

Westview Presbyterian Church

118 FIRST STREET

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Westview Chimes
www.westviewpc.org

August 2017

Discovering in Cuba a joyful faith that cannot be squelched by adversity!

We stepped back into the 50's: Charming beautiful cars meticulously maintained since the 50's; a warm friendly people not addicted to their cell phones; alive with music: Salsa, Cha-Cha-Cha, Mambo, Rumba; 17th century architecture in the downtown; some of the worlds best, pristine beaches. However, weighing on this was the heavy burden of a communist dictatorship and a 57 year embargo that has left the country extremely impoverished. Pushed down also was the church. Since the Revolution of 1959 it has been illegal for the church to expand. New churches met in secret in house churches, slowly growing under the radar of the government. Pastors would expand on their house with a new "living room" in order to accommodate the growing church. Up until recently if you were a Christian you could not hold a government job and you were persecuted.



Photo above: Youth Mission Team in Cuba with their host Amanda.



Photo above: Cuba

This is the situation we stepped into on our youth mission trip to Cuba July 13-21. We have a wonderful team of Kris, Hazel, Ian, Izabel, Jordan, and Rev. Hoffman. We went with the Experience Mission agency working alongside local churches near Veradero, Cuba. We got the honor of meeting "Bennie," (name changed to protect him) a Cuban pastor. He shared with us about what it was like to grow up as a Christian in the 1960's in Cuba. On his first day of school, when in 3rd grade, his tall menacing teacher stood in front of the class and asked Bennie to come forward and stand beside him in front of all the students. He asked Bennie if he was a Christian, to which he replied "yes" and smiled proudly. The teacher said, "Well then let's see if this God you believe in his real," and he proceeded to pray for a bike for Bennie. He waited, then announced, "where is the bike? There is no bike! You are a fool to believe in a fictitious God. Bennie is a fool." Then the teacher proceeded to explain further how foolish it is to be a Christian. Bennie than sat down humiliated, but even worse this demonstration gave permission for all the other kids to bully him from that day forward...and bully they did! He was always getting beat up. He found protection with another student who too had been bullied and then found his way into a gang and drugs. Bennie, now in his 50's, is a very charismatic pastor who's calling is to help connect ministries and people. We got to work on his organic farm, the proceeds of which supports many house churches and a ministry to families who have special needs children. He beams with God's love and a joy that cannot be squelched even by the poverty they face, the government that continues to limit their growth, or the many obstacles in their path.

I learned so much in Cuba, but one lesson definitely stood out for me: Faith grows in adversity. Pastor Bennie and all the Christians we met had a vibrant, alive faith that guided their lives, fed them, and spilled out through their actions of love to others!

(Youth Mission Trip to Cuba continued on back page...)

(Youth Mission Trip to Cuba continued...)

How have my comforts stifled my faith? How do I shy away from difficult situations and hence keep my faith from growing?

How can I step into the difficulties set before me with more faith and more joyful trust in my Good Father?

I hope my faith can be filled with as much confidence in God, and my life can be filled with as much joy in spite of difficulties, as my Cuban brothers and sisters. I definitely feel blessed by them far more than anything we did for them as we did a kids club for the special needs persons, worked on a concrete foundation for a ministry center, and listened to and prayed for the many house church pastors.

Please keep Pastor Bennie and the Cuban Christians in your prayers. I am grateful for all you who supported our youth mission with your prayers, time, and donations! You are an amazing church family and we felt very supported by you! God bless you and may you walk through your next difficulty with an even more profound sense of a strong faith in God that is your firm foundation, and a sense of God's deep joy that cannot be squelched by adversity!

Much love,
Pastor Dan



Photos above (starting from left): First two photos are two special needs people that the Youth Mission Team visited and later delivered food to in Cuba. Photo on right is a mom shedding a tear after the Youth Mission Team visited her special needs son.



Photos above (starting from left): The Youth Mission Team visiting a Cuba Special Needs Kids Club. Photo on the right are members of the Youth Mission Team distributing food in Cuba.

Worship Team for August 6, 2017

Pulpit	Rev. Dan Hoffman
Chair	Lynne Nagata
Greeter	Diane Mio
Usher	Steve Kajihara
Pianist	Joanne Hayashi
Counters	Edna Nagata, Lynne Nagata
Refreshments	Evelyn Veal, Diane Mio

Worship Team for August 13, 2017

Pulpit	Rev. Dan Hoffman
Chair	David Kadotani
Greeter	Dick Wong
Usher	Jane Yoshida
Pianist	Evelyn Veal
Counters	Edna Nagata, Lynne Nagata
Refreshments	Shirley Wong, Lynne Nagata

Worship Team August 20, 2017

Pulpit	Rev. Mick Erickson
Chair	Lynne Nagata
Greeter	Elijah Veal
Usher	Paul Jackson
Pianist	Joanne Hayashi
Counters	Jane Yoshida, Steve Kajihara
Refreshments	Nancy Shott, Leslie Hoffman

Worship Team for August 27, 2017

Pulpit	Rev. Dan Hoffman
Chair	Susan Manabe
Greeter	Shirley Wong
Usher	Sheri Katsuyama
Pianist	Lynne Nagata
Counters	Jane Yoshida, Steve Kajihara
Refreshments	Susan Manabe, Joanne Hayashi

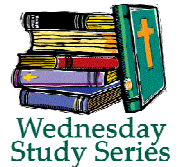
Help Your Youth/Children Grow a Strong Foundation in Christ!!
Youth/Family Upcoming Events:

Gym Nites are usually the **1st** and **3rd Friday** of each month, from **5:30 – 7:30 pm**, at **Westview**. Mark your calendars for the following dates (**Please note that dates for August are the 2nd and 4th Friday**):

- **August 11th: Gym Nite, Westview, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm**
- **August 25th: Date, time and location TBA**

Sunday Message Series: - In **August** we will **begin** a series **“None Like God”** based on a **book by Jen Wilken**. God is self-existent, self-sufficient, eternal, immutable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, sovereign, infinite, and incomprehensible. We are **NOT**, and that is a good thing. We will learn about the qualities God has that we do not and learn to celebrate the freedom that comes when we rest in letting God be God!

Wednesday Study Series: We will **resume** with **Chapter 7** on **August 9, 6:30 pm** every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at **Paloma Del Mar 2030 Pajaro Lane** in **Freedom**. We are **studying John Ortberg’s** book, ***The Life You’ve Always Wanted***. We are studying how to grow the spiritual practices in our lives in this modern world that will be the center and fount from which we live and thrive! It has been a delight to make new friends and be a church with them at Paloma Del Mar!



Please mark your calendar for the following dates in August: **August 9th, August 23rd**



We will **resume** tutoring again in **August**. Many of our students have much need for help in math and reading! Our Tutors are awesome!—Mary Lou Hoffman, Diane Mio, Susan Manabe, Pastor Dan, and Joanne Hayashi and Eiko Stewart!

If you want to join us **Thursdays 3:45 - 5:00 pm** let us know!

It has been a delight to reach out with love and care for our neighbors.



Westview will **resume** preparing and serving meals to the **Salvation Army** in **December**.



Please pray for those in our Westview congregation, church family, and for those who are ill or are recovering including:

Betty Yagi, Alan Yagi, Emily Takemoto, Melissa Medrano, Tina Katsuyama, Waldo Rodler, The Hayashi Family, Doug Warner, Dorothy Mayeda, The Family of Matthew Sakata, Charlene Nakamura, Elijah Veal, Gary Brooten, Leslie Hoffman, Rev. Mick Erickson, Marie Nakamoto, Louise Sako, Karen Hirahara, Ted & Shigeo Tahira, Dr. Masako Miura, Randy Hongo, Fred & Paula Sugidono, Laura Cass, Shirley Koda, and Toshio Kato.

❧ **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** ❧

Youth Mission Fund

Jason & Diane Hall Mas & Marcia Hashimoto Gretchen Warner Diane Mio
Dr. Dennis & Linda Eguchi Dr. Art & Joanne Hayashi Robert & Jane Yoshida
Willie Yahiro

Easter

T. T. Miyasaka and Carol Miyasaka

Capital Campaign

Diane Mio

General Offering

Sheri Katsuyama Sharon Gray
