



Good News!

The newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

September 2004

THANK-YOU NOTE

Thanks to the family and friends of Memorial UMC for making the celebration of my 100th birthday so special. Thanks to those who decorated so beautifully, prepared the tasty food and dessert, and served it with such ease. It was truly a happy time and one so greatly appreciated.

Love and blessings, Gladys Manuel.

MORE THANKS

Thank you for your contribution to June's Annual Conference child Care Program in Fresno. Whether your part was big or small, it was essential. Together we made it a success!

Your effort was truly appreciated by the children and youth, the parents, Conference leaders, and especially by us! You all received lots of compliments. Your willingness to help with this undertaking, your flexibility, patience and enthusiasm during the week, and your devotion to the families of this conference are priceless. What a wonderful team!

A special word of thanks to all from Fresno who helped. Your warm hospitality was fantastic. Also, to those who traveled from the Sacramento area to take part in this adventure yet again - you are wonderful and incredibly devoted! Thank you! Dorrie Osback and Ginger Foster, Co-coordinators, AC Child Care Program.

Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis Presents a Benefit Performance by Jennifer Myers & Company A Journey Through the Ages - A Musical Revue

Saturday, Sept. 25th 5 pm
Tickets \$10/\$12 at the door
1726 Pollasky Ave. at Scott in Clovis
Ticket Information 299-4615

*An exciting musical Benefit featuring
Classical and Popular musical selections by
over 25 performers!*

*This will be a treat for the entire community.
Please offer your friends and relatives an
opportunity to purchase tickets to this great
event. We hope to have a full house, so get
your tickets early.*

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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DID YOU KNOW? OUR COFFEE HOUR IS "FAIR TRADE"

Did you know that our fellowship time after worship features Fair Trade coffee and tea? Coffee is the second largest U.S. import after oil and we are the largest consumer of the beverage in the world. Few Americans know that many small coffee farmers are paid an amount for the beans they toil so hard to grow that is less than the cost of production. Many of these farmers are forced into a cycle of poverty and debt.

For a coffee or tea importer to become Fair Trade certified, they must meet certain criteria. These include agreeing to pay a fair minimum price to the grower for beans or leaves, encouraging and helping to provide healthy and safe working conditions for laborers, assuring that child labor laws are not being abused, buying from producers who engage in environmentally sustainable practices, etc. By purchasing Fair Trade Certified products, we show our support for an equitable partnership between marketers in North America and growers in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean.

Your contribution to the basket on the Coffee Hour table helps support our effort to extend our faith walk into the world. If you are interested in purchasing Fair Trade Coffee or tea products for home use or would like information on this issue, see Sue DeFranco, Jean Hill, or Diane Zastovnik.

May God bless our desire to live by His words: "I want to share your bread with the hungry, open your home to the homeless poor, remove the yoke of injustice, let the oppressed go." Isaiah 58

COFFEE HOUR NEWS-HELP!

Our Coffee Hour Fellowship has become an important part of Sunday morning. It is a joy to spend time together after worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thanks to the faithful assistance of people like Georgia Holman, Erick and Lynn Seay, Pat Frey, Don and Evelyn Haulman, Dee Carr and the United Methodist Women, Rick and Sharon Hutchinson, and others who have provided treats or help, our fellowship time continues.

We could use 8-12 individuals, families, or groups to help on a rotating Sunday, as little as once a quarter. I am happy to continue to do the purchasing of supplies and put on the pots of coffee whenever I am there on Sundays, but could use assistance with set up, serving, and clean up. Look for a sign-up sheet on the Coffee Hour table or see Sue DeFranco if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

Income Report		
	2004	2003
General Fund income- June	\$18,504.00	\$16,770.00
General Fund income - YTD	\$117,968.00	\$101,570.00
% of Budget YTD	103.24%	88.89%
% of Desired Budget	86.06%	
Short of Desired Budget	\$19,104.50	
Pledges received - June	\$12,100.00	\$13,100.00
Pledges received - YTD	\$79,468.00	\$80,582.00
% of Budgeted pledge YTD	102.72%	95.95%
June net savings deposit	\$1,952.00	
Major non-regular Jun expns:		
Easter Offering sent to Dist.	\$1,332.00	

CROP WALK 2004

Did you know the 2004 CROP walk for the Hungry will begin and end right here at good old Clovis Memorial UMC? Not only do we have the opportunity to get out our walking shoes to raise money and raise awareness about the tragedy of hunger-we also get to host the event!! The date is Sunday, October 24th with registration and entertainment starting around 2 pm. The Walk will begin at 2:30 pm and take walkers on a 3-mile route through downtown Clovis, on the Sugar Pine Trail and back to the church. Our church has been participating in this event for over 20 years.

CROP Walks are held all over the United States to bring attention to the issue of global and national hunger and its related consequences. A portion of the money raised goes to Church World Service, an interfaith organization that works in partnership with others like Heifer Project to provide sustainable self-help and development to people in need around the globe, disaster relief wherever and whenever it is needed and refugee assistance. You may find out more about CWS by logging on to their website at www.churchworldservice.org. Another portion goes to agencies selected by the local Walk's organizing committee who are involved in feeding the hungry of our local communities. This year's recipients are the Community Food Bank and FIRM (Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries). Our Community Garden, a project begun with the support and guidance of FIRM, will be open for our guests to see on the day of the Walk.

I hope many of you will walk or sponsor a walker. If you can't walk, consider coming out to be a CUMC "greeter," extending a warm welcome to the wonderfully diverse group-Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, men, women, young, old, physically challenged -- who come together to help the hungry. Maybe you'd like to bake cookies for the walkers to enjoy at the end of the walk or help at registration tables. This would be appreciated

since we could have over 300 walkers! You can always keep walkers and the hungry they walk for in your prayers. For more information about CROP Walk 2004, see Sue DeFranco.

Care Ministries

Giving Special Care to Others

SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM

These five members had a record "hot" meeting on August 10, 2004 (106 degrees outside): Pauline Middleton, Minnie Eller, Pat Frey, Evelyn Haulman and the Coordinator.

We missed our Team member, Bob Anderson, who had died just two days earlier.

We subtracted Marilyn Taylor from the Special Friends List (deceased) and added a new name, Bill Ames to our 90+ list.

We agonized with and for some of our members who are hanging on to health and home by a thin thread: What can we do to help? Contact Family? Provide a list of rest homes? Help them think through their options? Promote the Care Card option of giving us family contact information?

We reported on at least 19 visits, 15 telephone calls and 19 cards and notes sent, not counting those of Pastor Denice.

We prayed for our special friends and the Anderson family.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 14, 1:30 pm in the Library. Y'all come!

Laurence Hill, Coordinator.

PARISH CHAPLAIN TRAINING

For some fifteen years the Center for Spiritual Care at Saint Agnes Medical Center has offered an educational opportunity for persons to gain the skills needed for lay ministry as Parish Chaplains. The individual could volunteer in the congregation or here at Saint Agnes or any of the local hospitals. The revised 17-hour program is offered over three Saturdays. Foundations in Health Ministry and Pastoral Care is scheduled for October 2, 16 and 30, 2004. Pastor recommendation is required. Parish Chaplains meet each Tuesday morning with Pastor Denice at 11 am as the Pastoral Care Team. If you feel called to the ministry of Christian Care Giving, this is the training you need. Come and join us! the course outline is on the counter in the office, or you may contact the Center for Spiritual Care at 450-3227.

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

MISSION THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Starting in September, we are going to be open on the first Friday and Saturday of every month. Our hours will be 8:30a.m. to 2:30p.m. If you have donations, please call Janet Bonzo or Sharee Woxell so a time can be arranged to have them placed inside our shop. Workdays will be the 2 Tuesdays before the Thrift Shop opens, starting at 8a.m. This would be a good time to drop off donations, too!

September 3rd and 4th
October 1st and 2nd
November 5th and 6th
December 3rd and 4th

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 4TH

The meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall at 8:00am where we'll serve fruit, pastry, and coffee. Ron Zastovnik will be giving the presentation and it sounds like a great one. The title is "Basic Sound Systems Concepts and MUMC Needs." It will address our current situation and some recommendations on how to improve our sound system. You don't have to be a member so come and bring a friend and enjoy great fellowship.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Regular Meeting September 21, 10 am, Social Hall. Program: Rev. Newell Knudson, "World Thanks Offering." Everyone welcome! Bring your own service for lunch. Wesley Circle hosts.

Red Bird Circle: September 9, 9:30 am, Library

Wesley Circle: September 22, 11:30 am. Lunch at Applebees.

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.

- Barbara

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

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 4:30. 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.

CHIMES SCHEDULE

Sept. 5 – no meeting – Labor Day weekend
Sept. 26 – 4:30 pm
Oct. 3 – 4:30 pm
Oct. 10 – 4:30 pm
Oct. 24 – 4:30 pm
November 7 – 4:30 pm
November 28 – 9 am, if playing for church – Thanksgiving weekend. No afternoon rehearsal.
December 5 – 4:30 pm, tentative, without Janette.
December 18 – 1 pm, Saturday if playing Dec. 19.
Dec. 19 – 9 am if playing in church
Dec. 19 – 4:30 pm rehearsal
Dec. 24 – tentative warm-up Xmas Eve, possibly 6 pm for 7 pm service.

Please call Janette at 299-3228 if you have any schedule problems (early!). If you commit to rehearsals and performances we are counting on you to cover your part with us. Do not call to cancel on the day of a rehearsal. You must give us a week's notice. Thank you.

A SPECIAL "THANKS!" TO LUCY AND GEORGE

The 16 of us who attended the Women's Health Retreat, led by Lucy Elgin, on August 7th, appreciate all the time, effort and information that she shared with us. We're looking forward to another retreat. Thanks, also, to George for his input.