

Good News!

The newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

August 2003

THANK YOU, MEMORIAL UMC!!

I just wanted to thank all of our church family for the love, support, and generosity shown to Tara and Ian at the time of their marriage. The many beautiful gifts, loving words, and expressions of joy at their union were overwhelming and appreciated by all of us. It was wonderful to have many of you in attendance. It was so important to Tara and Ian to stand before God, their families, and their friends to declare their love for each other in a ceremony that reflected their respect for the ancient traditions of the Christian Church. Many of you have helped to nurture Tara and have been there for the important rituals of her spiritual life, her baptism, her confirmation, and now, her wedding. Despite the pouring rain that took our reception inside, the things we'd forgotten to do until the last moment, and all the usual wedding craziness, there was a point during the ceremony where I had the most amazing sense of peace watching my daughter, her face bathed in the soft radiance of candlelight and the shimmering colors of stained glass, wed the man she loves dearly. I said to myself, "God is surely in this place." Thank you all for being a part of this place where God surely is.

With love and gratitude,
Sue DeFranco

P.S. If you would like to see wedding photos with Tara's comments and find out some background on the medieval ceremony, check out Tara's Website at groups.msn.com/LovesSacredHert.

TAIZE PRAYER

Memorial United Methodist Church Sanctuary
Wednesday August 13
7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

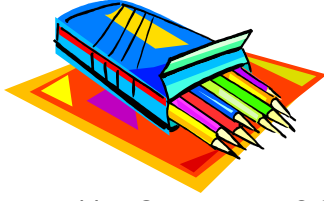
Taize is the name of a village where the brothers of an ecumenical community reside. Since the late '50's, young adults have been gathering on the hillsides of this little village, gathering to meet one another, to pray, and to discover how they can be messengers of hope and reconciliation in their own life situations.

Taize prayer involves the repetition of simple Christian phrases. The experience of singing these phrases nourishes us on a deep non-verbal level. The service consists of quiet chanting, a psalm, and most important, a scripture reading and silence. The prayer provides time for us to speak the particular needs of our world and of our own lives.

It allows us to come to the cross for a moment to pray and to bring our burdens and the burdens of our world as we place our forehead on the cross, committing to Christ Jesus all that is in our hearts.

Please come and experience this very personal time of prayer

Congregational Life	page 2
Care Ministries	page 3
Micah Ministries.	page 3
Worship Ministry.	page 4
Christian Education	page 4
Youth Group News.	page 5
Coach's Corner.	page 6



HART ACADEMY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

It has been a tradition at Memorial the last few summers to help deserving young students get off to a good start by providing them with school supplies for the coming school year. During the month of August we will be collecting for children living right here in the Fresno-Clovis area who attend Hart Academy. Hart's director is our own Pastor Kham Dy Yang. The school strives to provide an excellent education for the 100 elementary and intermediate age students who will attend this year. If you would like to participate, take advantage of the "back-to-school" sales, purchase binder paper, pencils, markers, pens, rulers, crayons, etc., and drop them in the designated box in the Narthex. If you'd rather make a donation and let us do the shopping or if you have other questions, see Sue DeFranco or Diane Zastovnik.

INTEREST FREE LOAN

Yeah!! We were so successful in reaching our goal to carpet the fellowship hall. This goal includes sums actually donated and sums pledged. In order to qualify for the no interest loan, we are counting the sums pledged to be paid. All moneys must be collected by the first Sunday in October. We are counting on you with outstanding pledges and thank you in advance for honoring them.

The Renovation Team.



THRIFT SHOP NEWS *by Bev Daly*

Thank you to the first four volunteers who have answered our plea for help. We welcome Lynette Jordan, Janet Bonzo, Bill Febuary and Mariamma Mathai.

We had a \$GRAND\$ weekend this month doing well over a thousand dollars. Lots of new customers and returning regulars. We had 94 sales on Friday and 63 on Saturday. Praise God.

We welcome your donations of clean usable clothing and household goods. We CANNOT use baby car-seats, or weighty appliances.

SCRAPBOOKING NIGHT

Get out your pictures and share some memories. Join the scrapbooking group on the third Friday of the month in the Fellowship Hall. The fun starts at 6:00 and child care is provided.

BOUTIQUE BULLETIN

The Boutique will be held November 14 and 15 this year. This is a week earlier than usual. We hope you will continue supporting us with your craft and food items. There will be no Silent Auction this year.



LOVE NET

I am updating our Love Net file and if you are able to volunteer for any of the areas in the questionnaire below, please fill it out and return it to the church office. You will find it worthwhile and much appreciated by Love Net, your church and I.

God Bless, Dorothy Skidmore, Coordinator

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

RSVP IS UP AND GOING

RSVP is up and going at our church. Anyone 55 or over qualifies to join. All you have to do to join is fill out an application, free, and then keep track of your hours of volunteering.

Some of the things that I know will qualify are Boutique Workers, Thrift Shop Workers, Special Friends, the Sunday Evenings spent helping the neighborhood children, visiting rest homes, and I am sure there are many other outreach things going on in our church that will qualify you. Anything you do as an outreach counts. Both Wayne and I have continued to visit a handicap couple that we met while delivering hot meals for the Clovis Senior Center, although we have done this for some time, and not turned in our hours, it does qualify.

The advantages of belonging are that for the hours turned in, funding is made available for the seniors in our area, and you are covered by a small insurance in case of an accident while doing your volunteer service.

If you think you qualify give me a call by phone or e-mail me at sgolden@psnw.com. Although it seems a little bothersome to have to keep track of hours, and fill out the form - it is a worthwhile cause and the church has joined RSVP so let's all get in and help accumulate hours.

Shirley Golden, Coordinator

NEED A RIDE?

Clovis Roundup bus service is available on Sundays to bring you to church. You must call 324-2760 by 5:00 p.m. on Friday for your reservation. The one-way cost is only \$1.

I am willing to volunteer occasionally in the following areas (please check):

- appliance repair small large
- Assist low-income elderly with household tasks
- Auto mechanic: basic advanced domestic foreign
- Budget planning
- Carpentry basic finish
- food delivery from a church food pantry
- Help someone move locally (must have pickup)
- Home maintenance (handyman)
- Painting
- Plumbing
- Roof repair (minor)
- Transportation to appointments in town
- Other (explain) _____

I may be willing to serve a weekly 3-hour shift as a phone volunteer in the Love Inc.

Clearinghouse (shifts are 9 am - noon or 1 pm to 4 pm at the Love Inc. office, Monday through Friday. Training and supervision are provided.)

Note: If you are unable for some reason to help when called upon, you may simply decline that particular request.

THE SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM

It was a hot afternoon at 103 degrees at our 7/8/03 meeting as Pastor Denice Leslie, Minnie Eller, Louise Smith, Lorraine May, Shirley Golden (RSVP Coordinator), Bob Anderson, Pauline Middleton, Pat Frey and myself assembled in the Lose Memorial Library to deal with pastor care needs in our parish.

After singing "Jesus Lover of My Soul" we prayed for 3 post-surgical patients, persons undergoing experimental treatments, headaches, cancer, heart problems and new pacemakers. We added 3 to our Special Friends list (total 21) and 2 to our Watch List (total 19).

We reported eight visits in addition to Denice's plus 10 telephone calls and 5 cards/notes. We planned who would visit whom in the coming month and invited all to visit us at

Our Next Meeting
Tuesday, August 12
1:30 pm, Same Place

Laurence Hill
Special Friends Team Chair

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)



KOREAN CHURCH INVITATION

Thursday evening August 7, 2003 the Korean congregation will sponsor a world famous instrumental ensemble in concert at 7:30 p.m.

Worship Ministry

News from the teams that support the Sunday worship services.

*"Make a joyful noise to the LORD...
Serve the Lord with gladness!" (Psalm 100)*

COFFEE HOUR NEWS-HELP!!

Our Coffee Hour Fellowship has become an important part of Sunday morning for many of us. It is a joy to follow worship of our Lord with time together with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thanks to the faithful assistance of Tara and Ian, the fellowship time has been rolling along for several years without the need for much help from others. I've been doing the purchasing of supplies (with many lovely donations of treats, etc. from others) and brewing the first pot of coffee. Tara and Ian were doing the rest of the set up, serving, and clean up. Now that they are living out of the area, it has become increasingly difficult for me to keep my commitment to the choir and other worship duties and be fully responsible for Coffee Hour. I am hoping to find 8-12 individuals, families, and groups to help on rotating Sundays, as little as once a quarter. I am still happy to do the purchasing and put the coffee on of we can set up a calendar of people who will serve and clean up. Look for a sign-up on the Coffee Hour table or see Sue DeFranco if you have questions or would like to volunteer.



Music Notes

FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

Our Chime Choir, Fellowship of the Ring, has rehearsal every Sunday at 4:30. All members as well as newcomers are invited to come. For more information, see Janette Erickson or Sue DeFranco.

SING UNTO THE LORD!

The choir is always welcoming new voices. All who would like to sing are invited to join us in rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

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."

MUMC "ALL STARS"

Our Children's Sunday School is going to continue the All Stars again this School year. The children really enjoyed the adults who came and talked with them this last year. They are looking forward to it again this year.

It's simple and easy!

We are asking you to sign up to present a special lesson during the Sunday School hour. You can share a myriad of different experiences and topics whatever suits you best! Slides or photos of your trip to the Holy Land, travel experiences, life challenges or how your faith has served you well. It's your 45 minutes of fame to impact our youth; share what is closest to your heart.

Would you commit to one class a year on whatever date you are available that is offered on the schedule. We will be starting this program back up in Sept and going through June of 2004.

I want to thank those of you who helped out this past year and hope you will sign up to talk to our children again this year.

Please call Dorrie Osback to sign up to help out. Thank you in advance for your help.

ATTENTION PARENTS:

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

It is time to register for the Fall Sunday School. We are going to register different this year. Instead of registering during Sunday School we are going to hand out the packets and have you fill them out and turn them back in. This way we don't have to take time out of Sunday School. We are planning some really good things for Kick-Off Sunday; the children will not want to miss this Sunday. Kick-off Sunday will be the 7th of Sept with Sunday School starting on the 14th of Sept. All registrations forms need to be back in to Dorrie Osback by Aug 24 so that we can start the New Year with everyone registered. Please see Dorrie for you registration packets



Sunday School

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:45 a.m.
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 & 11:15 a.m.

Our Sunday School starts at 8:45 with music then we go to our classes and learn different things about the Bible.

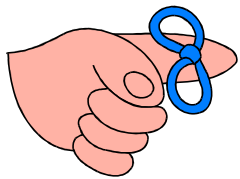
CHILD CARE NEEDED?

If you need childcare for any meeting, event or program, please contact our Childcare Coordinator and Supervisor, Dorrie Osback. Please give at least a week advance notice. Childcare is provided on an available basis only. Dorrie will let you know if no childcare provider is available for the time you request.

Youth Group NEWS

WHILE CONNIE'S GONE, THE FUN GOES ON!

Youth Worker Connie Alfaro will be on vacation the first two Sundays of August, but the youth group will continue to meet for summer fun. Glow Bowling and a Sunday night movie fest will help keep everyone in touch with each other during our busy summer. For more information, check out the August youth newsletter. Or you contact Connie or Laura Williams.



AUGUST YOUTH CALENDAR

Sunday 08/03/03 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Movie Fest
Saturday 08/09/03 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Glow
Bowling at Rodeo Lanes
Sunday 08/10/03 NO MEETING
Saturday 08/16/03 8:00 - 11:00 Poverello
House Work Day
Sunday 08/17/03 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting
(Bungalow)
Sunday 08/24/03 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting
(Bungalow)
Sunday 08/31/03 NO MEETING
(Labor Day Weekend)

I want to alert you three special needs:

Prayer Request: Pastor Kham Dy and Mor Yang's new baby is trying to come early (Pregnancy is at 33 weeks). Mor has been ordered to bed with medication to try to prevent a premature birth (4 more weeks needed for mature enough lungs). Please keep baby Nehemiah and Mor and all the Yangs in your prayers.

Baby Needs: The Yangs have basically been surviving on very meager income this summer due to job changes and grant not coming through. If you would like to provide a love gift or baby gift for baby Nehemiah, please place your gift in the laundry basket labeled "Baby Nehemiah" in the lobby of the church the next 4 weeks. They need all the very basic things such as receiving blankets and clothes etc. Hand-me-downs are welcome as well--especially any baby furniture: cradle, high chair, bed, stroller, change table, car seat.

Again, love gifts are welcome as well. Please don't worry about wrapping or marking your gifts--we will make the entire contribution a gift from all of us which will make it easier for the new mom (who has 6 other children to care for daily) to write one thank you note!

Hart Academy Copier: We are leasing a new copier as the lease on our old one has expired. The old copier will cost us \$691.22 to buy out OR we will need to pay to ship it back to Chicago so Council has approved selling it, offering it to the school first. Pastor Kham Dy's charter school Hart Academy needs a copier and would like to buy it. If you would like to make a love gift toward the purchase of the copier, mark your donation "copy machine" and place in offering plate or mail to church.

*Denice Losie, Senior Pastor
Diane Zastevnik, Hmong Outreach Ministry*

Dear Congregation,

Coach's Corner

I am happy to report that Pastor Yang's appointment as our new Associate for Hmong Ministry is now official. We will celebrate his appointment on August 31 in worship when he will be with us. Kham Dy plans to be with us in worship every 5th Sunday this next year. He will be in the office on Tuesday evenings. The majority of his work will be out in the community as he networks within the Hmong community and reaches out to young American-Hmong families. We look forward to growth in our Hmong ministry under his leadership.

For those of you who were not present in worship the day Kham Dy and I preached and shared the vision we and your Hmong Ministry Team have for Hmong Ministry I want to bring you on board with the model of ministry we are pursuing and why.

As you know we are targeting the 1.5 generation of American-Hmong who were born in the camps in Thailand but raised and educated here in the United States of America. This is the first educated generation and the future of the American-Hmong church and of the Hmong community. These young people are striving to bridge the culture gap between Hmong traditional life and modern American life. This means bridging the gap between an agrarian 13th-16th century culture into a highly technological, non-agrarian 21st century culture. In short, when two such different cultures meet worlds quite literally collide!

Bridging this gap is extremely stressful and sometimes threatening to the well being of this generation as the expectations of their elders and the need to function in a highly sophisticated society which requires long years of educational

preparation pulls them in two directions. Too often teens have chosen suicide under the stress of trying to live in both worlds and feeling like a failure at school and at home. The adjustments required of them in society and the expectations of parents are overwhelming.

So far our experience in evangelizing Hmong-Americans has too often resulted in churches where one or two clans dominate. This domination discourages participation of those outside the dominant clans and keeps the churches small, greatly reducing their already precarious viability. In addition, because these churches are often elder dominated the young are frowned on if they

do not live by the strict social traditions of their elders. This means very real needs are not addressed and the new generation has no power.

The pecking order within clans also exists within extended families. Failure to comply with a clan's chief elders can mean being cast out or at the very least shunned by the rest of the clan. This is no small matter in the life of an American-Hmong individual or family. Respect and avoiding any behavior that would shame your family or your clan or your culture is paramount. For example, individuals who have chosen to become Christians, those who are deemed "too American" in their ways, or those who break with traditional morals such as arranged marriages at a very young age risk disgrace and are cut off for shaming the family.

The 1.5 generation finds itself under immense pressure as it tries to retain the many positive things of their culture, including their language, arts, music, history, stories, foods, and community-family centered values while at the same time coming to terms with the realities of a new culture of two wage earners, the need for higher education, altogether different understanding of how men and women interact, etc. The status of women is also different in the new culture from the old. And women in our culture are educated and fully participate with men in our community life. In the midst of all of pioneering their way they are seeking God's will for their lives and strong spiritual roots for their children.

Pastor Kham Dy is seeking to build a church which will encourage and support them. It will be a church inclusive of the outcast: those exiled within their own community as well as all American-Hmong seeking to know Jesus Christ. The church of the exiles is based on the biblical model we find in the New Testament where Paul tells us that in Jesus Christ there is neither male nor female, Greek nor Jew—but all are made free through salvation in Jesus Christ by God's wonderful love and grace—a new creation altogether, born into a new life through baptism into the Body of Christ. And it will be built on the biblical concept of refuge as we find in Judges. The Israelites had cities of refuge for those who were cut off from their clans and families. This does not mean abandoning all Hmong culture or forms of expression or language but it does mean leaving cultural ways that oppress and embracing the freedom we receive in Jesus Christ through the power of his saving live-giving love. No one clan will be permitted to dominate. No one age-level will be permitted to dominate. No one gender will be permitted to dominate. Only Jesus will be Lord. This community will be built on forgiveness and acceptance, love, grace, and service to Jesus Christ. The mission of the new American – Hmong Christians in our midst will ultimately be to evangelize the young and their elders. Together as one church we will bring a new generation of Christians into discipleship here in our community.

With thanksgiving for God's great work among us,

Denice K. Leslie, Senior Pastor

NEW CHOIR DIRECTOR BEGINS WORK

We are pleased and delighted to announce the hiring of our new choir director, Kathryn Hunter effective August 1, 2003. Kathryn brings an incredible background of experience with her and we feel very fortunate to have her. She has experience with a variety of denominations and choral groups; is a soloist, plays the piano and the

organ and has directed children's as well as adult choirs. Kathryn has directed major productions as well as written productions. She is well versed in the liturgy of the church and the Christian Year. Kathryn is classically trained and comfortable with all types of music. In addition Kathryn teaches voice and has a voice studio. She and her family live in Sanger where her two sons happily attend Sanger High School.

"GROWING SPIRITUAL REDWOODS"-- Sign Up Now For Fresno District Training Day!

We are so fortunate! This is our opportunity as a congregation to receive discipleship training from internationally respected United Methodist Church consultant, Rev. Tom Bandy, who will be coming to our district for our annual Fresno District Training Day November 8, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to approximately 4 p.m. And it will be right here at Memorial!!

Normally a top drawer, too often "clergy only" opportunity like this means shelling out big bucks and traveling or flying a long distance! The cost for this training day is just \$20 which includes lunch and you only have to drive to church! This is truly a bargain and a wonderful opportunity for us as an entire congregation to have a SHARED learning experience together! Not just your pastor or one or two of us trotting off someplace and coming back and trying to convey to you what we learned!

I treasure this opportunity for us and pray you will join with me. I am counting on you to be there. Of course we will need help that day with registration check-ins, serving lunch, ushering, technical support and the book table. So please pray about your involvement and meanwhile register soon. Space is limited! Child care will be provided. Registration is required. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information and the registration form. Don't be bashful if you can't afford the registration fee: adult education funds are available for scholarships, simply return your registration to the church office instead of the district office if you need a scholarship. I don't want anyone staying away for lack of funding!!

--Pastor Denice