



Good News!

The Newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

August 2006

MEMORIAL UMC AT THE ZOO

Join us for a trip to the zoo, and a potluck picnic and vespers on Sunday, August 13, 2006. Zoo trippers will meet at the Fresno Zoo at 3 p.m. After we visit the animals we will go over to Maple Leaf Shelter which is reserved for us for a potluck picnic. Beverages and service provided. After we eat we will have vespers. Please join us for supper and worship at 4:30ish. We have the shelter until 9 p.m. so if you want to linger and play in the park or fellowship as the sun sets you may.

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES!

August 4 is your last chance this summer to join your church family and our neighbors out on the north lawn for Friday Night at the Movies. We start at 8:30 p.m. with short comedy films. The final Feature Presentation is "Chicken Little." It is an enjoyable evening for you and your kids and grandkids, for your neighbors and their kids, for any kid at heart. Please bring something comfortable to sit on, and snacks to share. Cold punch and ice water will be provided. See you there!

NEW SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE IN SEPTEMBER

After reviewing the schedule change survey results and conversations with our Hmong leadership and our Korean UM congregation, the church Council voted to approve the proposed Sunday morning schedule change effective Sunday, September 3, 2006. The new schedule is as follows:

- 8:00 a.m. Korean Language service in Social Hall.
- 8:30 a.m. Hmong Language service in sanctuary.
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:00 a.m. Choir practice in sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. English Language service in sanctuary.
- 12:00 noon Korean Language service in sanctuary.

WELCOME SIERRA VISTA HMONG MEMBERS

We welcome the Hmong members of the Sierra Vista UMC who are now without a pastor and who will be joining with us beginning this month. We are planning a community banquet in the Social Hall in August to welcome them. As soon as we confirm the date, we will let everyone know. Please bring a dish to share and an empty tummy!

WEDDING INVITATION

*Mr. and Mrs. Richard Snow
Request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter
Kindra Elyse
to
Ryan Owen Walker
on Saturday, September 16th, 2006
at 5:00 pm
at Memorial United Methodist Church
Reception to follow at
The Grand Ballroom
1999 Tuollumne St.
Fresno, CA
RSVP reception only call the church.*

THANK-YOU NOTES

Thank you to all the wonderful people in this congregation for the love, prayers, cards & calls after my surgery. Special thanks to Max and Cathy Cannon and Mac Magargee for super care of the gardens, and very special thanks to Denice. Helen Tashjian

Betty Skidmore wishes to thank everyone who sent birthday cards to her.

BIBLE PRESENTATION SUNDAY AUGUST 20

Bibles will be presented to our young people in worship on Sunday, August 20, 2006. If your child is a good reader or going into the fourth grade, or older and without a bible of their own from the church, please call the church office as soon as possible. Every effort is being made to include everyone.

BUILDING USE COORDINATOR NEEDED

Diane Zastovnik's responsibilities as our Financial Officer make it necessary for her to step down from this position. The Building Use Coordinator schedules all non-MUMC functions, and outside groups for the church, sees to it that the thermostats are set for the event, the parking lot lights are set with the seasonal time change, the building use request forms are filled out and the Administrative Support Team's policies. Diane and Cheryl, our secretary, work closely together to keep the calendar up to date. The Building Use Coordinator also communicates with everyone when there are changes in the schedule.

This is a very important ministry in the life of this church. If you are a person who enjoys people, feels a call to this stewardship ministry for your church, please speak to Diane or Pastor Denice. Thank you.

MEMORIAL AND FUNERAL SERVICE COORDINATOR NEEDED

The Memorial and Funeral Service Coordinator's responsibilities are very similar to those of a Wedding Hostess: S/he is responsible for the coordination of the service: contacting the organist, ushers, sound tech, working with the family in making arrangements for such things as the placement of mementos, pictures on tables or easels, the placement of flowers, the order of the narthex and sanctuary, custodial services, moving of furnishings as necessary, the placement of the guest book, lighting, opening doors, etc. In other words, all the behind the scenes arrangements that make a service what it should be -- not a burden for the family or loved one in need. This is a position that comes with a small remuneration for your service. If you are interested please speak with Diane Zastovnik or Pastor Denice Leslie.

ELECTRONIC PROJECTION COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Our Technician Chair Ron Zastovnik has worked very hard to get out the specs for bids for our projection system in the sanctuary. Once the equipment goes in we will need:

- Operators to run the computer program each week in worship.
- Volunteers to put together the visuals and other projection.

If you are interested please speak with Denice Leslie or Ron Zastovnik.

SOUND TECH'S NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

Don't be intimidated by the new sound system. There are many presets and it is a responsibility of manning the soundboard station, following the service and adjusting the volume up or down with slide switches. Ron Zastovnik will show you how. You will also be asked to help position mikes in the morning which will be very simple to do once the new sound boxes set in the new floor in the sanctuary are operational by September as well.

USHER COORDINATOR NEEDED

Our Usher Coordinator, Cheryl Pachelbell is stepping down. She has served for the last 8 years so faithfully in recruiting our ushers for Sunday worship. She has a pretty regular crew and always welcomes new folks who wish to serve in this important ministry. If you would like to serve your church in this position, please contact Pastor Denice.

Renovation

Sanctuary Renovation Progress

As of July 21, the concrete has been poured and is curing on the top step of the chancel floor. The electrical and sound wires have been "buried" in the concrete with box lids that the tile contractor will "fill in" with tile. So far this is fine work and an example of cooperation between both the electrical and concrete contractors. Lance Johnson, the concrete contractor, and Larry Holley of Odis Holley Electric have given us a great start.

Presently the organ chambers are being altered by Gene Atkins of Atkins Construction in Sanger. He is a kind person as well as a careful, skillful craftsman. In this coming week, the tile contractor will be selected and the painter will be scheduled. We are developing the lighting plan and will soon get it ready for quotes. It is no accident that these wonderful people are coming to help us with our project. As you can tell, we are experiencing and receiving a great work product.

Please continue to pray for all who work on our sanctuary. Let your prayers surround them with the support they need to feel welcome and to do a good job.

Katrina Covenant Begins

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

We are elated over the fact that you have agreed to become our Church Partner in ministry as we rebuild the lives of the people and ultimately the churches in the Greater New Orleans community. There are three ministers on our team. (Rev. Becky Conner, Rev. Jeff Conner, and yours truly, Rev. James F. Haynes). We are responsible for three churches (Cornerstone, Covenant, and Hartzell UMCs.) Presently, the three congregations are worshipping together at Covenant UMC.

I think we are doing quite well in helping people in restoring their lives. However, this is an on-going process and we are challenged everyday and are excited about those challenges.

If there's any way that you may want to assist us, please let us know. If you need a list of the things that could help us in our ministry let us know that as well.

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Dear James, Becky and Jeff and members of Cornerstone, Covenant and Hartzell United Methodist Churches in New Orleans,

We are delighted to receive your e-mail and look forward to a covenant of mutual blessings. Perhaps we could begin by getting to know each other as churches. We are a church of about 400 member members right in the middle of California in orange, grape and nut country. Our average age is probably 55 but we have a youth group and small Sunday School and hearts who reach out with compassion in the name of Jesus Christ. Our Pastor is The Rev. Denice Leslie. Please send her copies of all correspondence. I am a retired pastor volunteering as liaison with you all. We have a missions committee who will be working with you. I will send you each a copy of our bulletin and newsletter. Over 100 of our members are Hmong and our associate Pastor is an Ordained Hmong Elder.

We want to start by covenanting to pray for each other, and hear about each other's needs. Are there any things you need which we might send? Any work needs to which we might direct a California-Nevada Short-term Volunteers in Mission? I will send today's Bulletin and our August Newsletter to each of you. Can you send anything similar to us?



YOUTH CALENDAR

Saturday 8/05/06 8am – 12:00 noon Poverello
House Work Day

Sunday 08/06/06 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm Movie Nite

Sunday 08/13/06 NO Meeting

Sunday 08/20/06 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Meeting

Sunday 08/27/06 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm "Back to School" Night

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT AUGUST 27

What did you do on YOUR summer vacation? Swim across the lake at summer camp? Take tap dancing lessons? Climb to the crown of the Statue of Liberty? All youth grades 7-12 are invited to "Back to School Night" in the Youth Bungalow at 5:30 p.m. Sunday August 27, to share your adventures. You can bring pictures, souvenirs, T-shirts--whatever! See you there!

NO MEETING SUNDAY AUGUST 13

Youth Leader Connie Alfaro will be on vacation August 7-18, so we won't meet on Sunday, August 13.

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*

UMM BREAKFAST MEETING AUG. 5, 2006

United Methodist Men will meet on August 5th. Unless I can get Jon to fix us a Mexican breakfast you will probably be stuck with the Cannon special, scrambled eggs, biscuits, and sausage. Shelby Cox is planning on giving us information concerning the latest efforts to establish a homeless shelter here in Clovis. It should be very informative. Open minds, open doors, and open hearts aren't restricted to just Methodists so bring a friend and come and enjoy great fellowship.

UMW MISSION PROJECT

The 2006 Mission Project for United Methodist Women will be Flood Buckets. We have one on display in the Narthex. The total costs for one bucket is \$25. To save money on postage, we decided to ask for donations instead of individual items. That way the money will go directly to UMCOR so they can do the purchasing. We will be collecting from August 1 to October 1. Thank you for helping. Please make checks payable to UMW.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Another month has gone by and again we were open the first week end of the new one. It was a very hot weekend and I'm so thankful for such dedicated volunteers. It would have been so much easier and so much more comfortable to just stay home but they all kept their commitments to serve. Thank You Thrift Shop volunteers. We did very well, with the preliminary count at \$700.

Several of our church family made large contributions because of garage sales and or just wanting to clear out excess. We thank you and we couldn't do it without you. Getting in large amounts of "stuff" (for lack of a better word) requires many hours of sorting pricing and placing. And again the dedicated volunteers came through, some of them even working the morning of the holiday. All of them working more than just our regular work days.

We do have a nice inventory, still and with a new month on the way I'm sure we will have even more by the next open week end. Be sure to tell your friends and neighbors about us. And the invitation is always open for you to stop by, Come and see what we have. Give a nod and a thank you the volunteer you see working.

We will take your contributions whenever you can bring them; if the shed and church are both closed, please call either Margie or me and one of us will come and take them. If you have a large donation, we prefer that you call us first so that your donation gets to the Thrift Shop. Our numbers are in the church directory. Thanks, again for your continuing support.

Submitted by Pat Frey

LESLIE'S SALT SHAKER

We are beginning a new chapter in our ministry here at MUMC with the full time appointment of Pastor Kham Dy Yang and the Hmong language service moving to Sunday mornings beginning September 3, 2006. This move will permit Pastor Kham Dy and me to share worship responsibilities, let us combine our Sunday School classes and childcare programs and work with developing leadership as well as getting better acquainted as members of Memorial.

Hospitality is our theme for this fall as we all adjust to the new schedule. I know you will reach out with warm smiles and hellos to new faces around you as well as warmly greet those you know. Speaking of hospitality, we will be moving our refreshments to the Social Hall following worship so we can move around more freely and enjoy conversation, and even sit down and talk. I know I can count on everyone to invite folks new among us over to the hall following worship. It was suggested to me I move to the front doors to greet folks and then move another 20 yards and then another 20 yard.....In the nice weather, when its not scorching or freezing we can put up the pop up and have refreshments out doors.

Our second all congregation fellowship will be a trip to the Fresno zoo on Sunday afternoon August 13, 2006 at 3 p.m. followed by a potluck picnic and vespers in Roeding Park at the Maple Leaf shelter which we have reserved. If the zoo or the heat is not your thing, join us for the picnic and worship time.

PASTORS' GOAL: PAY 100% OF OUR CONNECTIONAL MISSION AND MINISTRY FUNDS

We are very grateful for the grant from our conference's Emerging Congregation and New Church Development funds which make our Hmong ministry possible. It couldn't come at a better time as the congregation is now at a point in growth where the full attention of a pastoral leader is essential to sustain the growth and vitality of the congregation.

The money for this grant comes from churches just like ours. Many churches make it a priority to pay their connectional funds so that ministry far from their own locales may flourish in California-Nevada; so the good news of Jesus Christ may be brought to new people and compassion of Christ may embrace people in need.

This congregation has had a long history of faithfully paying apportionments in full until recent history. I've heard a lot of stories about ways in which our obligations

were met from Chicken Pie dinners to rummage sales resulting in our current Mission Thrift Shop. We need to join our Christmas Boutique ladies and our Mission Thrift Shop crew in doing our part. Its time for us to step up to the plate and provide our full share for our connectional ministry and mission funds.

What we give reaches far and wide and comes back to us in the form of funds for ministries like our Hmong ministry, our community garden, our retired and current pastoral leadership pension funds, subsidized congregational learning events, and new congregations like our new church start in the Auberry Prather area, etc. These funds also provide ministry around the world and across our nation in ministries of good will, ecumenical partnerships, seminaries, bible schools, missionary recruitment and deployment, inner city programs and scholarships for the underprivileged, volunteers in ministry outreach and staff for our United Methodist Committee on Relief—more ways than I can begin to count in this grand old United Methodist Church.

Separating out pension funds for your pastor, which the conference is moving toward moving into each church's pastoral compensation through direct billing, our share of connectional ministry and giving (including our District program) is *****.

Our current unfunded portion of this is*****. The grant we have received for our Hmong Ministry leadership is over \$62,000. This grant will undoubtedly continue for possibly the next three or four years. That grant represents a lot of faithful UM members!

Our final contribution for this year is due in December. Some of the church's ministries have adopted line items. For example our United Methodist Men have provided for our Africa University line item. Our youth are taking a line. How about your Sunday School class, fellowship, bible study adopting one? Some people in our congregation make specific pledges toward connectional funds of their choice. We can do this! We can do this out of very real gratitude and appreciation for all that we have received.

Coach's Corner

LEADERSHIP (SUPPORT) NETWORK COMING SOON

Imagine a church meeting where..... no one droned on making a report, where there was no endless discussion about a decision another group had already made and had to bring to you to approve! A meeting where the first thing

the members did was hear a Praise Report and celebrated with actual cheers, good humor and fun the victories of various folks and ministries?

A meeting where the order of the day was a word of spiritual nourishment, supporting leadership of groups and fellowships and ministry? Where everyone present has an opportunity to share, care and be lifted up in prayer? AND was the major ministry forum in the structure of the church? A place where there is no single board room table but many little tables and many smaller groups and folks networking and chatting together? Sound impossible>

Scripture tells us nothing is impossible for those who love and serve the Lord. This is the way church is supposed to be: supportive, nurturing, sharing and caring and growing in faith. Where the main topic of conversation is about our discipleship and our faith growth in Jesus Christ. A place where new ideas are welcome and never a discouraging word is heard. A place where we can celebrate and cry with each other in our victories and sacrifices. A place where our efforts are resourced and encouraged. Where the vision of ministry is carried out one on one and two by two and in groups of faithful souls meeting real needs of real people in the real world. And a place where every single member's voice counts because the leaders go back to their ministry groups and share with them such ideas as a proposed Sunday morning schedule change—a place where the conversation about such matters is far more inclusive than attendance at church council could ever be.

Leaders who lead supportive, nurturing, sharing and caring and growing in faith groups and ministries **NEED THIS KIND OF GROUP TOO!**

Our council has approved such a change to our church structure. If you are a leader of a ministry, mission group, a small study or fellowship group, this is your place. And this is the place to be for everyone who is in any kind of ministry leadership.

We will begin meeting on Saturday morning August 26 at 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. once a month. And if all goes well ...well just think about how it would feel to be in the communication and consulting loop, in the **HEART** of the church's ministry and **NEVER** have to go to another long boring administrative council meeting!!!! Refreshments will be served. I can hardly wait!

With hope and anticipation,
Pastor Denice