

# Good News!

The newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

May 2003

## WEDDING INVITATION

Tara Dawn DeFranco  
and  
Ian Nathanael Leslie  
request the honor of your presence  
at the celebration  
of our  
marriage  
at

Clovis Memorial United Methodist Church  
1726 Pollasky, Clovis, California

on  
Saturday, May 3rd, 2003

at 2 p.m.

followed by  
refreshments and May Merriment  
R.S.V.P.

Miss Tara DeFranco

We would appreciate if you could please sign the wedding RSVP list located in the church office or alternatively, e-mail Tara with your name and how many people from your family are coming.

E-mail:

[MediaevalBaebeLadyTara@hotmail.com](mailto:MediaevalBaebeLadyTara@hotmail.com)

## FELLOWSHIP HALL GETS FRESH PAINT AND CARPET

The fellowship hall has received a face-lift with paint under the wainscot oak trim and carpet installation on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 22 and 23. This is a refreshing change that we will all enjoy!! Carpet cost is \$6,303.00. It is financed on a six-month interest free contract. Donations so far are: Boutique \$1,500; Mission Thrift Shop \$1,000 in two payments; and Koreans \$1,000 in two payments. Fund-raising for the remaining \$2,803 will begin in May. This item has the Board of Trustees' recommendation and was approved by Church Council on April 9.

This message is from your renovation team.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Girl Scout Troop 740 will serve breakfast on Saturday, May 10, 2003. Proceeds will be used to repair the bridge at camp El-O-Win and to replace the rug in the social hall. Tickets are available from the Gonzalez Family and are \$7 per person. Get your tickets today!



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## **2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN FRESNO**

The Annual California Nevada Conference session of the United Methodist Church will be held here in Fresno in June of 2004 at the convention center. We will need many local volunteers to host generally over 1200 people on the floor plus volunteers, including over 400 lay members plus clergy who will be in attendance. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to participate in the worship services, including conference Sunday and special inspirational evening events of the conference, and to witness the legislative work of the members on the conference floor from the visitor's section.

Volunteers are needed for manning registration tables, setting up display tables, arranging meals for groups, serving as pages (who distribute materials during plenary sessions) on the floor of the conference etc. Let Jean Hill or Max Cannon, our Lay Members, or Pastor Denice know if you would like to help. District Superintendent Vickie Healy is coordinating our organization of local volunteers.

### **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*

## **MINISTRY OPENING IN FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES**

Would you enjoy coordinating fellowship events for the congregation? Events such as an evening potluck, the Advent Dinner, Fat Tuesday/Ash Wednesday Dinner, a church picnic, etc.? If so please speak with Pastor Denice. We have the position of Fellowship Activities Coordinator open for 2003.

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

- Board meeting: May 5, 9 a.m., Library
- Regular meeting - May 20, 10 a.m., Social Hall, Friendship Day with Sanger UMW as guests.
- Red Bird Circle, May 14, 9:30 a.m., at Diane Zastovnik's home.
- Wesley Group, May 28, 1 pm, Social Hall

## **UNITED METHODIST MEN NEWS**

from Mathai, Parel

The Rev. George Elgin, Executive Pastor at MUMC, was the special speaker at the April 5th breakfast fellowship meeting of the United Methodist Men. Pastor George traced the history of the Christian movement beginning with the call of Abraham 4000 years ago. What a coincidence to be reminded of it just as U. S. and British coalition troops were marching through Nasiriyah in southern Iraq, the vicinity of Ur of the Chaldeans from where Abraham had set out on a long journey to become the father of faith for three living religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Pastor George related the origins of the Wesleyan movement to the Protestant Reformation of 16th century and how John Wesley's message and mission was influenced by Francis of Assisi's guiding principles of simple piety and serving the needy. Men's group is grateful to Pastor George for this inspiring presentation.

Next monthly UMM monthly breakfast fellowship meeting will be held on Saturday, May 3 at 8:00AM in the Fellowship Hall. All men at MUMC are invited.

## **THRIFT SHOP NEWS** by Bev Daly

We made \$711.80 in April sales. We received over 80 boxes of donations. We do need help processing these goods. No experience necessary. We have lost 2 more workers due to attrition. Our next workdays are May 27 and June 3, at 8:30 am. Our next open days are June 6 & 7, 9:30 - 2:30.



## JOIN THE BOUTIQUE GROUP

Who? Anyone who likes to craft, sew, quilt, crochet, knit, ANY kind of crafting.

WHAT? Do your own thing or participate in group projects.

HOW? We offer instruction, patterns, ideas, encouragement, materials, and Friendship.

WHEN? 9:00-11:30\* Come every Wednesday or as often as you can. \*(We turn into the "out to Lunch Bunch" at 11:30).

WHERE? Church Social Hall

WHY? To make articles to sell at the annual November boutique, a major fund-raiser for MUMC.

We would LOVE to have you.

For information, contact Barbara Nielson or Bev Daly.

## Care Ministries

Giving Special Care to Others

### 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

### CAREGIVER INFORMATION

National Family Caregivers Association  
<http://www.ncfacares.org>

This site offers tips, educational information and support to caregivers. It addresses important issues such as different diagnoses, relationships and life stages.

Healthy Caregiver

<http://www.healthycaregiver.com>

This site is dedicated to adults caring for aging parents. Offers information on caregiver workshops, social security programs and family therapy.

Family Caregiver Alliance

<http://www.caregiver.org>

Provides information on long-term care insurance and conservatorships. Offers an extensive resource center and fact sheets on issues such as diseases and disorders and caregiving issues.

### THE SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM

Our Special Friends Team met April 8 to pray for and plan ministries with folks in particular need. Pastor Denice, Dee Carr, Pauline Middleton, Lorraine May, Pat Frey, Max Cannon and I were there.

1. We read together Psalm 130 heard by John Wesley before his Aldersgate faith experience: "Out of the depths I cry to thee, O Lord...there is forgiveness with thee", and Isaiah 40:31 "Those who wait for the Lord shall mount up with wings like eagles."
2. We prayed for people facing travel, illness and surgery.
3. We voted to be an official R.S.V.P. site.
4. We added 4, and removed 5 from our Special Friends and Watch Lists.
5. We reported 25 visits, 22 cards and notes and 21 telephone calls in the previous month, not counting the Pastor's.
6. We planned the next meeting (always the 2nd) Tuesday, May 13 at 1:30 pm in the Lose Memorial Library. In honor of John Wesley's 300<sup>th</sup> birthday, we will read from his Journal of May 24, 1738, "I Felt my heart strangely warmed..." Everyone is welcome to come. Please contact me for more information.

Laurence Hill  
Special Friends Team Chair

## **CAL-NEV MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS**

UM Marriage Encounter in our California-Nevada Annual Conference continues to offer weekend retreats for married and engaged couples at the Best Western Heritage Hotel in Rancho Cordova near Sacramento. Encounter weekends provide a series of well-prepared presentations by both clergy and lay couples from their own marriage experiences. Each couple who attends has the opportunity to experience a new sense of intimacy and spirituality. Well-designed materials are also provided to each couple.

The next Encounters scheduled are: May 2-4, and October 17 - 19, 2003. Engaged Encounter is scheduled for September 21-23, 2003.

To register for Marriage Encounter mail \$75.00 registration fee to: Dan and Kandi McLachlan, 28a29 Maricia Ave., Santa Clara, CA 9505` (408) 249-9477, [dmclach@yahoo.com](mailto:dmclach@yahoo.com). Register early. For more information please call toll free: (866) -633-3862.

To register for Engaged Encounter mail a \$50.00 registration fee to Jerry and Sue Angove, Roseville United Methodist Church, 1050 Porter Drive, Roseville, CA 95678, (916) 781-6785, [jangove@quiknet.com](mailto:jangove@quiknet.com).

### 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)

## **HMONG MINISTRY SUBMITTING GRANT PROPOSAL**

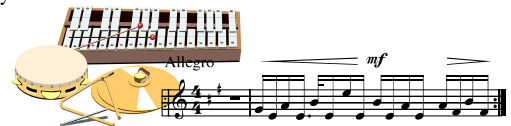
The Hmong Ministry team has been hard at work on a grant for our emerging ministry here at Memorial aimed at supporting and encouraging the ministry of the 1.5 generation

of young American Hmong. Please keep this proposal in your prayers as we have a lot of hopes riding on this submission. The grant will be submitted to the General Board of Global Ministry.

## **INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK SITE APPROVAL**

Following a presentation by Susan Lowrey on behalf of the Interfaith Hospitality Network project the church Council approved Memorial UMC as a site for housing homeless families for seven nights four times a year in the Fellowship Hall (most likely in two Sunday School rooms). This project will not commence before 12 church sites are confirmed hopefully by January 2004. The church will provide evening meals for fourteen persons, about half of them children for working class families struggling to get back on their feet after a crisis (such as unemployment, medical need etc.) has resulted in the loss of their housing. Families eat dinner, sleep, eat a cold breakfast at the church, pack a lunch for the day and go to a day center each morning (or to school or to work) where a social worker assists them in strategies for locating employment and housing.

You will be hearing more about opportunities for serving in this new ministry as time goes by. Meanwhile, if you are interested you may speak with Mary Vollman, Evelyn Haulman or Jean Hill our Missions Commission who will be coordinating this ministry.



## **KOREAN CHURCH INVITATION**

Looking ahead to late summer, mark your calendars now for Thursday evening August 7, 2003 when the Korean congregation will sponsor a world famous instrumental ensemble in concert at 7:30 p.m.

## CHURCH COUNCIL APPROVES MEMORIAL AS RSVP SITE

After a presentation by Janet Ames, Field Coordinator for the federally funded Retired Senior Volunteer program, the church Council voted to approve Memorial as an RSVP site. We are now looking for someone to serve as our RSVP coordinator. The job of the coordinator will be to log volunteer hours, enroll new volunteers and provide information about RSVP opportunities. The purpose of RSVP is to encourage older Americans to volunteer in their religious institutions and community programs. If you would like to be the coordinator, speak with Council Chair Sharon Hutchinson or Pastor Denice. If you would like to log volunteer hours for your time served in ministries of the church with RSVP please call the church office at 299-4615. Memorial has had two volunteers of the year honored: Shirley Golden for her work with Meals on Wheels and Margie Macgargee for her work with Mission Thrift.

## 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 4:30. All members as well as newcomers are invited to come. For more information, see Jeanette Erikson 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."*



## Sunday School

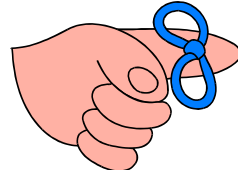
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 a.m.  
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 & 11:15 a.m.

Our Sunday School starts at 8:45 with music then we go to our classes and learn different things about the Bible. The k-3rd and 4-6th graders are doing all kinds of fun craft projects. We could use baby food or small jars with lids, fabric, yarn, buttons and other craft materials you might have and not be using. If you want to donate please call or see Dorrie. Thank you.

Dorrie Osback  
Sunday School Superintendent

## 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's 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.



**MAY CALENDAR  
YOUTH**

You Are Cordially Invited . . .

. . . to join a great group of Christian young people!

Who: All Seventh through Twelfth Graders  
Welcome!

When: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Most Sunday nights  
(Check the Youth calendar for other events of interest)

Where: The Bungalow  
Memorial UMC, Pollasky and Scott

What to Bring:

- #1 - Your Own Unique Self
- #2 - A desire to find out more about the good things God wants for you
- #3 - The willingness to put God's commandments into action

R.S.V.P. - No need, just show up!

For more details, see the May Youth newsletter, or contact Youth Pastor Connie Alfaro, [connie@clovismumc.org](mailto:connie@clovismumc.org)

- Saturday 05/03/03 8:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.  
Poverello House Work Day
- Sunday 05/04/03 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Youth Worship Service
- Sunday 05/11/03 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Meeting (Bungalow)
- Saturday 05/17/03 6:30 -9:30 p.m.  
Make Your Own Pizza Party  
(Fellowship Hall)
- Sunday 05/18/03 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
All About You Night (Bungalow)
- Sunday 05/25/03 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Meeting (Bungalow)

**Make Your Own Pizza!  
Bring Your Friends!**

On Saturday, May 17, all young people grades 7-12 are invited to a Make Your Own Pizza Party in the Fellowship Hall. We will get started at 6:30 p.m., put together our favorite concoctions, and share the results of our experiments - er, recipes! Sodas and place settings will be provided. Friends are always welcome! For more information about what to bring, contact Youth Pastor Connie Alfaro, [connie@clovismumc.org](mailto:connie@clovismumc.org) . Or see the May Youth Group newsletter for further details.



## Look For Us On the Web!

Our youth group has its very own page on the Memorial UMC web site! Check it out at [www.clovisumc.org](http://www.clovisumc.org). There are pictures and calendar updates. Soon, our monthly newsletter will also be available through the site. You can e-mail Connie, the youth pastor, any time at [connie@clovisumc.org](mailto:connie@clovisumc.org).



## Calling All Happy Campers!

Camp is a wonderful opportunity to renew, refresh, and revive your relationship with God. Experience the wonder of his creation...in the world and in yourself. A variety of camp experiences are available.



### *Adult, Family, & Other Camp*

Adult & Family June 15-22

Explore (Mentally/Physically challenged)  
June 27-30

Desert Mystics, Desert Prophets (age 18+)  
July 22-25

District Family & Bike Camp July 17-20

Shasta Family Conference July 26-Aug 1

Nevada Sierra District Horse Camp Aug 8-10

Hispanic Family Aug 29-31

Spiritual Formation Retreat Aug 21-24

Red Ribbon/Strength for Journey (HIV/AIDS)  
Oct. 24-26

Shasta Feather Camp June 22-27

### *Children K-1<sup>st</sup> grade*

Children & parent July 21-23

### *JOY (Joining Older with Younger)*

For young children & grandparents  
July 7-11

### *Children entering grades 3-6*

New Hope June 22-27

Discovery July 13-18

SuperKid July 27-August 2

### *Junior High, entering grades 7-9*

SuperCamp July 6-12

Camp Quest July 20-26

Alive Now! Hiking Camp Aug 3-9

### *Senior High, entering grades 9-12*

Camp Resurrection Aug 3-9

Sr. High Backpack July 27-Aug 2

For more information, log on to [www.cnumc.org](http://www.cnumc.org). Fees and registration forms are available on the Internet and in the church office. Or contact Kay Gonzalez with any questions.

# Coach's Corner

I am very excited by the new ministry endeavors emerging here at Memorial. We are beginning to bear fruit with our Hmong Outreach thanks to Rev. Kham Dy Yang. In particular the attendance of Hmong children participating in our Growing Our Spiritual Family ministry is increasing substantially. Kham Dy is beginning to form the nucleus of an American Hmong leadership group composed of young American Hmong professionals—the younger generation of Hmong in America who are establishing their families and careers now.

This group will meet for Bible Study and evangelistic outreach on Sunday evenings inviting the parents of the Hmong children who come to GOSF to join with them beginning this month. Please pray for this ministry. As you know, we are submitting a sizeable grant for our Hmong Outreach ministry to the Board of Global Ministries for our Hmong ministry. Meanwhile Diane Zastovnik, the director of our GOSF program has hired two young adult Hmong staff workers for the ministry who help along with volunteers Judy Gross and Lynn Seay. Then we look forward to our Interfaith Hospitality Network shelter program with homeless families, which we believe will get off the ground in 2004. This will be a much needed ministry to homeless families in our community who simply need a leg up while they get back on their feet.

Finally, I want to share with you an answer to prayer that will benefit us all here at Memorial in our growth as disciples of Jesus Christ. I was telling our United Methodist Women last month that I really need to remember the power of prayer! Because just the week before their April 15 meeting I received a beautiful brochure in the mail about a wonderful general church conference on Family Life. I recalled how I sighed and in

anger and threw it in the waste basket while I griped to God about how all of these wonderful opportunities for inspiration and leadership development are ALWAYS some place like Evanston or Nashville and here we are in California! How could we possibly afford to fly --let alone house and pay for the registration fees for a group of our leaders to attend? That would cost a couple of thousand dollars!! Why, I demanded of God, doesn't the general church EVER come to us!!! And not in Sacramento in the middle of the week either--but TO OUR DISTRICT!!!

Well....guess what! That was a Friday. On Monday, my day off, the phone rings and breaking my own rule, I answer the phone. It is Jim Luther, pastor at the Selma, UMC calling to tell me that Memorial--yes--OUR CHURCH--has been selected to host our Fall, Saturday, November 8, 2003 Fresno District Enrichment Day.

O goodie! I say to myself (not meaning "O joy"- but "O work!"--having done these district day organizing jobs before.) For those of you who haven't attended, this is traditionally a day-long education event for all leaders of committees with workshops, worship, lunch and leadership from local churches. Over the years I've learned that for the time and energy that goes into the day it is generally pretty hit and miss, (grumble, grumble, grumble!). Do I sound like Moses?? I wonder if God will let me into the Promised Land for being so faithless??

But then he told me (Jim that is, not Moses) the rest of the story: THIS year it will be surprisingly different! Instead of having the usual workshops and relying on local leadership from local churches we will have a nationally renowned church consultant, author and United Methodist, Rev. Thomas Bandy!! Hurray! I am now bouncing off the walls!! "Put me on the planning committee!" I responded.

The focus of Rev. Bandy's consulting ministry is transitioning churches into lay-based ministry communities, and assisting them with addressing the current culture while remaining true to our gospel mission for Jesus Christ. I was fortunate to be at our conference's Spiritual



Leaders Summit (formerly known as pastor's school but now open to all lay leadership annually) at Asilomar two years ago.

Tom has informed and shaped my own ministry and leadership here at Memorial along with a colleague of his, another United Methodist, Rev. Bill Easum. Both are futurists, system thinkers and prophets with a life long dedication to the well being of the church of Jesus Christ. Tom consults with churches of all denominations and non-denominational and theological stripes; mega and fellowship in size, all over the United States and Canada and overseas. You may be surprised and delighted or put off by what Tom has to say, but I guarantee you it won't be dull!!

Talk about answered prayer! Instead of having to go out of town a great distance such as Sacramento or get on a plane and pay an enormous amount of money God is literally bringing top-drawer leadership to our doorstep! The cost for the day will only be \$19.00 and include a catered lunch as well as all the arrangements for our speaker. I know you won't want to miss this opportunity so mark your calendar now and encourage a couple of folks to join with you. Space will be limited. After a United Methodist registration period, registration will be open to other churches in the community.

And yes, it will be work--but the kind that you love to do because your heart is singing for the Lord: We will need volunteers to assist with registration, lunch set up and distribution, exhibit space set up, technical assistance etc. I am counting on all of us to put our best foot forward to make this outstanding opportunity an equally outstanding experience for our entire district and local community! Pray about it and consider how you can participate. I will give you more details as time goes by.

Isn't it amazing how God breathes new life into us? May the Risen Christ keep us eternally young--that is optimistic, open to God's future and full of anticipation for the next adventure the Holy Spirit brings our way!!

Denice Leslie

## The Eyes of a Child

(In honor of Mother's Day)

One rainy afternoon I was driving along one of the main streets of town, taking those extra precautions necessary when the roads are wet and slick.

Suddenly, my son Matthew spoke up from his relaxed position in the front seat. "Mom, I'm thinking of something."

This announcement usually meant he had been pondering some fact for a while, and was now ready to expound all that his seven-year-old mind had discovered. I was eager to hear.

"What are you thinking?" I asked. "The rain;" he began, "is like sin, and the windshield wipers are like God wiping our sins away."

After the chill bumps raced up my arms I was able to respond.

"That's really good, Matthew." Then my curiosity broke in. How far would this little boy take this revelation?

So I asked..."Do you notice how the rain keeps on coming? What does that tell you?"

Matthew didn't hesitate one moment with his answer: "We keep on sinning, and God just keeps on forgiving us."

I will always remember this whenever I turn my wipers on.

Isn't it distressing to know that when you read this message you will not share it to many on your address list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they will think of you for sending it to them.

Funny how I can be more worried about what other people think of me than what God thinks of me. Are you thinking?