



# The Visitor



Volume 8 Issue 5

Wilshire United Methodist Church, Wilshire Ministry

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*As an inclusive and welcoming congregation nurtured by love, we seek to: Celebrate diversity, nurture spirituality and reach out with compassion.*

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## The Pastor's Pen

Rev. Dr. Ken J. Walden



Hello Wilshire Family, Friends, and Visitors,

As Pastor of Wilshire (Ministry) UMC, my goal is to lead this faith community into a growing and healthy congregation as it relates to church membership, church finances, and church ministries. I will seek to lead the congregation in our mission statement to *“celebrate diversity, nurture spirituality, and reach out with compassion.”*



Wilshire (Ministry) UMC is a great faith community. My vision for our congregation begins with the development of a 3 Year Strategic Plan. The **3 Year Strategic Plan of Wilshire (Ministry) UMC** is to improve and preserve the congregation's dynamic Christian heritage and witness of Jesus Christ. Many positive changes are taking place already! The presence of God is evident in our congregation's lay leaders. The love of Jesus Christ is obvious!

In brief, my Pastoral Vision includes (but is not limited to) the following:

Aug 07 – Oct 07... We pray about the **3 Year Strategic Plan of Wilshire (Ministry) UMC**.

Nov 07 – Jan 08... Everyone is invited to write 3 suggestions they would like included in the **3 Year Strategic Plan of Wilshire (Ministry) UMC** and how they will help to accomplish them.

Feb 08 – April 08... We will review all written suggestions and publish the **3 Year Strategic Plan of Wilshire (Ministry) UMC**.

May 08 – 2011... We will work together to accomplish our collective goals. We will also celebrate milestones as we complete time lines!

My wife Michelle and I are honored to be a part of this faith community. My wife was 1 of the first 2 people to join our faith community as new church members. Praise God!

Save the following date on your calendar: Oct 28<sup>th</sup> – I will give an official book signing for my first book, “A Pastor’s Poetry: Volume One”, immediately after our worship service.

Take care and take God!

Grace and Peace,  
[www.artsinreligion.com](http://www.artsinreligion.com)

## Church Service Coordinating Team (CSCT)

*Ernie Stroman*

This team was formerly referred to as the Administrative Council. The name change is a result of the "Visioning Process" our ministry undertook several years ago. The visioning process recommended the term "team" because it conveys a stronger sense of cooperative effort and support. In addition, the team approach is intended to encourage and nurture volunteerism among individuals and small groups to engage in one-time projects or other short-termed efforts to fulfill our mission statement. This is not to say the old Admin Council did not provide those elements, but the team concept emphasizes these qualities even more.

A typical meeting of the CSCT entails written and verbal reports from all of the committees, teams and individuals who do the work of our ministry. The focus is on communication, advisement and collegiality. Our regularly scheduled meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month and are open to anyone who wishes to attend. However, if you want to be on the agenda I request you contact me at least a few days before the meeting. You can call me at 323-935-8482 or email me at [wumcenglish@yahoo.com](mailto:wumcenglish@yahoo.com).

So, if you have an idea and need some support in making it come to life, bring it to the CSCT. We will advise you if it supports our ministry's mission; we will advise you on how you might make it happen; we will recommend how you might work with other individuals, committees or teams and the need to coordinate your efforts with the CSCT.

The CSCT will play a vital role in the development and implementation of our "Three Year Strategic Plan". As I look forward to this process I am excited about the blessings and opportunities that God has already bestowed on our ministry. I am excited about working with so many dedicated people whose vision is focused on the future and God's work. I am excited about being a member of such a wonderful and supportive family of Christian believers and practitioners.

I look forward to hearing your ideas and comments about any aspect of our ministry.

May God bless and keep you.

## Finance

The duty of the finance committee is to identify, develop, and manage the finance system for the Wilshire Ministry (congregation). The finance system is the processes of raising, managing, and dispersing the finances so

that the mission and vision of the congregation can be achieved. Key members within the finance committee include the Finance Chairman (Joseph Somoye), Treasurer (Dulce Gunning), and Financial Secretary (Rene Ramos). Our success as a committee is highly correlated with our success in demonstrating the spiritual connection between our offerings and the ministry it provides for. As we pray and meditate over the next few months on the future of our ministry, it is important to emphasize the relationship between being financially responsible in our personal lives and being financially responsible as church members: you can't have the latter without the first.

The financial reports compiled to date, which reflects activities through June '07 suggests that the Wilshire Ministry has been meeting all its financial commitments through the generous giving of the congregation. We hope and pray that the trend will continue throughout the rest of the year as we plan to enhance the congregation's efforts with more fundraising activities such as bake sales, bazaar etc. The year 2007 has been a year of many challenges. We said goodbye to our former Pastor (Rev. Sablan), got acquainted with an interim Pastor (Pastor Grant), and finally ushered in a new full-time Pastor (Rev. Dr. Walden). After a period of uncertainty, it seems we have finally been given a sense of direction and leadership with the appointment of Rev. (Dr.) Walden. The most recent finance committee meeting was held on August 19. A few points of emphasis we want to focus on over the next few months are fundraising, forming beneficial partnerships with the business community, accurate and comprehensive record-keeping, and educating the congregation on the importance of church finances. Pastor Walden was present at the meeting, and he is poised to lead our faith community through this period of reorganization with vision, accountability, and innovation.

As always, we welcome any ideas and suggestions you may have for us in our mission to fund our ministry.

Rene Ramos  
Financial Secretary

Joseph Somoye  
Chair Finance Committee

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## FAITH PROMISE MISSION UPDATE

*Eleanor Minter*

The Mission Team is announcing their new Chairperson, Mrs. Paula Morrison Davis. We are proud to inform you that as of September 16, we have collected \$13,947.00 for the three mission outreach organizations. Congratulations Faith Promise Mission contributors, we have two more months to go on this year's mission commitment.

## WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

*Compiled by your Stewardship Committee.  
Elon Gunning, Chairman*

STEWARDSHIP is putting our faith in God, thanking God for the many blessings He has given us and then giving as lavishly as we can out of that abundance.

STEWARDS are people who have yielded control of their finances to Christ; habitually honoring Him in their financial decisions and use of the resources that He has provided.

STEWARDSHIP is every thing you do after you say.....  
**“YES” TO JESUS.**

A good STEWARD contributes his or her time, talent, prayers and financial blessings with a willing and joyful spirit. Being a generous giver is a spiritual response to Gods goodness.

A STEWARD for God is sharing in the life, worship and responsibilities of the church and its missions both to the individual and to the community.

STEWARDSHIP is about how we live and how we give; what we give to God in response to all that he has given us. We give time, talent and treasure in response to the gift of unconditional love, salvation and grace. Most people find giving of their time and talent easy, almost natural, but giving of their treasure seems most difficult for many people.

STEWARDSHIP is a way of life; it is a way of living each day in gratitude for all the blessings that God has given to us. The roots of stewardship can be found in the bible, which tells us over and over that God is the creator and giver of all gifts. It is our responsibility to show our gratitude to God for these gifts by giving back to Him the **“FIRST FRUITS”**.

### The Beginning Of My Christian Journey

*By Sammie Rene Mitchell*

I grew up in a Christian home. My grandfather was a minister, so I was accustomed to hearing the Lord’s word. My grandfather would read Bible stories to my sister and me. He was a great storyteller of all kinds.

As a child, I was always in Sunday school or church on Sunday. The rule was if I did not go to one or both on Sunday, I did not go anywhere else that day. It was an easy rule to follow because most of my



Sammie Rene Mitchell

friends were in church also.

One Sunday I was sitting in church daydreaming about what I was going to do when the service was over. Suddenly, something the minister said caught my attention. As I began to listen, my heart filled with emotion, my eyes filled with tears. Many of the things that my grandparents had talked to me about began to make sense. Jesus Christ, the Son and Savior, a gift to mankind from God the Father, was all real to me at that moment.

What the minister was saying that Sunday morning was not new to me, I had heard it before. But that Sunday was a new day; it was my time. The Holy Spirit has matured my understanding, awakened my faith. Praise the Lord! I heard and I understood.

I was thirteen years old.

*Editor’s note:*

*“Silence is Golden.” This German proverb personifies Sammie Mitchell, who was honored by the Methodist Women as a quiet disciple at a Spiritual Retreat and Quiet Disciple breakfast on May 19, 2007. Nancy Brashears, president of UMW, defines a quiet disciple as a person whose personal ministry is accomplished in a quiet, unassuming manner. Yet, her presence and influence is a gift which enriches our church ministry. Sammie’s faithful service to the church is undiminished. She has served as office volunteer, and worked with various committees. She has risen above and beyond the call of duty. The Sunday fellowship coffee hour is an example of her exemplary service.*

*Lina Ramos*

## Happy Thanksgiving



*This is an article that was inadvertently omitted in the August publication—Ted Slaughter*

2007 California-Pacific Annual Conference  
University of Redlands, Redlands, California  
June 20 - 24, 2007

*Joe & Maxine Leverette*

The theme for this 23rd Cal-Pac Conference was “To Be the Cup overflowing with Peace --Called to be Peacemakers” The **Reverend Doctor Mary Ann Swenson**, Resident Bishop of the Los Angeles Area, presided over the 2007 Cal-Pac Session.

Over 1300 conference members and other guest attend this lively, powerful and spiritual session of learning, fellowshiping and sharing; Again, Clergy and Laity in partnership.

Bishop Swenson opened the 2007 Annual Conference with a forceful and eloquent message, entitled “Serve your zip code with your Wesleyan Code”. In her message she said “No, I will not tell you what to do, because I don’t live where you live but it is your job to find the poor and be in community in your community with them.”

Thursday morning’s Opening Prayer--”A Call to Awareness” was led by Bishop Swenson. She reminded us that our purpose at Annual Conference is to transform the world, ignited by God’s grace and inspired by God’s Word.

Rev. Jim Lawson preached Thursday evening’s service “Celebrating Legacy” His profound sermon reminded us that we were meant to serve one God, be one creation, one people, one body, with one mission ‘saving souls’. This is the fabric of the **UMC**, this is the very nature of what we are called to do... and we must never change our nature. But, we can change our strategies. It’s o.k. to change our music, change our hymnal books, be bold, be adventure-some, be creative to bring the youth to church. He said we should study our immediate community surrounding our churches, see what you can do to bring that particular group of people into your church. Some things will work while other may not... it’s o.k. God will not penalize us for strategies gone bad while trying to build up our churches.

Thursday evening after the worship service we broke into district groups. The Los Angeles District met at Claremont United Methodist Church. It’s always a fun time! Grant Hagiya had pizza, soda, cookies, games and prizes awaiting us when we arrived. We had a wonderful time fellowshiping with our friends from different churches within our district.

Both Friday evening’s service and Saturday evening’s “The Ordering of Ministry” Ordination Service were excellent! Saturday at noon we had a special treat, a very talented praise dance group from the Pacific Islands performed for us in front of the Chapel. It was an enriched experience.

The closing worship service “Celebrating the Ordering of Ministry and Sending Forth” ended with a wonderful message “**I’ve Been to the Mountain Top**” spoken by Lay Speaker Jenette Lemoto. Ms. Lemoto came in first place in “the closing lay-speaker contest. Also, we are very proud of our Mr. Ron Fisher of the L.A. District (Grace **UMC**) he came in second. Mr. Fisher called us into Worship.

Sending Forth - Bishop Swenson

May God’s grace, compassion and justice fill your lives and by your hands spread across the earth.... go in the name of Christ.

For the past four years when Joe and I leave the Cal-Pac Conference, we leave being proud to be a United Methodist. We know who we are, and we know our purpose. We are covenant people dedicated to God’s work.

## Church Growth

*Rev. John J. Guillén, PhD.*

In July of this year a group of Latino pastors attended Claremont School of Theology to take the course of Church Growth. Everyone returned to her/his church full of enthusiasm and with innovative ideas to put in action the “new” strategies. But, there is nothing new under



the sun (Ec.1:9c). The main models of church growth come from the New Testament: Jesus in his mission, and then St. Paul and St. Peter. Some of us have taken the course in Congregation Mobilization, but the answer to the question still lingers in the air, “Is your church growing?” Wilshire has experience the growth, but because in some way we are fractioned, we do not see its increase, that is, worship service is in four languages, at different time and venues, with generational gap, the natural language barriers. I hope this growth is integral, numerically and spiritually. Wilshire started growing when its doors were opened to the Korean group in 1979, and then in 1987 when Hispanic congregation was officially inaugurated, and in 1989 Filipino congregation had its pastor appointed. The four congregations form the *multicongregational church*. Now we see each ethnic congregation maintaining its autonomy. Autonomy is essential because when our intentions are not under our own control we suffer from self-alienation. It prevents synarchy that usually comes to rule with strictness, and the condition of its severity gives no room for complaisance, therefore, synarchy is a method of administration that has not mutual benefits but for that who is the sole ruler, who easily may become despotic. This echoes Thomas Jefferson saying, “I have sworn ... eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man.” The church has a covenant, approved by all congregations. It gives the opportunity for accountability and to manage in team, as well as having equal and fair representation in key committees.

Ethically, Wilshire in its growth has kept the two main principles, love and unity. Christian love bind us in unity seeking the common good and the exaltation of Christ and His kingdom (Jn.13:34-35; 17: 21; Phi. 2:1-5; He. 13:16; Ac. 20:35). Christian unity call is to be united instead of proliferating and confusing the public with many forms of christianism, different and sometimes competing among themselves. A growing church will experience some needs like a growing organism, for example, *social strangulation*, (term borrowed from C. Peter Warner’s “*Church Planting for a Greater Harvest*”) this happens for the lack of ade-

quate space for meetings or parking lot, but it is a positive signal of church growth; this will happen even though with a good control.

We occasionally have joint services and other activities; therefore, Wilshire United Methodist Church has grown in the modality of multicongregational church, and may continue growing in numbers and spirituality through God’s grace, to whom be the glory.

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## ATTENTION ALL WOMEN

*Nancy Brashears*

The United Methodist Women New Member Campaign will kick off on Saturday, October 13. Please come and be a part of our UMW fellowship.

### Who are United Methodist Women?

1. We are a world-wide organization of over one million members.
2. We are women who raise nearly twenty-five million dollars each year for programs and projects related to women, children, and youth in more than one hundred countries.
3. We are women of God called to serve.
4. We are women who believe that mission is our reason for being.
5. We are ordinary women doing extraordinary things.
6. We are women who respond to the cries of sisters and children in distress.
7. We are women who support missions that provide food, shelter, education, employment, healthcare and human rights advocacy for many living on the margins of society.
8. We are women who are local Christians and global Christians.

We invite you to join this dynamic organization on Saturday, October 13 at 11:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room for our New Members program and luncheon. Each attendee will receive a special recognition gift and will have the opportunity to become a member of our local unit which strives to fulfill our purpose of mission by:

1. supporting the Glendafae Humanitarian Clinic in Honduras
2. supporting the David and Margaret Home and the Toberman House in our local community
3. collecting food items for Hope Net Food Link and assisting with distribution
4. collecting items for personal care kits to distribute to the homeless
5. awarding scholarships for students attending college.

If you are able to attend, please RSVP Celeste Slaughter at 310-338-8582 as soon as possible.

# United Methodist Women

*Nancy Brashears*

The United Methodist Women met for their monthly meeting on

Saturday, September 8. Following our business meeting, Doris Dyer, Vice President, presented the program "How We Are 'Raced'". The purpose of this program was to help us explore the ways in which we are taught at an early age about the nature of race and racism. Our bible study invited us to dig deep as we read bible passages, discussed them with one another, responded to questions, and finally, shared insights with the entire group. Our program service began and ended with the very appropriate hymn, "Help Us Accept Each Other, #560, United Methodist Hymnal.

We also learned that in 1978, the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church wrote and adopted a Charter for Racial Justice Policies. In 1980, this Division recommended adoption of the Charter by the whole denomination. The Women's Division continues to call with urgency on all units of United Methodist Women to study and act on the principles as stated in the following Charter:

A Charter of Racial Justice Policies In an Interdependent Global Community  
Adopted by the 1980 General Conference Of The United Methodist Church

## Because We Believe

1. That God is the Creator of all people and all are God's children in one family;
2. That racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ;
3. That racism denies the redemption and reconciliation of Jesus Christ;
4. That racism robs all human beings of their wholeness and is used as a justification for social, economic and political exploitation;
5. That we must declare before God and before each other that we have sinned against our sisters and brothers of other races in thought, in word and in deed;
6. That in our common humanity in creation all women and men are made in God's image and all persons are equally valuable in the sight of God;
7. That our strength lies in our racial and cultural diversity and that we must work toward a world in which each person's value is respected and nurtured;
8. That our struggle for justice must be based on new attitudes, new understandings and new relationships and must be reflected in the laws, policies, structures and practices of both church and state;

**We commit ourselves as individuals and as a community to follow Jesus Christ in word and in deed and to struggle for the rights and the self-determination of every person and group of persons. Therefore, as United Methodist Women in every place across the land, we will unite our efforts with all groups in The United Methodist Church**

1. To eliminate all forms of institutional racism in the total ministry of the church with special attention given to those institutions which we support, beginning with their employment policies, purchasing practices and availability of services and facilities;
2. To create opportunities in local churches to deal honestly with the existing racist attitudes and social distance between members, deepening the Christian commitment to be the church where all racial groups and economic classes come together;
3. To increase our efforts to recruit women of all races into the membership of United Methodist Women and provide leadership development opportunities without discrimination.
4. To create workshops and seminars in local churches to study, understand and appreciate the historical and cultural contributions of each race to the church and community.
5. To increase local churches' awareness of the continuing needs for equal education, housing, employment and medical care for all members of the community and create opportunities to work for these things across racial lines.
6. To work for the development and implementation of national and international policies to protect the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all people such as through support for the ratification of United Nations covenants on human rights.
7. To support and participate in the world-wide struggle for liberation in the church and community.
8. To support nomination and election processes which include all racial groups employing a quota system until the time that our voluntary performance makes such practice unnecessary.

*These are grads whose photos were omitted in the August publication—Ted Slaughter*

## High School

### Melanie Yvonne Clark

The L.A. Center for Enriched Studies (LACES) is the Alma Mater of Melanie Clark who graduated from this magnet school at commencement ceremonies at the Pasadena Civic Center on June 19, 2007. In attendance are proud grandparents, Joe and Doris Dyer, whose daughter Karen is the mother of Melanie. LACES has earned high academic marks as one of 100 best high schools in the U.S. three years in a row since the ratings started in 2005.



### Destiny Leverette

Destiny finished her secondary schooling at Morning-side High School in Inglewood, California. She plans to obtain her associate degree at Santa Monica College and then continue onward to a law degree. Destiny is an avid reader and she has served as a cheerleader for her school spirit team.



She is the daughter of Joseph III and Nicole Leverette and the granddaughter of Joseph Leverette II. We join the Leverettes in wishing Destiny, God speed as she reaches a milestone in her life.

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## MILESTONES

Congratulations to our own **Paula Morrison** and **Wallen Davis**, who were joined together in holy matrimony on Saturday, August 18, 2007, in a beautiful ceremony in the Wilshire UMC Sanctuary!

Fifty years of marital bliss were celebrated in September by **Ted** and **Celeste Slaughter**! Congratulations to a wonderful couple. Their formula for such a successful marriage patience and tolerance!

On Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, we were blessed to welcome two new members to the Wilshire Family. They are **Mrs. Michelle Walden**, wife of **Pastor Walden**, and **Wallen Davis**, husband of **Paula Morrison Davis**! **God IS GOOD!**

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## Laugh With Celeste

At a Church Service Coordinating Team meeting I overheard Marlene Mc Rea say, "The articles in the Visitor are always very good and informative but they are all so serious. We need to read something a little light and humorous." So here goes:

The Bible School teacher asked, "Now Billy, tell me do you say prayers before eating?" "No sir," Billy replied, "My mom is a great cook!"

One Sunday morning a minister got up and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is we have enough money to pay for all of our new programs. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets!"

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## COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP

Our sincere appreciation to the following family members who responded to the call to use their talents to strengthen the Wilshire English Ministry:

- Sound Booth: Jonathan Bassey
- Usher: Mavis Cadle
- Scripture Reader: Olivia Bassey
- Choir: Monique Bassey, Odaro Owen, Olivia Young, Mary Nyarko, Marjorie Woody, Ernie Stroman, Paula M. Davis, Wallen Davis
- Welcoming & Serving Teams: Odaro Owen Ernie Stroman, Paula M. Davis, Wallen Davis
- Youth Program: Joyce Rollins

**Food for Thought: We don't change the Message, the Message changes us!**

## Post All Church Picnic

*Felecia Fisher-Shamu*

When WUMC member Paula Morrison announced that she had just gotten married, in our beautiful church, to someone that we always thought was a member, Wallen Davis, all I could do was think about that wonderful jerk chicken that they made for the WUMC Picnic back on July 14. And, of course, it dawned on me how I won "Best Barbecue" and what a fantastic family celebration we had in Fellowship & Games with the Korean, Philippino and Hispanic Ministries.

Before the games begun, we had such a spiritual moment singing songs of praise including "Seek Ye First" and hearing brief words from each ministry. If you would have taken a snapshot of our multi-nationalities that day, you would have seen what "America" is going to look like in years to come.

The Korean Ministry appointed our "Game Leader" who was quite a fun character that assembled us all in three large groups. Outside of all the relay races and interesting tasks that we all performed, my favorite game was when Phil Freeman joined our team. This was toward the end of the day, but we had young girls from the English and Korean Ministry on our team. This game required us to perform about seven tasks and who ever completed them first, won the game. We had to recall scriptures from the Bible, create a path made of newspaper and "walk on water" and carry objects from one point to the other. I remember we had to jump rope. Phil and I immediately took our places holding the rope while the girls jumped. That was great! Phil and I had become true professionals at what we could do and what we couldn't do. We breezed by that and the very last thing we had to do was sing a song. With Yorel Hill, Ashley Hill, Dominique Smith and Maya Hill on our team, we sang "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!" and we won that event!

Connie Freeman won "Best Dessert" with her very own "Down Home Sweet Peach Cobbler". Other notables were Loretta Monsanto, Elspeth Hall, Curuba Smith and we will give some love to Ted Slaughter.

It is important to mention the special **THANK YOU** to Walter Floyd for his many donations including arranging for the chicken; everyone that brought a dish and who planned the event; Mee Sue Park and the wonderful prizes provided by the Korean Ministry. The Colgate Tooth Paste and Kirkland Paper Towels were a real treat!

We had so much fun playing all of the games that we didn't have time to even play Softball. Now, next year when we have this picnic again always remember to come early and be on time for your event.



## EVANGELISM/WELCOMING TEAM

By Maxine Clark-Leverette, Chair

The Welcoming Team is still very delighted and excited about our new leader. We believe that God has truly answered our prayers. Rev. Dr. Walden and his lovely wife, Mrs. Michelle Walden, seem to be the God-sent couple to help us revitalize our faith community. As our enthusiasm increases, I believe we will instinctively start to invite friends and relatives to our Sunday services. The Welcoming Team envisions seeing many new faces, as well as old friends returning, and we will be ready to greet and welcome all who come through our doors.

I want to take this opportunity to especially thank the Wilshire Family who remained so faithful to the Wilshire Ministry through the first half of this year. During the transitioning period we continued to be loving, steadfast and supportive of our Ministry through our gifts, talents and attendance. We thank you for being committed, loyal and prayerful as we proved to anyone observing us that we are truly a community of faith. We can now enjoy the fruits of our faith by effervescently looking forward to new beginnings. I urge all of us to stay high in spirit and be excited about the wonderful and positive changes that we may see in the future.

Many have expressed a desire for "variety" in our worship music. Well, we plan to have more diversity in our song selections. The Bible says, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord", and we plan to do just that by adding more gospel and contemporary songs to our worship service.

If you have had thoughts about joining or re-joining the choir, now is the time! We are not seeking professional or trained singers, but rather just ordinary folks who can carry a tune and are willing to give a little of their time in order to build up our choir. If you are interested, and we hope you are, please contact Dulce Gunning.

I whole heartily believe we are in store for awesome and inspiring new ways of being servants as we go about our United Methodist mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ. Let us continue to partner in prayer as we pray for our Wilshire Ministry and all of our ministries on this campus.

Blessings to you all!



*This article was inadvertently omitted from the August publication—Ted Slaughter*

## A MAGICAL MUSICAL MOMENT AT WILSHIRE

By  
Susie Williams

Wilshire English Ministry opened its 2007 fund raising season with a spectacular musical concert on April 29, 2007 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The featured artists were Pauley Daniels, an 8 year old from Bel Air Presbyterian Church and a portion of the Hamilton High Symphony Ensemble, directed by Mr. Greg Robinson. The attendees were led through a moment where one could only hear the sound of music, setting the scene for a fantastic journey through time.

Notes from the Director's closing remarks included the fact that he was joined in marriage some years ago at Wilshire. The students and the Director feel Wilshire is ideal as a setting for musical concerts. We, the members, agree and we look forward to future opportunities to host concerts presented by Hamilton High School of the Performing Arts.

The concert committee Chairperson is Susie Williams. The members of the committee are Wilson Basse, Joseph and Doris Dyer, Connee and Phillip Freeman, Walter Floyd, Floydette Gibson, Dulce Gunning, Maxine and Joseph Leverette, Colin and Lorie McCaffery, Pete Limon, Eleanor Minter, Sammie Mitchell, Theodore and Celestine Slaughter, Joseph Somoye, Gloria Ruddock, and Ron Howard. The committee wishes to express its appreciation to those who supported the event by ads, donations, or ticket sales.

Future fund raising events this year will include an International Luncheon and a Church Bazaar. We solicit your support in these ventures. We would also like to give consideration to the idea of recycling and a loose change campaign.

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### WUMC Youth & Teens Leadership Group

Thank goodness summer is over and we are all back to school! When we went to Faith United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 15th the topic of discussion to our youth and teens was Stay On The Right Track! The WORD was brought to us by 3 talented Youth Ministers from various churches.

These youth leaders told our youth and teens to stay focused on school and not let mindless attractions like clothes, shoes, drugs, class ditching, peer pressure and gossip steer them away from their set goals to succeed in life. Stay On The Right Track and pray to GOD for guidance.

Byron Collins, Dominique Smith, Maya Hill and sister Kelsey, Ashley Hill, Jordan and Brandon Cooper were in attendance.

During the summer our group went to see the Town Street Theatre, "Beauty and the Beast" starring our very own, Alan Goree. We would like to thank Maggie Cooper for sponsoring this Youth activity and Vitality for the tasty Chicken & French Fry dinner.

Coming up on October 20<sup>th</sup>, we will all go bowling with the L.A. District UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) organization. Hopefully, this event will work with our teens that will take the Practice SAT Test October 20 beginning 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All must register for this event by October 8<sup>th</sup> by going on-line to [office@crenshawunmc.com](mailto:office@crenshawunmc.com). It looks like we will also soon get some Tutoring Classes for students to improve their grades in various school courses.

So, stay tuned, become a member of the Wilshire United Methodist Church Youth & Teen Leadership Group by calling the church office at (323) 931-1085 or meeting with your Parent Youth Directors, Felecia Fisher-Shamu and Lavern Cooper after church in the Fellowship Hall. And, if you would like to help with our organization, please call and see us, too!

## METHODIST TIDBITS

Connection: This is central to the United Methodist Church. United Methodism is Global and each church congregation is part of the network of serving, praying, giving, connecting and leading. We are entering Fall and the holidays in which another type of connection happens with our families and friends. As we do our celebrating, let us remember that our Church and Global connections need us more than ever as those without families and/or friends undergo the stress of the holidays. Many opportunities to share will present themselves. Here are some ways to connect with our fellow Methodists with humor.

These ten snippets are borrowed from the **WINFIELD COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:**

### Things You Never Hear in Church

1. Hey! It's my turn to sit in the Front pew.
2. I was so enthralled I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
3. Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.
4. I've decided to give our church the \$500.00 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.
5. I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the junior high Sunday school class.
6. Forget the denominational minimum salary, let's pay our pastor so he can live like we do.
7. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
8. Since we're all here let's start the service early.

(See page 11 Tidbits)

# DID YOU KNOW?

*Eleanor Minter*



Did you know that there is a National Underground Railroad Freedom Center located in Cincinnati, Ohio? The Center is appropriately located on the banks of the Ohio River where many abolitionists sheltered, fed and led slaves to freedom in the decades prior to the Civil War.

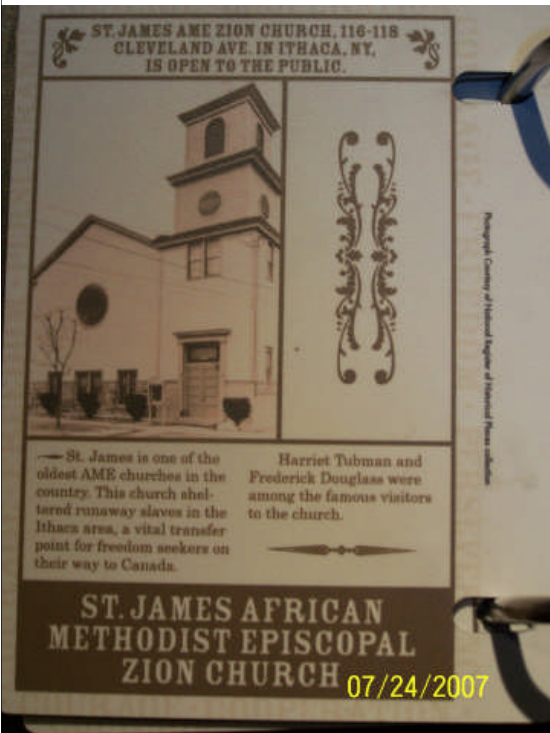
The term Underground Railroad originated when Tice Davids, a runaway slave, fled Kentucky and may have taken refuge with John Rankin, a White abolitionist in Ohio. The upset owner chased Davids to the Ohio River but Davids disappeared and the owner wondered if he had “gone off on some underground road”.



The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center has 3 connected pavilions which were designed to reflect the winding, natural course of the Ohio River. One of the pavilions houses a slave pen that was found on the Raymone Evers family Pinecrest Farm in Mason County Kentucky, and rebuilt in the Freedom Center. The structure temporarily housed slaves on their way South for sale.

The second floor pavilion has the Brothers of the Borderland Drama – an actual gripping drama narrated by Oprah Winfrey that takes you on the banks of the Kentucky River and crosses you over to Ohio with the help of 2 Under-

ground Railroad conductors, John Parker and Rev. John Rankin. The audience is drawn into the drama as if they are actually on the freedom trail trying to escape along with the brother and sister who is the subject of the story. When the sister was hiding under a bridge, cried out when she heard her owners on horseback riding over the bridge, I shouted “shut-up”. (I was so embarrassed when I had realized what I had done). The John Rankin House is located at the top of Liberty Hill was home to his family and thousands of slaves as they made their way to freedom. John Parker was an ex-slave, abolitionist and inventor. By day he worked in his own foundry and at night helped slaves escape from Kentucky. Both homes designated as a National Historic Landmark and open to the public.



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Churches were a very active part of the Underground Railroad. The Freedom Center displayed artifacts from St. James African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church and Mother Bethel AME Church. St. James AME, built in 1833 in Ithaca New York, was an important transfer point for fugitive slaves en route to Canada. Harriett Tubman and Frederick Douglass were documented as visiting the church. Mother Bethel AME was founded by Richard Allen in Philadelphia and dedicated in 1794. The church supplied shelter, food and clothing for slaves fleeing for freedom and was a stop on the Underground Railroad.

For additional information go to the following WEB site [www.freedomcenter.org](http://www.freedomcenter.org)

## LOOKING AHEAD ... MARK YOUR CALENDARS

<p>Sunday, October 14 and Sunday, November 4, 2007 2:00-4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Covenant for Vital Ministry (C4VM) training session for local church leaders in the Los Angeles District to learn about the second phase of the three year assessment process which the Cal-Pac Conference is using to assess the essential qualities, skills and competencies for effective congregations. Attendance at one of these meetings is mandatory. The October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at Crenshaw UMC; the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting location has not yet been determined.</p>
<p>Tuesday, October 30, 2007 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Gustavo Dudamel, the new conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra will conduct a large string orchestra in the Wilshire UMC Sanctuary. There is no charge for this concert which is open to the community. However, reservations are required, and more information will be made available concerning the reservation process. <b>WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS!</b></p>
<p>Saturday, November 10, 2007 10 AM to 4 PM</p>	<p>The Wilshire English Ministry will sponsor their second fund-raising bazaar in Fellowship Hall. Susie Williams, Chair, is requesting gently used clothing and collectibles. Check with her for further information (310-273-4047).</p>

### ATTENTION ALL WALKERS

*By Ernest Freeman*

AIDS Walk Los Angeles will take place on October 21, 2007. The walk starts about 9:00 AM and concludes about 12:00 Noon. Along the walk there are snack giveaways and lots of entertainment. This is not a race; therefore you can walk at your own pace, take in the landscape and other enthusiastic walkers.

Nancy Brashears and I are looking for walkers to form a "Wilshire English Ministry Team". The two of us have walked together in the AIDS Walk for over 10 years. Alan and Chris Goree and Nancy's friend BJ have also been active walker for the past 6 years. This year it is expected that over 25,000 men, women and children will get out to show their support for this outstanding community effort.

If we get enough walkers to form a team we will have a banner identifying us as the Wilshire UMC English Walkers. Over the years I have seen other Methodist churches represented and always wished we had a team. Please help make that wish a reality.

This is a wonderful opportunity to fulfill the mission statement we so faithful recite each Sunday. We can demonstrate our compassion and for individuals who have the disease and share in the reach out efforts to educate the public about how to avoid contracting the disease.

As a walker you are expected to solicit donations. There is no maximum or minimum you are expected to raise. All that is expected is that you do your best! Please contact Nancy or me so that we can get you registered and if you have questions.

If you cannot participate in the walk, please support one of the "Wilshire Walker" by giving them a monetary donation. As we get volunteers their names will be posted in the Fellowship Hall or some other convenient location.

*(Tidbits—continued from page 9)*

9. Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.

Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign.

**FROM: RIDLEY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.**

A little boy was overheard praying "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time as I am."

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS SEPTEMBER 2007

Nurturing Team Committee:

We will be getting Cokesbury Advent books before December 1<sup>st</sup>. As we get ready for Jesus Christ birth, let us remember him each day as we pray.

Christian Education as the following Sunday classes:

- |            |   |       |
|------------|---|-------|
| 9:15 a.m.  | Arts and Crafts for Children – One Room Lessons |       |
| 10:15 a.m. | Children Bible Study                            |       |
|            | Pre-school                                      |       |
|            | Early Elementary                                |       |
|            | Middle Elementary                               |       |
|            | Older Elementary                                |       |
|            | Korean Children                                 |       |
| 11:15 a.m. | Children and Youth Choir.                       | Youth |
|            | Dance Team                                      |       |
| 2:00 p.m.  | Youth Meeting                                   |       |

We have youth classes being form. We have adult lessons books for students and teachers and would like to start an adult class.

With God's Love,  
Maggie Cooper

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Rev. John Guillen, Pastor, Hispanic Ministry

Music  
Susan Hale  
Interim Organist  
Alex Reichert, Organist, Hispanic Ministry

Office Volunteers  
Eleanor Minter, Mondays  
Dulce Gunning, Mondays and Tuesdays  
Ted and Celeste Slaughter, Wednesdays  
Lina Ramos, Thursdays

Wedding/Special Events  
Lori S. Jones, Director  
Colin McCaffery, Assistant

Meeting Notices  
Phyllis Hartwell

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## PRAYING FOR YOU

The Wilshire Family surrounds with love and prayers, the following family members who are experiencing health challenges, some of whom cannot join us on Sunday, as well as those who are serving in the military. We also pray for the victims of tragedies throughout our country and the world.

Margaret Bond  
Elswith Chavez  
Norman & Edna Francis  
Bernetta Hicks  
Edward Jivanni Lorrente+  
Phyllis Hartwell  
Rose Northern  
Mary Randall  
Audrey Shockley  
Seth Shockley+

Aaron Edwards  
Tyronne Perriott+  
Mary Ann Johnson  
Juel Collins  
Constance Orme  
Anne Smith  
Donna Jennings  
Thelma Pittman  
Rosalie Turner  
Doris Howard

+ Tyrone Perriott is serving in the armed forces. Edward Jivanni Lorrente and Seth Shockley (grandson of Audrey and Madison Shockley) are also serving in the armed forces and have been deployed to Iraq. Please keep them in your prayers.

## Present With The Lord

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms, if it were not so I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And, if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.” *John 14:1-4*

**Ruth Krauch**, Sunset: August 2007

A founding member of Wilshire United Methodist Church.

**Eligah Gary Rhaburn**, Sunset: August 26, 2007

Husband of Natasha Edwards Rhaburn

**Father of Turusew Wilson** who passed away in August, 2007.

## A word from the Word

**Bear ye one another’s burdens, so fulfill the law of Christ.**  
**Galatians 6:5 (KJV)**