



GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United
Methodist Church November 2007

QUICK LOOK



Mark your
Calendars,
page 2

Youth Zone,
page 2

Special Notes,
page 3

Administration
and
Stewardship,
page 4

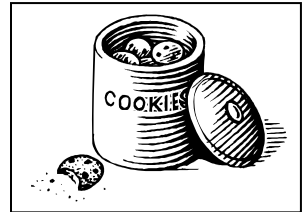
Calendar,
On the web

Birthdays,
page 6

ALL SAINTS DAY NOV. 4: We will celebrate All Saints on Sunday, November 4. Please submit names of those dear to you who have crossed the Crimson Line and joined the saints in glory. If you have not completed an insert in the bulletin, call Sara in the office ASAP to submit names for the Remembrance of the Honored Dead list to be published this day.

SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE NOV. 11, 2007: We will hold our last official Church Council meeting this year on Sunday, November 11, following worship. Prior to Council we will convene a Special Church (charge) Conference for the purpose of electing eight Spiritual Leaders to form the new Spiritual Leaders Circle.

EAT DESSERT FIRST THIS NOVEMBER!! Eat Dessert First is the theme of our annual financial Stewardship Campaign which will unfold this month. We ask that you would pray for the success of our campaign and about your own giving for the year that we may continue to fund ministry and follow God's leading in the direction of our congregation. You will receive stewardship mailings and Pastor Denice and Pastor Kham Dy will be preaching stewardship sermons this month.



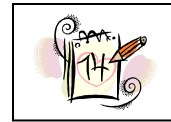
SUBMIT NAMES OF SPIRITUALLY MATURE: If you have not yet done so, you are invited to submit names of those you consider to be spiritually mature disciples in this congregation. These names will be used to select candidates for Spiritual Leaders for 2008. (See Coach's Corner article for a fuller explanation.)



CELL GROUPS TO FORM AFTER FIRST OF YEAR: Forty-five people have responded to the invitation to be part of a prayer cell group. These groups will be organized after the holidays, just after the first of the year. If you want to be part of a cell, contact pastor Denice.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL CALENDAR: Enjoy the advent season with a devotional that begins Dec. 2 and continues throughout the advent season. If you are interested in using one of these books to supplement your devotional time, please call the church office.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!



JOIN WASCO UMC FOR THEIR 100th ANNIVERSARY! Pastor Scott Allred heartily invites you to join a Celebration of 100 years of Ministry of the First United Methodist in Wasco! This event will be held on Sunday November 18, 2007 at First United Methodist Church, 1441 Seventh Street, on the corner of Seventh and Birch, Wasco, California. The Celebration begins at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary with Guest Speaker REVEREND MARIELLEN YOSHINO! Fresno District Superintendent Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall with reservations required. Please RSVP to the Church Office by Sunday, November 11.

UMW NEWS:

Nov 5: Board meeting at 9am in the library
Nov. 13: meeting at 10am in the Social Hall. Program: Pastor Denice's trip to Korea. Luncheon to follow: bring your own service. Red Bird hosts.
Nov. 14: Red Bird Circle at 9:30 in the Library
Nov. 28: Wesley Circle at 1pm in the Social Hall

ADVENT DINNER DEC 1: the Advent Dinner is just around the corner, Saturday Dec. 1, 2007, at 6pm in the Social Hall. This potluck celebration is a great way to start the season. Watch for Pat Frey's sign up list. If you wish to decorate and "host" a table, you may indicate that when you sign up. This year our theme will be Advent, and we have brass advent candle wreath circles and candles. A small donation of \$7.50 per family unit is requested to cover the cost. Family, children, and teen advent devotions will be distributed as well. Come join us!

UNITED METHODISM 101 ONLINE COURSE: This completely online course takes about four hours to complete at the participant's leisure. The cost is \$12.00. The next session of UM 101 will be October 3 through November 21, 2007. You can enroll for the course any time throughout the session. The course includes facilitated discussion from October 3 through 31. The next session of UM 101 will begin December 5, 2007 and run through January 2, 2008.

YOUTH ZONE

YOUTH CALENDAR:

Sunday 11/04/07 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Movie Nite (Bungalow)
Sunday 11/11/07 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Meeting
Sunday 11/18/07 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Meeting
Tuesday 11/20/07 7:00 p.m. Young People's Board (Library)
Saturday 11/24/07 8:00 - 12:00 p.m. Youth Poverello House Work Day
Sunday 11/25/07 NO MEETING
Friday 11/30/07 6:00 p.m. Church Christmas Tree Decorating Party

WANTED: YOUTH PARENTS ! We have a lot of new people in our youth group this year, and a lot of new parents who are encouraged to attend our monthly youth board meetings. These meetings are a chance to review and plan upcoming activities, and discuss important events in our children's lives at school and at church. It's also a great opportunity to meet and greet with other parents—we have a lot more in common than just our kids! ANYONE who is interested in encouraging our youth in a healthy Christian lifestyle, is welcome. We meet in the Lose Library on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. See you there!

SPECIAL NOTES

THRIFT SHOP NEWS: WOW! It's almost the end of the year for us! Hard to believe we just finished our October week end. Two more week ends and we will be starting a new year. We had a respectable week end with the preliminary count for the two days at \$858. Over \$500 of that was made on Friday. We were competing with the Fair so we felt good about our receipts. Saturday, of course we had the big yard sale and I do believe we got some customers from that. Though they may have spent most of their money there this time, some had never been to our shop before and chances are that they will return. We were running almost on empty with workers though. We were extremely short, with several people gone for vacations and other reasons. Again, I need to ask "can't you spare 3 hours a month one week end a month?" And if enough of you would say yes, we wouldn't have to ask you to do it every month. Please think about it. Remember, this is a "yard sale" that happens every month and the money goes to the same place that the BIG yard sale went. Our donations were great again, even with the yard sale and we again thank you! We did get left overs from the yard sale and have received some donations already for the next month's opening. We will be showing Christmas merchandise these next two openings so check out your Christmas (Thanksgiving too) things and remember us if you plan to get rid of any that are only slightly used. Also, if you've never visited us, you might want to wander in on one of the days next time we're open. You never know what treasure you might find. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.
Submitted by Pat Frey



CHURCH YARD SALE: The Fund Raising Team thanks everyone for all your contributions for the yard sale on October 6. The Fellowship Hall was loaded and we truly had the best prices in town! We appreciate all the help we had too. After expenses and taxes were subtracted, we netted a little over \$1,000 which funds will be added to those of the Mission Thrift Store. Gloria McClanahan

SPECIAL FRIENDS: the Special Friends meeting was held Tuesday, October 9th, with Pauline Middleton at the helm. Other present included John Tallmudge, Minnie Eller, Evelyn Haulman, Pat Frey and Max Cannon. The meeting was opened with prayer by Pauline, who then shared the story of "the cracked pot" and a scripture reading from 1 Peter 4:8-10. "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gifts he has received to serve others, faithfully administering god's grace in its various forms." Support comes within the group while briefly sharing our lives with each other. Together, during September, 46 phone visits, 18 visits, 60 cards, 1 letter and 2 grief booklets were shared and recorded. This is a rewarding outreach of caring. We encourage you to join us at the next meeting, Tuesday, November 13th at 1:30 pm in the Lose Library.

Blessings, Lorraine May

COACH'S CORNER: SPIRITUAL LEADERS AND CELL GROUPS: I want to thank all of you who responded to the invitation to be a part of a small prayer cell group, and to thank all of you who submitted names of those you consider spiritually mature disciples. Forty-five people signed up to be a part of a prayer cell!! Over twenty names were submitted as spiritual leaders! Some names appeared more than once, which is confirming. The prayer cells will be organized right after the first of the new year after all the holidays are over. This will give any one else who was not in church on the Sunday I made the invitation, who would like to be part of a prayer cell and/or submit names of spiritually mature people to do so. Just email me or call or write your decision/choices on a slip of paper and stick in my mail box. Or call me if you would like more information. Meanwhile, in our ongoing transition to a Servant Empowering Organization the Church (Charge) Conference voted September 30, 2007 to retire Church Council and give the administrative duties of the Council to the existing Administrative Support Team and the responsibility for new ministries, spiritual guidance, visioning and aligning our ministries with our purpose statement and core values to a circle of Spiritual Leaders. Eight members of the twelve member Spiritual Leaders' Circle will be elected at a special charge conference from among the names submitted by the congregation and from among the Hmong speakers spiritual leader submissions. The remaining four members will be part of the circle by virtue of their office: Team Leaders for Equipping Ministry, the Network, the Administrative Support Team, and Staff Parish Relations Team. Candidates for Spiritual Leaders will be screened to see if they feel called to serve, are ready and able to assume the responsibilities and meet the requirements which include a commitment to our mission and core values, a commitment to a covenant of spiritual practices. The Special Charge Conference will convene as part of the last Council meeting on Sunday, November 11, 2007 in the Lose Library. Please mark the date!

With Hope and Anticipation, Pastor Denice Leslie

Administration and Stewardship

THE NETWORK IS FOR MINISTRY AND GROUP LEADERS: If you are a leader of a work team, small group, ministry team, fellowship or class please note: The Administrative Support Team decided to make it a requirement for all small group, class leaders, fellowship and ministry team leaders of Memorial to be accountable to the Network for their ministry leadership. The Network meetings will be held on the second Sunday of the month following worship effective in January. The Network assumes the responsibility for the representative function the church council had in the past. The purpose of Network is leader accountability, networking, clearing calendars, assimilation of new members, skill building, encouragement and support. The Network leader is the Lay Leader.

PASTORS' AWAY DATES FOR NOVEMBER: Pastor Kham Dy Yang will be attending the Peace with Justice Conference in Fortworth, Texas, November 1 - 4. Pastor Denise Leslie and Pastor Kham Dy Yang will be attending the Bishop's All Clergy Convocation November 13-15. Pastor Kham Dy will be out of the office November 20-23 for a week of vacation. Remember, both pastors can be reached anywhere on their cell phones which have voice mail or messages can be left with Sara in the office.

2008 LAY LEADERSHIP REPORT UPDATE: The recently approved 2008 Lay Leadership Report will be updated following the special church (charge) conference on Sunday, November 11, 2008 following the election of the new spiritual leaders so their names can be added to the report. The full report will be included in the January 2008 newsletter.



LESLIE'S SALT SHAKER: What?? She's Gone Again?? *So where's the pastor been all summer? (And for that matter—last Spring??)* I think I've been away from home more this year than any year in my 27 year's of pastoring! Here's where I've been and the information you need: Last May I went on a mission trip to Korea for almost three weeks. A wonderful opportunity I look forward to sharing with our United Methodist Women (UMW) at this month's unit meeting. When I got home I tried to jump right back into things.

The jet lag caught up with me and I ended up exhausted and ill for about the next five weeks, through Annual Conference. Speaking of Annual Conference, that week away pretty much kicks off my annual summer schedule of being away. With the kids grown, you would think summer time would not be such a crucial time for vacation—that I could spread the four weeks-a-year out. But now that Kim, my husband, is a teacher, the school year continues to predict the majority of our vacation pattern. This summer I got in three of the four weeks. I catch as catch can any remaining vacation time through the school year, usually at Christmas. I also will take compensatory time off when holiday schedules pile on the hours. Camp, the all church campout weekend, and my annual sermon planning retreat finish out my regular away time most summers. This year because the church campout was postponed at the last minute, (*rescheduled for 9/21-23*) and I had the pulpit covered, I went ahead and joined Kim and daughter Moira for a trip to First UMC, Oroville. Kim was asked to return to this former church to preach for their 125th anniversary celebration. It was the first time in 10 years that we had been back. I was a member of the UMW there and did pastoral care for this congregation in Kim's absence although I served the Paradise UMC at the time. This fall I had a year-ago-set Labor Day UMW date to preach at the South Hayward UMC, a church Kim and I served as co-pastors 23 years ago. Again, this was a roots trip for me. I remained in the area on my day off, Monday, in order to go to the Probationary Candidate's retreat through Thursday noon which was held in Santa Cruz at our UM Campground, Monte Toyon. I am responsible for this annual event as Chair of the Probationary Residents in Ministry Committee for the Board of Ordained Ministry, BOOM. Speaking of BOOM, due to my current responsibilities with the Board, I have stepped down from my District obligations including the District Committee on Ministry, the Fresno Mission and Church Extension Society, and will not be organizing the logistics or hosting the District Council on Ministries district annual laity and pastors' training day held here at MUMC the last three years. All UM Clergy are members of and deployed by the conference and includes 20% of our appointment time dedicated to service in the conference beyond our local church. The Board of Ordained Ministry is my one commitment beyond the local church. It includes the following days away annually: One day prior to clergy session kicking off annual conference week in June. Three days in September for the RIM Candidates' Retreat. Three days in October and in April for full Board of Ordained ministry meetings. Three days away in February and two-three days in March for candidate interviews. These meetings are always Tuesday – Thursday. The Executive of BOOM has a monthly meeting in the intervening months through the school year in Sacramento on a Thursday. How I wish we had that bullet train! I try to get back in time for potluck and choir. Due to most administrative meetings scheduled for Tuesdays and Wednesdays, I use Thursday as an alternate day for scheduling pre-marital counseling etc. which then blocks out the usual events of this night. This summer I had 7 Thursday evenings of pre-marital counseling for a wedding September 15. I do want you to know that when I am to be out of town for BOOM events or for something such as the Bishop's All Clergy Convocation I do not take my day off on Monday. Any time you wonder where I am, need to make an appointment with me or need me for any reason, call me on my cell phone which is my constant companion day and night and is my ministry phone. Unless it is urgent, if you call on a Monday I will return your call on Tuesday. I will give my cell number here, but in case you misplace it and the church office is closed, remember Co-Pastor Kham Dy and I print our cell numbers in the bulletin insert weekly. The white board and bulletin insert lists my away dates and information as well. Please do not leave messages on my resident phone because with all of us at home using cell phones—no one besides me checks the land line and that could be a couple of days or in the summer time, weeks later. Finally, if you want me to attend your meeting please call me and let me know so I can schedule it well in advance. This is important because we have over forty-three teams, committees, groups and ministries meeting monthly. In Christ's service, Pastor Denise Leslie



Danielle# Spencer 11/03
Jerry Yang 11/03
Masumi# Gross 11/04
Pauline Eastham 11/05
Toua Koua Lor 11/05
Margaret Nicholls 11/05
Edith Davis 11/06
Susan Warner 11/06
Candace Yang 11/06
Barbara Grams 11/07
Helen Miles 11/08
Maya Simpson 11/08
Lucky Cha 11/09
Roberta Coon 11/10
Diane Zastovnik 11/10
Amee Moua 11/12
Robert# Sinclair 11/13
Blanche Spencer 11/13
Evelyn Weiss 11/13
Bill Ames 11/14
Richard Polson 11/15
Chathavim Vang 11/15
Marlene Remer 11/16
Molly Freundt 11/17
True Lee 11/20
Chufue Hang 11/21
Alicia Michel 11/21
Luke Stoddard 11/23
Connie Alfaro 11/25
Kathleen# Ohama 11/25
Meng Lor Xiong 11/26
LeRoy Ehresman 11/28
Ruth Lind 11/30