



# Good News!

The Newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

July 2005



## ALL CHURCH BBQ –SWIM- HOMEMADE ICE CREAM POTLUCK JULY 3

Everyone is invited to come to Don and Evelyn Haulman’s home on Sunday July 3, 2005, at 3 p.m. Bring your lawn chair and your swim suit, a side dish or dessert, and ice cream to share. ALSO you are invited to bring an ice cream freezer with your favorite home made ice cream recipe in it for desert. We want to enjoy the old fashioned fun of hand cranking—taking turns and anticipating the goodness of our labor.

## STAFF RECOGNITION DINNER

Our hard working staff is invited to a Staff Recognition Dinner on Sunday afternoon, July 10 at 4:30 p.m. at Roger and Barbara Grams home. This dinner is sponsored by the Staff Parish Relations Committee to honor and appreciate our staff members.

## HEALING SERVICE TUESDAY JULY 5

You are invited to the Healing Prayer and Communion Service at 7 p.m. Tuesday evening July 5. We pray for others, for the world, and for our own needs. Anointing with healing prayer is offered at the rail after we receive the Lord’s Supper.

## THANK YOU

Thank you Karen Faulkner, our Master Landscape Gardener, Gloria McClanahan, Renovation Task Force Chair, and Dee Carr, Grounds Trustee, for all your work on Phase II of our Landscaping plan. And thank you Jim McClanahan and Howard Vollman for maintaining our sprinkler system and helping adjust the system to our new landscape needs.

## MELODY YANG INTERNS AT MUMC THIS SUMMER

Melody Yang, our most recent certified Lay Speaker and preacher on May 29 is beginning her journey toward certification as a candidate for ordained ministry. As part of her journey, Melody will be interning this summer and “shadowing” Pastor Denice so she may have an experience of pastoring. Melody worked with our FIRM Vacation Church School ministry in June and will be providing leadership at the Hmong Family Camp. Please pray for Melody that doors will open for her to achieve her dream of answering God’s call in her life to ordained ministry. And lets all be a part of making that happen!

## FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES!

Starting Friday, July 22, you are invited to join your church family out on the north lawn for Friday Night at the Movies! We will start at 8:30 p.m. with some film shorts, then start the Feature Presentation at dusk. Please bring something comfortable to sit on, and snacks to share. Cold punch and water will be provided. Here is a preview of this month's selections: Friday July 22 - "**Willow**" - a swashbuckling tale of bravery and enchantment. Friday July 29 - "**Chicken Run**" - a buck-buck-bucking tale of bravery and emancipation. Looking forward to seeing you there!

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# **RENOVATION TEAM** **REPORT**

By Gloria McClanahan

## **Children's Play Area**

Have you noticed the turf, bark, new trees and day lily plantings in the children's play area behind the bungalow? Oh, and the bench, and what? A Cow! Wow! Thank you Roger and Barbara Grams. The children's play area is delightful and complete—children, enjoy!!

## **Landscape Improvements**

We again thank Karen Faulkner for her work in planting the strip between the sanctuary and parking lot. Irrigation was improved also. Tim Stoddard removed the junipers so we can better see the fountain area on arrival in our automobiles. Many more improvements are planned including turf out front north of the driveway. As progress is made in other areas, irrigation is the first step and then appropriate weather. It is less than ideal to start plants in this heat. The landscaping improvements will probably be complete by next spring.

## **Audio Visual Project**

"Can you hear me now?" "Can you see it now?" is our theme. This is a fabulous project with fabulous support. As of the second week we have \$11,000 pledged toward our \$40,000 goal! The project includes improvements in both sound system and visual presentations. You will be surrounded with words you can understand and music you can really hear. Our eyes will pop when we get the power point up there on new screens with clear letters and moving visual experiences.

## **Fund Raising Committee**

In support of improvements and various needs presented to the church, we now have a Fund Raising Committee. Ideas presented have been a vendors fair where booths are rented and goods sold (other churches in the area have profited richly); e-script with Save Mart; and gift cards through Diane Zastovnik. All of these activities are being planned in consideration of the annual Boutique calendaring, etc.

## **Interior Improvements to Sanctuary**

The renovation team is working on a list of pricing for various improvements in the sanctuary including organ chambers, chancel floor, communion rail, painting, mini blinds, carpet, pew cushions, etc. When pricing and completion of the "wish list" is assembled, this information will go through appropriate administrative channels and hopefully be presented to the congregation early in 2006. Planning for some of the items include accommodations for the visual aides. Perhaps the communion rails will be completed independent of this big push. We will keep you posted.

## **Gifts and Memorials**

Helen Tashjian is offering a beautiful custom stained glass window in memory of Karl Tashjian. Trustees have approved the design and hopefully by September we will see it installed. It will be in the window directly over the exit doors from the sanctuary. We look forward to its arrival and the beautiful way it will enhance our sanctuary. Frances Hubert is offering an ornamental pear tree in honor of Bob Hubert to be positioned at the northeast corner facing Pollasky. It will be planted when optimum irrigation and weather conditions exist. Gloria McClanahan, Gifts and Memorials Committee

## **Financial & Stewardship News**

### **ATTENDANCE & FINANCE STATISTICS**

*May 2005*

Attendance Total 751 (Weekly Average 151)

Hmong Attendance Total 270 (Weekly Average 54)

Total Attendance 1021

Total Weekly Average Attendance 205

Total offering \$22,755

Needed for Budget \$22,595

### **PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND**

Your Permanent Endowment Fund Committee thanks everyone who made contributions to our church's Permanent Endowment Fund this year. With your help the Fund continues to grow and increase its help to our church's missions. That is something to be thankful for! If you would like to learn more about how you can contribute to our church's Permanent Endowment Fund to help finance our church's future, please speak with Rick Hutchinson or John Tallmadge.

## Care Ministries

Giving Special Care to Others

### **THANK-YOU NOTES**

*Words can't express how grateful I am for all of your prayers, cards and calls during the extended illness of my grandson, Jeffery, who passed away, Saturday, May 14, 2005. I am thankful to God for your comfort and care during my and my daughter Jenna Reynold's loss.*

*God bless you all! Novelle Rogers.*

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*Your tribute to my husband, Ralph, with your cards, telephone calls, contributions, and attendance at his memorial service are sincerely appreciated.*

*Thank you all, Nancy Enloe*

### **SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM REPORT**

Our Special Friends Team gathered in June to pray for, report ministries to and plan future contacts with folks facing particular challenges. Pat Frey, Lorraine May, Max Cannon, Pauline Middleton, Gladys Manuel, Margie Magargee, and the Coordinator considered comments by Leonardo Bott on St. Francis' prayer: "Lord, Make Me An Instrument of your Peace." How do we get peace? "By Being re-connected to the divine heart (re-ligado)."

Eighteen cards were sent, 22 visits and 12 telephone calls were made last month.

Special prayer concerns at this meeting were people getting chemotherapy, facing grief, deciding whether to leave their home and experiencing dementia and life-threatening disease.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, July 12 at 1:30 pm in the Lose Church Library.

- Laurence Hill, Coordinator

### ***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)*

### **HMONG MINISTRY UPDATE**

Hmong Language Pastor Kham Dy Yang has been hard at work evangelizing in the Hmong Community among the 1.5 generation through tireless efforts on the radio and through personal contacts. As a result the congregation which began two years ago with two

families now has 167 people associated with the church. The Hmong worship service is at 3 p.m. on Sundays and Sunday School and Youth Group meet as well. We are currently in the process of recruiting our Hmong members to serve on our administrative committees and the UMW is reaching out to the Hmong women to assist them in becoming United Methodist Women. Pledges toward Pastor Yang's salary are greatly appreciated as this work is bearing fruit. Please also remember to pray for our Hmong congregation, Pastor Kham Dy, his wife Melody, their seven children, and the HART Academy Charter School whose mission is to educate healthy, strong and proud American-Hmong citizens from intact, healthy families.

### **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*

### **GRIEF RECOVERY GROUP**

All are welcome to our Grief Recovery Group, now meeting monthly on the first Tuesday, 11 am to noon, in the Lose Library.

### **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."*

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Thank you Young Adults for providing Sunday School leadership for our children on Father's Day and for helping our children provide a song for worship that Sunday.

# Youth News

### **YOUTH CALENDAR**

Saturday **July 2**, 8:00 - 11:00 am Poverello House Work Day

Sunday **July 3**, 3:00 pm, Church Family BBQ/Swim Party at Haulmans

Sunday **July 10**, 9:45 a.m., Youth Usher Duty  
(Worship Service)  
Sunday **July 10**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Lord of The Rings  
Study (Bungalow)  
Thursday **July 14**, 7:00 p.m., Meet at church to pack  
for Backpack Trip  
Friday **July 15**-Monday **July 18** Back Pack Trip  
Sunday **July 24**, 5:30 -7:30 pm Lord of The Rings  
Study (Bungalow)  
Sunday **July 31**, 5:30 - 7:30 pm Lord of The Rings  
Study (Bungalow)

### **IS "THE LORD OF THE RINGS" AS GOOD AS "THE PRODIGAL SON?"**

When Jesus wanted to make a point, he told stories that caught people's imaginations and made them think, stories like the Prodigal Son and the Lost Sheep. Those stories are still around, helping us to understand what Jesus was trying to tell us. But these days, it's hard to get into stories about mustard seeds and fig trees, or about sparrows and lilies, and even harder to get Jesus' message.

This summer, the youth group will look for God in the "Lord of the Rings" movie trilogy during its Sunday night meetings. We will view and discuss each of the movies, and explore the message of Christ hidden in the adventures of Frodo, Samwise, Aragorn, Legolas, and the Ring. All youth grades 7-12 are welcome - Bring your friends! We meet almost every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. in the Bungalow (check the calendar for changes in this schedule.)

### **YOUTH BACKPACK TRIP July 15-18!**

Our (somewhat) Annual Backpack Trip is scheduled for Friday, July 15 through Monday July 18. Fearless Leaders Ben Zastovnik and Richie Bonzo have scouted the hills for a great location in the Dinkey Lake area, a fairly easy one-day hike in to a base camp. To sign up for the trip, and for more information regarding cost and supplies, you may call Youth Worker Connie Alfaro or pick up a flyer in the church lobby. The flyer will also be mailed out to everyone at the beginning of July.

# Coach's Corner

Happy Summer! During my current sermon series on "7 Habits of Highly Effective Christians" we hope to offer a sale of spiritual life materials for you. If you would help with the sale please speak to Carol Mohan.

I am currently reading Eugene Peterson's *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*. You may be familiar with Peterson's contemporary and popular paraphrase of the Bible, The Message. I recommend it to you.

In his book, *Working the Angles*, Peterson's message is that pastors can't fill other people's wells if they are not filling their own. Attentiveness to God through the time honored work of prayer, scripture and seeking and offering spiritual direction is the pastor's vocation. Like athletes in training, discipline to these practices builds a strong foundation out of which to build substance in pastoral work. What is that work? Maturing disciples who go out to make other disciples and transform the world with the gospel. Effective Discipleship requires a strong spiritual base. Spiritual growth in the congregation will be our focus as we seek to instill Habits of Highly Effective Christians. To help us grow spiritually in our church structural life, the Horizon Visioning Team has proposed we use a monthly devotional that will be published and made available for group, team, and committee use. If you would like to be part of a team to write or provide these monthly devotionals, see me.

Meanwhile, remember another spiritual discipline is Sabbath time for re-creating ourselves! So go out and play, have some fun, sit and enjoy God's creation, or blow some bubbles! Setting aside time to refresh ourselves is a commandment of God given to us for our well-being! You know, all work and no play makes for a dull person.

And in that time, remember to be mindful of the One who is the giver of the gift as we seek to make being attentive to God and every day thing.

Peace from the pieces, Pastor Denice

## THE BACK PEW: Family Camp

*"Goin' on a Squeegy hunt, gonna find a big one!"* With that line ringing in my ears I am home after a wonderful week at family camp. Next year I hope some of you will join me there! Our Conference United Methodist Family Camp at Silver Spur Camp out of Tuolumne near Sonora has a 40 year history and is directed by now retired pastor Doug Norris. Doug served the Merced, Manteca and Los Altos UMC congregations among others and as a consequence over the years the majority of those attending camp come from these churches as Doug has been the director for at least the last 25 years. Camp is open to everyone on a first come first served basis. The capacity is just a little over 200. The dates for next year are Sunday June 18 through Sunday June 25, 2006. Camp is eight days and seven nights. Cost is \$450 for a family unit for housing plus a \$125.00 food and activity /resource/administrative costs fee for those 11 years of age and over. Fees are less for those younger.

Don't blanch! Read a little further: All cabins are air conditioned. There is lodge rooming as well for those who desire a private room. For those willing to share a cabin (sleeps 8) housing is \$150 per person. Grandparents bring grandchildren, many seniors come alone, many empty nesters, many families, lots of teens and young adults. Dads come with their kids and vice versa. You may come for the entire camp or for part of camp at reduced cost. All walks are paved, all cabins accessible by paved road on foot or by car. Camp is about 2 1/2 hours from Clovis. This next year registration will be on line. I will get the information out to you as soon as I receive it which shouldn't be too long from now. Let me know if you are interested.

I first served on staff in 2004 after our daughter Moira begged us to go to camp for a couple of years. She attended with another family. The first year I went to please my daughter. This last year I went because it is a GREAT camp experience! I have organized and reorganized camps in the past, written curriculum and served as program director and camp counselor and really thought my camp days might be behind me. But the Conference encourages pastors to serve on camp staff, (ALL our camps need staff. If you are interested, just speak with me) and provides clergy with a Sunday out of the pulpit and a week to serve at camp. So I started looking around for a camp to serve on as staff. I have always loved camp and tried to start a camp in the Fresno District when I arrived here until I realized that since I was no longer serving as a pastor of congregational life I did not have the luxury of the time to spend on this year long endeavor and dropped it.

This year, colleague and friend Pastor Mary Lee Sheffer and I wrote and co-taught a morning class on the topic of "Practicing the Presence of God in Our Homes." We had twelve adults in attendance ranging in age from

mid-twenties to eighty. There are morning classes for all ages and childcare is provided during class time for infants through toddlers. Swimming lessons are provided for babies and children. Arts and crafts activities include quilting and making bottle rockets for a big blast off one evening of the week with a real life rocket scientist! This year we made a beautiful quilt to raffle off at the end of camp to help fund camp.

Other activities to enjoy include swimming, water aerobics, archery, water slide, big swing, volley ball tournament, softball, climbing wall, just sitting and conversation at Shady Rest, puzzles, reading, handwork, sleeping (One hour of Flake Out is required daily) and of course eating! Two campfires begin and end the day with singing, message and worship. Great fun is scheduled in the early evenings including Improve Night, The Royal Court of Siam, The Bottle Rocket Blast Off, and Talent Show. The children and young people take responsibility each night for campfire programs and the concluding evening campfire is communion. Outside of campfires and class time the schedule is open and you are free to use your time as you like. I hope you will seriously consider coming to Family Camp. You may make payments through out the year (which is what I do) and seek scholarship assistance through our District and from the church. I'll see if I can't get a link to the Family Camp website to our web site so you can see what camp is like for yourself! Blessings,  
Pastor Denice Leslie

### MUMC BENEFIT CONCERT

It's that time of year again. Time to begin planning the MUMC benefit concert. This year's concert will be held on September 17th in our Sanctuary. We are very excited and can't wait to begin. We would like to invite everyone to participate, whether it be donating an item for the silent auction, donating a beverage or goodie, helping to sell tickets, publicity, or performing. It will all be greatly appreciated.

The theme of the concert will be Andrew Lloyd Webber, so if you would like to sing, it must be one of his pieces. Your selection will need to be cleared by Jenny Myers (so we don't have duplicates), and you must also be able to attend the final dress rehearsal on September 16th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, and the actual performance. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jenny by July 15th. There will be no one added to the production after this date.

We look forward to hearing from you.