

# Good News!

The newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

May 2004

### THANK YOU!

Wayne and Shirley wish to thank our church family for all the beautiful cards we received for our 50th wedding anniversary. We had a great surprise party and wish you all could have attended. It was great.

The Goldens

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COOKIE

Our District theme this year is "Hospitality" and we have a perfect opportunity to show just how hospitable we are! We need 125 dozen cookies to be distributed on Thursday at ACS. Would your church pledge to bake and deliver several dozen cookies to the Oasis booth on Thursday early morning? If we all pitch in and make a share of the cookies, there will be plenty!! Please complete the pledge card and return it to the church office as soon as possible.

YES! We will gladly pledge to deliver # \_\_\_\_\_ dozen cookies (baked or brought) to the Oasis at ACS on Wednesday Evening or Thursday early AM.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### "LET THERE BE LIGHT" CELEBRATE COMING OF NEW UNIVERSITY

On Sunday, May 16 at 3 pm Northern California/Nevada Bishop Beverly Shamana, UC Merced Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Jane Lawrence and Merced College President Ben Duran will take part in the Welcome UC Merced event, "Let There Be Light." This is a time to recognize the great new opportunities for higher education this new university will afford. The Bishop will help celebrate the beginning of our efforts to bring a Wesley Foundation and the benefits it can give to the students of the new University of California in our area, as well as for college students enrolled in colleges nearby.

All students and their supporters, as well as Methodists from throughout the area are invited to attend. The ceremony will be held at the United Methodist Church of Merced, 899 Yosemite Parkway, Merced. A reception will follow the services. For more information, call the church office at 209-722-5777.

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## CHURCH COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of church committees are filed in a binder on the church office counter and are available to everyone to read. The approved Minutes of the Church Council will be published in the Good News.

Thank you all! Sharon

## MUMC COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 11, 2004

Attendance: Sharon Hutchinson, Denice Leslie, Laurence Hill, Jean Hill, Joan Bowser, Rick Hutchinson, Betty Gist, Dee Carr, Roger Grams, Barbara Grams, Barbara Nielsen, Minnie Eller, Sue DeFranco, Gloria McClanahan, Connie Alfaro, Diane Zastovnik, Ben Zastovnik, Louise Smith. Meeting called to order by Sharon Hutchinson at 7:00 p.m.

Correction of Minutes: Copy of list of projects will be provided and distributed at next council meeting instead of being attached to February minutes.

**Minutes** approved as corrected. After joys and concerns were shared, Denice lead us in prayer.

**Stewardship report:** Rick Hutchinson reported the lunch on February 29 was a success. Donations covered the cost of the lunch and Mark Parsons will return at a later time.

**Finance report:** Diane Zastovnik reported financial situation appears quite well without report of payables, which Georgia usually reports. \$36,000 was received in February of which a large portion is for the endowment fund. January was ok.

**Campaign for funds:** This Sunday and for the next three weeks boards will be posted in the narthex soliciting funds for worship, music, children's education, office expenses, and trustees fund.

**Trustees' report: Church Security:** Sharon read Mac Magargee's form that leadership will fill out designating responsibility for locked doors and turning off heating/air conditioning

and lights at the end of meetings and events in the church buildings. There will be an announcement of security procedures in the church newsletter. Betty Gist is creating a **work order form for repair** requests.

**Missions committee:** Laurie reports he and Jean will go on another UMCOR workshop at the Midwestern distribution center in Illinois this year. He showed materials about Abraham given by the Middletons to be contributed to the library. It was suggested that a subject file be set up in the library. Laurie also showed us cards available in narthex for bringing students to the Fresno Symphony

**Welcome ministry.** Laurie explained a need for trained persons to reach out to visitors making them comfortable and answering questions. This team of "spotters" would provide follow up also. This function is in addition to the PIE procedure. A Motion was made, second and carried to create such a team. Laurie will start the committee and release it for maintenance by someone else.

Laurie also reports that Special Friends Committee is developing a **care card** for members in need, which will include whom to contact Privacy requirements were discussed.

**Hearing Aids** were purchased with the \$600 grant from UMW sources. They need to be assembled. Ben Zastovnik presented his Eagle Scout project of **beautification of our grounds.** Motion made, seconded and carried that Ben proceed with the project. He will make a presentation next Sunday in church.

**Crop walk** will be hosted by our church on October 24 starting at 2:30. Walks will be 1 ½ to 3 miles reports Sue DeFranco. There will be an organizational meeting on Sunday April 18 at 3:00 p.m.

**Mission Thrift Shop:** beginning in April the Mission Thrift Shop will be open every Saturday from 9 to 1.

**Boutique group** submitted **bylaws** and they include the fact that funds are for World Services of the Conference except for a portion of the funds for special projects.

**Christian education:** Barbara Grams reported "Surprise Sunday" activities, which will

encourage attendance. The All Star program is very successful. In March, Wayne Golden who played the sousaphone and accordion in his youth will present the program.

**Worship:** Barbara Grams reports fine tuning and planning of Easter services are coming along. March 20 from 9 to 12:00 is the next Worship Committee meeting.

**Hmong Ministry:** Three grants from the conference have been awarded to our church and will go towards the \$12,500 for Kham Dy's salary. The Hmong worship service attendance has doubled in size. They are participating in "Holy Thursday" every Thursday by joining the potluck group and having study groups afterwards. This Sunday the Hmong are inviting all to a 3:30 feast.

**Youth Report** by Connie Alfaro reports a snow trip on March 19-21 at Hutchinson cabin; March 28 Bunco Party with Wesley Youth invited; Heifer project festival in April and Leonard Sweet day long and night lecture on April 22 sponsored by Fresno Pacific **Horizon Team** by Barbara Grams described stages of **growing as disciples:** a series of in depth study groups to be offered members from the unchurched to more mature Christians. The calendar was reviewed regarding the Easter season. The Easter letter will be forthcoming with information about the Easter offering. **Council of Ministries** will meet on March 18 in the morning.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25

Respectfully submitted, Gloria McClanahan

Care Ministries  
Giving Special Care to Others

**SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM REPORT  
April 13, 2004 Meeting**

Our opening worship asked how & why "The Prayer of St. Francis" (No 481 in our hymnal), not known in print until 1913 in France: "Lord, Make me an instrument of your peace." could be attributed to Francis of Assisi who

died in 1226. It turns out that the prayer parallels several writings of Francis and was pictured in 1916 with him holding it in his hand, as a prayer for peace in the midst of World War I. We sang Francis' hymn (#62 in our hymnal) "All Creatures of our God and King."

The six of us present approved the draft of a care card reviewed by our Church Council, to respond to the need to know whom to contact when a member or friend has an emergency (e.g., faints at a church meeting). The following will be offered to our members and friends:

"I authorize Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis to contact

\_\_\_\_\_, my \_\_\_\_\_

at (telephone) \_\_\_\_\_,

(address) \_\_\_\_\_

in case of emergency.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

This information will be kept only in a card file in the Church Office.

We decided to fund 8 headsets to replace the earplugs on the original hearing assistant devices used on Sunday Mornings, from the extra money discovered in our account. Laurie Hill will check on why the Meals on Wheels program is no longer extended to elders in Clovis. We added a person to and subtracted two from our Watch list.

Reports: 20 visits were made, 25 cards sent and 5 phone calls made. We prayed for persons approaching surgery and with heart and emotional problems.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 1:30 pm in the Conference Room. Visitors welcome!

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.

A couple of weeks ago, I was asked this question and I immediately answered "Sunday!" I look forward to Sundays, a time set aside to worship God, as a Christian, with other Christians. I was recently given the opportunity to spend two of my favorite days out of our country.

On February 1st, the first Sunday of February, I was at Memorial with you, received Holy Communion, and also a prayer for healing, as I had fears of being so far away from loved ones and all that was familiar. With a blessing that the Holy Trinity would be with me, protecting, directing, and strengthening, and the assurance that I was held in the prayers of many, I left for India with my husband, Kumar, on February 3rd. The purpose of our trip was to visit his elderly parents in Chennai (Madras), South India.

My first Sunday away, the second Sunday in February, was in Chennai and I decided to attend a service at St. Andrew's Church, historically Presbyterian, built in 1821 during the time of British rule in India. It is a lovely church, classic in architectural style, with a high domed ceiling of dark blue with "stars" arranged as in the constellations seen in Scotland. When the early Scottish worshippers knelt in prayer, they could look up and think of Scotland! Except for that, the church seemed

very Indian - wicker-backed pews, ceiling fans, tiled marble floors, huge open windows letting in the gentle breeze, sight of lush green vegetation, and the smell of tropical flowers. The congregation was primarily Indian with a smattering of Caucasians. I was surrounded by Indian ladies dressed in colorful saris and salwar kameezs. My sister-in-law, Prema, although a Hindu, willingly attended the service with me.

I had to concentrate intently as the Rev. T. Devaputhiran spoke to us in English, with a strong Indian accent and then the pulpit guest, Rev. Joe Goodridge, gave a wonderful sermon in English with a Scottish accent! I felt so much at home - two of the four hymns we sung were by Charles Wesley. Everyone was so friendly and after the service I had a chance to talk to one of the members. She told me about their service to God through providing day care and lunches for the young children living in nearby slums.

The next day turned out to be very special, also. Not many people know that the disciple of Jesus, St. Thomas, took Christ's message of love and salvation to India. He preached and taught throughout South India for twenty years, before being killed, by unbelievers, on a hilltop in Chennai around 72 A.D. I was able to visit this site and pray in a little chapel erected by the Portuguese in 1523. Many shrines and churches have been on this site over the ages. Again I saw Christians hard at work. They were re-bricking a stairway leading from the parking lot up to the church.

My third Sunday of February began in Singapore, which has primarily a Chinese population. We had left Chennai at 11:30 pm and landed in Singapore at 6:30 a.m. After getting to the hotel and having breakfast and a shower, it was time for me to find a church. I

asked to concierge if there was a church close by. When he suggested a Catholic Church, I hesitated and said, "well . . ." Then he said, "how about Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints?" I said "no . . ., do you have a Methodist church listed?" He asked me to wait for a moment and he disappeared behind a door. Coming back with a big smile, he said, "I have found just the right church. There is a big celebration today at Wesley Methodist Church." My response was an emphatic, "yes!"

What a marvelous experience the worship was at this church. They were celebrating the 119th year church anniversary with a congregation of over 6,000 - six pastors and a large full time church staff. They have eight Sunday services in English, half traditional and half prayer & praise, one Filipino service, three Korean services, and one Mandarin service. What energy and power flows from the Holy Spirit to our Singaporean Methodist brothers and sisters. It was amazing and thrilling to worship with them. Again, I was part of the tiny minority of Caucasians, surrounded, this time, by mainly Chinese followers of our Lord Jesus. A woman sitting next to me asked me if I would like to be on the altar flower committee. I laughed and told her I would love to be, but that I lived in California! As this was such a special Sunday, again I was privileged to hear a pulpit guest, the Rev. Dr. Issac Lim, who is President of the Trinity Annual Conference, The Methodist Church in Singapore. In the bulletin, there was a quote by him which I really liked.

We are global citizens. As God blesses us, it is our responsibility to bless Methodism globally as well. Let us emulate the Spirit of John Wesley and consider the world as our parish . . . let us seek the presence of God so that as a people called Methodists, we will be

key in community, national, and global transformation to the glory of God. By the fourth Sunday of February, I was back in Clovis, having had a perfect trip, and was worshipping with you, at Memorial. My first prayer was to thank God, once again, for my favorite day!

Carol Mohan

## Worship Ministry

News from the teams that support the Sunday worship services.

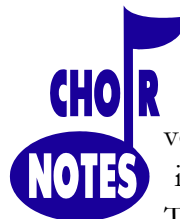
*"Make a joyful noise to the LORD...  
Serve the Lord with gladness!" (Psalm 100)*



## 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 be Welcomers to greet visitors after worship and introduce them around. Three people have already volunteered, and we can use up to 12 more. Laurence Hill will be a Welcomer and offer brief practice sessions with the group for three weeks after church: May 2, 16 & 24. Contact Laurence to ask questions or volunteer.

## BOUTIQUE NEWS

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

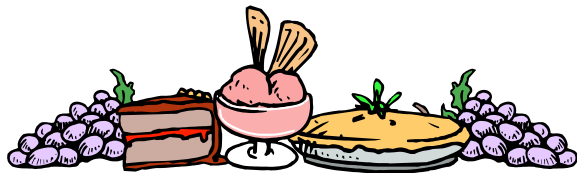
*"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:30*

### UNITED METHODIST MEN'S MEETING FOR MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

The meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall at 8:00am where we'll serve fruit, pastry, and coffee. George Elgin will be giving the presentation and it sounds like a great one. The title is "The Five Warning Signs When A Church Is Turning Evil." It's based on a book he's currently reading. You don't have to be a member so come and bring a friend and enjoy 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.



**WHO?** Anyone who likes to craft, sew, quilt, crochet, and 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.

For information contact Barbara Nielsen

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

May 3 - Board meeting, 9 am, Library

May 12 - Red Bird Circle, 9:30 am, Library

May 18 - Regular Meeting and Luncheon, 10 am, Social Hall. Program: Laurence and Jean Hill. Sanger UMW guests. Red Bird Hosts.

Everyone welcome!

May 26 - Wesley Circle, 1 pm, Social Hall

### 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."*

### CALLING ALL GRADUATES

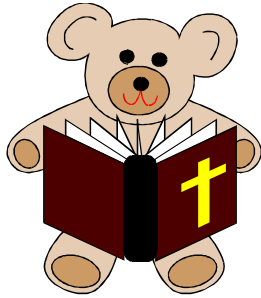
Graduation time will be here soon. Please let Dorrie know who is graduating from High School or College. She needs the following:

Name

School graduating from

Major if it is College

Who their family is at church



# 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 out classes and learn different things about the Bible.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Each year, we have about 50 people from our church who help make our VBS a big success. We are seeking volunteers to carry on with the tradition once again this year. We need to provide six stations of games, crafts or storytelling for five nights. If you can plan a station, man a station, provide or prepare snacks, lead singing, give a donation to help defray costs, or help in any other way, please sign up in the Narthex or talk to Lynn Seay or Diane Zastovnik. All children from pre-school through sixth grade are invited to join in the fun. The program will run Monday, June 28, through Friday, July 2 from 6pm to 8:15pm.

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Here is the lost paragraph in Genesis:  
So God asked Adam, "What is wrong with you?"  
And Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to.  
God said that he was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be a woman. God said, "This person will gather food for you, and when you discover clothing she'll wash it for you. She will always agree with every decision you make. She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will not nag you and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will never have a headache and will freely give you love and passion when ever you need it."  
Adam asked God, "What will a woman like this cost?"  
God replied, "An arm and a leg."  
Then Adam asked, "What can I get for a rib?"  
And the rest is history.