

Good News!

The newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

October 2003

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!

A member of the Central Valley Blue Star Moms has requested that our church assist in a drive to lift the morale of our troops in Baghdad, Afghanistan, Kuwait and any other place where we have troops. The request is specific, write notes or letters, do a poster to sign and if you have any spare DVD's (movies) that you could part with, that too. They don't have VCR players, but they do have DVD players and they aren't particular about what the movie is. So I've asked our Sunday School and GOSF kids to make pictures, posters and whatever else they would like to do and I'm asking the rest of the congregation to do something too. PLEASE take a minute and jot a note or card and just make it to an American Serviceman. And take a look around for any DVD that you probably haven't watched in ages and pick it up and bring it and deposit in the box marked "Blue Star Moms". I know some of you don't support the war, but that's really not an issue because I'm sure you support these young men and women who are trying to keep us free. If you have questions, contact Pat Frey. And Thank You!!!!

THANK YOU NOTE

Norma Meek and family want to thank the congregation for their love and support Shared during the recent illness and passing of Robert Lee Meek.

Even in the midst of sorrow there is much comfort in sensing God's love at work as so many reached out to our family.

THE CROP WALK IS COMING!

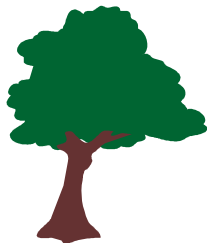
On October 12th, members of our congregation will join with others from the Fresno-Clovis community to take part in the annual CROP Walk for the Hungry. Proceeds from the Walk will go to Church World Service, an interfaith organization that works with partner agencies to help those in need in the United States and around the world by providing disaster relief, refugee assistance, and by working on long-term solutions to hunger and related issues. The Walk also gives a portion of funds raised to two local agencies that battle local hunger, the Food Bank and the Living Room. We will begin our walk at 2:30 at Pilgrim Armenian Presbyterian Church and walk a 3-mile route that will take us down historic Huntington Boulevard. If you would like to walk or sponsor a walker, please see Sue DeFranco.



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

**"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 20.00 which include 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 be needing 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!!



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

THRIFT SHOP NEWS *by Bev Daly*

The Thrift Shop did \$845.00 in September. Friday and Saturday were virtually even in customer count and sales. This is a welcome development. Saturdays had been slower than Fridays.

We will be open October 3 and 4 and November 7 & 8. Shop with us. Save money. Support the Church.

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 6:30 and child care is provided.

BOUTIQUE BULLETIN

The Boutique will be held November 14 and 15 this year. This a week earlier than usual. We hope you will continue to support us with your craft and food items. There will be no silent auction or white elephant sale this year.

Come and join us. We do not have formal meetings. It is more of a "gathering". You needn't be on time, you can leave when you want to. We welcome your company, your interests, and your input. We help each other with ideas, instructions and we have materials available. Our group is made up of women of varying degrees of skill. You don't have to be an expert at anything. You don't have to attend every meeting. Give us a try. We are friendly.

UMW NEWS

Board meeting - October 6 - 9 am, Library
Regular meeting - October 21, 10 am, Social
Hall Community World Day - Mary Vollman
Halloween Potluck lunch. Bring own service.
Everyone welcome!

Red Bird Circle - October 8, 9:30 am, Library
Wesley Group - October 22, 1 pm, Social Hall

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.

Care Ministries

Giving Special Care to Others

THE SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM

Eight Team Members gathered on 9/10/03: Pastor Denice Leslie, Minnie Eller, Lorraine May, Pauline Middleton, Pat Frey, Evelyn Haulman, Dorothy Carr and I in the Wilbur and Alice Lose Memorial Library to consider and hold up in prayer those in need of pastoral care in our parish. We reported 20 visits in addition to Denice's pastoral calling, 6 telephone calls and 12 cards/notes.

We believe approximately 15 people are eligible for membership in our "90's" Club: Mildred Dresser, Betty Skidmore, Gladys Manuel, Lu Bailey, Edythe Jennings, Jane McClanahan, Helen Miles, Mabel Pfeif, Stella Schaa, Kay Andrews, Ila Davidson, Louise Damsen, Elsie Wasson, Gerry Montgomery and Marie Kenneaster.

After everybody reported on pastoral news we added 3 people to our watch list and kept the Special Friends list the same. We lifted in prayer persons with coming surgery, cancer, stroke and Alzheimer's.

We planned our visits in the coming month and invited all to visit us at our next meeting:
Tuesday, October 12
1:30 pm Same Place

Laurence Hill
Special Friends Team Chair





Music Notes

BAKE SALE OCTOBER 12

The Fellowship of the Ring Chime Choir will hold a baked goods and Italian Soda sale after worship on October 12th. The group would welcome any donations of baked items to sell on that day. Proceeds from the sale will help us pay for new additions to our library of music for hand chimes. We are looking forward to sharing this special music during the holidays and during the upcoming new year. Please come out and support us on the 12th by baking and/or buying!!

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."

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.

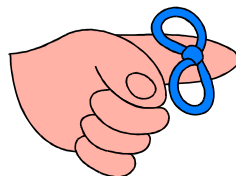


Sunday School

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



OCTOBER YOUTH CALENDAR

Saturday 10/04/03 8 am Poverello
House Work Day
Sunday 10/05/03 4:30 pm Picnic at
Goldens' Pond
Sunday 10/12/03 5:30 Meeting (Bungalow)
Sunday 10/19/03 Youth to CROP Walk
(NO MEETING)
Sunday 10/26/03 Youth Help at GOSF
Halloween Carnival
Friday 10/31/03 7:30 p.m. Halloween
Party/Lock-in

YOUTH PICNIC AT GOLDEN POND

All youth grades 7-12 are invited to a picnic and fishing expedition at Wayne and Shirley Golden's house on Sunday, Oct. 5. The event gets started at 4:30 p.m., with volleyball, a hot dog and burger BBQ, and a fishing contest at dusk. If you don't have a pole, that's okay—Wayne will set you up with one! FRIENDS ARE WELCOME, but everyone must turn in a permission slip! A map to the Golden's and a permission slip will be sent out in the October youth newsletter.

You can contact Youth Worker, Connie Alfaro, connie@clovismumc.org

OCT. 31 HALLOWEEN PARTY/LOCK-IN

What: Halloween Overnight Party

Who: All Youth Grades 7-12

When: Friday, Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m. through Saturday, Nov. 1, 8:00 a.m.

Where: The Haunted Bungalow at Memorial UMC

Required: COSTUME!!

Bring: Snacks to share
Sleep over supplies (pillow, sleeping bag or blanket, toothbrush, fresh clothes, etc.)

Plan to go: To the Poverello House Work Day the next morning

Questions: Ask Youth, Worker Connie Alfaro, connie@clovismumc.org



EDITOR'S THOUGHT

Malachi 3:3 says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy - when I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you. Pass this on. Right now, this very moment, someone needs to know that God is watching over them. And, that whatever they're going through, they'll be a better person in the end.

Coach's Corner

DO YOU KNOW OUR HARDWORKING STAFF?

During our John Wesley 300th Birthday Celebration we had our annual salute to our staff. Staff Parish Relations presented each staff member with a Barnes and Noble Bookstore Gift Card. On behalf of the staff I offer our sincere thanks for your appreciation. In conversation with our retired senior pastor of this congregation, Pastor Newell Knudson, we were a bit awestruck at how much more complex the world is today including the church than it was just 20 years ago. This complexity necessitates procedures, policies and staff for responsibilities that were not necessary in the past or were done on a volunteer basis when fewer women were in the workforce. Below is a list of our current staff and their responsibilities:

Denice Leslie, Senior Pastor: responsible for the Word, Order and Sacramental life of the church, the role of the senior pastor is to cast vision, provide oversight of the ministry and outreach in mission and evangelism of the church, oversight of Christian care giving and growth in Christian faith, call out the gifts of the laity and oversee a process that matures disciples and connects them with ministry in addition to providing pastoral care, counseling, marrying, baptizing and burying the departed.

Kham Dy Yang, Associate Pastor for Hmong Ministry: Pastor Yang's responsibilities include networking the Hmong community through evangelistic outreach, nurturing new disciples in the faith and in leadership skills as he nurtures the nucleus of a new worshipping congregation in our midst. Kham Dy has oversight for all the

responsibilities assigned to pastors in the care and nurture of Christians in ministry in addition to honing and using grant funding skills to underwrite this expanding ministry.

Cheryl Roblyer, Church Secretary. The church secretary is responsible for the daily functioning of the office, the production of the weekly bulletin, insert, monthly newsletter, all correspondence, reminders, mailings, record keeping, ordering of supplies and resources, word processing, telephoning and oversight of the volunteers, as well as being here to answer your questions and be of assistance all in the midst of an ongoing parade of parishioners and staff and the telephone!

Connie Alfaro, Youth Director. The Youth Director is responsible for our ministry with junior and senior high youth including their Christian Education, growth as disciples, ministry and mission outreach activities, inclusion of new youth and fun! It may only be written in three lines and be paid for 10 hours a week but as anyone who has done youth work knows one weekend event or one dear child in need can make it a full time vocation.

George Elgin, Executive Pastor. The Executive pastor is assigned the responsibility of working with Finance and Trustees in their stewardship of our resources. As you know, Pastor George does many additional things on a voluntary basis as an active member of this congregation including teach Disciple Bible, preach when asked and is responsible for the Healing Ministry Team and Service.

Katherine Hunter, Choir Director: The Choir Director is responsible for the chancel choir and rehearsals for Sunday Mornings and any holiday or special services throughout the year. We feel truly blessed to have Kate with us!

Scott Hatfield, Praise Team Pianist: The Praise Team pianist is responsible for rehearsing the Praise Team monthly and for playing for Sunday mornings for the praise music. As you know, Scott also has a great voice and enjoys volunteering his musical gifts with the children as an active member at potlucks

and special events as well as in worship.

Diane Zastovnik, Financial Secretary: The Financial Secretary receives and records all contributions, provides statements or acknowledgments of donations while maintaining the confidentiality of the donor. Diane also knows the accounting software and history of most of our non-budgeted accounts and is our Sherlock Holmes for unraveling past giving and donor intentions for designated funds and offerings and any remaining balances. Diane is also our Building Use Coordinator and Wedding Hostess and Wedding Custodian working with all outside building use requests, paperwork, policies, procedures, security of the building, lights, heat and a/c. She also sets the parking lot lights and sets the thermostats for meetings.

Dorrie Osback, Childcare Provider and Coordinator. In addition to providing childcare for church meetings and for infants in the Quiet room during worship and church school, the responsibilities of the childcare coordinator are to receive requests for childcare, schedule and assign childcare providers as available, maintain the Infant Quiet Room, oversee the furnishing and supplies for both nurseries including cleaning linens and toys, hiring, supervising, and training childcare providers and implementing the church's childcare policies and procedures. The Childcare Coordinator is also responsible for training new employees and church volunteers in the policies and procedures of the Shepherd System, our church's risk management program and in maintaining screening files and fingerprints on all our employees who work with children or other dependents. Dorrie also serves as our Church School superintendent, a position which today in a growing majority of churches is a paid position!

Celeste Thomasetti, Childcare Provider. Childcare providers provide care for our children during church meetings and activities and worship and Church School. Celeste is responsible for care of our pre-K children on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall nursery which includes the outdoor playground. In addition to Celeste and Dorrie we have a list of employed young adult

childcare providers from whom we can draw for sists in the event Celeste or Dorrie are not available. Right now Susan Yang assists Celeste on Sunday mornings.

We also have two hardworking non-paid staff:

Kathy Cannon, Organist. The responsibility of the Organist is to purchase, plan, learn, practice and play the service music for worship and accompany the chancel choir and any other musicians who need her. In addition Kathy takes organ lessons and is mastering the instrument. A church organist must be attune to every change and moment of motion in a service and provide music for even brief and sometimes impromptu moments which takes a great deal of flexibility, focus and discipline.

Georgia Holman, Church Accountant and Treasurer. Georgia serves as Finance chair in addition to giving us untold hours of accounting work shouldering all the responsibilities for the Treasurer for keeping our church accounts. She works with volunteer Gwen Emmick who writes the checks and matches up the invoices and vouchers, and with Ron Zastovnik our computer tech and Finance Committee Secretary who produces the Monthly Financial Report. Georgia enters does the actual accounting work of entering and tracking all of our monthly expenditures and income for all line items of our budget and for non-budgeted expense. Georgia also takes annual responsibility for having the audit done. Georgia sits every Sunday with the counters to be sure the process runs smoothly and to assist as necessary. Then she makes the deposits and returns the slips to the church. She also secures deposits made through the week at church as well as the morning's donations for the counters.

As you can see we have a very hardworking committed staff. Please feel free to contact any of them if you have questions, would like to volunteer to assist them or just to offer a word of affirmation!

Denice K. Leslie,
Senior Pastor