

Good News

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

ALL-CHURCH INVITATION

Our church annual Halloween Carnival for the children of our congregation and the neighborhood will be held on Sunday, October 31st. from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM. We will have many games for all ages. Hot dogs and chips will be served. Your donations of candy or money to help defray the cost will be appreciated. If you would like to help run a game, please call the Grams. This Carnival is sponsored by Roger and Barbara Grams. This carnival is free for all who attend.

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

We all have loved ones we wish to honor and remember. One way to do so is to make a gift in the name of that person to our church's Permanent Endowment Fund. If you would like to learn more about how to memorialize a loved one through our Permanent Endowment Fund, please speak with Rick Hutchinson or John Tallmadge.

WELCOME OUR VISITORS

Visitors to our church are now being given a sticker to wear on their lapels. 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!

ACADEMY ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND HYMN SING OCT. 2

Come out to the historic mother church site for an old fashioned ice cream social and hymn sing from 6 p.m. to 6 p.m. under the pavilion. Kate Hunter, the choir and praise ensemble will be there and we'll sing oldies but goodies! The time doesn't change until Oct. 31 so the light will be with us for the trip out and home. Call the office if you need directions.

MUMC HOSTS CROP WALK SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

We are host to the annual CROP Walk sponsored by Church World on Sunday October 24 at 2 p.m. The route will include Old Town and portions of the Trail. Sponsor a walker or walk yourself. See organizers and recruiters Sue DeFranco and Mariamma Mathai. Proceeds benefit the hungry here in our local area. T-shirts are \$10.00.

FRESNO DISTRICT ENRICHMENT DAY OCT. 9 HERE WITH REV. TOM BANDY

Register now for this very popular workshop event. Space is limited. Cost is \$27 and includes materials, lunch and snacks. Tom is the leading expert in church redevelopment, which we are in the midst of here at Memorial. Get on board and understand what it's all about and where your church is headed. If you need financial assistance contact Pastor Denice Leslie. There will also be a book and resources sales table.

WORSHIP AT THE BEACH!! OCT. 15 - 17: COME TO MEETING OCT. 3 AFTER WORSHIP FOR DETAILS

Join the families of this congregation for the weekend of October 15 - 17 at San Simeon State Park on the Central Coast of California below Hearst Castle. Anyone interested please join us for a camp meeting Sunday, October 3 following worship in the Social Hall. Worship with Pastor Denice Leslie will be held Sunday morning on the beach at 10 a.m. Not campers? Consider a motel close by (Motel 6 in the town of San Simeon).

THANK-YOU NOTES

This is the time to really know and understand God's love that surrounds us through our church family. We appreciate all the loving thoughts, prayers, food, visits, calls and cards given at this time of sorrow in the passing of our beloved Bob. We feel loved. God bless you all. With love and blessings, Betty & Carolyn, and The Anderson Family

Many thanks for the loving, cards, phone calls, prayers, food and visits received after the loss of my grandson Todd Hedrick. I am blessed to have so many friends.

Opal Spears

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CHURCH FINANCES

Through August 31, 2004

Compiled Sept. 8, 2004

General Fund Balance
as of January 1, 2004: **\$2,715.23**

Reports for January through July were presented at Council Meetings each month. Income was added and expenses were deducted each month. This resulted in a net increase as of July 31, 2004. At that time, the balance in the General Fund was: **\$7,828.23**

General Fund income in August was: **\$20,961.19**

General Fund expenses for August were:
(include \$1,027 for PG&E and \$865 for State Comp Insurance Fund) **\$18,971.36**

General Fund balance as of August 31 is: **\$9,818.06**

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN SLATED

We will begin our annual financial stewardship campaign this month. We will be using a new program. Watch for letters in the mail and specials in worship! In the meantime, prayerfully consider what you can give in support of the work of the gospel for the New Year.

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

KNUDSON/SEARS MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT OPEN!

Thanks to equal gifts from the Kay Knudson memorial funds and from the Georgia and Francis Sears memorial funds, the playground equipment, bark pad and surround bench are now in place and open for play! Many thanks to Barbara Walsh for remembering the church in her final act of service on behalf of Georgia and Francis Sears which

resulted in a final distribution of life insurance following expenses for Barbara's one remaining desire: to purchase a headstone for Francis' grave site. Well done, good and faithful stewards!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Board meeting – October 4, 9 am, Library.

Regular meeting – October 19, 10 am in the Social Hall. Program: Mary Vollman. Luncheon Potluck. Bring own service. Everyone welcome.

Red Bird Circle – October 13, 9:30 am, in the Library.

Wesley Circle – October 27, 1 pm in the Social Hall. Rev. Laurence Hill lesson.

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

HMONG MINISTRY GROWING: MELODY YANG TO GIVE TESTIMONY

It was great to have Pastor Kham Dy Yang in worship on Sunday, August 29 and hear him report we now have 114 Hmong participating in the Hmong Ministry thanks to his hard work. We look forward to hearing from Melody Yang as she shares her testimony about her own call to ordained ministry and her goal to be the first Hmong woman ordained in the history of Christianity!! Be in worship October 31 to support her with your presence!

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)



Sunday School

ALL SAINTS CELEBRATED SUNDAY OCTOBER 31.

As is our custom, we celebrate All Saints on the Sunday closest to All Saints Day, November 1. This year that Sunday is Halloween (All Hallows' Eve.) If you would like to have a deceased loved one remembered in our worship that morning please fill out the Remembrance of the Honored Dead form in your bulletin on Sunday October 10 or 17 or call the church office.

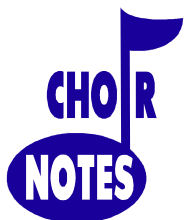
MUSICAL REVIEW RESULTS IN NEW MICS-FIRST PHASE OF UPGRADE TO OUR SOUND SYSTEM

Many, many thanks to all who worked so very hard to make our Musical Review such a success! With the income from the concert, memorial funds and a contribution from the UMM we now have a new lapel mike and transmitter that includes a headset wrap around mike for the preacher! Now it doesn't matter where she moves--the sound travels with her! A special word of thanks to our Audio Visual officer and all around computer/electronics tech Ron Zastovnik for all the foot work including a wonderfully informative power point presentation on sound at UMM.



FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

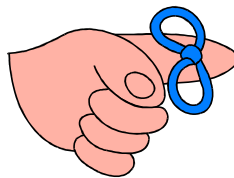
Our Chime Choir, Fellowship of the Ring, has rehearsal every Sunday at 4:30. All are invited to come. For more information, see Janette Erickson or Sue DeFranco.



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.

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.



OCTOBER YOUTH CALENDAR

Saturday 10/02/04 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Poverello House Work Day
Sunday 10/03/04 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Movie Nite (Bungalow)
Sunday 10/10/04 NO MEETING
Sunday 10/17/04 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Meeting (Bungalow)
Sunday 10/24/04 2:00 p.m. CROP Walk
(NO MEETING)
Saturday 10/30/04 7:30 p.m.
Halloween Party/Lock-in
Sunday 10/31/04 2:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Help at Church Halloween Carnival (NO MEETING)

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 lessons each week thru Easter. If you have a child interested, please contact Barbara Grams.

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."

Halloween Party/Lock-in

- What: Halloween Overnight Party
Who: All Youth Grades 7-12
FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!
When: Saturday, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m.
through Sunday, Oct. 31, 8:30 a.m.
Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m.
Where: The Haunted Bungalow
at Memorial UMC
1726 Pollasky/Scott Ave., Clovis
Required: COSTUME!!
Bring: Snacks to share
Sleep over supplies (pillow, sleeping
bag or blanket, toothbrush, fresh
clothes, etc.)
Permission slips for you and your
friends
Plan to go: To Sunday School and Worship
Service the next morning
Questions: Call Youth Worker Connie Alfaro

SECOND INSTALLMENT ON 2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: BISHOP SHAMANA'S ADDRESS: LOVE AT THE MARGINS

Friday morning of Annual Conference, Bishop Shamana's electrifying words brought the delegates to their feet, hands together and voices raised. Harking to the creativity and diversity she has found in her four years as bishop in the California-Nevada Conference, she expanded the traditional "table big enough for everyone" language to say, "We have a different-looking table, rather oddly shaped." Many United Methodist churches in other conferences are looking to the West to show them "how to celebrate radical diversity under the banner of God's unifying love," the bishop said.

"I believe we have a holy obligation to share what we've learned in the tight places about living together at that oddly shaped table that makes room for all the people that God loves, which is, of course, everyone...We take what has been in our

conference our sore place, our wound. We take the tender spot of our diversity and recast it as a place of radical blessing – evangelism, outreach, teaching, healing...

"It's like God has taken a caulking gun, you know what I mean? Has shot us full of diversity, gifts, willingness, know-how, and said, "All right, you're filled up, how do something with it.

"God is calling on us, people! We cannot sit still. We've got to take it on the road...This is what God's large family looks like."

Bishop Shamana proposed the establishment of a conference-wide training institute for living and learning in a radically diverse church culture, which she called "love at the margins." The institute would be patterned after the annual Spiritual Leaders Summit, which brings together pastors and lay leaders in a spiritual retreat setting.

After she had finished speaking, Lee Neish, pastor at Los Altos UMC, mounted the steps to the podium with tears in his eyes to hug the bishop.

Neish said later, "I have attended Annual Conference for 20 years, and this is the first time in many years that I came away feeling that we've turned the corner... that as a conference we can move past our divisions and rally to a common vision." The bishop, he said, has "charged a course" for the Conference to bring into being.

Coach's Corner

ALL CHURCH HEARTBURST MEETINGS Locate Survey Copy In This Issue of Good News

I'm excited! I want to share with you what God has on the Horizon Line for us as we conclude 2004 and prepare for the New Year:

Beginning this month everyone will have an opportunity to participate in a small group meeting of your Care Cluster with me to share whatever it is your heart is aching to do to be good news for Jesus Christ! Whatever it is you feel our church needs to be doing to be good news for Jesus Christ.

(continued on next page)

A survey is enclosed with this issue of Good News. Read it over, take time to reflect and pray on the questions.

Find a moment to sit down and see Jesus sitting with you in a favorite spot where you are uninterrupted and have his undivided attention--and he yours.

Talk to him. Tell him what in this life makes your heart sing. What makes it cry. What makes it mad. Or sad. What you would do if money, time, or other circumstances were no problem. Let your heart and mind pour out what you feel and think. Are you acting on these passionate interests and concerns? Is your church? Share with him and then listen and write what you hear, feel and think. And bring your survey to your Care Cluster at its scheduled time. You'll get a call.

I want every single person who is a part of this church--member and non-member-to do this. Everyone is important. EVERYONE!! Don't rule yourself out because you think you are too young, too old, not here enough or have ill health and can't participate as you would like. The Holy Spirit speaks through you! The whole "Team" needs to be heard from the water carrier to the quarterback. YOU are the church!

I look forward to being with you for these holy conversations. Pray for the groups. Ask the Holy Spirit's discernment. Your input is our next step as a congregation in putting feet on our vision of becoming a lay based ministry where every disciple is nurtured and treasured and the world, as John Wesley said, is our parish!

With hope and anticipation!
Pastor Denice Leslie

P. S. This great idea is brought to you by your Horizon Line Vision Team!

THE BACK PEW

I look forward to our Fresno District Workshop with Rev. Tom Bandy of Easum/Bandy Associates. More and more churches in our conference are engaged in the same process we are: redevelopment of their congregations for ministry in a new social environment

different from anything the church has known in this nation before now. Our bishop and cabinet, increasing numbers of clergy and laity are reading Tom Bandy's books to assist them in transitioning our conference and local churches.

Now the training we pastors get at pastors school is available right here at our church! We are fortunate to have Tom Bandy of Easum/Bandy Associates returning for our District Day leadership event again this year. This all day workshop is only \$27.00 and includes materials and lunch. Scholarships are available. No one should stay away because of financial limitations. Call me if you need assistance. This was a VERY popular event last year with over 240 in attendance so do not delay in getting your registration in.

As pastor I want every leader, not just ministry leaders--administrative leaders as well--in this church to be on board with our efforts to transition into a lay based ministry that makes disciples for Jesus Christ. You need this training to be on board. I can't give you this training. We can't afford to bring the experts here to just our congregation. But through your apportionment giving we can, as a connectional church, bring the experts to us! And we are!! Thanks to the farsighted vision of your District Council and District Superintendent Vickie Healy we have this opportunity. Now let's support that effort with our presence and our attention and our prayers. I will see you there! Oct. 2, beginning at 9 a.m.

Registration forms are available in the church office and in the Sunday Bulletin. If you want to help that day with greeting, giving directions, helping with lunch, set up etc. call me and I will get you connected with the leader of that particular responsibility.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Denice Leslie