

Good News!

The Newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

September 2005

NEW MINISTRY WITH DIFFERENTLY ABLED BEGINS THIS MONTH

A new Sunday School class for Differently Abled Adults will begin on Sunday, September 4th at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall followed by worship at 10:00 a.m. No reading required. If you would like more information please call Susan Lowrey. Teachers for this class are Susan Lowrey, Melissa Locke and Judy Gross, all experienced in Special Education.

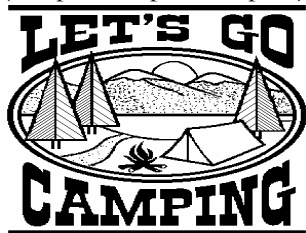
RALLY SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH

It's time to think about returning to Sunday School. We will consecrate our teachers and leaders on Rally Sunday, September 11. Young people will register for classes that day as well. Watch for announcements about upcoming new adult offerings both on Sundays and through the week. Check the bulletin insert and the education page of the Good News for details of ongoing small groups and classes as well as new opportunities.

We are hoping to offer a new Disciple Bible 1 class and later in the year a brand new Disciple Bible study. So if you've been through Disciple 1 – 4 there's more opportunities ahead!

ANNUAL ALL CHURCH CAMP OUT – REST, PLAY AND WORSHIP

We are returning to San Simeon Beach State Park located about a half mile north of Hearst Castle on Highway One at San Simeon Creek Road, Cambria, Friday, September 16 (camp sites open at 2 p.m.) through noon Sunday,



September 18. (Not yet rain season!) We have reserved four sites which will accommodate a total of 32 people and any number of tents. Pets are permitted on leash, no pets on the beach. We will increase reserved

sites as needed. Youth who want to come without family members may come with participating families or adults and with permission/medical release slips.

If you have an RV, call Pastor Denice ASAP and she will make an RV site reservation for you or make your own reservation direct at 1-800-444-7275. Or you may

wish to stay in one of the many motels, hotels, inns or bed and breakfasts in the area at off-season prices. Cambria has great B&B's in town and many inns along the surf. There is a Motel 6 in San Simeon as well –for more than the usual “G” costs but still a bargain. We will worship Sunday morning on the beach near the surf. San Simeon Beach is only a few miles away from Cambria and Morro Bay for shopping-eating; Montana De Oro State park, Hearst Castle, trails inside the park and along the ocean. Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo have movie theatres, great bookstores, etc.

The beach at San Simeon has a great peer for fishing, a lovely beach for swimming and play, grassy picnicking, camp store, kayaking (rentals available). Bicycling, bird watching, looking for otters and tide pools are among other recreational opportunities. Saturday is family play, rest, recreate day! If you can't come for the entire weekend, come for part. Costs are \$18 – \$20 per camping family unit plus a nominal charge for pets and extra cars (cost of one car per site is included in each campsite) for the weekend (Hard to beat for the Riviera of the Pacific!).

Everyone supplies their own food, food to share, and camping gear (Beg, borrow or steal—we can share camp stoves). We will have potluck dinner Friday evening for those who are able to arrive by 6- 7 p.m. and a concluding potluck breakfast on Sunday morning before worship at 10 a.m. And few of us actually sleep on the ground—we bring those big blow up mattresses!

Sites are developed which means warm showers, grassy campsites, available water and fire rings. Bring food things for the potlucks, goodies to share around the campfire, wood for fires, stories and jokes to tell and musical instruments. The weather will be gorgeous and sunny through the day with foggy mornings and evenings.

We will have a final meeting after worship on Sunday September 11th to go over details in the library, get our directions (takes 2 hours and 45 minutes to get there via Hwy 41 to Paso Robles, 46 and 101, approximately 150 miles from Fresno area.) and answer questions and be sure everyone has a ride and knows what to bring and share equipment.

Meanwhile, call Pastor Denice ASAP if you plan to go so she can increase the number of campsites accordingly as necessary.

Care Ministries

Giving Special Care to Others

SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM REPORT

Pauline Middleton, Dee Carr, Max Cannon, Pastor Denice Leslie, Lorraine May and Brother Laurence met on August 16 to listen and pray for one another.

We stressed the importance of keeping information about people confidential unless we have specific permission to share it. It is assumed that information given by a person about him/herself in an open worship service is ok to share. If in doubt, we will ask the person.

We reported 20 visits, 40 telephone calls and 28 cards/notes sent. Some of us took assignments for the next month.

We prayed for friends facing surgery and debilitating illnesses and set our next meeting for Tuesday, September 13 in the Lose Library at 1:30 pm.

Laurence Hill, coordinator

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 WOMEN'S NEWS

Regular meeting - Wednesday, Sept. 20, 10 am, Social Hall. World Thank Offering - Rev. Newell Knudson. Lunch hosts: Wesley Circle. Bring own service. Everyone welcome!

Red Bird Circle - Wednesday, September 14, 9:30 am, Library

Wesley Circle - Wednesday, September 28, 1 pm, Social Hall

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 3RD

The meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall at 8:00am with a surprise breakfast; a surprise because I haven't worked up the menu yet. I'm trying to get Jon but it will depend on whether he will be in town that weekend. We will have a mystery guest as a presenter. I'm trying to line up someone and haven't heard back yet. Come and bring a friend and enjoy great fellowship.

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.

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.

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 FOR LIFE FAMILY CAMPS PIONEER NEW MINISTRY IN OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE UNDER PASTOR YANG'S LEADERSHIP

Two new camps for Hmong United Methodist Families and Hmong United Methodist Clergy and their families were part of Associate Pastor for Hmong Language Ministry, Kham Dy Yang's ministry this summer. These camps were underwritten by grants made possible through apportionments of churches just like ours all over this country as well as United Methodist organizations and our congregation:

General Board of Church and Society: Peace with Justice Grant
National Federation of Asian American United Methodists—Endowment Fund: Discipleship Development Fund
California/Nevada Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry: Continuing Education Grants for Clergy
Fresno District
Shasta District
Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis
Christian Hmong Regeneration In Spiritual Transformation (CHRIST) Ministry.

As part of her summer internship with Memorial, Melody Yang also provided leadership at both camps this summer.

RENOVATION TEAM REPORT

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE – Landscaping Improvements

A gathering of those working on the landscape improvements produced a combined effort to make the grass greener. The most recent irrigation improvement (re-working the sprinkling system on the north side of the sanctuary) is already showing greener grass. We hope you are noticing and enjoying it. In the autumn, more work will be done on the turf to eliminate weeds and to fertilize. Also the huge pile of dried bushes, etc. removed from parking lot islands has been hauled away. There will be more planting in the spring. These improvements have been funded by contributions from individuals, trustee repair funds, and non-designated funds in the Gifts and Memorials Fund.

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

The total of \$13,000 pledged to our audio-visual project in the summer time of the year from so many generous people is phenomenal for our church. Thank you. It will be added to \$8,000 from budget reserve funds so the audio portion can be installed first. The visual portion will be included with the sanctuary renovation campaign after the first of the year. The summer season can be distracting, so please take this as a gentle reminder to have pledges paid by October 2, 2005. Fund Raising Committee

Financial & Stewardship News

ATTENDANCE & FINANCE STATISTICS

July 2005

Attendance Total 123 (Weekly Average)

Hmong Attendance Total 51 (Weekly Average)

Total Attendance 891

Total Weekly Average Attendance 178

Total offering \$21,952

Needed for Budget \$22,595

THANK-YOU NOTES

At times like this, thank you seems so inadequate but for lack of a better way to express myself, I do say Thank you from the bottom of my heart! What a wonderful, caring group of people you are. The gifts, cards, notes of encouragement, telephone calls, the food, and the errands run, but most of all, the love and prayers. Thank you so much for all you've done, I am eternally grateful. Pat Frey

The Tashjian Family would like to thank the members of the congregation for their generous donations to Karl's Memorial fund which made his window possible. Special thanks to Dona Leonardo for her help and for the name plaque.

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."

Youth News

YOUTH CALENDAR

Saturday 09/03/05 8:00 am -12:00 pm Poverello
House Work Day

Sunday 09/04/05 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting
(Bungalow)

Sunday 09/11/05 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting
(Bungalow)

Sunday 09/18/05 NO MEETING due to Church
Family Campout

Sunday 09/25/05 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting
(Bungalow)

RALLY DAY Sunday SEPT. 11!

Rally Day in celebration of Sunday School for All Ages will be held on Sunday September 11, at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. You are invited to meet your teachers, check out your Sunday School room, and have some goodies. And Sunday School isn't just for kids! Memorial UMC prides itself on providing continuing education and Bible study for adults in college, careers, or retirement.

Coaches' Corner

Our Council recently adopted a new mission statement which is as follows and includes our values below it:

*Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis
We "Show and Tell Jesus' Love Everywhere"*

By remembering Christ's teaching to:

- Honor God's gifts of reason and experience
- Respect scripture and the traditions of the church
- Seek God's guidance to discover and use our gifts for ministry
- Receive God's grace and forgiveness.

We show and tell about God's love and acceptance by:

- Being a nurturing, supportive community
- Proclaiming the Good News of God's love
- Serving the needy
- Loving and respecting all people as each is made in God's image.

Pastor Laurence Hill has written a congregational song that expresses our new mission statement which we will sing during September. Beginning Sunday September 4, I will begin a series of Discipleship sermons, "What Does a Disciple of Memorial UMC Look Like?" which will help us focus on our mission, growing in our discipleship and reaching out to others. I am excited about the year ahead I look forward to being with you in worship!

With hope and anticipation, Pastor Denice Leslie

P. S. Anyone want to design a tee shirt with our new mission statement on one side and core values on the other?

Back Pew

This has been a year of extended responsibilities and travels for me. Now that our children are grown I am able to pick up my share of conference responsibilities which is the service required of Elders as service to the Order and the Annual Conference.

I continue to serve on the Fresno District Committee on Ministry which meets most months for a day of interviews of candidates entering the ordination process as Deacons or Elders or licensing as Local Pastors; as well as on the District Council on Ministries which seeks to serve and resource local churches as they transition to minister to their local

communities. I just completed service on the Fresno Mission and Church Extension Society from whom we have received many grants for our Hmong Ministry and Community Garden as well as two major loans over the past 8 years enabling us to do much needed maintenance on our facilities (roof, paint, parking lot), as well as refinance our Social Hall indebtedness at a lower interest rate making our current capital funds campaign "Can You Hear Me Now" possible. The Society started our new church in Oakhurst and is looking at other sites for new churches including the Academy area.

This past year I became a member of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry serving on the Probationary Committee. This new appointment year I have been asked to serve as one of two chairs of this committee. It is the responsibility of the Probationary Committee to supervise and evaluate probationary candidates for ordained ministry and prepare recommendations for the full Board for their final action. Including annual conference, the committee meets six times a year to accomplish its work and the full Board meets three times a year with Executive Committee meetings most months in Sacramento.

In this capacity I have written a conflict of interest policy and a theology interview policy for the work of the committee and the board as well as served as a liaison for two candidates for ordination, one of whom, Pastor Andrew Bear appointed to serve the Merced church, was ordained Elder and elected into Full Connection this year at annual conference. Another major responsibility I'm tasked with is organizing and recruiting leadership for the annual Probationers' Retreat which will be held the end of October.

This year I was also elected to serve on the conference Board of Trustees which only meets once or twice a year and does the majority of its work via conference calls and by email. In this capacity I serve on the conference audit committee which meets once a year for a two hour meeting.

Other than these responsibilities I have also served the past two years as teaching staff for conference Family Camp in June. Most recently I completed my second study leave for the purpose of planning out sermon themes for the next two years; reading and reviewing books, DVDs, resources and doing sermon research and researching and planning out this next year's financial stewardship campaign.

I am indebted to Pastor Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor of UM Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas who continues to inspire my preaching, planning and pastoral leadership style. If you are interested, go to cor.org and have a look see. Adam is dedicated to the revitalization of the United Methodist Church and the spread of the gospel.

I look forward to another great year serving Christ with you and always covet your prayers for our work together.

Pastor Denice Leslie