

**Live Entertainment**  
**Door Prizes**  
**Second Chance Store**  
**Games**  
**Face Painting**

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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please call us at (310) 479-1379 Ext. 100  
or send us an email at wlaumc@aol.com*

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September 2013

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