



Good News!

The Newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

February 2006

NEW BEGININGS CLASS STARTS SUNDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 12

The Spirit Quest Discipleship Class, New Beginnings will begin Sunday morning, Feb. 12, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. in the Lose Library through Sunday March 12. To register fill out the insert in the bulletin or phone the church at 299-4615. This class is designed for those new to the Christian faith and explores the basic beliefs of Christianity. It is open to everyone! A wonderful opportunity to explore the foundations of our faith and receive spiritual refreshment. The Spirit Quest teacher for this course is Rich Bonzo who would love to answer any questions you have about the class.

OTHER SPIRIT QUEST CLASS COMING SOON!

Note the dates of March 12-April 9 for the Gifts Discovery Spirit Quest class to be held on Sundays at either 9:00 a.m. or at 5:30 p.m. This class is taught by Spirit Quest teacher Lucy Elgin. A registration insert will be out this month. Again, this class is open to everyone seeking to know their spiritual giftedness, call and ministry interests. Gloria McClannahan will be offering the Spirit Quest Class on Spiritual Life which focuses on the spiritual practices of Christians in a small group format after Easter in April. Spring is coming!! New growth! New life!

CONFRONTING THE CONTROVERSIES OF OUR DAY SERMON SERIES CONTINUES

This sermon series runs through Transfiguration Sunday, Feb. 26, 2006. Issues coming up are February 5: Taking of Life Issues, February 12: Violence: War and Self-Defense, Feb. 19: Bioethics: Stem Cells and Cloning, and February 26: Christ's Call to Transform the World. Topics covered (and sermons available on line: Jan. 8: Authority of Scripture, Jan. 15: Separation of Church and State, Jan. 22: Intelligent Design?, January 29: Prayer in Public School. If you do not have access to the Web, call the church office at 299-4615 if you would like a copy or a CD.

SERMON TALK BACKS EVERY SUNDAY THROUGH FEBRUARY

The current sermon series on controversial issues is accompanied by a time for those of you in the pew to get your opinion in and to delve further into the issues explored following worship in the Lose Library. Grab some lunch across the street or some refreshments and join us. So far these have been wonderful discussions! Thanks to all of you who have participated so far.

GAME DAY IS COMING FAST FEB. 5!

"Souper Bowl of Caring VI" is coming up on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5. Here's how it works: As you leave worship service that Sunday, the youth will accept your donations in soup cauldrons, bowls, or baskets. Every dollar we collect that day will go directly to the local charity we care most about, Poverello House. Last year, we collected a grand total of \$425.00 for Poverello House. We challenge our church family to match that goal, and beat it! So come prepared to share your spare change for a good cause!

ALL CHURCH SUPER BOWL PARTY

Everyone is invited to the Umpteenth Annual All Church Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 5. Game Day starts with a tag football game on the church lawn at 2:30 pm. The OTHER game will start around 3:00 pm, and will be on the "big screen" in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great opportunity to get together with your church family for fun and fellowship. Please bring your own beverages, pillows, blankets, chairs, etc., and snacks to share with your fellow fans!

HEALTHY HEART POTLUCK PROGRAM SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH, 5 pm

The goal of our medically trained members of having this program is to encourage healthy lives to reduce the dangers from one of the greatest killers of our time – Heart Disease. This is an interactive program in two ways. First, we encourage all to get a healthy heart recipe from a book or the American Heart Association web-site and bring both the recipe and the dish to the potluck. Lucy Elgin RN, MSN, NP will present a brief presentation on healthy heart living. The second interactive portion will be answers to your questions from Lucy and our other nurses present.

Care Ministries

Giving Special Care to Others

SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM REPORT

Due to illness and funeral meal duties, we did not meet (skipped the January meeting), but we have a partial report: At least 26 visits, 17 telephone calls and 26 notes/cards during the past month.

The Grief Recovery Group will continue to meet on the First Tuesday of the Month (February 7th) 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 at or Gil Stocks.

We need a few good persons to join us in expressing Christ's care to folks facing difficult situations. Please come to our next meeting on Tuesday, February 14 at 1:30 pm in the Lose Library. Everyone is invited.

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

February 6 - Board meeting, 9 am, Library
February 8 - Red Bird Circle, 9:30 am, Library
February 21 - Regular meeting, 10 am, Social Hall
February 22 - Wesley Study Group, Social Hall

Administration & Stewardship

ATTENDANCE & FINANCE STATISTICS

December 2005

English Attendance Average – 144

Total – 563

Hmong Attendance Average -50

Total – 201

Total Attendance – 764

Total Weekly Average Attendance – 176

Total offering \$29,633

Needed for Budget \$18,076

Special Offering Receipts for 2005:

World Service: \$2,640

Christmas: \$1,830

Easter: \$899.32

Thanksgiving: \$1,620

Human Relations Day: \$40

One Great Hour of Sharing: \$185

Native American Awareness: \$165

Peace with Justice: \$208

Student Day: \$60

World Communion: \$291

Annual Conference Offering: \$115

UMCOR: \$2,645

Heifer Project: \$203.47

HART Academy: \$100

Poverello House: \$489.52

Angolan Partnership: \$100

Receipts from 2005 Fund Raisers:

Audio-Visual: \$44,322.39

Boutique: \$6,576.63

Thrift Shop (for apportionments): \$6,500

Receipts from building use: \$10,860.77

In-kind donations: \$1,983.91

Grants: \$20,429.30

Youth News

Saturday 02/04/06 8:00 a.m. - 12 pm Youth
Poverello House Work Day

Sunday 02/05/06 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Youth
Souper Bowl Event

2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. All-Church Super
Bowl Party (No Youth Meeting)

Sunday 02/12/06 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Youth
Group Meeting (Bungalow)

Sunday 02/19/06 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Youth
Group Meeting (Bungalow)

Saturday 02/25/06 9:00 a.m. through Sunday
02/26/06 9:30 a.m. 30-Hour Famine
Overnight Event

30-HOUR FAMINE FEB. 25-26

This month, our youth will participate in the 30-Hour Famine to raise funds to benefit UMCOR. The 30-Hour Famine is a nationwide "hunger-athon" event, during which we go for thirty hours without food, to gain an understanding of what it feels like to be hungry. We will begin our fast Friday night, and meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, to spend the day together in study, service projects, and fellowship. After a sleepover at the church Saturday night, we will break our fast together Sunday morning before church. Money is generated from fund raisers held during February and that weekend, and will be donated to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), to help fight hunger on a global scale. Permission slips and informational flyers will be available on the table in the narthex. If you have any questions, please see Youth Pastor Connie Alfaro

CONFERENCE ROOM KUDOS

Thank you to someone for cleaning up the conference room. We can get around the table and in and out without injuring ourselves!!

PIZZA PARTY AFTER CHURCH ON FEBRUARY 26

Enjoy pizza and good company. Our program will introduce MUMC's 2006 "spring fling" of projects and fundraising which will include sanctuary renovation, landscaping priorities and announcements for the big fundraiser coming in May as well as possible other events in the year. Please make every effort to come. We'll be showing you what's coming up with the spring flowers!! This will replace the usual February Joy in the Morning pot luck.

(Article submitted by Renovation, Fundraising and Landscaping Teams)

SPRING ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

The New "Clovis Methodist Arts & Crafts Festival" will be on May 6, 2006 at 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a big effort fundraiser. All hands on deck!! You will need to be involved. It will be lots of fun. Our church will sell at a bake shop and snack bar. If you know anyone who would like to sell their crafts and art items, invite them to our festival. We are renting booth space at \$45 and asking each vendor to contribute a \$25 item for an hourly raffle. Great publicity is our goal as well as all members participating and attending. Contact Charlene DeTurk or Gloria McClanahan.

HOW MINISTRY IS DIFFERENT FROM A JOB

"If you're doing it just well enough to get by, it's a job.

If you're doing it to the best of your ability, it's a ministry.

If you'll do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, it's a job.

If you're committed to staying with it, even when it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.

If you quit because no one praised you or thanked you, it was a job.

If you stay with it even when no one seems to notice, it's a ministry.

If you do it because someone else said it needs to be done, it's a job.

If you do it because you are convinced it needs to be done, it's a ministry.

It's hard to get excited about a job.

It's impossible not to get excited about a ministry.

People may say 'well done' when you do your job.

The Lord will say 'well done' when you complete your ministry."

(Indian River United Methodist Church Newsletter, January 1998)

Note: the Witness study group found this in their book God was Here and I was out to Lunch p. 81

TELL YOUR FAMILY! TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

An enthusiastic group of people in the Prather-Auberry area want to start a new United Methodist Church. The area under consideration is a fast growing region of the Sierra Foothills along Highway #168, generally northeast of Clovis. There is no UMC presently serving this area.

Memorial United Methodist Church has joined our Fresno District leadership in supporting these dedicated people. So here's what we'd like you to do:

#1. Scratch you brain. Think. "Who do I know (family, friend, distant relative, acquaintance) who lives near Prather, Auberry, Tollhouse, Friant, Millerton Lake, Shaver Lake, Pine Ridge, Mountain Rest or Academy?"

#2. Give them a call and tell them what's going on in their community

#3. Suggest they call this local Prather number and express interest and support

559-855-7UMC (559-877-7862)

It's not often than one gets an opportunity to be a charter member of a new church!

NEW GROUPS STARTING IN FEBRUARY

- Christian 12-Step Program Wednesday, February 8th at 7 pm in the Conference Room (Organizational meeting).
Shepherd Jim Lowrey
- Stressed Out - February 8th at 7 pm Wednesday, February 8th at 7 pm in the Conference Room (Organizational meeting).
- Shawl Ministry - Tuesday, February 14th, 2:30 pm in the Library. Planning meeting. See Mary Vollman for details.