

# The Willow Word

A Publication of the Willow Glen United Methodist Church

God's Family Growing Through Caring, Sharing and Serving

## Willow Glen Welcoming Statement Under Review

We have written and the Lay Leadership Council has endorsed a Willow Glen Welcoming Statement that intentionally welcomes people who tell us that they often don't feel welcomed in churches (people who are gay or lesbian, parents who are single and struggling, individuals who are disabled or don't have homes or jobs, etc.) Before we vote on approving this statement, we would like to get honest and heartfelt feedback from as many people as possible and believe that the best way to do that is to have small group discussions among friends. So Pastor Rebecca is bringing the statement to each of the small groups that meet in the church and spending some time with them to field their questions and listen to their concerns. In addition, she will lead discussions between our Sunday services for the adult Sunday School class and for any other interested church members and friends. If there is generous consensus and we feel that the congregation is ready to approve the statement, we will take an official vote at our Church Conference on October 25th and the statement will be posted on our church website. If not, we will know that we have more listening and learning to do. Whatever we do, we will do it together with love.

Once again, here is the statement that was crafted by a team of lay leaders at WGUMC:

*In Jesus Christ, God reaches out to everyone to call them home, and here at Willow Glen UMC, we open our hearts and intentionally welcome you into our home, into our church family, and into a closer relationship with God.*

*No matter your race or cultural background, age or abilities, sexual orientation or gender identity, marital status or family situation, financial circumstances or personal challenges, the Jesus we know already loves you and that is what we are here to do.*

*So honor us with the opportunity to get to know you, worship with you, listen, share and grow in God's love with you. The wider we draw the circle of grace, the more we know and experience the love of God.*

We welcome your comments and questions. Even if you cannot make any of our scheduled discussion sessions, you can always make an appointment with one of the pastors or speak with any member of the Lay Leadership Council. Your perspective is important to us because everyone's story is part of our faith story.

## Church Conference October 25

Our Annual Church Conference will be held on Sunday, October 25. Everyone is invited to attend, and all church members can vote.

We will be electing church officers and affirming lay leaders in various ministries and approving pastoral compensation packages for 2016. We may also be voting to adopt the Willow Glen Welcoming Statement that will be added to our church website (see article, above). Watch your worship bulletins and church emails in the coming weeks for more details about the meeting.



### October 2015

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## Sunday Worship

**8:45 – 9:45 a.m.**  
Contemporary Worship

**9:45 – 10:00 a.m.**  
Fellowship Time

**10:00 – 10:45 a.m.**  
Christian Education/Sunday School

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
Traditional Service

**12:00 – 12:30 p.m.**  
Fellowship Time

## Church Staff

Rebecca Ireland  
Senior Pastor

Susan Smith  
Pastor of Children &  
Family Ministries

Lisa Jacobs  
Director of  
Joint Youth Ministries

Lorene Sheridan  
Director of  
Weekday Ark Ministries

Robert Birnstihl  
Organist & Director  
of Music Ministries

Tom Mounts  
Director,  
the Willow Glen Ringers

Dee Davis  
Office & Facilities Manager

Karen Kwon  
Wedding Coordinator

## A Season of Love

The change of seasons is always a special time, but this year, more special than most. After a long season of funerals, I am very happy to announce that we are stepping into a season of weddings! I congratulate Gerri Hodson and Bob Normant, who took the vows of marriage on a beautiful afternoon in September at Asilomar in an outdoor ceremony overlooking the Pacific Ocean. C.J. Baker, our former youth assistant, and Katrina Kraynick, our current assistant youth director, are tying the knot at Cambrian Park UMC on October 3. Two weeks later, we will celebrate the wedding of Katie Pense and Drew Roberts in the Woodhaven Garden. And that's not all. Next year, we are looking forward to the weddings of Luke Rankin and Julie Hall, Alison Praisewater and Jean Joseph (aka Goulit, from Haiti), Summer Latimer and Christopher Bennett! At Willow Glen, we have been trying hard to spread God's Word of love, and it appears to be working!

One of my favorite things about this congregation is that we are truly intergenerational. What this means is that on a regular basis we get to experience and celebrate the whole cycle of life, from womb to tomb, as they say. WGUMC is a living laboratory for learning how to follow Jesus at every stage of life's journey. Anyone who comes here can look around and find someone who is going through what they are going through and can find others who have "been there, done that" and can offer support and encouragement. We are here for each other, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, and as long as we do not forsake Christ, even death cannot part us.

Thanks be to God!

*Rebecca*



## October Is Laity Month

Traditionally, the third Sunday in October is Laity Sunday, a day to celebrate the ministry of the lay (non-ordained) people in the church. This year, we are celebrating the entire month of October. Pastor Rebecca has her last chemotherapy treatment on September 28, and we will get to hear from several lay preachers as she recuperates and begins radiation treatment. Here is the schedule for October:

**October 4:** Susan Smith preaches on "Our Family Tree: Roots and Branches." Her text is Romans 12:1-2, 9-18.

**October 11:** Traci Mennicucci preaches.

**October 18:** Steve Quigley preaches on Happiness.

**October 25:** Lisa Jacobs preaches.

## Woodhaven Garden Workday

Our new Garden Group is meeting for a workday on Saturday, October 3, at 9:00 a.m. They will be getting the garden ready for Katie Pense's outdoor wedding on October 17. If you'd like to help out, they would welcome you!

**Our Ministry to the Houseless Continues...**

## "Exodus from the Jungle"

**Saturday, October 24, 2:00 p.m. in Kohlstedt Hall**

It was a great joy to welcome over 60 houseless friends for a bar-becue on August 29. What a delight to be in fellowship with them and offer an afternoon of hospitality and peace. This is a community that has been rocked over the past year since the closing of the Jungle, and they were so happy catch up with old friends and make new ones, too.

The Building Hope team would like to invite you to learn more about the closing of the Jungle and consider our faithful response at a viewing of a new documentary, "Exodus from the Jungle." We will show this half-hour movie in Kohlstedt Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 24, followed by faithful conversation about our reactions and response. We hope you will come and support our houseless community in continuing to work for housing and hope.



## Change the Conversation

By Gwyne Grubb

On a sunny Sunday morning at body builders a few people were talking about church stuff and the talk turned to giving. Their conversation centered on this question: What would happen if we changed how we give to be more like how we live -- as people who strive to live as disciples of Christ every day? That started a longer conversation that led to ideas around how we might change the way we think and act on our giving so that giving is an everyday natural part of who we are as people of God. We want to change the conversation about giving from an annual pledge event that runs for a few weeks to a continuous narrative centered on the people and works we do in the world as the living body of Christ here at Willow Glen United Methodist Church.

Keep an eye and ear out for more here and around...help us change the conversation.

## WGUMC Financial Snapshot

Year-to-Date Through August 2015

	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Giving</b>	247,272	233,460
<b>Other Income</b>	44,001	46,796
<b>TOTAL</b>	291,273	280,256
<b>Expense</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	286,224	298,614
	Actual	Budget
<b>Apportionments</b>	18,585	21,240
<b>Special Offerings</b>	4,067	-



### **CrossWalk Faith and Fellowship for Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders**

Friday, October 9  
7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Kohlstedt Hall & Wesley Room  
Theme: Be wise... like an ant?  
Scripture: Proverbs 6:6-8

What wisdom can an ant teach us? Let's dig into the Bible and find out! We're exploring the wisdom found in Proverbs and how it can help us live faithfully. The ants will show us the value of working hard and taking action, and we'll consider the rewards of taking some initiative in our own lives. As always, there will be fun and friends, food and fellowship at CrossWalk.

CrossWalk is for all third, fourth and fifth graders. Bring a friend!

E-mail Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org) to ask any questions, let her know you are coming, or just say "hi!"

## **It's Time to Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF!**

For more than 60 years, kids have trick-or-treated for UNICEF, making a difference in the lives of kids in need all around the world. You can, too! Pick up your orange trick-or-treat box from Pastor Susan and start collecting donations from family, friends and neighbors. You can even wear your costume to church on Halloween weekend and trick-or-treat for UNICEF among your church family at fellowship time. Let's help make a difference in their lives this Halloween!



## **The Gift of a Bible**

It has been said that giving a child a book will open the world to them. If that book is a Bible, the stories of God's love and power will allow them to step out into the world with a personal foundation of faith and hope. It is our tradition to give each third and fourth grader a Bible of their own that will guide their faith journey into adulthood. We will give these gifts in worship on Sunday, October 18, and celebrate the spiritual growth of our children.

## **Welcome My-Thuan!**

It is a pleasure to introduce My-Thaun Phan as our new child caregiver in the nursery on Sunday mornings. My-Thuan is an experienced preschool teacher who loves to read and sing and play. We are thrilled to have her as part of our children's ministry team nurturing children as they grow in faith. Please stop by the nursery and welcome My-Thuan to our church family.

## **Planning Advent Family Nights**

For the past few years, we have gathered weekly for a family meal and activity in Woodhaven during Advent. We would love to continue this tradition with your help. Please contact Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org) if you would like to make this family ministry possible this Advent season. We will all meet together in early October to plan our Advent activities and then work together to publicize, prepare and lead them for our church family.





## COP21 in Paris, and Beyond... What You Can Do to Make Our Planet Safer for Our Future



**Are you one of the 2/3 of all Americans** who are very concerned about climate change and now recognize that humans, and our burning of fossil fuels, are the major cause of global warming?

**Are you the member of a group** and would you like to get your congregation, your school, your community organization, your social or climate justice group, your fellow workers, to more fully embrace the climate change action movement and the move to renewable energy?

If you answered "Yes" to these questions, then please come (representing your group) to one of our **Fall 2015 Climate Workshops** to get an update on climate change and the global climate movement. We'll provide a complete **Climate Action Toolkit** for you to use with your organization to get them excited, engaged, and mobilized.

**Saturday, October 10th, 1:00-3:30PM, First Congregational Church**  
**1985 Louis Rd. Palo Alto, Ca 94303**

**Saturday, October 17th, 1:00-3:30PM, St. Paul's United Methodist Church**  
**405 S. 10th Street, San Jose, Ca 95112**

**To register** or for further information about the **Palo Alto** Climate Workshop, click [here](#) and for the **San Jose** Climate Workshop click [here](#) (or go to [www.350siliconvalley.org/calendar](http://www.350siliconvalley.org/calendar)).

**Speaking of Mobilization**, mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 21**, for the Northern California Climate Mobilization (see [www.norcalclimatemob.net](http://www.norcalclimatemob.net) for details)..this could be the largest out-pouring of support for climate action now in Northern California, right before COP21 in Paris.



## Women's Groups

Open to all, newcomers are welcome. Please call the contact listed below for information.

### Friendship Circle

Wednesday, October 21  
1:00 p.m.  
Woodhaven  
Contact Sue Johnson

### Heart and Hand

Thursday, October 15  
7:00 p.m.  
Woodhaven  
Contact Susan Smith

UMW Executive Board will meet Monday, October 12, at 10:00 a.m. in the Wesley Room. UMW is open to all women regardless of church membership.

For more information about UMW, call Patricia Madsen.

The deadline for the November *Willow Word* is October 25. Please send your story ideas and submissions to Leslie Chamberlain

## Women's Gathering Place

UMW is scheduled to visit the Women's Gathering Place on Monday, October 5. Members and friends will be leaving the church at 11:30 a.m. to take food and personal gifts to our friends who gather at First Presbyterian Church in downtown San Jose. These are women without permanent housing, most of whom are living on the streets of San Jose. They welcome the food and gifts we bring, but they seem to most appreciate and enjoy our being with them for a few hours of visiting and quiet activities, such as knitting, puzzles and card games. We usually are there from noon to around 3:00 p.m.

Newcomers are always welcome, and we appreciate gifts of clothing, underwear (especially in larger sizes), socks, sanitary items and personal items such as lotion, etc. We would also welcome monetary donations to help finance the cost of the food we provide. As this is a project of United Methodist Women, checks may be made to UMW, noted for Women's Gathering Place. We have now been given a regular date for our visits to WGP: It will be the first Monday of each month. To volunteer to help in any way, please contact Pat Farrow at patricia.farrow@gmail.com.



## UMW Annual Conference Celebration

Saturday, October 17  
8:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
(8:00-8:45 a.m. Registration)  
Merced United Methodist Church  
899 Yosemite Parkway, Merced  
(see registration forms in office hallway)

## UMW Annual District Celebration October 24

This year's Annual District Celebration, with the theme "Celebrate Diversity!," will feature keynote speaker Rev. Staci Current, El Camino Real District Superintendent. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., and the event will run until 3:30 p.m. (lunch included). It will be held at Hope United Methodist Church in South San Francisco. The deadline to register is October 19; see forms in the office hallway.

For more information about either the District or Conference celebrations, please contact Patricia Madsen at pamadsen@hotmail.com.

## Heart and Hand Is Together Again, and Welcomes New Members

### Thursday, October 15

Heart and Hand is a UMW circle that meets monthly for fellowship and support, prayer and study. We will be meeting this year on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm in Woodhaven, but our first gathering is October 15 (which is not the first Thursday, we know). We invite you to join us for prayer and fellowship as we decide what to read and study together this fall. We do not know where the journey of life will take us, but we can travel it together.

## Want to Make a Joyful Noise?

Calling all musicians! Would you like to help us celebrate Christmas musically? If you play an instrument and would be interested in playing together with others at Christmas, please contact Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)). With enough interest and commitment, we will create an ensemble for the season.



## New Speaker Screens in Sanctuary!!

It's a good thing we don't always know what we are getting into when we agree to work on a project. We're not sure the men who replaced the old speaker screens would have attempted the job if they had known how much effort it would take. But they not only worked for several afternoons and evenings high on scaffolding in a very hot sanctuary, they also painted over ceiling stains and replaced impossible-to-reach light bulbs as well. We are very, very grateful to our sanctuary crew: Curt Moore, Steve Quigley, Jim Pierson, Bob Birnstihl, Jeff Chamberlain and Jose Soler. And thank you to Thomas Feucht of TF Designs, who loaned us the scaffolding. Well done!

## New Freezer in the Chair Room!

Thank you to Ruth Granfors and the Board of Trustees for getting us a new energy-efficient freezer for the chair room. It will be very useful during church potlucks and dinners, Vacation Bible School and youth group events.

## How Can United Methodists Respond to Northern California Fires?

Your support for the California-Nevada Conference Disaster Response Fund will be most helpful right now. This fund is almost completely depleted. This fund allows us to send financial support immediately to United Methodists involved in disaster response work across our annual conference. We have received grants from the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) for Rocky/Lake County Fire, and the Butte/Amador County Fire. Our Conference Disaster Response Fund has allowed us to meet immediate needs until UMCOR grants arrive, and to meet needs not covered with those grants. UMCOR grants require some matching funds from the conference whenever possible. Money from our Conference Disaster Response Fund yields many thousands of dollars in UMCOR grants to the conference for disaster response.

For churches wishing to donate through the California-Nevada Conference for immediate relief for the fire disasters, make checks payable to "California-Nevada Annual Conference," and write "CN Disaster Response" in the memo line. Churches can add their donation on their tithing form and annotate in the area as "other designated giving." Mail checks to the California-Nevada Conference Center, P.O. Box 980250, West Sacramento, CA 95798-0250. For churches, or persons, wishing to donate online, go to [cnumc.org](http://cnumc.org).

## Mission Possible Thanks You

Jose Soler and Kindra Ahrens, along with the entire Mission Possible Team, would like to thank all the hardworking volunteers and all those who donated to our successful Third Annual WGUMC Yard Sale!

It was great to see the church come together for this event. And let's not forget the wonderful food! Rosa Soler and the bake sale were so successful! Erica Ganz and Elva's Breakfast Burritos couldn't be beat (and everyone loved the Pizza!). Cross Walk Kids helped everyone by selling sweets and drinks – thank you all!



This event is not possible without a huge effort. A special "thank you" goes out to Brian Ganz for loaning us his trucks, his trailer, his time, and his ever-present support. Total fundraising for our three-day effort: \$9,300.00! Thank you all! God is good, all the time!

# Walk To Emmaus Retreat Coming to WGUMC in November

By Ingrid Quigley

**For Men: Thursday, November 5 (6:00 p.m.) – Sunday, November 8 (6:00 p.m.)**

**For Women: Thursday, November 12 (6:00 p.m.) – Sunday, November 15 (6:00 p.m.)**

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen our local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood, and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all." Your experience begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion.

In order to participate, please contact one of these WG Emmaus Community members and they will tell you more and give you an application form: Jose or Rosa Soler; Steve or Ingrid Quigley; Tom or Gwyne Grubb; Craig Ramsay; Kathy Benedict; Ruth Granfors; Kristin Kufeldt; Traci Menicucci; Stan Praisewater.



## Willow Glen United Methodist Church

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