



Good News!

The Newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

November 2005

TOM BANDY DAY NOVEMBER 5

It is not too late to get your Tom Bandy Day registration in! Scholarships are still available. Tom, with Easum/Bandy Associates will be with us for his third and final year under the sponsorship of our Fresno District Council on Ministries as we seek to transition our churches for a new century of ministry. Tuition for the day which includes lunch and materials is \$50.00. If you need a scholarship simply turn in your check to the church for the amount you can afford.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Women's Book Club will meet November 8th at 7 pm at Susan Lowrey's home. Book for November, "The Wedding" by Nicholas Sparks, available in paperback.

THANKSGIVING CHRYSANTHEMUMS

We are asking people to loan us their mums this year. They will be placed in the Sanctuary on November 13th and 20th. If you would like to place a chrysanthemum in honor or memory of someone, forms are available in the Sunday insert, or call the church office. Thanks so much!

GENERATIONS OF GENEROSITY: FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP 2005

November is our annual financial stewardship campaign. Our theme Generations of Generosity lifts up the faithfulness of generations of Christians in providing their financial resources for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the way in which that legacy is passed on to each of us. November 20, the Sunday before Thanksgiving we will return our estimate of giving cards and give thanks to God for all the blessings we have received.

MUMC CHOIR SINGING IN THANKSGIVING CONCERT, NOV. 20

Metro Ministry presents its 22nd annual Thanksgiving concert, "One Song, Many Voices" the Sunday before Thanksgiving, Nov. 20 at 3 pm at Hope Lutheran Church. A pie and beverage reception follows in the church social hall. A free will offering will be taken. For more information, contact Carmen Pauls Wiens at Fresno Metro Ministry. Plan now to enjoy this inspirational start to the holiday season.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING RINGS OUT THE OLD YEAR AND RINGS IN THE NEW

Thanksgiving weekend on Sunday, November 27, our chime choir, The Fellowship of the Ring, under the direction of Janet Erickson, will play in worship on the first Sunday of Advent! Don't miss this wonderful gift!

THANK-YOU NOTE

As I count my blessings, I wish to offer a thanksgiving to my church family and friends who helped make my 101st birthday a joyful occasion. I also offer a thanksgiving for the thoughtfulness and caring shown during my recent hospital stay and recovery at home. I feel truly blessed.

With love, Gladys Manuel

BOUTIQUE DATES

The Boutique will be held on Nov. 11 & 12. This is a week earlier than last year.

Please plan your contributions of crafts, handwork, jams, jellies and food. They are greatly appreciated and add to the success of this major fund raiser for our church.



Coache's Corner

The Fall season includes our annual church/charge conference. This is the opportunity every church member has to vote on new officers, approve clergy compensation, take stock of where we've been and where God is leading us and celebrate our ministry together. Our District Superintendent, Vickie Healy will be with us. We will join together again this year with Wesley Fresno UMC and Oakhurst New Community UMC, our newest congregation, who will also be our hosts this year.

On the agenda we may have a recommendation coming to us from Church Council to combine our trustee and finance committee responsibilities into an Administrative Support Team which will make policy and provide direction and oversight for our financial and facility responsibilities.

The team would relate specific needs that fulfill the mission of the church to the administrative ministry teams who are the "doers," most of whom are currently in place: Memorials and Gifts, Money Counters, Office Finance Assistants, Design and Renovation Team, Prayer Garden Caretakers, Endowment, Fundraising, etc.

Added to this group would be a Facility Project Team composed of the folks who take care of the irrigation, recycling, electrical, plumbing, general repairs and handyman jobs around here. Also created would be a Finance Project Team tasked with the responsibility of developing a finance and facilities packet for all ministry teams.

Administratively, the teams would have more direct responsibility and decision making authority because they are the folks who actually DO the work—with the GIFTS for the work. This is their called out ministry among us. There would be fewer hoops to jump through in order to do ministry while maintaining accountability within the system.

The Administrative Support team would have folks on it who are GIFTED at seeing the bigger picture and who are committed to the mission of the church. They will supply direction and guidance around how our facilities and finances will serve the church's mission of showing and telling Jesus' love everywhere. They will also focus their attention on facilitating ministry by providing policies and

procedures for new and current ministry and mission teams and assisting them in getting up and running.

The idea is to shift our focus from primarily managing ministry to doing ministry (Administration IS ministry) and move from a more secular business model to a ministry model. The focus will be on our spiritual giftedness and on deepening our spiritual focus.

The plan is to help each one of our administrative teams take a spiritual step up by beginning their time together deepening their fellowship and spiritual connection through sharing, caring and prayer before they set about their ministry/mission.

Each team will be encouraged as well to shepherd and mentor folks new to the faith with similar ministry interests into their group and ministry. This is how the church grows and people become part of our church family and become disciples who give their gifts!

The recommendation will come from our Horizon Line Vision Team which was tasked last year with beginning the process of creating a proposal for appropriate structural change that will support our gifted lay based and multiplying ministries. Horizon has consulted with members of both existing committees in its process and consulted with other folks who would be apart of the new facility project team to test the waters. The response has been very positive.

Now it is time to hear from you. Come to council meeting Sunday, November 13 to give your input and ask questions.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Denice Leslie

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)

BROWN BAG TIME! PICK UP YOUR BAG SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6

As we look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving, each year we have an opportunity to fill brown grocery bags with canned and dry foods for the hungry. Our children decorate the bags with pictures of things they are thankful for: their families, God's creation, food to eat... and together we remember the hungry. Return your brown bag Sunday, November 20.

CROP WALK SUCCESS!

Nineteen MUMC walkers made the trek for the hungry at this year's 2005 annual CROP Walk for Church World Service. A special recognition goes to our two oldest walkers who went the entire three miles: Octogenarian Nancy Locke and Centarian Gladys Manual. At 101, Gladys was recognized as the oldest walker. We donated 1600 dollars of the over 27,000 and still counting total for this year's walk.

Our walk would not succeed without the faithfulness of our CROP coordinator Sue DeFranco whose responsibilities include keeping track of walker's donation envelopes registration, and participation in the CROP plan team. Thank you Sue!

WARM TREE TIME IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER! GIVE A GIFT OF WARMTH TO A CHILD IN NEED

Our Christmas Warm Tree will be in the lobby of the church building beginning Sunday, November 27. Gifts of warm clothing for children for the cold weather such as socks, mittens, caps, sweaters, warm pajamas, mufflers etc. are all appropriate items. Wrap them and mark for girl or boy and place them under our tree. Last Sunday to bring gifts is Christmas Sunday, December 18.

HART ACADEMY TUTORING

HART Academy is a dual language immersion charter school where students speak Hmong and English are learning each other's language. The Executive Director is our Hmong Associate Pastor Kham Dy Yang. Members of our church are tutoring students at HART. If you would like to be a tutor call the church office or speak with Jean Hill.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

This month we welcomed the family of Sonny and Chi Uwaoma and their daughters Ochei, Daniel and Kristina on Sunday October 16. The next Sunday we welcomed the family of Dr. Tony and Chi Me Vang, their infant daughter and Tony's mother Kai Pao Vang. We also welcomed into Christ's church Hailey Rene Remer, infant daughter of Matthew and Lisa Remer and proud grandmother Marlene Remer.

STATUS REPORT ON KATRINA MINISTRIES

As of today (October 14, 2005) our little congregation has sent over \$4,616 to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) for relief

ministries and health kits. Nationally UMCOR has been given OVER ELEVEN MILLION DOLLARS!

We have made numerous phone calls to United Methodist Annual Conference offices and have finally connected with the Louisiana Annual Conference office, Darryl Tate, Disaster Coordinator. He says they can use volunteer work teams now and partnering with local churches later. AN URGENT NEED IS FOR MONEY FOR PASTORS' SALARIES. Over 80 pastors from the conference alone are not being paid! It is apparent that the situation is changing and needs requested will change over time. Contacts say it may well be 10 years before we're done. It does not look likely that we will find a person or family who wants to come here, so we need to look toward sending people, money or things to Louisiana.

Darryl asks us to e-mail him with what we can offer. If you can contribute skills, money or whatever, please let me know BY THURSDAY, November 3 so I can reply. This type of ministry may require us to shift our financial contributions from UMCOR to a local church partner in Louisiana.

I will order 25 copies of The United Methodist Reporter with pictures of damaged churches and relief ministries to pass out at church.

While I am away Nov. 6 through 29, Pastor Denice Leslie will be your contact person.

Laurence Hill

RENOVATION TEAM REPORT

A JOYFUL THANK YOU

Sometimes we wonder about the future of MUMC in the climate of burgeoning local community nondenominational churches. It is nothing for them to get to 300 members in a year and nearly double that the following year. Then they raise huge buildings and take their places in our neighborhoods not long after they started.

Where is MUMC in all this? We've always had caring and concerned members. Where would we be now if in the 60's our membership hadn't moved us to the present site? Our site and buildings are lovely and we are grateful for all the efforts it took. Many of those members are still worshipping with us today.

Our sanctuary has needs for renovation - namely, the chancel floor, new paint on window wall and acoustic tiles, organ chamber finish, pew cushions, lighting, mini blinds and if possible at this time new carpet. Careful plans are being made to refresh the space so carefully put together over 40 years ago. I'm sure none of us would let our homes go for 40 years without painting the interiors or refreshing the furniture. Now is the time to look and evaluate and come up with solutions. If you have strong feelings about any of this or wish to help, please put your signed comments in the suggestion box in the narthex and the Renovation Task Force will get back to you.

Gloria McClanahan

Care Ministries

Giving Special Care to Others

SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM REPORT FROM OCTOBER 2005 MEETING

Our congregational pastoral care team met in Lose Library to report and plan to extend Christ's love to those in particular crises. Pastor Denice Leslie, Dee Carr, Pauline Middleton, Lorraine May, Margie Magargee, Pat Frey and Laurence Hill joined in worship by singing a song expressing Memorial's mission: "Showing and Telling Jesus' Love Everywhere". We discussed St. Francis of Assisi's phrase "Where there is error, let me sow truth". We talked about the error of prejudice toward those who act differently from the majority.

We corrected the Special Friends List of 21 of regular contact and added 2 to make the Watch List of 16 to keep track of. We each took assignments from the Special Friends List to contact.

We reported at least 28 visits, 36 telephone calls and 36 notes/cards during the past month.

The Grief Recovery Group will continue to meet on the First Tuesday of the Month (Nov. 1) from 11 am to noon in the Lose Library. Anyone dealing with loss is invited to join us for informal discussion. You may contact John Tallmadge or Gil Stocks

We gave thanks for healings and lifted up in prayers persons with diabetes, tumors and infections. We asked help for those suffering from hurricanes and earthquakes and in finding a way to channel our concern to Gulf Coast survivors (see separate article: "Katrina Report").

Next meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 1:30 pm in the Lose Library. Everyone is invited.

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

ALL CHURCH ADVENT DINNER, SATURDAY DEC. 3

Mark your calendar for the annual all-church Advent Dinner. Pat Frey will have a sign up sheet out in the church lobby to sign up and indicate if you would like to decorate and "host" a table. So get your creative mind in gear and make plans! Table decorations run the gamut from all paper Christmas themed products to fine china, Santa collections, trains, reindeer, dancing Santas — you name it! Pastor Newell Knudson will be our emcee once more this year. The food is potluck, plentiful, festive and delicious! This is a great way to start the Advent/Christmas season—invite your whole family!

HOW ABOUT SMALL GROUPS?

Jesus said, "Where ever two or three are gathered in my name, I am in the midst of them." The first Christian small group was the group of disciples Jesus gathered around him. From that one group grew the entire Church! Growth, friendship, fellowship, caring, sharing, mission and witness occur in small groups of believers. Small groups come in all shapes and sizes! Susan Lowrey, our new Small Group Coordinator invites you to speak to her regarding your interest in Small Groups. Then watch for more information.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

It's that time of year for all United Methodist Women to rededicate and renew their commitment to Christ's commission, to go into the world and tell the Good News. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex or call Judy Gross at 323-6794.

Nov. 7 - Board Meeting, 9 am, Library

Nov. 9 - Red Bird Circle, 9:30 am, Library

Nov. 15 - Regular meeting, 10 am, Social Hall.

Program on Missions – Pauline Middleton.

Red Bird Circle hosts. Bring your own service. Everyone welcome.

Nov. 16 - Wesley Circle, 1 pm, Social Hall

UMM BREAKFAST FOR NOVEMBER

Due to a District workshop on the 4th and 5th and the Boutique the following week, there will be no UMM Breakfast in November. The next UMM Breakfast will be December 3rd.

Administration & Stewardship

ATTENDANCE & FINANCE STATISTICS

September 2005

Attendance Total 120 (Weekly Average)

Hmong Attendance Total 31 (Weekly Average)

Total Attendance 604

Total Weekly Average Attendance 151

Total offering \$18,568

Needed for Budget \$18,076

COUNCIL MEETING ON SECOND SUNDAY

Our church council is meeting on the second Sunday of the month thirty minutes after worship. Last month we got off to a great start with a wonderful turn out of leaders. Take a few minutes to walk over to Carl's Juniors or Togos and grab a sandwich, soup or salad and join us in the library. This month we will be considering a structure change that will form an Administrative Support team to handle our facility and finance needs.

ANNUAL CHURCH/CHARGE CONFERENCE MEETS DEC. 3 IN OAKHURST AT NEW COMMUNITY UMC

Meet in the parking lot at 1:30 to car pool to Oakhurst New Community UMC for our annual church/charge conference. Wesley UMC will join with us. We responsible for salads this year and Oakhurst will provide the main dish. We will elect new officers, vote on clergy compensation packages for the upcoming year and make a decision about a proposed structure change that may come to us from church council as well as celebrate our ministries together. The meeting begins at 3 p.m.

You are invited to a
Birthday Dinner Party
In celebration of
Fresno Korean Fellowship First Decade
On Sunday, Nov. 13th
Please watch the Sunday Insert for more
information.
Everyone invited.
A congregational gift will be presented.

Youth News

Saturday, Nov. 5, 8 to 12 Poverello House Work Day
Sunday, Nov. 6, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Meeting
Sunday, Nov. 13, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Meeting
Sunday, Nov. 20, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Meeting
Sunday, Nov. 27, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Meeting

THE BACK PEW

The recent Igniting Ministry training event was truly outstanding! Our hats are off to Debbie Gudger for igniting the flame of hospitality in us with new insight and inspiration! We learned more than we thought possible! You will be hearing and seeing more as time moves on.

Debbie shared with us the understanding of the difference between a visitor and a guest. A visitor is clearly an "outsider" and members are clearly "insiders." A visitor is someone who has come to visit us—making us the most important people present, while a guest is clearly someone we honor and expect—and who is in fact **THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE ROOM!** That is radical hospitality! Radical in that it returns to the root of Jesus the Sacred Stranger who said to us in Matthew 25:34: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." We are called to welcome the Christ in each and every guest among us.

This is a radical inclusiveness that is truly Christ centered. One which expresses our gratitude and appreciation for God's love and grace in our lives as we extend it to all.

We learned that growing in Christ begins with open armed, intentional hospitality and moves to helping people feel they truly belong to offering their gifts in service as disciples.

At Memorial we are committed to meeting people's needs and making them a part of our church fellowship while helping each and every person discover their call, passion and gifts for ministry; get connected, equipped and trained for that ministry.

When folks come to Memorial we want them be delighted by their reception—as delighted as they were by any of the 30 second Igniting Ministry adds they may have seen on TV that attracted them to our door. We want to be the church of "Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors!"

In Christ's love,
Pastor Denice Leslie