



# The Visitor



Volume 8 Issue 6

Wilshire United Methodist Church, Wilshire Ministry

Sunday, December 2, 2007



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

### Inside this issue:

The Pastor's Pen	1
Lay Leadership	2
Mission Project	2
Evangelism/Welcoming	3
Methodist Tidbits	3
SPRC	4
UMW	4
Sharing the Faith	5
AIDS Walk	5
Christian Ed News	5
Laugh With Celeste	5
A Wilshire Profile	8
Alan Goree Selected	8
Hello Dali	9
International Folklore	9
Visit by DS	9
Join Your Pastor	10
BOT	10/11
Happy Birthday	11
Praying for You	12
Milestones	12
A Word from The Word	12

## The Pastor's Pen

Rev. Dr. Ken J. Walden



Hello Wilshire Family, Friends, and Visitors,

As Pastor of Wilshire UMC's English Ministry, I am glad that we are journeying together in serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. A lot is going on in our church for the glory of God!

The following are a few of the many dynamic and new events taking place within our congregation:

1. We have more people joining the church. It is always a blessing to receive new members into our faith community. *More is on the way!*
2. We have hired a new musician. It is a blessing to see and hear our music program already re-introduce our Wilshire Chancel Choir on Sunday mornings at our 10 a.m. worship service. *More is on the way!*
3. Our new church website is currently being created. *More is on the way!*
4. New ministries have begun such as the following:
  - a. United Methodist Men which will be led by Don Harris as President.
  - b. Young Adult Ministry which will be led by Nicolas Monsanto as Chairperson.
  - c. *More is on the way!*



Many of you have informed me that you enjoyed the book signing event and are enjoying reading my book entitled "A Pastor's Poetry: Volume One". You are welcome and Thank You for your words of affirmation.

Please remember that we are currently in our second phase which is November '07 – January '08 of our "3 Year Strategic Plan of Wilshire UMC's English Ministry". I want all of you, our entire faith community to write/ submit three suggestions to be considered in our plan **and** ways in which you will help to accomplish them.

Take care and take God!  
Grace and Peace,  
[www.artsinreligion.com](http://www.artsinreligion.com)

## COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP

Our sincere appreciation to the following family members who responded to our call to fill leadership vacancies on the Wilshire English Ministry administrative committees:

Administrative Council Chair: Ernest Stroman

Board of Trustees: 2008: Douglas Perez; 2009: Elon Gunning; 2010: Ted Slaughter

Finance Committee: 2008: Susie Williams; 2009: Rene Ramos (Chair); 2010: Adepeju Ariori

Lay Leadership Committee: Rev. Dr. Ken Walden, Chair

2008: Connee Freeman, Vice-Chair; Sammie Mitchell, 2009: Nancy Brashears, Eleanor Minter, Glendafae Woods, 2010: Marlene McRae

Staff Parish Relations: 2008 Joe Dyer (Secretary), Dulce Gunning, Celeste Slaughter (Chair), 2009: Alex Wilson, 2010: Nicholas Monsanto, Wallen Davis

Stewardship Committee: 2008: Walter Flooyd, Phil Freeman, Eleanor Minter, Gloria Ruddock, 2009: Paula Morrison Davis, Roy Morrison, Eleanor Wagner, 2010: Elon Gunning (Chair)

Thank you so much for choosing to be a part of the leadership for the Wilshire English Ministry! Your church family truly appreciates your commitments to serve.

The Lay Leadership Committee continues to identify members of our Family who are willing to use their talents to move the Wilshire English Ministry forward! We are on a fast track, so don't miss the train!! If you are interested, please let Pastor Walden or any of the Lay Leadership Committee members know. We are anxiously waiting to hear from you.

## MISSION PROJECT COMPLETED IN FAITH

The year long Faith Mission project came to a conclusion on Sunday, November 18, 2007. The Mission Team would like to thank the Wilshire English ministry for their commitment to the Faith Mission project. As of November 5, 2007, \$14,448 has been received. The money committed will go to;

- (1) **Rakestraw Community Center** – is a historic site built in 1924 in South Central Los Angeles. It offers comprehensive human services to the African-American, Hispanic as well as people from the wider community who request services. These services include food and clothing distribution, after school programs, transportation, homework/tutoring assistance, sports and recreation.
- (2) **Gulfside Assembly** – Was originally called the Gulfside Chatauqua and Camp Meeting Ground; located in Waveland, Mississippi. It was founded in 1923 by Robert E. Jones, the first black Methodist Bishop. At the time, it was the only resort in the Gulf Region open to black Methodists. In 1980, Gulfside Assembly was recognized by the United Methodist Church as a historical site. Hurricane Katrina destroyed the site and rebuilding is taking

place. Many United Methodist Church members along with other people from all over the country are volunteering their time and energy to rebuild this important historical site.

- (3) **The Glendafae Humanitarian Clinic** – located in Honduras, was founded by our own church member, Glendafae Woods. The clinic provides Diabetic, Hypertension care and health education to its clients in Honduras, Central America. The Glendafae Humanitarian Clinic just celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Thank you again Church Family, for your commitment to the Faith Promise Mission.

If you are looking to join a team whose primary purpose is outreach/mission, please contact Paula Davis, Doris Dyer, Eleanor Minter or Rev. Dr. Kenneth Walden after the church service. We meet once a month at noon in the church library.

The Mission Team; written by Eleanor Minter



Seasons Greetings

## EVANGELISM / WELCOMING TEAM

*By Maxine Clark-Leverette, Chair*

This is my last year as Chair of the Evangelism/Welcoming Team, and it has been a pleasure to serve on such a vital team over the last four years. I thank the Nominating Committee for the confidence they placed in me to steer a committee whose work is so critical to the life of the church. I had a great team and wonderful people to work with. I would be remiss not to seize this opportunity to personally thank my Evangelism Team. The Team began with Dulce Gunning, Joe Leverette, Sammie Mitchell, the late Harry Morris and Wendelyn Young. I believe our many accomplishments can be contributed to this group being such a perfect blend of mind, heart and soul. They were all committed and supportive. They came with their unique passions, gifts and talents to assist me with church events and projects. This group helped me to understand some of the elements of our ministry's task and how it fits into Wilshire's Mission Statement as well as the United Methodist Church's Mission Statement.

The Dome Village Homeless (Justiceville) won our hearts. As you may know this Village was founded by a homeless activist, Ted Hayes, in 1993, and it could serve up to 34 families. I spent a lot of time there, and at the end of the day, I found they were probably more of a blessing to me, than I was to them. I want to especially thank the Wilshire Congregation for supporting me and the Team with the different projects we undertook to assist the residents of the Dome Village. During this Season of Advent, let us keep the past families of the Village in our prayers as they had to be disassembled and are no longer collectively together.

Our Committee's last project will be in the form of a "Big Sunday Christmas Worship and Music Event" on December 16, 2007. Again, in order for it to be a success, we need the congregation's assistance. So, I am asking you to remember the "FRAN" Plan and bring a friend, relative, associate or neighbor with you.

To the Wilshire Congregation, I want to say thank you so very much for your cooperation and support when this ministry called on you for participation. You helped to share in our vision which contributed to our efforts for the church and for our community. It has been an amazing journey, and for all of its accomplishments we give you acknowledgment and we give God the glory!

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## METHODIST TIDBITS

*By Marlene McRae*

May our Advent Season, Christmas and New Year be bright and love-filled as we focus on the promises

that these days offer us. Christ is born again in us and he loves us and never gives up on us as he searches us out and tries to enfold us in his loving care. I'd like to recommend a book by Bishop Reuben P. Job, retired bishop of the United Methodist Church. Rev. Job writes about the "Three simple rules: A Wesleyan way of living. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church had three simple rules: Do no harm, Do good and Stay in love with God. The book is published by Abingdon Press and is available for \$5.00 at [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com)

I have only read the reviews of the book and sometimes one is wary of anything that begins with the word "simple". The most difficult things to do are the simple ones. That's the very reason that this book caught my eye. Job himself acknowledges that "the rules are simple, but the way is not easy. Only those with great courage will attempt it and only those with great faith will be able to walk this exciting and demanding way." He also wants the reader to be reminded that the core of God's message is that he loves us all equally and this book can help us to attain our full inheritance as God's children.

Here are a couple of reviews:

Susan Salley, executive director of adult resources at the publishing house, says, "Job, tells the truth about God and our relationship with God. He makes plain the way of life, that in John Wesley's day, launched a vibrant movement that transformed the personal life of millions and their communities."

Bishop John L. Hopkins of the Ohio East (regional) conference says Job's book offers, "a more faithful way of living as a disciple of Jesus Christ with personal practices that have the power to change the world." Hopkins also says "If you want to change the world you must change yourself."

In other words, be the change you'd like to see. Our world needs change makers. This book offers a liturgy for the beginning, middle and end of the day with prayers, scriptures, reflections and blessings.



Seasons Greetings

## SPRC

*By Celeste Slaughter*

The committee wishes to thank the Wilshire family for all the patience, support and prayers you have given during the past year. SPRC has had an exciting but busy year.

At the beginning of the year we were greeted with news that Rev. Sablan was appointed to a church in Lancaster, effective in February.

The committee sensed the concern of the church family. Who will be the pastor and when will he or she arrive? We kept the church family informed as we worked with the Superintendent to develop a plan. We decided to have an interim pastor. This plan gave us time to work with the Administrative Council and the Superintendent to find a pastor who would fit the needs of Wilshire.

Pastor Jeffery Grant was appointed as the interim pastor. He served from February to July. The church family welcomed Pastor Grant and was happy with his interim pastoral care. In July Rev. Dr. Ken Walden was appointed to Wilshire as pastor. God blessed us with the presence of Rev. Walden and his wife Michelle. The Wilshire family has extended a special welcome to them.

One of the duties of the SPRC is to support the pastor as he settles into his new church home. We have worked to make this transition as easy as possible so that he could provide the leadership Wilshire has needed a long time.

We are planning a work calendar for 2008. Our hope is that we will be able to include many of you in projects and programs as we continue working with the pastor developing his three year strategic plan for Wilshire. God has blessed the committee with dedicated and committed members who like each other and work well together, however we are sad to see Eleanor Wagner and Sammie Mitchell leave as they move off the committee in December. Thanks for all of your great work.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year – May God bless each of you.

Celeste Slaughter, Chair	Joe Dyer, Secretary	Dulce Gunning
Glendafae Woods	Joe Leverette	Maxine Leverette

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## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

*Nancy Brashears*

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN GROUP IS GROWING! Our October membership drive, under the leadership of Celeste Slaughter, was a success as we welcomed visitors, learned about the traditions and purpose of UMW, played Bible trivia and fellowshiped over lunch. I am both heartened and excited about the enthusiasm and commitment of our members.

We are looking forward to initiating some new mission projects. **Please join us in our Angel Tree Project!** We will be providing gifts for foster children from the Greatest Love Foster Family Agency. Please take the name of a child, listed by age and gender, from the tree located in the narthex and Fellowship Hall and buy a Christmas gift for the child. The United Methodist Women will deliver the gifts to the foster care agency so that each child can receive a gift from Santa at their Holiday Celebration. We are also continuing to collect personal care items to be packaged into kits for the homeless. These donations can be placed in the tub located in the narthex.

The United Methodist Women group meets every second Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Our December meeting will be held at the home of Celeste Slaughter on Saturday, December 8. At this meeting, we will elect and install new officers and have a Christmas party. If you will be joining us for the first time, please contact Celeste Slaughter or Nancy Brashears.

## Sharing the Faith: Evangelism

*By: John J. Guillén, Ph.D.*

The church is a living organism whose growth depends on evangelization.

There was a group discussing about Evangelism, and the question was, "Is Evangelism part of the mission of the church or from it comes the other ministries?"

Andreas said that the mission of the church is "The Great Commission" (Matthew 28:19-20) and added, "Evangelism is a process; so is the mission of the church."

Abhaskar, a recent converted from Sikhism to Christianity, said, "Then it means that all Christian should exercise their gifts to make a reality the Kingdom of God!"

And he went on, and told his experience of feeling welcomed into the Christian church. According to him the church must be sustaining support systems as St. Paul points (Gal. 6:2-5) "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ...But let each one test his own work...For each man will have to bear his own load." So the church as a household of God has a tremendous challenge and opportunity to bring others to Christ (Eph. 4:4-16).

Diogenes asked, "Is poverty a handicap that deprives people from worshipping God?"

Isabella, from the youth group, prompted the answer, saying that in the Christian realm does not exist any kind of discrimination, instead, the congregation is a support group that helps people to overcome the stigma they live with, because it is organized in groups that function as a healing community, and added, from Dr. William J. Abraham, "Evangelism is "that set of intentional activities which is governed by the goal of inviting people into the kingdom of God for the first time."

My understanding is that the warm reception of the church members helped Abhaskar to overcome the alienation he felt of being from a different ethnic group, and socio-economic status, poor. Jesus charged us "You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world." If we are a congregation of open arms, open mind, and open heart, then we can say as John Wesley "The world is my parish", because "The earth is the LORD's, and all it contains, The world and those who dwell in it." (Ps. 24:1). This group is from St. Johanneskirche at Konstablerwache District, Franfuth, Germany.

## AIDS WALK

*Nancy Brashears*

Ernie Stroman, Alan Goree, Floydette Gibson, Lina Ramos, and Nancy Brashears joined 30,000 walkers to participate in the 10 kilometer Aids Walk on October 21. Close to four million dollars was raised at this event. The Wilshire walkers raised \$2,000 and would like to thank the congregation for their financial support for this very worthwhile cause. Please plan to join us next year as we hope to organize a Wilshire United Methodist Church team and become a visible participant in Aids Walk 2008!

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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

The children are studying the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

The Christmas party will be from 11:00-2:00 p.m. on December 15, 2007. There will be games, piñata, food and singing. Please register with Maggie Cooper if you plan to attend because we need to plan ahead for the luncheon.

If you are interested on helping out Christian Education, please attend our next meeting on December 9, right after the church service.

God Bless,

Maggie Cooper.

CE Chairperson

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## Laugh With Celeste

*By Celeste Slaughter*

Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent. "The flight to Egypt," said Kyle. "I see. And that must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus," Ms. Terri said. "But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius - the Pilot."

"Among those whom I like or admire, I can find no common denominator, but, among those whom I love, I can, all of them make me laugh."

*W. H. Auden*

## WILSHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4350 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles 90010

wilshireumc@hotmail.com

Tel: 323-931-1085 Fax: 323 931 0203

December 2007



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b> 7pm Angel City Chorale Concert!
<b>2</b> 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal in Choir Rm. 11:45am Staff Parish Relations Com. Rm. 203 7pm Angel City Chorale Concert!	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:30 p.m. Worship Mtg. in Rm.203	<b>6</b> 7 pm Board of Trustees Mtg. Rm. 203	<b>7</b> <i>Mark your calendars- Friday Night Live will begin in 2008!</i>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal in Choir Rm. 11:45am Nurturing Mtg. in Library	<b>10</b> 1pm Empowering Mtg.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> “... We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” - Matthew 2:2	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Mark your calendars- Friday Night Live will begin in 2008!</i>	<b>15</b> 6pm International Folklore/ Dinner in Fellowship Hall.
<b>16</b> 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal in Choir room. 11:45am Finance Committee meeting in Rm.203 7pm Hollywood Chorale Concert!	<b>17</b> <i>Mark your calendars- Monday Noon Bible Study will begin in 2008!</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7pm Admin Council Mtg. in Assembly Rm.	<b>20</b> 7:00 pm Stewardship Committee Mtg. in Rm. 203	<b>21</b> <i>Mark your calendars- Friday Night Live will begin in 2008!</i>	<b>22</b>
<b>23/30</b> 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal in Choir room. Serving/Missions/ Welcoming Mtg. 11:45am in Rm. 203	<b>24/31</b> <i>Mark your calendars- Monday Noon Bible Study will begin in 2008!</i>	<b>25</b> “A Savior has been born to you; he is Christ The Lord.” Luke 2:11 <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>Mark your calendars- Friday Night Live will begin in 2008!</i>	<b>29</b>

• December is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the 3-Year Strategic Plan.

• Please remember to submit to Rev. Dr. Ken J. Walden three suggestions you would like considered in our plan and ways you will help to accomplish them.



**WILSHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
 4350 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles 90010  
 wilshireumc@hotmail.com  
 Tel: 323-931-1085 Fax: 323 931 0203  
**January 2008**



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> Happy New Years Day!	<b>2</b> 7:30 p.m. Worship Mtg. in Rm.203	<b>3</b> 7 pm Board of Trustees Mtg. Rm. 203	<b>4</b> <i>Mark your calendars- Friday Night Live will begin in 2008!</i>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal in Choir Rm. 11:45am Staff Parish Relations Com. Rm. 203	<b>7</b> 1pm Empowering Mtg. 1pm to 7pm poll-worker training	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <i>Mark your calendars- Friday Night Live will begin in 2008!</i>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal in Choir Rm. 11:45am Nurturing Mtg. in Library Bishop Charles Jordan is our Guest Preacher	<b>14</b> <i>Mark your calendars- Monday Noon Bible Study will begin in 2008!</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7pm Admin Council Mtg. in Assembly Rm.	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm Stewardship Committee Mtg. in Rm. 203	<b>18</b> <i>Mark your calendars- Friday Night Live will begin in 2008!</i>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal in Choir room. 11:45am Finance Committee meeting in Rm.203	<b>21</b> Happy Martin Luther King Jr. Day!"	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>9am - 9pm poll-worker training in sanctuary</i>	<b>26</b> 9am-3pm Health Fair in Fellowship Hall -Free Event
<b>27</b> 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal in Choir room. Serving/Missions/ Welcoming Mtg. 11:45am in Rm. 203	<b>28</b> <i>Mark your calendars- Monday Noon Bible Study will begin in 2008!</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <i>"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain..." Psalm 127:1</i>	<b>31</b> <i>9am - 6pm poll-worker training in sanctuary</i>		

- January is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the 3-Year Strategic Plan.
- Please remember to submit to Rev. Dr. Ken J. Walden three suggestions you would like considered in our plan and ways you will help to accomplish them.

## A Wilshire Profile

### Don Harris, CEO & Founder, Inner City Cycling Connection Inc.

Written by Sister Tammy Lee



Don Harris of South Los Angeles, California is a native of Belize who as a child enjoyed the childhood pastime of bicycle riding and today still enjoys cycling. In fact, as a child, he enjoyed it so much, that he joined a cycling club and perfected the art of cycling and went on to compete in his teen years. Though, he did not reach the Tour de France, it was always his goal to show others how they could.

From this passion, Don birthed in 2001, the Martin Luther King Classic Bike Races held each Martin Luther King Holiday, right before the parade in Los Angeles, California and highlights captured by the local NBC Affiliate. This year, the Classic is presented as a centerpiece to a Cycling Street Festival taking place Sunday, January 20, 2008 in the South Los Angeles community of Leimert Park. The all day affair includes professional class competitions, a street festival with emphasis on the bicycle industry, its advocates and a community recreational cycling challenge.

In 2008, Don will introduce the Inner City Cycling Connection (IC3) Junior Cyclist High School Development Program in conjunction with the annual Classic. Similar to other competitive co-curricular sporting activities such as basketball, football, soccer, golf and swimming, cycling now emerges as the new sport for everyday lifestyles in the inner city. Cycling is good for health and fitness, and personal best development. We also are contributing to the reduction of toxic emissions and greening of the urban community.

Don, a devout Christian has been a member of Wilshire United Methodist Church since 1979. Just recently he accepted a new-year calling as the new President of the congregation's Methodist Men's Fellowship.

A social agenda for the group is developing to include such issues as aggression and domestic violence, teen pregnancy, STD's, HIV/AIDS and other serious health and wellness issues, along with physical fitness, high unemployment and how to address stress.

Don is an active member of his community, a Vietnam veteran, father of four grown children, and a grandfather of four. He has a son who is currently serving in Iraq. He asks that we pray for his son fighting the war in Iraq and for his safe return.

Remember that you're invited to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Classic Bike Races. Visit the website at [www.ic3cycling.com](http://www.ic3cycling.com) or call Don at (323) 839-5012 for information, volunteering, scheduling and marketing opportunities. Call, sign-up and come out and help us make the Classic yet another great sporting event!

Note from the Editor: Don considers Tammy Lee his "Sister in spiritual bonding." "Sister Lee," as she wants to be called has from the outset, expressed her desire to write Don's personal profile, and here in final print emailed to me is Don's personal, humanitarian, civic, and spiritual portfolio.

Lina Ramos

## Alan Goree Selected by Beverly Hills Optimist Club

The Beverly Hill chapter of the International Optimist Clubs selected Alan Goree from among the eight grade students at John Burroughs Middle School for their 2007 Youth Appreciation Award. His selection was based upon his achievements at school as well as in the community. Alan and awardees from other schools will be treated to a luncheon on November 15, 2007 and will also be acknowledged at the chapter's 80<sup>th</sup> celebration in June 2008.

Optimist International is an international service club organization with 3,200 clubs and over 103,000 members in 200 countries around the world. The Optimist International's motto is "Friend of Youth." They demonstrate their caring attitude by providing hope and positive vision to bring out the best in kids.



## Hello Dali!

By Lina Ramos

Volunteer, Museum Service Council  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)

To art lovers, aficionados, and devotees, don't miss Dali Painting and Film on exhibit at LACMA until January 6, 2008. It started October 14, 2007. The exhibit was organized by Tate Modern, London in collaboration with Dali Foundation, Spain and LACMA. On view at the museum are his important works, sketches, interesting letters and designs related to his film projects. The exhibition examines the influence of cinema on Dali's canvasses and his collaboration in Hollywood with the likes of Walt Disney and Alfred Hitchcock.

First and foremost, Salvador Dali is a modernist, and avant garde, a surrealist painter. Surrealism deals with the subconscious of dreamlike state, of abstract ideas. People may love or loathe his art, but the role of art is to stimulate ideas, provoke thoughts, and challenge ways of seeing. With this in mind, non-admirers of Dali may still change their perception of surrealistic art after viewing the exhibit.

LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd.,  
Los Angeles, CA 90036.  
(323) 857-6000 / LACMA.ORG

### COME ENJOY AN EVENING OF FUN AT OUR *INTERNATINAL FOLKLORE and DINNER*

Presented By

*The Diverse Ethnic Groups of the English Ministry of*

**WILSHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**FEATURING**

**DAMI MADUGU – AFRICAN & LATIN AMERICAN DANCER &  
HER GROUP**

**DANCE TO THE SOUND OF THE CARIBBEAN BREEZE BAND**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 15, 2007, 6:00 P.M.**

**AT**

**WILSHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
4350 WILSHIRE BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90010  
HALL OF FELLOWSHIP**

**DONATION: ADULTS \$25.00 CHILDREN \$10.00**

**Tickets/Information**

**323 939-3041**

**OR**

**323 931-1085**

**ENJOY ENTERTAINMENT, ETHNIC FOODS, DANCING**



District Superintendent Grant Hagiya visits Wilshire

Left to right: Ted Slaughter, Joe Leverette, Rev. Dr. Grant Hagiya, Connee Freeman, Rev. Mee Sue Park, Michelle Walden and Phil Freeman



Rev. Dr. Grant Hagiya delivers the Sunday sermon.

# Happy New Year

**JOIN YOUR PASTOR ON A JOURNEY TOWARD TITHING IN 2008!**

I am personally asking you to join me on a journey toward tithing, giving the first 10% of our income to the church. It causes us to practice spiritual and real dependence of faith in God. It also allows our church Wilshire UMC, to be good stewards of God's gifts to us as we serve our members, the community, and world. Remember, giving ultimately helps the giver. Choose a percentage of your income that will cause you to continue to spiritually grow. If this is your first time beginning your tithing journey, I suggest you begin at 5% or 7%. A tithing chart is below to help guide you as you prayerfully consider to join us on our *Journey Toward Tithing in 2008!*

***But you are to seek the place the LORD your GOD will choose from among all tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go; there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. There, in the presence of the Lord your GOD, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the LORD your God has blessed you. (Deuteronomy 12:5-7)***

<u>Yearly Income</u>	<u>Pledge at 5%</u>	<u>Pledge at 7%</u>	<u>Pledge at 10%</u>
\$15,000	\$750	\$1,050	\$1,500
\$25,000	\$1,250	\$1,750	\$2,500
\$30,000	\$1,500	\$2,100	\$3,000
\$50,000	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000
\$70,000	\$3,500	\$4,900	\$7,000
\$90,000	\$4,500	\$6,300	\$9,000
\$100,000	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$10,000

***Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. (Malachi 3:10)***

**Board of Trustees**

*By Ted Slaughter*

The fiscal year usually passes quickly for members of the Board of Trustees (BOT); this year was no exception. We started the year looking at changing investment firms that handle our foundation trust account. The Board vote was affirmative for moving our account to Bernstein Global Wealth Management. Everything seemed simple enough when it came to making this happen. As they say, the devil is in the details.

**Issue:**

1. Our old investment account was under the Wilshire UMC name and tax ID number. Wilshire UMC Foundation is a separate corporation from Wilshire UMC and the Foundation needed a separate tax ID number – work, work, work.
2. The new tax ID number had to be registered with the United Church General Council on Finance and Administration (GCAF) so that it would be under the non profit group ruling umbrella of the United Methodist Church.
3. Wilshire UMC wasn't registered either.  
We needed a GCFA church number and no one seemed to have a record of Wilshire's number.

*Continued on pp 11 "BOT"*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY WILSHIRE FAMILY MEMBERS!

The following members of the Wilshire Family will celebrate birthdays in December and January:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b><u>December:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 ... Monique Bassey</li> <li>2 ... Angelica Eka</li> <li>3 ... George Rupkey</li> <li>7 ... Sean Collins</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 ... Maggie Cooper</li> <li>17 ... Nikkia Edwards</li> <li>18 ... Dulce Gunning</li> <li>25 ... Paul Ambrosio</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b><u>January:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 ... Natasha Edwards</li> <li>1 ... Lori Jones</li> <li>1 ... Alexander Wilson</li> <li>6 ... Jordan Cooper</li> <li>8 ... Aaron Edwards</li> <li>8 ... Charles Reneau</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 ... Carl Noel</li> <li>17 ... Destiny Claycomb</li> <li>20 ... Allison Moore</li> <li>23 ... Leah Noel</li> <li>25 ... LeRoy Hardiman, Jr.</li> <li>27 ... Leia Harbour</li> </ul> |

*“BOT” Continued from pp 10*

**Solution:**

All issues were worked one at a time. The Foundation has a separate tax ID number; Wilshire UMC and Wilshire UMC Foundation are now both registered with GCAF under the group non profit umbrella; The funds have been moved to Bernstein.

The Conference changed the carrier for our liability insurance. Wilshire got the luck of the draw for an audit. We are still working off the audit dings. We are looking forward to completing the audit by making repairs and renovations that will satisfy the auditors and Wilshire. The first buildings on this campus were built in 1921 (I will include some history in future articles); It is a lot of work keeping them pristine. The 2008 Board will meet in January of 2008 with the election of officers as the first thing on the agenda. Then, it will be back to laying out a maintenance plan and working the plan.

Keep us in your prayer as we go about doing our work; remember as we work you are in our prayers.

2008 BOT

	Korean	English	Filipino
Class of 2008	Ki Youl Ryu	Douglas Perez	Ruben Dugay
Class of 2009	Julie Sohn	Elon Gunning	Clem Marciano
Class of 2010	Helena Kim	Ted Slaughter	Aileen Grospe

Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas

**WILSHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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WILSHIRE MINISTRY  
CLERGY and PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Dr. Ken J. Walden, Pastor  
Rev. John Guillen, Pastor, Hispanic Ministry

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR  
Rev. Mee Sue Park

Music

Penny Pan, Pianist/Organist and Choir Director  
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

Wilshire Preschool

Ernest Stroman, Executive Director

The Wilshire Season

Lori Jones, Chair

Maintenance

Eliseo Lorente  
Jose Ojeda  
William Hundley

**THE VISITOR**  
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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  
Doris Howard

Aaron Edwards  
Tyronne Perriott+  
Mary Ann Johnson  
Juel Collins  
Constance Orme  
Anne Smith  
Seth Shockley+  
Thelma Pittman  
Rosalie Turner

+ Tyrone Perriott and Seth Shockley are serving in the armed forces. Edward Jivanni Lorrente is also serving in the armed forces and has been deployed to Iraq. Please keep them in your prayers.

## MILESTONES

A special Happy Birthday to Elspeth Hall, who celebrated her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on Halloween!

Madison and Audrey Shockley are blessed to celebrate 53 years of marriage on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Happy anniversary to a wonderful couple!

## INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE AND DINNER

By Dulce Gunning, Chair

Please join the Wilshire Family to experience a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship at our first International Folklore and Dinner Event. Come and enjoy live music, good food from many countries, a dancer, a professional stand-up comedian, and dancing! Just lean back, laugh, relax and have a GOOD TIME! Reserve your calendar ... **Saturday, December 15, 2007, 6:00 P.M. in the Hall of Fellowship.** Donation: \$25, adults; \$10, children. For more information call 323/939-3041 or 323/931-1085.

## A word from the Word

**Therefore I will look unto the Lord: I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.**  
**Micah 7:7 (KJV)**