

Good

The newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis
August 2004

WELCOME OUR VISITORS

Visitors to our church are now being given a sticker to wear on their lapel. This will help us identify our guests. Please look for these stickers so you may welcome our visitors. Part of our welcome to guests is shown by wearing our own name tags. We want everyone to feel at home with us!

A NOTE FROM OUR TRUSTEES

Anyone with knowledge pertaining to shrubs, trees, etc. planted as memorials, please notify Dee Carr. The Trustees wish to properly identify and make a permanent record of these memorials.

CONCERNS FOR TRUSTEES

Persons wishing to appear before the Trustees can do so by contacting the Chairperson or Secretary not later than the Sunday prior to the 4th Wednesday of each month which is our established meeting time. An effort will be made to hear all who wish to appear. However, the Chairperson or Secretary may limit the number so we can adhere to our meeting time frame. Bona fide emergency matters will receive priority.

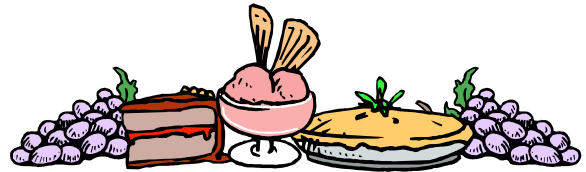
THANK YOU NOTE

Many thanks for the cards, calls, and visits from my church family. I'm feeling god, but I'm still broken. Awaiting results from new test to see what causes my low pulse rate.

- Barbara Grams

POTLUCKS RESUME IN AUGUST

Watch for an announcement for the resumption of the Thursday evening potlucks. We meet at 6:30 pm. on Thursdays and will be beginning again real soon.



FIRM'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATING "FOUNDATIONS OF HOPE"

Date: Friday, October 1, 2004

Time: 6 to 9 pm

Location: Wolf Lakes (20 minutes east of Fresno between McCall & Academy) 11646 E. Ashlan Avenue, Sanger, CA.

Come enjoy cultural entertainment, excellent food, silent auction, prizes and free boat rides. For more information or ticket reservations, contact Lorna Bosavanh at (559) 487-1500.

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Micah Ministries

Local & World Missions

*"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"
(Micah 6:6)*

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR OUR NEW HMONG NEIGHBORS

Up to 3,000 new Hmong refugees are expected to arrive in the Fresno area this year. These families have been living in a refugee camp in Thailand for many years. They will need various types of assistance to adjust to a life much different than anything they have known before.

Mentoring

The New Life Mentoring Program is a faith-based partnership that links Hmong families and mainstream families to offer supportive relationships to new arrivals and to their family members with whom they are being reunited. Mentor families are asked to make a six-month commitment to help families find housing and household articles, locate jobs, and to learn English and the practical aspects of American life and customs.

Writing letters

Housing is one of the major concerns for the newcomers to the Fresno area. Affordable housing is in short supply. The Hmong immigration is a result of national policy, but because of family ties in certain locations, only a few communities in the country will be burdened with the major costs of relocation. One method to address this problem is through a housing assistance program funded by the federal government. A letter asking for the support of our federal representatives is available in the Narthex or on the website at www.clovismumc.org.

Teaching classes

Several churches will hold Harmony Living Skills classes to help the new immigrants learn basics such as home maintenance, energy conservation, communication, budgeting, health care and job-seeking. Teachers are needed for these classes.

Fundraising

Funds are needed to pay for radio announcements for these programs, for resource materials, for health fair costs and for many other expenses.

New Life Kits

Food, kitchen supplies, personal items, clothing and general household supplies will be needed by the new families. A list of the various kits is posted on the website and available in the Narthex.

Contacts

Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM) 487-1500: Mentoring or New Life kits – Nancy Holve. Fundraising – Sharon Stanley. Pastor Mitt Moua, 230-0500: Skills classes. Talk to Pastor Denice and Pastor Kham Dy, Diane Zastovnik or Lynn Seay. Call or e-mail the church office for more information.

HMONG LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Hmong Adult Sunday school meets at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoons and is focusing on Lay Leadership Development with the goal of integrating members into the existing committees teams and task forces of the church as well as organizing a Hmong mission leadership team. To date we have studied stewardship of financial resources and the basic church budgeting process. As we move along we will be asking church leaders to contribute.

Care Ministries
Giving Special Care to Others

OUR FAMILY

Please include the following folks in your prayers as well as our homebound and those in care facilities:

- Bob Anderson*, scheduled for open heart surgery.
- Betty Skidmore* recovering from a bad fall.
- Jim Skidmore* recuperating following knee replacement surgery.
- Irene Smith* home following a bout with staph infection after hip replacement surgery.
- Barbara Grams* following a heart attack and continued irregular heart beat.
- Kay Martin* who is homebound with a back problem with tests pending.
- Eleanor Knudson* home after hospitalization.
- Carl Tashjian* living with cancer.
- Howard Nelson* undergoing further testing for pain.
- Edith Jennings* recuperating from surgery.
- Pauline Middleton* recuperating from a bad fall.
- Kaylene Snow* with an unhealed foot injury.

--Pastor Denise Leslie

SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM

Our Special Friends Team meeting on July 13 opened with the singing of "Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpets" and continued with the reporting of 14 visits, 19 cards and notes and over 4 telephone calls last month to people in need of pastoral care. Pastor Denise Leslie asked what our own pastoral care needs were and we shared quite a list. We took assignments to visit 8 or more folks and prayed for 20 people plus ourselves. We (Pauline Middleton, Max Cannon, Minnie Eller, Lorraine May, Pat Frey, Dee Carr Denise and myself) decided to invite you to our next meeting on Tuesday, August 8 at 1:30 P. M. in the Library.

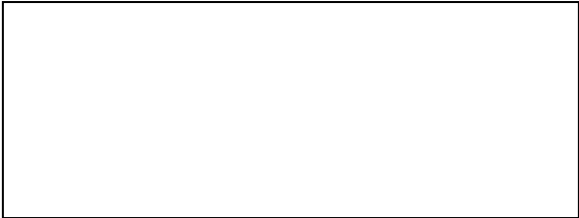
Laurence Hill. Coordinator

CARE CLUSTERS

The mission for Care Clusters is loving concern, care and communication within our congregation. A Care Cluster Caller will be calling you this summer to tell you who they are and to get acquainted with you. Later on, the caller will call to tell you about activities in the church, special announcements, etc. Let your caller know if you have any special needs: transportation to church services, prayer needs, serious illnesses, changes of address or phone numbers. There are 8 to 12 people in each Care Cluster and there are 17 Clusters at this time. A big "Thank You" to the following 17 people who will be our Care Cluster Callers:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Cecelia & Jim Acton | Dee Carr |
| Wendy & John Niblick | Judy Gross |
| Dona & Cecil Leonardo | Jan Brown |
| Mary & Howard Vollman | Evie Weiss |
| Tammy & Tim Stoddard | Carol Mohan |
| Dorothy Skidmore | Lorraine May |
| Shirley & Wayne Golden | Louise Smith |
| Gwen & Dick Emmick | Pat McGinnis |
| Vi & Carl Nutting | |
| Hmong Clusters: Kham Dy Yang | |

Care Cluster Coordinator Evelyn Haulman,



**YOUNG ADULT GATHERING
AUGUST 15**

If you are between the ages of 18 and 30 please accept this invitation to join us for a BBQ and swim at Moira Leslie's home, 2475 Scott Avenue, Clovis at 7:30 p.m. We will meet, eat and get organized and see what we'd like to do. If you have questions call Moira Leslie.

MISSION THRIFT SHOP NEWS

We are open every Saturday and only have two workdays a month! Due to vacations and illnesses we really need your helping hand on workdays!!! It provides an opportunity to connect with others in our church, is a way to help those in need, and can be a rewarding outlet to offer your services for a good cause! Our workdays are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month. We are open from 8:30 - 10:30am. Please come and lend a helping hand.

Thank You, Janet Bonzo

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S MEETING FOR AUGUST 7TH

The meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall at 8:00 am where we'll serve fruit, pastry, and coffee. Pastor Denice will be giving the presentation and it sounds like a great one. The title is "Partnering With Our Community." It will look at our relationship with the community at large and also how that relationship relates to the Hmong community. You don't have to be a member so come and bring a friend and enjoy great fellowship

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 Nielson.

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."

THANK-YOU NOTE

Thank you to all who helped make VBS a success. Whatever you did - volunteered, prayed, donated refreshments, supplies - it was appreciated. A special thank you to Judy Gross and Sue DeFranco for stepping in at the last minute to fill in for Barbara.

PASTOR'S SUNDAY CLASS UPDATE

The 9 a.m. Pastor's class meets in the library. This class uses a discussion format and is currently completing a study of the United Methodist Social principles. We are considering new possibilities including an examination of the DaVinci Code and an overview of the theology of the Bible using Bernard Anderson's *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible*. If you enjoy lively discussions related to contemporary issues and life, please join us.



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.

Youth Group News

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

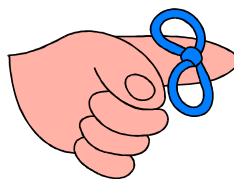
What did you do on YOUR summer vacation? Backpack to Kaiser Peak? Read the entire works of R.L. Stine? Go horseback riding? Play computer games until your thumbs were ready to drop off? Come to "Back to School Night" in the Youth Bungalow at 5:30 p.m. August 29 and be prepared to share your adventures! You can bring pictures, souvenirs, T-shirts--whatever!

SUMMER FLING POOL PARTY BBQ

On Sunday August 22, all young people grades 7-12 are invited to an "End of Vacation Summer Fling" Pool Party! We will meet at 4 p.m. at the Pachelbels' house for swimming, BBQ burgers and dogs, and lots of fun! People with last names starting with A-M bring a side dish, N-Z bring snacks or a dessert item. Drinks will be provided. For a map, permission slip, and more information, see the August Youth newsletter, or pick up a flyer from the church lobby. Questions? Contact Youth Worker Connie Alfaro .

HMONG REFUGEE BENEFIT CAR WASH

The Youth Group will hold a car wash on Sunday morning, August 29, to raise money to help the new Hmong refugees moving into our area. The monies will be used by the church to purchase items to fill the "Sharing Love" kits, which include clothing, personal items, and school supplies. Tickets for the car wash will go on sale Sunday August 8.



AUGUST YOUTH CALENDAR

Sunday 08/01/04 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Youth Movie Nite (Bungalow)

Saturday 08/07/04 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Poverello House Work Day

Sunday 08/08/04 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Meeting (Bungalow)

Sunday 08/15/04 NO MEETING

Sunday 08/22/04 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Swim Party at Pachelbels'

Sunday 08/29/04 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Hmong Refugee Benefit Car Wash

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Back to School Night
(Bungalow)

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)*

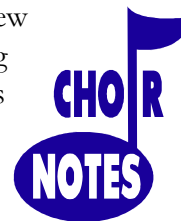


Music Notes

FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

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.



Coach's Corner

I am excited to share with you a word from our Bishop regarding the expansion of our Hope for the Children of Africa Bishop's Initiative into a partnership with the West Angola Annual Conference. I want to begin by sharing with you a note from our Bishop Beverly Shamana and follow up with some basic information about the partnership.

"Dear Friends in Christ,

The grace and peace of Christ be with you! Our ministry with Hope for the Children of Africa is an expression of our discipleship as followers of Jesus. As we develop this partnership and share our faith, our resources and our service, we will find ways to grow together as disciples that share a call across our two continents.

The children of Africa are a sign of Jesus' presence among us. I am sure they will teach us much about the Reign of God in our midst, and how to follow Jesus in the way of compassionate action. I look forward to continued exchanges between our conferences as we learn and grow together.

Yours in Christ,
Beverly J. Shamana,
Bishop Beverly Jo. Shamana"

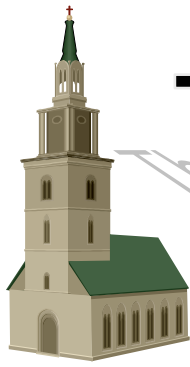
The Board of Missions of our conference is broadening the Bishop's Initiative on Children in Poverty in Africa to be a partnership in Ministry with the West Angola Conference for at least the next five years. As part of Phase I of our partnership, an United Methodist

Volunteer In Mission team traveled to Angola in February of 2003 to investigate the needs within that country, to meet with church officials and to conduct rural medical clinics. When this team visited Angola the team came face-to-face with a nation beaten down by the ravages of the long war years. Although now at peace, the Angola economy, the cities and villages and the infrastructure are in ruins. This includes the "structures" of the church—but certainly not the "spirit" of the church.

We have the opportunity to partner with the people of Angola in such a way as to enable them to prosper the work of the Church, and in such a way as to enable ourselves to grow in faith.

A packet with information on the people, the history, the needs and the partnership plan has been developed for each local church to use in interpreting this conference wide mission commitment. There are four phases of the partnership plan which we will have an opportunity to support. In phase one we are encouraged to be in partnership with a congregation in West Angola by pursuing any of the following: Providing monetary assistance for a pastor's salary, education materials, or to assist in underwriting a specific ministry program with a monthly pledge such as the purchase of a community tractor for a specific village. In phase two we are encouraged to take part in UMVIM mission team projects to Angola in construction, medical or connectional ministries. In Phase three we will solidify these projects and see them to completion while engaging in advocacy work on behalf of the Angolan people. In phase four we will assess progress and evaluate next steps.

Our Micah Ministries mission team will be considering ways we can be involved, expand our understanding and knowledge, and be supportive of this wonderful opportunity to serve Christ in Africa as we all grow in faith and serve as Jesus' disciples.



The Back Pew

I can't believe Annual Conference is over for another year! This year we met here in Fresno and our district did a bang up job of hosting the entire conference. We had over 1400 people in attendance. The many volunteers from Memorial in the child care program, the Oasis information center and those who helped with registration and those who took advantage of the opportunity to be on the floor of the plenary sessions as the business of the conference was conducted did a fabulous job. We can all be proud of their service.

This year's annual conference session's theme was "Rekindle the Gift of God That Is Within You." As always the worship and preaching services were outstanding. This year's visiting Bishop was Gaspar Domingos of the West Angola United Methodist Annual conference with whom we are partnering. He preached and offered a special blessing of the children kicking off the Bishop's Initiative on Children In Poverty in Africa. Our partnership with the West Angola Conference will run for a minimum of five years. The Africa University Choir was with us as well and boy can they sing—their music and voices were so beautiful. We elected the Rev. Ben Silva-Netto as our nominee for bishop in the Western Jurisdiction which meets in August in San Jose to elect new bishops and conduct the business of the jurisdiction. Our own Melody Yang touched everyone's hearts and offering praise to God with her personal testimony sharing her faith and her call to ordained ministry as a mother of seven small children. We look forward to having Melody share her testimony with us in worship!

Bishop David Mullen of Pastor Denice Leslie Lutheran Church in America preached at the ordination service. His text was John 21: 15 – 17 where Jesus asks Peter if he loves him. The visuals for this service using a flame motif representing the Holy Spirit as well as the visuals for the plenary floor were the creation of the Rev. Paul Steinhauer, artist and pastor of the Dos Palos United Methodist Church. Speaking of artists, Idell McCallum, the fabric designer who creates my worship stoles which so many of you have appreciated was here for the week and presented the new women ordained with stoles at the Clergy and Diaconal Women's luncheon.

The resolution submitted by our church council encouraging all the churches of the conference to write their representatives in Congress to appropriate funding for the resettlement and housing of the Wat Tham Krabok refugees was approved. The social issues resolutions this year included recommending a boycott of Coke products as well as Taco Bell due to unjust labor disputes nationally and internationally. A recommendation requiring all churches who do not pay their apportionments in full to formulate a plan with the District Superintendent and approved by a special charge conference failed. The recognition that the rising costs of local church fixed expenses are undermining ministry, along with rising health care costs and the number of aging and declining congregations and the number of churches like our own which are in the midst of major transition all contributed to its veto. If you would like a detailed summary of the actions of the conference this year you may visit the conference web site at cnumc.org. I am happy to report Bishop Beverly Shamana has appointed me and Pastor Kham Dy Yang to serve as your pastors for another year. We look forward to being in ministry with you.

With hope and anticipation!

Pastor Denice Leslie