

# Good News!

The newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

January 2004

Web edition 1

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

On behalf of my family I would like to thank everyone who sent food and helped with my father's funeral. The food was truly wonderful and greatly appreciated. Thank you also to everyone for all their cards and prayers for my family during this difficult time. And a special thank you to Pat Frey for all her help. Thanks again,

Tami Stoddard and family

## MORE THANKS!

A special word of thanks to Mac Magargee for having our new over-the-door office sign made and to Mac and Howard Vollman for hanging it. This sign makes our office much more visible! Thank you, Gentlemen.

Thank you everyone who so lovingly gifted us at Christmas!

The Leslies, Denice, Kim, Moira and Rena.

## PICTORAL DIRECTORY

We are pleased to announce that scheduling for photos to be taken by Olin Mills Photography will begin Jan 2, 2004! The dates are Jan 13 and 21 from 3-9pm in the Sunday School Rooms. Please note that the directory photos are taken at no charge. If you would like to order photos for your family, there will be several options and prices available.

We are asking for you to make your appointments as soon as you know what is best for you, as time slots are limited. There will be additional information in the weekly bulletins and in the January Newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Kayte Van De Mark

## NEW YEAR LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY SET

All leaders are asked to be present for our annual leader orientation and training Wednesday, January 14, at 7 pm. Council agenda will commence at 8 p.m. At this meeting leaders will receive their spreadsheets and block grant amounts for their work area as well as other pertinent information for helping us all have a smooth and productive new year in service. Specific orientations for administrative boards and committees will be given their first meetings for the new year.

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## MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2004

Coming to you under separate cover will be the new lay leadership list for 2004 and the 2004 schedule of regular meetings. Please save for future reference. Thank you.

### Worship Ministry

News from the teams that support the Sunday worship services.

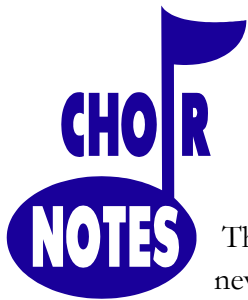
*"Make a joyful noise to the LORD...  
Serve the Lord with gladness!" (Psalm 100)*



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.

## Care Ministries

Giving Special Care to Others

## PRAYER PAL PROGRAM

Dear Friends,

I wanted to let you know that we are stopping the prayer pal program. On Jan 11, 2004 please write your prayer pal a note and let them know who you are. If you don't hear from your prayer pal please see me on Jan. 18, 2004 and I will let you know who had you. Due to problems with the program we will not be continuing this program. If you have any problems please email or call me. Thank you. Dorrie Osback

## 2004 MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

If you feel the leading of the Holy Spirit to serve in these ministries speak with Pastor Denise or the person listed with the ministry.

1. Partners In Evangelism (PIE): This is our welcome ministry with worship visitors. PIE members rotate Sundays checking the attendance registration and green cards for guests and then making a door step call to deliver a sweet bread and packet of information about our congregation. Research shows that visitors who receive a call after worship are 80% more likely to return to worship. Leader: Max Cannon.
2. Family Ministry: Work with our Family Life Coordinator, Michelle Hernandez in meeting the needs of our young couples and families with young children. Leader: Michelle Hernandez.

## 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*

### HMONG LANGUAGE WORSHIP

Our Hmong ministry team achieved a long-awaited goal on November 23 with the initiation of a Hmong language worship service.

A small but devoted group of Christians is meeting at 2:30 pm on Sundays for Church School followed by an inspirational worship service at 3:30 pm under the leadership of our Hmong Associate Pastor Kham Dy Yang.

Anyone who is interested in helping with this program, please contact Pastor Denice, Diane Zastovnik or leave a message in the church office.

We need help with children's activities during both hours (you don't need to speak Hmong!) and ideas for fundraisers.

Donations are always welcome and remember we will be collecting 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.

### YOUNG MARRIEDS FELLOWSHIP GROUP COMING

Young married couples please mark your calendar for Wednesday evening, January 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall. If only one of you has that date free please come. Childcare provided. The purpose of the evening will be to get acquainted and consider your needs here at church. A letter is going out. If you know of a

couple you want included please call the church office at 299-4615.

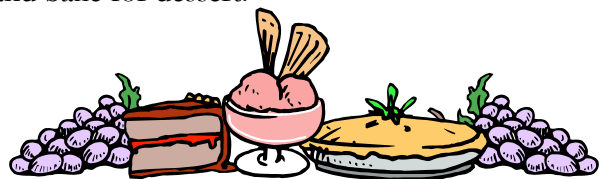
### HEALING SERVICE UPDATE

With George Elgin's decision to step down as leader of the Healing Service Team we have surveyed the Healing Service participants and the congregation in order to assist the team in making some decisions around this service. Under consideration are frequency, time of the service, participation interest, leadership interest. This month the team will meet to examine the results of the survey and make any changes that seem appropriate. If you would like to participate in the meeting, please join the team Monday, January 5, at 4:00 p.m. in the Library. The next healing service will be Tuesday, January 6, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

### 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.

Until Christmas, Pastor Denice will provide cookie dough and cookie cutters for kids (and kids at heart) in the kitchen to roll, cut, decorate and bake for dessert.

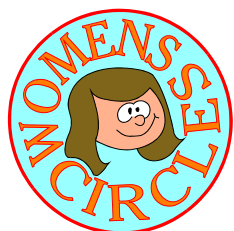


## COUNTER BOOKS FOR YOUR INFORMATION

What is the children's education budget? How much do we have budgeted for property maintenance? How much have we spent to date on office supplies? Is there a non-budgeted fund for feeding the hungry? What did Trustees decide about xyz? I can't find my officers list. Who is on the Youth Board? How much have we sent in for World Service this year so far?

If you have questions like these and don't know where to get answers come in to the office and grab a counter book. We have counter books for minutes of meetings and for our budget with end-of-month expense reports for both the general fund and non-budgeted accounts. They are here for your information.

If you need further help understanding what you are reading, Diane Zastovnik, Cheryl Roblyer or Pastor Denice will assist you.



### UMW NEWS

Jan. 5 - Board meeting, 9 am, Library

Jan. 20 - Regular meeting, 10 am, Social Hall.  
Program: Laurie Hill - Prayer & Self Denial.  
Soup luncheon - bring your own service.  
Everyone welcome!

Jan. 14 - Red Bird Circle, 9:30 am, Margaret Nicholl's home.

Jan. 28 - Wesley Circle, 1 pm, Social Hall

## THRIFT SHOP NEWS by Bev Daly

Thanks to all the hard-working volunteers at the Thrift Shop:

...our December income was \$1000.

...our donation to missions for 2003 now totals \$6400.

...we were able to contribute \$1000. to the carpet fund.

## BOUTIQUE SUCCESS

We made \$5500. at our Boutique this year. Thanks to all who helped us set-up, cashier, package, sell tickets, cook and serve lunch. Thanks to those of you who shopped with us and to those who donated food for the country store. Thanks to all who donated materials during the past year. Thanks for the things you made for us to sell. Our first meeting for 2004 will be on Wednesday January 14 at 9:00 a.m. Join us.

## NEW AND OLD LEADERS ALERT:

Q: "How do I know when I am supposed to start my new office?"

A: All offices take effect with the new year. You will get a meeting reminder for your team, committee, board etc. Notification will either be by e-mail, phone message or postcard. Also, meetings for the upcoming week are announced in the bulletin insert, are noted on the Good News monthly calendar and are on the Web page calendar. If the office does not have your e-mail please call it in or put it on the registration pad when you sign in your attendance during worship. Thank you!

## **HOW FRIENDLY IS YOUR CHURCH?**

**Ralph E. Bauserman**

While most churches consider themselves friendly to visitors, few, in fact, are. Although most members are friendly to each other, how well do they really relate to the 'strangers' in their midst? None of us intentionally avoids or ignores Sunday visitors, but it is far more comfortable, and much easier, to be friendly to persons we know. Too often, first-time visitors move among us unnoticed and unacknowledged. Some churches, however, are very deliberate about welcoming and receiving ALL persons. They take steps to ensure that their "friendliness" is inclusive. This inclusive "friendliness" is a part of their discipleship system, and they build quality into the entire process. Many churches reach and receive new persons well by implementing all or parts of the following strategy:

- Parking lot attendants are a first line of hospitality. They help people park, give them directions, answer questions, assist with special situations, and provide umbrella/escort in the event of inclement weather.
- Door greeters and ushers are trained in how to establish eye contact, smile, speak warm words of greeting, and watch for visitors. Many churches have a Visitor Welcome Center where trained persons greet visitors (and members), offer directions, provide a packet of church materials, conduct tours of facilities, etc.
- Leaders seldom sit in the same pew every Sunday; each Sunday they sit in a different location in order to meet and welcome new persons. Friendship (pew) pads are not the only means of identifying visitors. These churches are

prepared: they provide adequate space for winter coats; a first-class nursery; clean, well-supplied rest rooms; and quality signs throughout the building.

- There is a carefully conceived, faithfully implemented, follow-up plan.

Does your church have a plan for reaching the un-churched? Have you developed a discipleship system? Do first-time visitors to Sunday worship share in the "friendliness" of your church family, or walk away unnoticed? Is your congregation willing to take steps to ensure that ALL persons are included in the fellowship and friendship of your church family? Would you dare raise these questions at your next Administrative Council meeting?

## **SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP OPEN TO NEW PARTICIPANTS**

The Witness Spiritual Life Small Group invites you to join them for their new group study, *Attitude Is Your Paint Brush*, beginning Sunday evening, January 4 at Janette Erickson's home (call office for address). If you are interested or would like more information, speak with Janette or Laurie Hill. The group is planning a Potluck Party between Christmas and New Year's. Everyone interested is welcome. Watch bulletin for Party date, or speak to Laurie Hill.

## **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.

## E MAIL UPDATES URGED

If you have changed servers please e-mail the office with your new email address. If you think you already have, do it again. We will be making up our new reminder lists for the new year this month and updating our directory listing in anticipation of our new pictorial directory. The task of keeping contact information up to date is a big one and now includes not only names and addresses and zips but e-mails, pagers and cell and fax numbers. We hope to have a computer at the volunteer desk this year and a designated volunteer whose responsibility is to keep all of this information up to date and do our reminders and membership data files. Let Cheryl, our secretary, or Pastor Denice know if you would be interested in this important behind the scenes ministry.

### 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)*

## UMVIM DOUBLES ITS MINISTRY!

We have twice the amount of ministry to celebrate this year, says J.P. McGuire, Conference UMVIM Coordinator, thanks to a great stewardship response to hands-on United Methodist Volunteers In Mission projects. So here's the good news: In 2003, this Annual Conference sent out 33 UMVIM teams, in which more than 400 UMVIM volunteers participated. The volunteers donated more than 300 volunteer days, and gave \$421,314 in workdays and supplies.

People's faces shine through the numbers. For example, Gordon Metzger (Sonoma UMC) led a team to help survivors rebuild their homes after the spring tornadoes in Kansas. Margie Marshall taught art to Bolivian children, and Frank Meitz (also from South Reno) led a team to build a playground and continue work on a South Reno-sponsored computer lab in Thiu Rancho, Bolivia. Jeneane Jones, J.P. McGuire and 15 others helped with construction, medical clinics, and needs assessment in Luanda, West Angola. Jim Horne (Paradise UMC) helped a team paint and make furniture for a kindergarten in Colonet, Mexico.

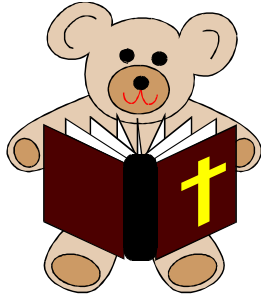
The list goes on. Walnut Creek UMC sent a youth-and-adult-choir and an eye clinic team to Sarajevo, Bosnia. Kathi McShane and 17 others from Alamo San Ramon Valley UMC offered medical treatment, construction and love to Mayan residents of Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. Kings Beach UMC coordinated a medical team to the Congo; Livermore Asbury UMC did construction in Chugiak, Alaska; and a group of CARE-A-VANERS worked on renovation at Downieville UMC. For information about future UMVIM trips, contact J.P. McGuire at (916) 374-1582 or [jpmcguire@calnevumc.org](mailto:jpmcguire@calnevumc.org)

### 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.

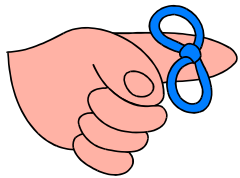


# Sunday School

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 out classes and learn different things about the Bible.

## Youth Group News



### JANUARY YOUTH CALENDAR

- Saturday 01/03/04 8 am - 11 am Poverello House Work Day
- Sunday 01/04/04 5:30 - 7:30 pm Meeting (Bungalow)
- Sunday 01/11/04 5:30 - 7:30 pm Meeting (Bungalow)
- Friday 01/16/04 Concert at Kuppajoe's
- Sunday 01/18/04 5:30 - 7:30 pm Meeting (Bungalow)
- Sunday 01/25/04 5:30 - 7:30 pm Meeting (Bungalow)

### JAN. 16 CONCERT AT KUPPAJOE'S

The bands "Changing F8," "Bean Dip," "Most Inspirational," and others will perform at Kuppajoe's on Friday, Jan. 16, and our youth group will be there! FRIENDS ARE WELCOME! Information and permission slips will be available in the narthex and in the January youth newsletter.

### WHO AM I WHEN NOBODY'S LOOKING?

When young people reach the middle school and high school grades, they begin to enjoy more and more independence. Teachers, parents, and society also expect young people to behave responsibly when they are on their own.

Who Am I When No-one is Looking? is a Bible study which examines the issues of integrity, honesty, and personal responsibility, with the understanding that a personal relationship with Jesus gives our youth the best tools for responsible adulthood. Our youth started the study this fall, and we will continue into January. All youth in grades 7-12 are invited to join us each Sunday at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Bungalow.

### SNOW RETREAT COMING SOON!

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



# Coach's Corner

Here at Memorial our goal is to assist each Christ follower in discovering his or her heartburst for ministry. We believe God has called each of us as Jesus' disciples to share in his ministry. We believe God has gifted each of us and given us a passion for our share in Jesus' ministry. To that end we seek to be an equipping church as expressed in Ephesians 4: 11-13: The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of god, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

To help us mature as disciples we are creating a discipleship system of classes composed of 5 stages which will assist us in growing in faith, discovering our call, and prepare, equip and connect us to ministry. As an Equipping Church we seek to embody the following values in our discipleship system:

**Prayer:** It is through our ongoing conversation with and waiting upon God that we discern God's vision, leadership and plan for equipping us for ministry by the activity of the Holy Spirit.

**The Priesthood of All Believers:** Valuing every members gifts and call as sacred and

embracing each person holistically in meeting their needs, discovering their God given calling and equipping them for ministry in the family, the church, the community and the world.

**Servant Leadership:** Remembering Jesus model of leadership was to take a towel and basin and wash his disciples' feet, we understand all disciples to be leaders who are called not to positions of status or a hierarchy of authority but to specific functions for the up-building of the Body of Christ as listening, learning, teaching spiritual leaders.

**Team Ministry:** Scripture teaches us two are better than one. Jesus called a ministry team and sent the disciples out two by two. Team Ministry recognizes that no one person, including the pastor, embodies all the gifts needed for any given ministry. Teams are built around the individuality of gifts, team accountability and the willingness of team members to work for the good of all.

**Intentionality:** We understand the back bone of our efforts to make disciples who are in ministry for Jesus means intentionally providing systems to prepare, connect and equip us for ministry inside and outside the walls of the church. Calling a leader and team with gifts to facilitate and implement this system throughout the body of Christ is essential.

**Proactive Response to Change:** As disciples who know the unchanging message of the saving gospel of Jesus Christ, and who are called to share that message in today's world, we embrace the organic characteristic of change and commit ourselves to respond creatively and proactively as God directs us to shifts in culture in order to fulfill the Great Commission. I am blessed to be in ministry with you!

In Christ,  
Pastor Denice Leslie



## THE BACK PEW

As we begin the new year we have had to make some changes in our budget to put our financial house in order. Of course each year there are costs beyond our control. And there are always more things we would like to do. Our projected deficit required us to do some serious cost cutting in areas where we have control. Those areas are pretty much confined to salaries or program areas. As Gerogia Holman, our volunteer professional accountant said succinctly, "We can't have a church without a program."

On the basis of information provided by Finance, Staff Parish Relations (personnel) canceled raises and eliminated one non-program related position at a savings of \$8200.

Specifically, George Elgin, who has served as our Executive Pastor, whose responsibility has been to work with Finance and Trustees, offered up his position for elimination. One of George's spiritual gifts is giving and I thanked him for his generous heart.

At my request, George stepped in to fill this position at a very critical juncture to provide much needed staff time in assisting us in unraveling the financial records mess resulting from the period prior to my pastorate with you as well as help Trustees get organized and tackle maintenance needs. It is a real blessing to recognize those goals have been accomplished.

Today we have a much simplified "block grant" general fund budget eliminating endless sub-accounting for each general fund area. No longer are we using designated funds to cover general fund costs. Our end of month reports are now timely and accurate.

Likewise, Trustees were overwhelmed to the point of being nearly paralyzed with delayed maintenance and few resources. Today the board is organized with different members assigned

different responsibilities and our major maintenance needs are well in hand. So we thank George for his work and will be providing a time for you to express your appreciation in the near future.

As you know George has also offered us his gifts on a volunteer basis bringing us the Tuesday Evening Healing Service and teaching Disciple Bible Study as well as other subjects. George is an excellent teacher and is currently teaching Disciple IV and Disciple II classes. Serving as our Adult Education Chair George has purchased a number of excellent adult study resources for our use and generously given to our Adult Education non-budgeted fund.

Council will meet this month to examine our "brass tacks budget"(meaning a budget that matches our pledged giving) and our "Hope for the Future Budget" budget. I will be proposing to Council that in addition to making the details of the under funded areas of our budget known to you in a special budget mailing that we also engage in a second mile financial campaign so those of you who wish to may have opportunity to respond.

With hope and anticipation,

Pastor Denice Leslie

