

# Good News!

The newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

April 2004

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2004

Paper is (nearly) out and e-mail and the Internet are in. Registration for 156th session of the California Nevada Conference June 16-19 in Fresno will take place by computer. Registration forms and housing information is available to download from [www.cnumc.org](http://www.cnumc.org). If you must receive a printed copy of materials, you can call the conference at (916) 374-1544 and request a copy. For a complete listing of information, visit the conference web site and click on ACS 2004.

## GENERAL CONFERENCE APRIL 27 – MAY 7, 2004!

Please keep our General Conference in prayer this month. Many important and pressing issues will be brought to G.C. this year including plans for Africa University, a Restructuring Proposal, changes in the denominations pension plan and healthcare costs, a report on Holy Communion, a proposal for a new division for young people, General Funds budget, World Service Budget and many proposals from agencies and commissions including proposed changes in our Social Principles.

The conference meets this year in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Updates may be found on the web either through our conference web site or the general church web page. The outcome of G.C. will affect us for years to come! God bless all who will give their time, gifts and presence to the work of our worldwide church.

## PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT!!!

The playground equipment is up. But not ready to play on yet. We have worked this last month to get it all put together and in the ground. Now we need to raise \$1,300.00 to buy the ground bark that has to go on the ground for safety regulations. Just as soon as we have the bark down the playground will be opened to allow the children to play on. **THANK YOU TO:** Bill Rose, Barbara and Roger Grams, Rich Bonzo, Andy Hansen-Smith, and Ian Goudeock for your help putting this together.

## NEW ON THE WEB

Memorial's web site now has Pastor Denice's sermons available. Take a look if you miss a Sunday. Print a copy to take to someone else. Also you can find the full version of next Sunday's Order of Worship on the site. If you wish, you can print a copy on Saturday to bring to Sunday's service. A new help wanted section is also added.

As usual, the news section is updated once or twice a week. Please email webmaster, Ron Zastovnik, [ronz@clovismumc.org](mailto:ronz@clovismumc.org) with any additions, suggestions, or corrections. Bookmark the site as one of your Favorites so you can return to it often and easily.

[WWW.CLOVISMUMC.ORG](http://WWW.CLOVISMUMC.ORG).

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## Care Ministries

Giving Special Care to Others

### **SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM REPORT March 9, 2004 Meeting**

Our opening worship centered on the "Prayer of St. Francis" (No. 481 in our hymnal) attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, 1181-1226, but not known in print until 1913: "Lord, Make me an instrument of your peace...". We sang John Wesley's "Rule of Life" Do all the good you can...".

The nine of us present worked on a draft of a care card, later reviewed by our Church Council, to respond to 1) the need to know whom to contact when a church member or friend has an emergency (e.g., faints at a church meeting) and 2) Recent restrictions protecting privacy of information. Here is our current draft for your suggestions:

"1) I authorize Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis to contact \_\_\_\_\_, my \_\_\_\_\_ at (Telephone) \_\_\_\_\_, address \_\_\_\_\_ in case of emergency.

2) I \_\_\_\_\_ GIVE// \_\_\_\_\_ DO NOT GIVE \_\_\_\_\_ permission to have my prayer concerns shared: \_\_\_\_\_ in Worship Service; \_\_\_\_\_ with Prayer Chain; \_\_\_\_\_ with Pastor only. (Please check appropriate box or boxes.) This information will be kept only in a card file in the Church Office.

Next meeting will be in the Conference Room at 1:30 pm Tuesday, April 13. Come visit! Laurence Hill, chair.

## DICIPLES CORNER

Disciples Corner is your space. You are invited to share your spiritual struggles, experiences, stories, insights, victories here. Your words will bring inspiration and support to all of us as we seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus. Together we will all hear the Holy Spirit speaking through us and to us! And we will grow in faith and the strength of the Lord. Submit your reflections to our Good News editor at [Mumc@clovismumc.org](mailto:Mumc@clovismumc.org) by the 15th of each month. This is a new item and unfortunately, we had no submissions for this month.

## Worship Ministry

News from the teams that support the Sunday worship services.

*"Make a joyful noise to the LORD...  
Serve the Lord with gladness!" (Psalm 100)*



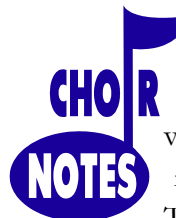
## Music Notes

### **FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING**

Our Chime Choir, Fellowship of the Ring, has rehearsal every Sunday at 4:00. All are invited to come. For more information, see Janette Erickson or Sue DeFranco.

### **SING UNTO THE LORD!**

The choir is always welcoming new voices. All who would like to sing are invited to join us in rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.



## WELCOMERS NEEDED

Our new "Welcomer" Ministry, approved by the Church Council 3/10, needs friendly folks to greet visitors AFTER worship and introduce them around. Two people have already volunteered, and we can use up to 14 more. Laurence Hill will be a Welcomer and offer brief practice sessions with the group for three Sundays after church. Call Laurence to ask questions or volunteer.

## GRANT PROVIDES 8 MORE SR-50'S

Thanks to the United Methodist Women of our California/Nevada Annual Conference, we now have eight (8) new SR-50 hearing assistant devices which bring the words of Scripture, Choir and Sermon in closer on Sunday morning. Please let Laurence Hill (322-5853) know what type of earplug you think would work best for you. These little radios are to be found in a basket as you come into the sanctuary. This grant comes from the sale of the Beulah Home, a residence for older people, once owned by the U.M.W.

### Congregational Life

News of the church life and the groups that meet for fellowship and support.

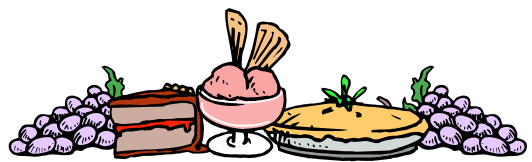
*"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:30*

## UNITED METHODIST MEN'S MEETING FOR APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>

The meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall at 8:00am where we will enjoy great fellowship and some delicious pastry and coffee. We're going to be honored with a presentation by Laurie Hill about the mission trip he and Jean had recently. You don't have to be a member so come and bring a friend and participate in that great fellowship.

## HOTENANY A WELL-KEPT SECRET!

But the secret is getting out! If you enjoy great potluck fare (in abundance!), fellowship and prayer, join us every Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the social hall. Judy Gross brings her keyboard and plays old gospel tunes for us and we conclude the evening with prayer for our community and our world. Table settings provided so just drop by the deli or store or make up a dish and come for a heartwarming time.



## THRIFT SHOP NEWS by Bev Daly

We have been asked to remind you that we have a large selection of paperback novels, priced at 5 for \$1. Check us out. Open Saturdays 9:00 to 1:00. Thank you to all who donate paperbacks. We sell a lot.

## BOUTIQUE NEWS

**WHO?** Anyone who likes to craft, sew, quilt, crochet, knit, ANY kind of crafting.  
**WHAT?** Do your own thing or participate in group projects.

**HOW?** We offer instruction, patterns, ideas, encouragement, materials, and Friendship.  
**WHEN?** 9:00 am to 11:30\* Come every Wednesday or as often as you can. \*We turn into the "Out to Lunch Bunch" at 11:30.

**WHERE?** Church Social Hall  
**WHY?** To make articles to sell at the annual November boutique, a major fund-raiser for MUMC. We would LOVE to have you.

Information: Barbara Nielsen

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

April 5 - Executive Board meeting, Library

April 20 - Regular meeting, 10 am, Social Hall.

Program: Donald Gross, Community Services. Potluck Luncheon. Bring your own service. Everyone welcome!

April 14 - Red Bird Circle, 9:30 am, Library April

24 - Wesley Circle, 1 pm, Social Hall

## SCRAPBOOKING NIGHT

Get out your pictures and share some memories. Join the scrapbooking group on the third Friday of the month in the Fellowship Hall. The fun starts at 6:00 and childcare is provided.

### Christian Education

*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable."*



## Sunday School

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:45 a.m.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 & 11:15 a.m.

Our Sunday School starts at 8:45 with music then we go to our classes and learn different things about the Bible.

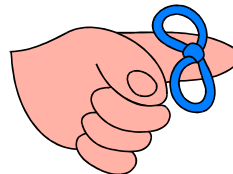
## OUR ALL STARS ARE GOING STRONG

Our Sunday program is going really well. We are starting to get our Summer program together. This year it is going to be a little difference from the years before. Thank you to everyone who has helped keep this program running smoothly.

## Youth Group News

## POVERELLO HOUSE WORK DAY

The first Saturday of every month, our youth group volunteers at Poverello House in downtown Fresno. We help serve breakfast, make sandwiches, repackage snacks, and pack the 500+ lunches that Poverello House will distribute that day. The time spent together helping other people really brings us closer together, and it lets us get a clear picture of the needs of many families in the Valley. We would love it if you could join us! We meet at the church on that first-of-the-month Saturday morning at 8 am, leave at 8:15 am promptly, and return by 11 am. If you have any questions, please contact Youth Worker Connie Alfaro



## APRIL YOUTH CALENDAR

Saturday 04/03/04	8:00 - 11:00 am
Poverello House Work Day	
Sunday 04/04/04	5:30 - 7:30 pm Meeting
Sunday 04/11/04	5:30 - 7:30 pm Meeting
Sunday 04/18/04	5:30 - 7:30 pm Meeting
Sunday 04/25/04	5:30 - 7:30 pm Meeting

# Coach's Corner

We are the pioneer church of Clovis rooted in the positive message and mission of Christ whose purpose is to demonstrate God's love in a spirit of acceptance.

Your Horizon Vision Leadership Team has been working for two years to create an intentional process for growing disciples. The team has looked at other church's efforts and reflected on our own vision and mission for a lay lead ministry in which we all seek to live out the love of God in the spirit of the grace of Jesus Christ.

Here is an overview of the process proposed for acceptance by church council. A complete copy is on the counter in the office or you may call the church and have one mailed to you. Growing as Disciples of Christ at Memorial UMC A Five Stage Process for Nurturing Faithful Discipleship:

## Stage 1: Coming to Faith

**FOCUS:** The journey of faith and the transformed life.

**Scripture:** Ephesians 3: 16-19.

**Life Questions:** "Do I want to be a Christian?"  
"What needs do I bring with me which faith and the church can address?"

**Primary Subject Matter:** Who is Jesus Christ?

**One Learning Objective:** Personally wrestle with who Jesus is.

**First Covenant of Commitment:** Attend worship faithfully and give financially.

**Stage 2: Connecting to the Church** (Also transfer members entry point.)

**FOCUS:** What it means to be part of the Body of Christ.

**Scripture:** I Corinthians 12

**Life Questions:** "How does my faith fit/connect with the church as I am coming to understand it?"

**Primary Subject Matter:** The vision, mission, core values, structure, history of MUMC and expectations for membership.

**One Learning Objective:** Know and affirm the vision and mission of MUMC.

**Second Covenant of Commitment:** Support the vision, mission and core values of MUMC.

## Stage 3: Practicing My Faith

**FOCUS:** Growing in spirit and faith as a disciple.

**Scripture:** Ephesians 4:13

**Life Question:** "What does it mean to walk with Jesus?"

**Primary Subject Matter:** Spiritual formation and understanding worship.

**Two Learning Objectives:** Develop a devotional life. Participate in a growth in faith opportunity such as Disciple Bible.

**Third Covenant of Commitment:** Commit to practicing spiritual disciplines.

**Fourth Covenant of Commitment:** Commit to growing in faith.

## Stage 4: Ministry and Mission

**FOCUS:** Discovering my gifts, passion and call to ministry.

**Scripture:** Ephesians 4:12

**Life Question:** "What is God's call for me?"

Primary Subject Matter: Discerning my gifts and graces and call to ministry.

One Learning Objective: Connect with a ministry of choice or initiate a ministry of choice in keeping with the vision and mission of MUMC.

Fifth Covenant of Commitment: Answer God's call to active ministry.

Only a small percentage of people will be interested in pursuing the final stage of this process according to their gifts, graces and God's call in their life:

Stage Five: Sustaining Visioning Leadership

FOCUS: Apostleship.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1a.

Life Question: "What is God calling me to do as a leader to grow the Church of Jesus Christ that will transform lives and the world through the gospel of Jesus Christ?"

Primary Subject Matter: Sustaining and visionary leadership for ministry and mission to the world.

Two Learning Objectives: Discern God's call for sustaining/visioning leadership and mentor and lead leaders in ministry and mission.

Sixth Covenant of Commitment: Life-long maturity in spiritual growth and discipleship as a Listening, Learning, Spiritual Teacher and Leader."

This proposal will be voted on by Council on April 14. Your comments and questions are welcome. Contact myself or Council chair Sharon Hutchinson or a member of the Horizon Team.

With hope and anticipation for our future in ministry,

Pastor Denice

## The Five Fingers of Prayer



1. Your thumb is nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4 The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all, which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively. Should you find it hard to get to sleep tonight, just remember the homeless family who has no bed to lie in.

*Prayer is communication with God.  
Make him your best friend...talk to him often!*