

Good News

The newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

November 2004

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21 CONCLUDES PLEDGE DRIVE

On Thanksgiving Sunday our final pledge cards will be returned for this year's financial stewardship campaign for 2005. We will announce in worship our total pledged to date and offer up our thanks. This year's stewardship campaign is titled, "Thine Is the Power." As we approach this lovely season of giving thanks for the abundant gifts we have received in good times and in bad times, let us consider how each of us can glorify God with our financial stewardship of the resources we have received for the work of the gospel in Clovis.

THANKS, THANKS, THANKS

Many thanks to all those who helped with the Halloween carnival. Your donations and assistance were greatly appreciated.
The Grams, Roger & Barbara

FRESNO METRO MINISTRY Presents The 21st Annual Thanksgiving Concert A Celebration of Our Community in Harmony

Date: Sunday, Nov. 21, 2004
Place: Hope Lutheran Church
364 E. Barstow, Fresno
Time: 3 pm

Please join us on this special Sunday as Fresno Metro Ministry shares a gift of music with the entire community. A multi-faith, cross-cultural event not to be missed. No Admission charge; a free-will offering will be taken. A complimentary pie and beverage reception immediately follows the concert.

ADVENT DINNER FIRST SAURDAY IN DECEMBER

Our annual Advent Dinner Potluck brings in the Christmas season with great cheer, great fellowship, great food, and GREAT fun! This year Pastor Newell Knudson will once again be our MC and is planning a great program. The Highlanders and the Lowlanders will be present to sing Scottish Christmas tunes for us as our entertainment (without amplification).

The evening always includes singing Christmas Carols. Pat Frey is organizing our tables and taking reservations. You may volunteer to "host" a table which means decorating it with whatever "Christmasy" décor you like from festive paper and choo-choo trains to nativity sets and fine China! You may invite people at church to sit at your table or you may simply decorate and have an open table to whom guests will be assigned to be sure everyone has a place.

The Renovation and Seasonal Décor Team will have the hall draped in greenery and lights with a lovely wreath once again. Look for sign up sheets in the church lobby. Put a twinkle in your eye and the date, Saturday, December 4, 2004 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall on your calendar. And don't forget to sign up!! Thanks.

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Care Ministries

Giving Special Care to Others

Disciples' Corner

"BOTH AND"

BY GLORIA MCCLANAHAN

I've been wanting to get this into the newsletter for a long time. It involves how we relate to each other in our work around the church. I had a wonderful mentor, a gentleman architect, who, when I started kitchen remodel design work, often said to me "Gloria, play with this idea in your head and tell me what you think." I was so eager to do everything myself that it was his way of giving me suggestions without taking over. Here in the church at our meetings we could use this finesse with each other. So often a new idea gets a negative response because it involves something new and a change. We all need time to get used to a change or respond to it.

When an idea is presented we should receive the information in a "both and" pattern. For example, if someone said "We should have roast elephant for next Joy in the Morning." A proper response would be, "I hear you and roast elephant would be a new thing to eat at Joy in the Morning and I agree we should have something different on the menu but did you ever think of how difficult it would be to get elephant meat? How about if we have roast pork?" Then someone else could come up with another and idea so that the ideas would "float" for awhile. Then someone else might say, "Yeah, I love roast elephant and I would also like cut up fruit and hot rolls". This is just a pretend example. You can see how the menu develops with agreements, disagreements and "and" ideas. We should always have room for the "and" ideas and let ideas float around for awhile in a trusting atmosphere before decisions and commitments are made.

By giving ourselves more "floating" time, more "play with it in your head" time we gently create with love something that represents the best we have to offer. Agree? We do not have to agree. We don't even have to all be in the same boat. It is more fun to holler out our suggestions without expecting perfect

agreement. This is one way we can offer our best thoughts, our best care, our creative talents. You will soon find a box for landscaping suggestions for the church grounds in the narthex. I hope you will put all your ideas in it with pictures and your name. No suggestion will even be considered without a name. I hope we have miles of "and" suggestions. Let's be alive. Let's nurture something fabulous and give it life!! Gloria McClanahan.

CHARGE CONFERENCE CELEBRATION AND SOUP SUPPER

Mark your calendar for our annual all church (Charge Conference) meeting scheduled this year for Sunday afternoon December 12 at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Vickie Healy our District Superintendent has encouraged churches in the district to group with other similar size congregations to share charge conferences this year and encourage connection. So we are uniting with our new church New Community UMC in Oakhurst and Wesley UMC. Celebration is our priority: celebration of our ministries and visions for the future with special presentations. The business of nominating officers, approving pastoral compensation, membership action and approving lay speakers and certified candidates for ordained ministry will be brief and to the point. All reports need to be in to the church office by December 5, 2004 for inclusion in the annual packet of year end information. The meeting will conclude with a Soup supper for all in attendance.

MUMC RECEIVES ENDOWMENT GIFT WITH GREAT THANKSGIVING!!

There comes a time in life when you have to ask yourself what kind of legacy am I going to leave this world after I am no longer a part of it? John Talmadge considered that question on the event of his wife, Doris' recent death. Both committed Christians, John's first thought was for the ongoing ministry and maintenance needs of his church. After prayer and careful consideration, John made a \$10,000 gift to the Endowment fund of our congregation. This is the kind of stewardship that will give on into the future into perpetuity through accruing interest on the principle. John is a member of our Endowment Committee. If you would like to make a gift to the future ministry of Jesus Christ in Clovis through Memorial United Methodist Church, take a minute to discuss the various options with either John or chair of our Endowment Committee, Rick Hutchinson. They will provide you with the information you need to make an informed choice.

RENOVATION TEAM PURPOSE

The purpose of the Renovation Team has always been to make good use of space, to make it comfortable and to make it beautiful. We are aspiring to create a feeling of welcome, good will and to attract a contemporary crowd who needs comfort and care. We attempt to provide a peaceful, unified atmosphere where persons are inspired to meditate and feel at ease whether it is the sanctuary, a meeting room, classroom or the social hall.

Renovation Team Report

New members are Joan Bowser and Dona Leonardo. Existing members are Kayte Van de Mark and Gloria McClanahan with Jean Hill trustee liaison.

So far this year we have accomplished the following:

- Office window valances from fabric used in the library sewn by Donna Leonardo and installed by Cecil Leonardo.
- Table Clothes in the narthex sewn by Gloria McClanahan funded by Gifts and Memorials

We are discussing and planning the following:

- Presenting a plan for a Kiosk in the narthex funded by Gifts and Memorials
- Planning campaign to get new chairs in the social hall
- Encouraging and researching Master Landscaping Plan
- Developing color scheme and themes for Sunday School Rooms
- Discussing possible solutions to the chancel floor in the sanctuary

We are a team which gets things done. We have few meetings and lots of accomplishments. "Worker Bees" are always welcome. Call and ask what needs to be done next!! We welcome anyone who likes to use a paint roller; or help on any current project.. Please contact Gloria McClanahan or Kayte Van De Mark.

NARTHEX

Joan Bowser is in charge of the narthex. If you have anything to display, please contact her at 325-7949. We have her to thank for saying back last spring "This narthex is a mess. It should really look nice and be a welcome place for all who enter." Joan coordinates with Worship Committee and the renovation team. Gloria McClanahan.

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 NOVEMBER 6TH

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 he's always both entertaining and informative. You don't have to be a member so come and bring a friend and enjoy great fellowship.

MISSION THRIFT SHOP NEWS

The Mission Thrift Shop is having special sales every month! We're getting ready for wintertime. Remember the Mission Thrift Shop is only opened on the first consecutive Friday and Saturday of each month now, from 8:30-2:30pm. Please bring donations by on our workdays which are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, from 8-12pm. Contact Janet.

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. Contact Barbar for information.

THURSDAY NIGHT POT LUCK

This is not just an ordinary pot luck. We start out with a devotional, have our meal together and afterwards we have joys and concerns and a sing-along if time permits. Once a month we have a theme dinner. In September we had Mexican night, with Mexican dishes, music and even a little dancing. Sometimes we even have door prizes. If you looking for a little fellowship during the week, this pot luck will surely provide it for you. If you have any questions, please call Barbara or Roger Grams 323-1033. We start promptly at 6:15pm and end by 7:30pm.

Worship Ministry

News from the teams that support the Sunday worship services.

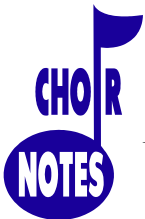
*"Make a joyful noise to the LORD...
Serve the Lord with gladness!" (Psalm 100)*



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.

The Choir thanks Dona Leonardo for her skillful refurbishment of the choir robes. They came back clean, pressed, zippers waxed, hems sewn and whatever they needed plus a chart that assigned robes to specific choir members. Mine is number 16 and I can always find it!! Thank you Dona.

Gloria McClanahan

AUDIO VISUAL IMPROVEMENTS

A Report from Our Audio Visual Tech:

The new wireless microphone was Phase 1 of the sound system improvements and after working out a few kinks is working well. Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising concert and made this possible. However, the high quality of the microphone revealed that the church's 20 year old speakers are worn out. Testing has verified this is the case.

The worn out speakers are reducing the intelligibility and quality of the sound. New speakers will now be a part of Phase 2 of the sound system improvements. Phase 2 will include a Delay Power Amp and processor. Total projected expense for Phase 2 is \$4,361. Because of labor costs and the interdependence of system hardware it is best for the overall results of our new system if we do Phase 2 and Phase 3 at the same time. Phase 3 will include a new mixer with digital presets and a PA amp for a cost of \$2,204.38. The size of the mixer determines the number of microphones inputs available to us and we definitely need more microphones in our future which will comprise Phase 4: additional microphones cable and four new microphones and stands and a second wireless microphone which we badly need. The cost for the final phase is \$3,172.75. The total for all of the work remaining to be done as outlined above is \$9,739.

Any donations to the Audio-Visual Fund for sound improvements will be greatly appreciated by everyone. Especially as we approach the end of the year, if you would like to make a tax deductible gift to the church for any portion of this project please mark your donation "Sound Improvement." If you have any questions about costs or equipment please see Ron.

On the visual side, two permanently mounted projectors for the sanctuary are on the wish list. That would eliminate the hassle of borrowing projectors and going through the complex setup for Sundays when visual presentations are needed. All churches are finding that the visual presentations greatly enhance a worship service. Current cost for two projectors is about \$5000. We thank Ron Zastovnik for his technical expertise and research into our audio visual system needs and for overseeing this project.

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.

Youth
Group
News

NEW TIME FOR POVERELLO HOUSE

WORK DAY - Starting Nov. 6, the youth group will stay an hour longer at Poverello House on the first Saturday of the month. We will still meet at the church at 8:00 a.m., leave for Poverello at 8:15, and return to the church by 12:00 p.m. Poverello House can use all the help we can give them. We hope to see you there!

MOVIE NITE WITH WESLEY UMC

NOVEMBER 7 - All youth grades 7-12 are invited to a special Night at the Movies with our friends at Wesley UMC on November 7. We'll bring the sodas, they'll provide the snacks. Wesley UMC is located on Barstow between First and Cedar. Details about car pooling and permission slips will be available in the church lobby the week before the event.

CONFIRMATION CLASS - Confirmation classes will begin in mid-January. All students 7th grade and up are invited to attend. Classes will be held during Sunday School. We will have on-going lesson each week thru Easter. If you have a child interested, please contact Barbara Grams.

Coach's
Corner

"For Thine Is the Power...and the glory forever and ever! Amen." Do we take these concluding words of the Lord's prayer to heart? Do we realize the power God gives us to change lives and change the world through

the power of the gospel? Do we live lives that glorify God?

"For Thine Is the Power...." is the theme of our Financial Stewardship Campaign kicked off on All Saints and "Inspiration" Sunday, October 31 in worship with a wonderful visual presentation entitled, "It's a Wonderful Church!" and the inspirational testimony of Melody Yang who shared with us her call to ordained ministry and her goal of becoming the first ordained Hmong woman in the world! Through the next three Sundays we will lift up stewardship of our financial resources through special mailings and through my messages as we prepare ourselves and make our financial commitments for 2005.

Sunday, November 7 is "Gratitude" Sunday. You will receive a packet as you enter worship with the current amount you are giving to your church and a giving card for you to use to make your prayerful decision. You may return your card before you leave or return it on one of the following two Sundays. Sunday, November 14 is "Dedication" Sunday and Sunday, November 21 is "Thanksgiving" Sunday. As you consider your giving this year, I hope you will step up to the spiritual discipline of growing toward a tithe. Tithing is God's plan for our giving. How you accomplish that or how long it takes you to reach a whole tithe is between you, your family and God. Growing one step at a time is the way most of us learn to walk and the way most of us make the journey to tithing a full 10%. The important thing is to give a definite percentage of your income as you are able and *as your heart is willing and as your faith directs you!*

Giving should not, contrary to some people's opinions, hurt. It should not take food off your table or medicine out of your cabinet. Giving for people who know the Lord and who are committed to his work is a JOY because we know that giving is an act of our discipleship. We give because *we want to give! Do not give if you feel compelled! Do not give if it does not grow you in your spiritual walk!* But if this is the first time you have had the opportunity to make a specific commitment then by all means do it and discover what a joy it is to know that you can be a part of God's good news for the world! That you can be a part of sharing what you know in your heart: That God's love changes lives, that God's love changes the world. I want to change the world! I don't know of any human power as strong as the gospel of Jesus Christ that can do that better? Do you??

Pastor Kham Dy Yang and I have nothing but gratitude in our hearts for the joy of serving this church as your pastors. We look forward to another fruitful year of ministry a head and dedicate ourselves to the mission of this congregation to share God's love in a spirit of acceptance--as God has so graciously accepted us through Jesus Christ!

Denice Leslie, Senior Pastor