



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 2014

**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, 9 AM 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.

Bazaar Time!

Our annual church bazaar will be coming up soon – September 20, 11:00 AM –5:00 PM. Plans are already well underway. The bazaar really requires an all-out effort by our church members. It is by far the most labor-intensive activity of the year.

Some people have questioned the validity of the food bazaar in our day and age. The physical labor is demanding on our older members. The younger generation doesn't have the same culinary interest or skills as their parents or grandparents. There are easier ways to raise money. If twenty-six people gave \$500, we could meet the fundraising goal of the bazaar (\$13,000) and save our members the time and the effort.

In spite of the reservations, however, there are many benefits to having a church food bazaar. In fact, it provides a model for Christian discipleship.

The bazaar provides opportunities for *service*. People serve as food preparers, cooks, dishwashers, pricers, etc. They also give of themselves by donating items and cash. They do this not to bring glory to themselves but to God through the church. To minister means to serve. The bazaar provides many opportunities for serving.

At the bazaar, people *share their gifts*. If someone has a skill or interest in, for example, making *udon*, she or he will work in the *udon* area. The same would be true if they have an interest in the Silent Auction, baked goods, or entertainment. The sharing of a variety of gifts for one purpose is essential to the bazaar. The sharing of gifts for one purpose is essential to the mission of the church.

At the bazaar, we practice *hospitality*, not only to ourselves but outward to the community. We prepare this great banquet so that we may offer it to others. We do this so that others may come to know the grace of this community we call the church and be drawn to explore it further. Behind our hospitality is the desire for others to know God through Jesus Christ.

There are many more aspects of the bazaar that are hallmarks of Christian discipleship, such as *joy*, *working together*, and *food*, to name a few. The bazaar requires a lot of work. But through it, we also learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

On the journey with you,

Rev. Gary Oba

Prayers

Connecting and Nurturing through Prayer

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:

- The children, youth and adult volunteers who participated in this year's Vacation Bible School.
- The 20 students and 2 leaders from the Meiji Gakuin who visited our church on July 23.
- The lively and fun gathering of Ohana families on Saturday, July 19.
- Youth Leaders and youth who prepared and served a meal at PATH on Monday, July 14.
- Persons who attended the Safe Sanctuary Training on July 6.
- Uplifting music provided by our Church Choir and Praise Band.
- The reappointment of Reverends Gary Oba, Janet Cromwell, and Becky Hirata to West LA UMC.
- Guests and friends who worship with us on Sunday mornings!

We pray for those seeking healing and comfort:

If you would like a copy of the Prayer Concerns, please contact the Church Office or check the Sunday Morning Bulletin. Thank you.

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. 3	Genesis 32:22–31 Psalm 17:1–7, 15	Romans 9:1–5 Matthew 14:13–21
Aug. 10	Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28 Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b	Romans 10:5–15 Matthew 14:22–33
Aug. 17	Genesis 45:1–15 Psalm 133 (Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32 Matthew 15: (10– 20) 21–28
Aug. 24	Exodus 1:8–2:10 Psalm 124	Romans 12:1–8 Matthew 16:13–20
Aug. 31	Exodus 3:1–15 Psalm 105:1–6, 23–26, 45c	Romans 12:9–21 Matthew 16:21–28

Worship & Studies

Growing in Faith through Worship and Study

August 9:30 AM Worship Services

August 3 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost/ Family Worship and Holy Communion

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Genesis 32:22-31
Theme: It takes courage to contend with God!
Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

August 10 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Speaker: Pastor Jack Ong.
Special guest giving children's message.

August 17 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Speaker: Mr. Stanley Shimotsu, Lay Leader.
Special guest giving children's message.

August 24 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Exodus 1:8 - 2:10
Theme: God is at work even in oppressive circumstances.
Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

August 31 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost/ Asian Camp Report / Worship with Praise Band

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Exodus 3:1-15
Theme: We act as agents of God.
Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

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## **Calling All Proclaimers!**

Saturday, August 16, 11:00 AM

Do you think Jesus liked telling stories? Jesus told stories all the time. Sometimes to small groups and other times to large crowds. What were His intentions when He spoke? Did He speak with passion and emotion? Jesus could hold the attention of 5,000 or more on the side of a hill!

The Apostle Paul also told stories; stories about Jesus, the kingdom of God, and of his own personal witness. His words were spoken before they were ever written down. The Bible is full of storytellers. When we read scripture from the pulpit on Sunday, we become the storyteller, proclaiming the Word of God. What an awesome task!

On August 16 at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary, there will be a workshop for ALL proclaimers of all ages. Come and learn to proclaim with personal intention. Come and practice proclaiming with appropriate passion and emotion. Become a storyteller who can hold the attention of 5,000 or more! (Would you believe 150 or more?)

Continue to learn, along with your Proclaiming the Gospel leaders, Jane Bacon, Cindy Morimoto, Jack Ong and Pam Sase Ryder. We will be following the suggestions in Douglas Leal's book "Stop Reading and Start Proclaiming!" Like the choir members, proclaimers will never be finished; we will always be honing our skills and preparing for the next assignment. So join us on August 16 at 11:00 AM for a proclaimer's workshop and learn how to START PROCLAIMING!

## Sunday School and Bible Studies

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

Sunday School guides children in learning about God, the life of Jesus, and important lessons in the Bible. Children and youth are encouraged to come each week!

|                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Infants & Toddlers | Nursery (next to the sanctuary) |
| Age 3 to Pre-K     | Cool Kids Room 1                |
| K to 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 1:00-2:30 PM in Room 9.*

Our lessons for August continue the theme "The People of God Set Priorities" conveying a message of the importance of community in reaching the goal of rebuilding the Temple. The lessons develop key aspects to living in a community as trust in God, living in a right relationship with God and maintaining hope in God. The women take turns facilitating the class discussion using the Adult Bible Study series. New members welcome!

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

*Periodic Tuesdays, 7:15-8:15 PM in Room 2.*

The Men's Study Group is resuming on periodic Tuesdays. Contact Fred Hifumi for dates and times.

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

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

This study focuses on the lectionary text that will be the basis for Sunday morning's sermon. (See page 2 of this Newsletter for a list of scripture lessons.) New members are always welcome to join the conversation. See Rev. Gary Oba for more information. No meetings on August 6 and 13.

### **Thursday Bible Study**

The Thursday evening Bible Study will not meet during August. See Rev. Gary Oba for the reading assignments when the class resumes on September 4.

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West LA UMC Prayer Ministry

Join us on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary to pray for persons on the church's prayer list. If you would like an updated copy of the Prayer List, contact Lina Yamaguchi, Church Secretary at 310-479-1379.



Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Supporting Families in Spiritual Growth and Discipleship



Vacation Bible School

WOW! What an amazing week we had at Workshop of Wonders Vacation Bible School, July 21-25! With 50 children and youth, plus nearly 50 adult volunteers, the church was hopping! Starting each day with singing and Bible lessons, participants learned how each of us can Imagine, Build, Grow, Work and Walk with God!

A big THANK YOU to all of our participants and volunteers! Look forward to a longer VBS report in next month's Newsletter.

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## Children Sing Broadway Songs

WANTED: Children ages 4-12 who love to sing, dance, act, and have fun!

The children of West LA UMC have an exciting opportunity to perform in the church's first Broadway Benefit Concert on October 12, at 2:30 PM. The concert will showcase many of our talented congregation members, including the youth and the children! The children will perform two songs during the concert: "Under The Sea" from "The Little Mermaid" and "So Long Farewell" from "The Sound of Music."

Children began learning the music during Vacation Bible School and will continue in the Children's Choir starting on Sunday, August 17, at 10:45 AM. There will be two dress rehearsals on Sunday, October 5 at 12:15 PM and Saturday, October 11 at 2:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Please mark your calendars for this exciting Broadway performance on October 12! The proceeds from the concert will benefit *Imagine No Malaria*.

*Musically Yours,  
Ashley Ramsey, Music Director*

## Ohana 2.0: Families with Young Children

Saturday, October 4, 10:30 AM

Parents and grandparents are invited to bring their young children (newborns – Pre-K) to the Ohana 2.0 gathering in October.

Please note that the meetings on August 9 and September 13 have been cancelled.

For more information, please contact Jane Shimotsu or the Church Office. RSVPs are requested to prepare for the potluck lunch and childcare during the discussion time for adults.



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Christian Ed & Family Ministries Meeting

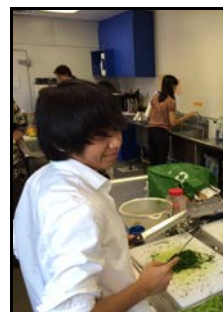
Sunday, August 24, 11:15 AM, Learning Center

The Christian Education and Family Ministries Team works together to plan Sunday School, Adult Education Classes, and intergenerational events throughout the year. On Sunday, August 24, we will evaluate recent programs (including VBS) and look ahead to fall programs, including Rally Day, Sunday School curriculum, and several special holiday celebrations.

Your participation and ideas are welcome! For more information, please contact Rev. Janet Cromwell at 310-479-1379.



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## PATH Dinner in July

West LA Youth prepared and served the meal at PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) in July. Thanks to Emily and Dave Cook, Valerie Harada, and our terrific Youth for their leadership in this important ministry within the West LA community!

# Outreach & Social Service

Serving Our Community and World

## Stop Hunger Now

Saturday, August 23

The Westside Churches Working Together are gearing up for another great day of service on Saturday, August 23 at Westwood UMC from 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon. We hope to have 200 volunteers to package 50,000 meals.



In addition to assembling the meals, about a dozen volunteers are needed at 7:30 AM to unload the truck and set up the room. Another set of volunteers are needed to welcome and check-in all participants from 9:00-10:00 AM in the Westwood UM Church Lobby.

Stan Shimotsu will be coordinating volunteers from West LA UMC. Please see Stan to sign up!

I look forward to working with you on August 23 as we gather together to make a difference in the world!

Warm regards,  
Ellen Evans Agee, Westwood UMC

## Welcome Gifts for College Students

In recent years, the church has collected small, sample-size bottles of shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, and other sundries to distribute to college students at the UCLA Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry. These items (like the ones provided at hotels) are assembled in small tote bags by UMW members and youth. You are invited to bring your donations to the church for this ministry of welcome and hospitality.

## Seminar on Estate-Planning and Charitable Giving

Sunday, October 26, 11:30 AM

On Sunday, October 26, Rich Yang, Chair of our Administrative Council (and practicing attorney), and Gregg Omori, Chair of our Finance Committee (and practicing CPA), will conduct an interactive seminar on estate-planning and charitable giving. Rich's topics will include Living-Family Trusts, Wills and Health-Care Directives. Gregg's topics will include making gifts to the church and charities, both during one's lifetime and afterward, and the tax benefits of the different types of gifts (cash, stocks, or property).

The Seminar will be held from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM in the Learning Center. It is free and open to everyone. A light lunch and beverages will be served, so please RSVP to Rich or Gregg.

Come and learn ways to prepare for a strong and faith-filled financial future.

## Women's Wellness Conference

Keiro Senior HealthCare is presenting its third Women's Wellness Conference, "Reimagining Life: Empowering Women for Lifelong Vitality," on Saturday, September 27, at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach, 200 South Pine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802.

The conference will highlight eight areas of wellness: physical, financial, emotional, intellectual, occupational, environmental, social, and spiritual. The event will feature expert speakers, breakout sessions, lunch, optional shared interest tables, a Marketplace, and other resources relating to today's women over 50.

The registration fee is \$65 if postmarked by August 30; \$100 thereafter. You may register online at [www.keiro.org/wwc-2014](http://www.keiro.org/wwc-2014). Brochures and registration forms also available at the church.

## Lay Ministry Academy at Claremont School of Theology



Are you looking to grow in your faith and engage in a spirituality nurturing experience to further your journey of faith? Are you seeking a deeper relationship with God? Do you feel God calling you to serve?

The Lay Ministry Academy sponsored by the Claremont School of Theology and the Laity Council of the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church offers a broad range of courses over a two-year period. Each year, three sessions covering a wide-range of topics through an affordable, accessible program, are taught by outstanding clergy faculty and scholars.

The three courses for Year One include, A Covenant for Ministry, Overview of Leadership, and Growing In Grace. In 2014, the Covenant for Ministry class will be taught on Friday evening, November 8 through Saturday, November 9, 2014. In Year Two, starting in November of 2015, the courses will include The Ministry of Caring, Communication and Teaching, and Mission Outreach and Evangelism.

While contributing to a whole, all courses are "stand alone" and can be chosen as desired depending upon your interest.

This is an absolutely phenomenal educational experience and opportunity for spiritual growth. If you have any questions, please call Stan Shimotsu at 310-433-8324. Having attended the Lay Ministry Academy, he will be happy to share his thoughts and experiences and provide you with a more detailed overview of the Academy.



**Cal-Pac Annual Conference Report**

This year, the California-Pacific Annual Conference was held from June 18 – 21, with the theme of “Journey to Wholeness”. Because I attended last year, I was a little more prepared and more comfortable voting on legislation. This year’s conference also held a special event, with both the laity and clergy members voting on delegates to send to Portland, Oregon for the General Conference in 2016.

I was unsure of what delegates were required to decide on at the General Conference, so Rev. Janet described to me the very important decisions that will be made. The General Conference is much like the Cal-Pac Annual Conference, except on the international scale. United Methodists from around the world meet together and decide on budgets, mission, and stances on social issues. They vote on the rules in the Book of Discipline, which constitutes the law and doctrine of all United Methodists. This event happens every four years, including very important voting for members who pass rules for the Methodists to follow.

Like last year, 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 every single day! Along with voting on delegates to the General Conference, we also voted on legislation. Having learned about United States History this year, I drew the correlation of the members of this conference voting on legislation for the church to Congress deciding on laws to pass. We also talked about the business aspects of the church, especially the budgets.

Aside from the daily plenary sessions, there were wonderful worship services in the evenings and some mornings. Coming from a musical background, this was the one thing that I paid most attention to. The music was absolutely wonderful. 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. I found the plenary sessions in which we voted fairly interesting.

A good surprise was that there were more youth attending this year than last year. I estimated that there were around 100 kids and young adults, many of them in high school or in college. All the voting youth showed up to the business sessions including the plenaries, while the non-voting youth had leisure activities such as bowling, watch movies and swimming. Being able to converse with youth from different churches was a great learning experience.

It was another great year at the California-Pacific Annual Conference, and I am glad that I was able to go again!

*Submitted by Justin Yamaguchi*



**Japanese Film Night**

*Friday, August 29, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary*

Japanese Film Night on Friday, August 29, will feature “Patisserie Coin de Rue” / “The Corner Pastry Shop.” This 124 minute color film was produced by Koko Maeda and directed by Yoshihiro Fukagawa in 2001.

Gregory Shikata, Japanese Film Night Coordinator, provides an interesting introduction to the film, including information on the director and actors.

These films are free and open to the public. Come, bring your friends, and enjoy a marvelous evening of Japanese culture through film.

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Cal-Pac Communications Workshop

West LA UMC is honored to host the Cal-Pac Communications Workshop in our Social Hall on Saturday, August 30 from 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM. After worshipping at West LA UMC in July, Communications Director James Kang felt that our church would be an ideal spot to host this workshop. We look forward to welcoming our guests from throughout the West District for this workshop.

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**Tanoshimi-Kai Trip**

The next Tanoshimi-Kai Trip on Thursday, August 7, includes a tour of the famous Will Rogers State Park and the stunning Getty Villa in Malibu. For more information on the Tanoshimi-Kai Trip, please contact Eleanor Nakano.

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West LA UMC is on Facebook



See the latest church news and photos by “Liking” West LA United Methodist Church on Facebook.

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**Broadway is coming to West LA UMC!**

Save the date of Sunday, October 12 at 2:30 PM for an afternoon of Broadway Show Songs presented by West LA UMC’s children, youth and adults! This concert is a benefit for *Imagine No Malaria* campaign.

# Asian Cultural Bazaar

Saturday, September 20

## Be a Part of the Bazaar!

Our annual West Los Angeles United Methodist Church **Asian Cultural Bazaar** will be held on Saturday, September 20, 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!

Preparations are already underway, and your help is needed! **Volunteers** will be needed on Friday, September 19 to set up canopies and tables in the parking lot and Social Hall, and to assist with food preparation. Additional volunteers are needed during the Bazaar to work at food booths, as cashiers, and with clean up. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Valerie Harada at vah884@yahoo.com or 310-871-8164.

Now is also the perfect time to clear out your cupboards and attics to donate new or like-new items to the **Silent Auction**. Ideal Silent Auction items include:

- collectibles
- antiques
- vintage items
- restaurant gift cards
- retail/store gift cards
- online gift cards
- vacation condo/resort
- professional services
- your special gifts and talents (hosting a gathering, cooking, baking, entertainment – be creative!)
- theater tickets
- concert tickets
- movie tickets
- amusement park tickets (Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm, etc)
- sports event tickets

The church also collects items for **the Second Chance Store**, such as household items, toys, camping gear, and new clothing (with tags). These items can be brought to the church and placed in the Youth Room. See Kay Yang and Elaine Sunoo if you have any questions about either the Silent Auction or Second Chance Store.

The **Face Painting Booth** is also looking for persons who would like to be trained to do face painting for kids. See Rev. Janet if you are interested.

The annual **Asian Cultural Bazaar** is a fun day for people of all ages! It provides a wonderful opportunity to welcome our friends and neighbors to our church. So, mark your calendar and invite your friends and family to a joyful day of faith, food, music and more!



*Find exactly what you're looking for at the Bazaar!*

## 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 & Green Tea Bags  
Granulated Sugar – 5lb or 10l  
Mirin & Shoyu  
Soft Drinks (can) and water (bottle)  
SPAM

### 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. & 33gal.  
Wax Paper Rolls  
Ziploc Bags – sandwich, quart, gallon bags  
Brown grocery paper bags with handle

### Other Items

Charcoals  
Plants  
Postage Stamps  
Raffle Prizes

## United Methodist Women

Women Learning, Growing, and Serving Others

### August Coffee Fellowship

UMW members will be serving refreshments during coffee fellowship in the month of August. The following are responsible for the respective Sundays:

- 3 - Eleanor, Grace, Toshie
- 10 - Aya Okada, Lois, Marge, Sadie
- 17 - Diana, Lina, Valerie
- 24 - Nakano Family
- 31 - Aiko, Aki, Fudge, Yae

Everyone loves Coffee Fellowship! Thank you everyone for your assistance.

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Holiday Boutique Workshop News

Our next workshop will be on Friday, August 15 from 9:30 AM. Frances, Fusako and Kathi will be preparing lunch for the workers so please RSVP by Sunday, August 9, if you can attend the Workshop.

There will be no Holiday Boutique Workshop in September because our attention will be on the All Church Bazaar. UMW members usually help in the various food booths such as chirashi, Spam musubi, Chinese chicken salad, chicken teriyaki, and udon. If you have not been assigned a job and are able to help, please contact Frances Uchida or Valerie Harada. We can use everyone's help preparing for and serving at the Bazaar.

Also, please contribute home baked goods to the Bake Booth. This booth is always a crowd pleaser and good source of revenue. Wrap your baked goods in disposable containers. See Allison Brush for info.

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### West LA UMC Members Honored

West LA UMC members volunteer throughout the greater LA area in a variety of ways. We rejoice that the following persons have received special recognition for their volunteer work.

Congratulations to Elaine Sunoo who was recognized by Imagine LA as an outstanding volunteer for the amazing work she has done mentoring our mentee Elelta Melake and her son, Abel. Elaine has led our very caring, dedicated and resourceful Imagine LA Faith Team by her strong, caring and consistent relationship with Elelta, and has been instrumental in walking Elelta through some very difficult tasks and challenges.

Jeri Okamoto Floyd has been selected as an OCA Unsung Hero for her volunteer work in the Asian American community and will be recognized at the National OCA Convention on August 9. Her work includes OCA, Families with Children from China, China Care Bruins and the Chinese Dance Club at UCLA, API Toy Drive, and West LA UMC.

## Meet the Staff

Praising God through Music Ministries

### Ashley Ramsey, Music Director

After 18 years of living in Mesquite, Texas, Ashley pursued her lifelong dream of becoming a choral director by attending Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana and earning a degree in Music Education. After graduation she began her first teaching job as the choir director at Greenacres Middle School and Bossier High School.



After three years of lesson plans, hormonal students, and choir performances, she moved to Los Angeles with her husband, JR, who is currently enrolled as a graduate student at USC (the BEST school in LA, in Ashley's humble opinion). They have lived in LA for almost 11 months and have loved every minute of it! She enjoys being the Music Director at West LA UMC where her job responsibilities include handbells, chancel choir, children's choir, youth praise band, and keeping Rich, Ken, and Stan in line during choir rehearsals!

### Thomas Gaff, Accompanist

Thomas Gaff is a professional composer and musician originally from Las Vegas, NV. He has worked as an accompanist/musician and music director for many Broadway musicals, and Las Vegas shows including the Tony Pace Show at the Clarion Las Vegas and "Phantom" at the Venetian.



He has also performed in many orchestras across the southwest as a cellist, pianist, and composer including the Henderson Symphony, Las Vegas Youth Philharmonic, NAU Summer Orchestra, and many others. He has performed worldwide as a musician in the lead show band aboard cruise ships for Holland America, as well as for touring show performances. Specializing in film scoring, Thomas moved to Los Angeles in June 2013 to pursue his dream of breaking into Hollywood as a composer for film and television, while also performing as a pianist and accompanist for many high school and middle school choirs, as well as music majors at all the major universities. He also served as the head sound engineer for Green Valley United Methodist Church in Henderson, NV, and is thrilled to have found a new United Methodist church family to share his music with here in LA.



# Special Offerings

Giving to God through our Tithes and Offerings



## **Special Offerings**

If you would like a list of the Special Offerings, please contact the Church Office at 310-479-1379.

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Missionary Itineration Support for Rev. Claudia Genung

If you would like a list of the Missionary Support Offerings, please contact the Church Office at 310-479-1379.

Memorial Offerings

If you would like a list of the Memorial Offerings, please contact the Church Office at 310-479-1379.



Altar Flowers donated in July

If you would like a list of the Altar Flower donations, please contact the Church Office at 310-479-1379.

Make a Pledge

Each month, the Finance Committee carefully reviews the church's income and expenditures for the church's many ministries, including worship, music, children and families, youth, outreach and missions, social action, and more.

Your pledge to the church supports these vital ministries, as well as maintaining the beautiful church facility for worship, meetings, and programs.

If you would like more information on how to make a pledge to the church, please contact Pledge Secretary Harriet Woo or the Church Office. Thank you for bringing these many ministries to life!

Japanese Ministry

Praising and Serving God Together

「宣教の業」

6月22日から7月2日まで、2度目の石巻 Mission Trip で、素晴らしい宣教の業をこの目で見ることが出来た。

全てを語ることは出来ないが、ハイライトを話したい。今回は山城町教会で礼拝を守った。石巻で一番古いプロテスタント教会で、橋本家の曾お祖父さまが初代牧師である。その話しをした所、お茶の時間が盛り上がり、来年はチーム全員で礼拝に参加して欲しいと言っていた。たまたま牧師先生の奥様が前日に赤ちゃんを産んだので、ギフトを準備する事が出来、感謝！

去年のように、地域教会の伝道を手伝い、仮設住宅を訪問して、クラフトやお茶会を持った。今回伺った山の手にある仮設住宅は訪問者が少なく、クラフトをしたら、終わらない。楽しいからである。ギフトとクラフトはいつも大人気である。寂しい人々に元気を与える宣教は意味があると感じた。

他のチームメートは、毎日、牡蠣の種付け作業を手伝うために働いた。全てを失った村人が自立するための支援奉仕である。この漁業の村は多くの人が、この2-3年でクリスチャンになったと言う。黙々と働く宣教師達は、愛と寛容を尽くして、村人達を今までサポートしてきた。その宣教の業が実となったのである。主は素晴らしい。聖霊の神様の御手によらなければ、ありえない。この目で素晴らしい宣教の業を見せてもらった。ああ、主の御手は動いている。

平田



Meiji Gakuin Program and Dinner

Thanks to everyone who came and welcomed the 20 students and 2 adult leaders from the Meiji Gakuin on July 23.

From June 22 to July 2, I went to Ishinomaki in Miyagi-ken, Japan. Mission trip is always a highlight of my faith journey. This year, I was able to witness the fruit of Tohoku Mission.

This year, I attended Yamashiro-cho Church worship service. (Chimie's Great-grand-father started this church.) During the fellowship time, I shared about our church and Chimie, then everyone got excited! They told me to come back again with others. I was hoping to give a gift to Pastor's family, because I heard that his wife had their first baby that weekend. God really planned this for us, to give a timely gift for his family.

Like last year, we visited the government housings. This year, we went to the one in the mountain area where very few visitors come. The ladies enjoyed a craft time so much that it went on and on.... and no one cared about tea & kashi!

This year, there was a new project to do in the fishing village. The oyster farmers are working hard to rebuild their oyster farm once again. I still remember when the tsunami wiped away all they had, nobody had energy to stand up and work again. Eight of us went to the fishing village every day. We knew that this will help them become financially independent two years later. (It takes two years to raise oysters.)

Surprisingly, many oyster farmers became Christians in last 2 years. The Holy Spirit touched them through the love, support & witness of missionaries. They are now standing, working, laughing, and loving Jesus!

We are starting to reap the fruit of Tohoku Mission. I feel very grateful that we are part of the Harvest time. Jesus said to his disciples. "The Harvest is great, but the workers are few." (Matthew 9:37) I was reminded that we are all counted as His few workers. Remember that ALL of us are part of this Harvest time in Ishinomaki, because you have supported Ishinomaki Mission through your love and prayer. Thanks to God.

Pastor Becky Hirata 平田

Nichigo's August Calendar

Aug. 3	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
Aug. 10	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
	12:00 PM	Small Group Prayer Time
Aug. 17	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
Aug. 23	9:00 AM	S. CA Nichigo Conference,
	- 11:00 AM	Rev. Enomoto, a guest from Japan
Aug. 24	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
	12:00 PM	Lunch Fellowship
Aug. 29	7:30 PM	Japanese Film Night
Aug. 31	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
Aug. 18-21		Nichigo Pastor Vacation

August 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 11:00am Staff Meeting Asian Camp Bus returns	2
3 Family Worship/Holy Communion 9:30am English Worship 11:00am Japanese Worship 11:00am Church Library Open	4 1:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg	5 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6 10:30am Tai-Chi Class 5:30pm Promise AA Group	7 9:30am Prayer Meeting 10:30am Tai-Chi Class	8	9
10 9:30am English Worship 9:45am Sunday School & Youth 11:00am Japanese Worship	11 1:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg	12 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	13 10:30am Tai-Chi Class 5:30pm Promise AA Group	14 9:30am Prayer Meeting 10:30am Tai-Chi Class	15 9:30am UMW Meeting and Craft Workshop 7:10pm Cal-Pac Annual Conference Dodger Night	16 11:00am Proclaiming Workshop
17 9:30am English Worship 9:45am Sunday School & Youth 11:00am Japanese Worship 11:15am Broadway Children Rehearsal	18 1:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg	19 8:30am Fat Tuesday Men's Group Breakfast Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	20 9:15am "Alive Now" Study 10:30am Tai-Chi Class 5:30pm Promise AA Group	21 9:30am Prayer Meeting 10:30am Tai-Chi Class	22	23 9:30am Register at Westwood 10:00am Stop Hunger Now at Westwood UMC
24 9:30am English Worship 9:45am Sunday School & Youth 11:00am Japanese Worship 11:15am Christian Ed & Family Min	25 1:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg	26 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	27 9:15am "Alive Now" Study 10:30am Tai-Chi Class 5:30pm Promise AA Group	28 9:30am Prayer Meeting 10:30am Tai-Chi Class	29 7:30pm Japanese Film Night	30 9:30am Cal-Pac Communications Workshop in Social Hall 10:00am Bazaar Planning Meeting
31 Worship with Praise Band 9:30am English Worship 9:45am Sunday School & Youth 11:00am Japanese Worship 11:15pm Trustees						

Asian Cultural Bazaar

Saturday, September 20

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!*

West LA United Methodist Church

1913 Purdue Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025

wlaumc.com ☎ 310-479-1379

*You can also view this newsletter online at
www.wlaumc.com*

Change Service Requested

August 2014

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