

Good News!

The newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

February 2004

"FAT TUESDAY" ASH SERVICE

Join us Sunday evening at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Fat Tuesday supper followed by an Ash Service to mark the beginning of Lent. The meal is a feast of "fat things" including eggs, sausage, and potatoes brought to us by cooks Roger and Barbara Grams and faithful crew. There will be a donation for the meal. Childcare will be provided.

The Ash Service is a traditional Christian observance. Things in our lives we need to confess or give up: grudges, hurts, unrealistic notions, things we need to forgive others or ourselves for etc. are written on slips of paper and burned with last Palm Sunday's palm leaves. The fire kindled in darkness gives us time to reflect on making a new beginning. The resulting ash is mixed with oil and dabbed on the forehead or hand in the sign of the cross with the words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return," or "Repent and believe the good news." This is to remind us we are creatures with limitations and not God.

Everyone is also invited to participate in a Lenten Observance such as prayer, fasting or "giving up" something for the season of Lent to help remind us of our dependence upon God and help us to seek God's will and presence in our lives.

Lent is a forty-day period of preparation prior to Holy Week and Easter in which we follow Jesus to the cross and reflect on what it means to be his disciples and what God is doing in his ministry, death and resurrection.



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY FEB. 1!

Our fourth annual Souper Bowl of Caring will be held on Sunday, February 1. Every dollar our youth group collects that day will go directly to the local charity they care most about, Poverello House.

Here's how it works: As you leave worship service on Souper Bowl Sunday, the youth will accept your donations of \$1.00 or \$2.00 in soup cauldrons, bowls, or baskets. There will also be a Cake Auction after the service, with cakes and other goodies baked by the youth and by the Methodist Men's group. So, bring your spare change on February 1, and be prepared to share

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Care Ministries

Giving Special Care to Others

CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL CARE

For some 15 years the Center for Spiritual Care at Saint Agnes Medical Center has offered our Spiritual Care volunteers an educational opportunity to gain the skills needed for lay ministry. The individual could volunteer in the congregation or here at Saint Agnes or any of the local hospitals.

The revised 17-hour program is offered over 3 Saturdays. Foundations in Health Ministry and Pastoral Care is scheduled for March 6, March 20, and April 3, 2004

The course will cover the following topics: History and Theology of Pastoral and Health Ministry; Spirituality and Spiritual Well-being; Caring Throughout the Life Span; Wholeness and Well-being: the Mind Body Spirit Connection; Transitions: Talking It Over; Living with Grief and Loss; Values and Cultural Sensitivity; A Healthy Community: the Faith Community's Role; Promoting Wholeness and Well-being within the Congregation; Making a Pastoral Visit; The Role of Prayer and Ritual; Eucharist Ministry in the Hospital and Congregation.

For more information, contact the Center for Spiritual Care at 450-3227



SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM REPORT

from January 13, 2004 Meeting

We began with meditating on the words of Olive Schreiner, 19th Century South African writer: "...Holiness is an infinite compassion for others...", and singing "O Master, let me walk with thee".

Present were: Pastor Denice Leslie, Pauline Middleton, Pat Frey, Dorothy Carr, Max Cannon, Lorraine May, Minnie Eller and myself. We added three couples to our continuing Special Friends List (two from the Watch List) and one person to the more short-term Watch List.

We reported on 19 visits in addition to Denice's pastoral calling, several telephone calls and 15 cards/notes. We planned to pray for, visit and send cards to several seriously ill people. We lifted in prayer persons with illness and grief.

The "Care Cards" concept was introduced by Denice to meet the need for a family contact person in the event of an emergency involving one of our members so we could offer support to the family and member. The idea of a "card" refers to a slip members could fill out authorizing us to contact a family member. Max will bring a draft of a card to our next meeting.

We prayed for our Special Friends and others facing cancer, surgery and recuperation.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 10 at 1:30 pm in the Conference Room. Come visit us!

Laurence Hill, Chair

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)*

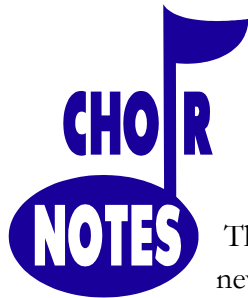
Congregational Life
 News of the church life and the groups that



Music Notes

FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

Our Chime Choir, Fellowship of the Ring, has rehearsal every Sunday at 4:00. All 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.

THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you everyone who contributed to our Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings. Contributions for Thanksgiving were \$404 for the Interfaith Hospitality Network and our Christmas offering for the Bishop's Initiative for Children and Poverty was \$1843.67! Thank you for being Christ's hands for those who even today find "no room at the inn" and for children at risk in our world.

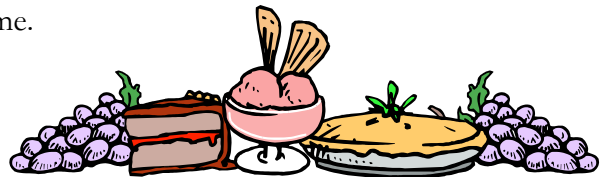
The Missions Committee

GOSF SUPER BOWL PARTY FEB. 1

Everyone is invited to the Umpteenth Annual GOSF Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 1. Game Day starts with a tag football game on the church lawn at 2:00 pm. If it's been a few years since your last quarterback sneak, that's okay--come early and cheer on the players! The OTHER game will start around 3:00 pm, and will be on TV in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great opportunity to get together with your church family for fun and fellowship. Please bring your own pillows, blankets, and snacks to share with your fellow fans!

THURSDAY POTLUCK, PRAYER AND HOTENANY A WELL-KEPT SECRET!

But the secret is getting out! If you enjoy great potluck fare (in abundance!), fellowship and prayer, join us every Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the social hall. Judy Gross brings her keyboard and plays old gospel tunes for us and we conclude the evening with prayer for our community and our world. Table settings provided so just drop by the deli or store or make up a dish and come for a heartwarming time.



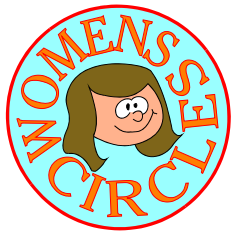
THRIFT SHOP NEWS by Bev Daly

January Sales totaled \$940..

Please note that we cannot accept the following: car seats, high chairs, computers, baby cribs, due to legal restrictions. Please don't donate items that need washing, repairing, mending or that are too heavy for us to manage. We only have room for small pieces of furniture. Feel free to leave your donations in the newspaper shed. We haven't had any pilferage for well over a year and that was minimal. We check the shed several times a week.

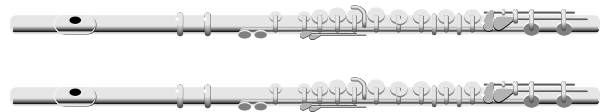
BOUTIQUE NEWS

We are off to a good start for Boutique 2004. Come and join us at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Social Hall. We do all kinds of crafts and sewing projects. Materials, help and instruction provided. We need your ideas and support to continue this work for our church. Contact Barbara for details



UMW NEWS

Feb. 2: Board Meeting 9 am, Library
Feb. 17: Regular Meeting 10 am, Social Hall.
Program: Laurie Hamm, Gospel Singer, Red Bird Circle hosts. Bring own service.
Everyone welcome!
Red Bird Circle - Feb. 11, 9:30 am, Library
Wesley Circle - Feb. 25, 1 pm, Library



FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY FLUTE CHOIR FESTIVAL

February 20-21, 2004

At Ashley Auditorium, McDonald Hall,
Fresno Pacific University

1717 S. Chestnut Ave., Fresno with
sponsorship by Miyazawa Flutes

Featuring Tadeu Coelho, Guest Artist

For more information, contact Janette
Erickson, Festival Coordinator

ATTENTION COMMITTEE AND PROGRAM CHAIRMEN:

At the Leadership meeting on Wednesday, January 14, the Finance Committee prepared binders with all of your financial information to run your respective programs. If you were not able to attend, please contact Georgia Holman or Diane Zastovnik to obtain your binder. Make sure you spend a few minutes with either Georgia or Diane to review the binder and the forms so you will know how to best spend your funds or be reimbursed in a timely manner.

SCRAPBOOKING NIGHT



Typical Tourist

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 childcare is provided.

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)

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR HMONG MINISTRY

The church council voted last fall to collect a special offering on each fifth Sunday this year to help offset our budget shortfall for Pastor Kham Dy's salary. With our limited resources, we may be able to fund only six months of his salary in the budget. Our first collection brought in \$168. The next fifth Sunday will be February 29. Please consider giving generously to support this opportunity for mission through our own church.

We will be planning a variety of programs during the year to expand our ministry. Anyone who is interested in helping with this endeavor, please contact Pastor Denice, Diane Zastovnik, or leave a message in the church office. Ideas and donations are always welcome.

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."

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.

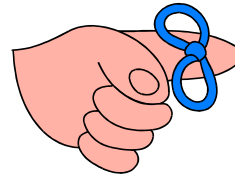


Sunday School

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.

Youth
Group
News



FEBRUARY YOUTH CALENDAR

- Sunday 02/01/04 Souper Bowl of Caring/Cake Auction (After church)and
2 pm - 7 pm Youth to GOSF Super Bowl Party (NO MEETING)
- Saturday 02/07/04 8 am - 11 am
Poverello House Work Day
- Sunday 02/08/04 5:30 - 7:30 pm Meeting
- Sunday 02/15/04 NO MEETING
(Happy President's Day!)
- Sunday 02/22/04 5:30 - 7:30 pm Meeting
- Friday 02/27/04 - Sunday 02/29/04
30-Hour Famine

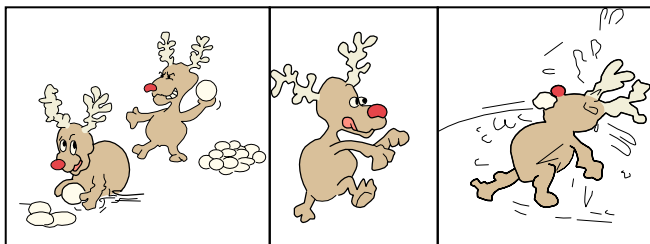
**THE 30-HOUR FAMINE IS COMING!
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To raise money for UMCOR world hunger relief, our youth will again participate in the 30-hour Famine during the weekend of Feb. 27-Feb. 27. This is a "hunger-athon" event, during which the youth go for thirty hours without food, to gain an understanding of what it feels like to go hungry. During the Famine, the group will participate in community service at the Fresno Community Food Bank and the church grounds, and will explore the issue of hunger in the world and God's commandment for us to love our neighbors through activities and discussions. Money is raised from sponsors recruited from among our friends and families.

For sponsor sheets and permission slips, please see the February youth newsletter, or contact Youth Worker Connie Alfaro
connie@clovismumc.org

**SNOW RETREAT COMING
SOON!**

The Youth Group will hold their annual snow retreat at the Hutchinsons' cabin in March 2004. More information will follow in the youth newsletter and weekly worship folders. If you have any questions, please contact Youth Worker Connie Alfaro.



MY CUP HAS OVERFLOWED!

I've never made a fortune,
And it's probably too late now.
But I don't worry about that much,
I'm happy anyhow.

And as I go along life's way,
I'm reaping better than I sowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer,
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

Haven't got a lot of riches,
and sometimes the going's tough.
But I've got loving ones all around me,
and that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for his blessings,
and the mercies He's bestowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer,
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong,
My faith wore somewhat thin.
But all at once the dark clouds broke,
and the sun peeped through again.

So Lord, help me not to gripe,
about the tough rows I have hoed.
I'm drinking from my saucer,
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage,
When the way grows steep and rough.
I'll not ask for other blessings,
I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy,
to help others bear their loads.
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer,
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

Thank God for all of your blessings.....every day!