



GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United
Methodist Church January 2008

QUICK LOOK



Mark your
Calendars,
page 2

Youth Zone,
page 2

Missions,
page 2

News & Notes,
page 3

Worship,
page 4

Administration
and
Stewardship,
page 4, 5 & 6

Calendar,
online

Birthdays,
page 7

HEALING SERVICE ON JANUARY 8 Need a boost from the mid-winter, after the holiday blues? Come to the Healing service. This is a lovely, intimate service of candlelight, prayer, hymns and communion with opportunity to lift up prayer for special needs for individuals, the community, and the world. Anointing with oil and prayer with laying on of hands at the communion rail is an option following communion. This month, instead of meeting on the first Tuesday, we will meet on the second Tuesday, January 8. The move is to avoid meeting on New Year's Day.

NETWORK MEETS JANUARY 27TH AFTER WORSHIP IN LIBRARY Kicking off the new year, our Network of Leadership will meet following worship in the Lose Library on Sunday, January 27, 2008. The network is a required meeting for any and all leaders of groups, fellowships, teams, and committees. Its purpose is support, resourceing, evangelism, communication (networking with the larger congregation) and accountability. This is our general leadership accountability group. If you can not attend, call Sharon Hutchinson, lay leader, or email her to be excused. The Leadership Network will usually meet the second Sunday of the month. Thank you.

SPIRITUAL LEADERS CIRCLE GATHERS SUNDAY JAN. 6 Following worship, on January 6, 2008, the new Spiritual Leaders will gather in the Lose Library to set dates and get organized.

TRAINING EVENTS AVAILABLE FOR LAITY The **Fresno Lay Leadership Academy** whose mission is *to empower laity for the work of ministry in the local church* will be held January 5, 2008 at Merced UMC, 9:30- 12:30. Five workshops will be offered at 9:30 and five more at 11 a.m. covering such topics as Christian Caregiving, Radical Hospitality, Small Group Leadership, Preaching, Worship Leading, Basic Lay Speaking. To register or check out course description, go to Fresno District website: fdumc or call Pastor Heather Bailes at 584-4075. United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Training (UMVIM) for those wishing to lead mission teams will be held April 15, 2008 at First UMC, Redding, CA 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Registration is \$29 and pays for your UMVIM Team Leader Manual. Make check payable to Cal/Nev Conference and mail to UMVIM office, P.O. Box 80250, West Sacramento, CA 95798-0250. Be sure to address envelope to UMVIM and write "UMVIM Manual" on check memo line. A small donation for lunch at the event will be received. Or you may call Eddie Frutchev or email your registration to eddief@calnevumc.org. UMVIM director Sue King will be the trainer. Take a team from your church or district to Katrina area, or Mexico or the Phillipines or... Katrina sites provide dorms, work projects etc.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Thursday Night Diners: Enjoy the Holidays with your families! Thursday night diners will resume on Jan. 10 in the Social Hall.

January Joy In the Morning Brunch: Join us after the service on January the 27th for a brunch hosted by the Grams. Menu and more details to come!!

YOUTH ZONE!!

Sunday 01/06/08 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Movie Night (Bungalow)
Sunday 01/13/08 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting (Bungalow)
Sunday 01/20/08 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting (Bungalow)
Saturday 01/26/08 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Poverello House Work Day
Sunday 01/27/08 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting (Bungalow)

UMW News:

- Jan. 7: Board meeting at 9 am in the Library.
- Jan. 9: Red Bird circle 9:30 am in the Library.
- Jan. 15: General Meeting 'Prayer and Self Denial' presented by Newell Knudson at 10 am in the Social Hall. Bring a canned food item – all women are welcome.
- Jan. 23 Wesley circle at 1 pm in the Social Hall.

2008 Interfaith Scholar Weekend: Each year Interfaith Scholar Weekend offers the opportunity to spend a weekend with a lecturer who is a renowned scholar and an exceptional speaker. During that weekend we also gain spiritual enrichment from worshipping together with people from varied faith communities. In February 2008, for the first time, Interfaith Scholar Weekend will feature three speakers in one weekend. The topic of the event, to be held during Feb. 8-10, will be "The End of Time: Apocalyptic Visions in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam." The three scholars who will give lectures and take part in discussions in that event are among the world's foremost authorities on apocalypticism: Dr. John Collins, Dr. Barbara Rossing, and Dr. Shahzad Bashir. The event will begin in the evening on Friday, Feb. 8, with opening lectures by our three speakers, followed by informal conversations over dessert. On Saturday, Feb. 9 we will be at Temple Beth Israel for lectures and discussion from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will enjoy a continental breakfast before 9:00, and lunch will be served at 12:15. Meals are included in the fee for registration for the Saturday lectures. On Sunday morning, Feb. 10, each of the lecturers will speak at one or two churches during worship services. For further information on Interfaith Scholar Weekend, please call Al Evans



or e-mail him at evansalca@comcast.net.

Missions

THRIFT SHOP DONATES 11,000 FOR CONNECITONAL GIVING Congratulations to our hard working Mission Thrift Shop which raised 10,000 in proceeds from their monthly sales for our World Service and other connectional giving funds this year. Another 1,000 was raised for the Thrift Shop's proceeds by the Fundraising Team's Yard Sale! Thank you, everyone for your faithful service as disciples in these two ministries. Your work is hands and feet on the ground around this world in places you and I will never see, helping children and women and families in dire need of health care, basic necessities, education, clean water and receiving the good news of Jesus Christ.

NEWS AND NOTES



Special Friends: Tuesday December 11th, Pauline Middleton, John Tallmadge, Cannon, Pastor Denice Leslie, Pat Frey, Janet Bonzo, Dee Carr and Lorraine May joined in reading our church mission statement. The meeting was opened with prayer. For worship time we read Isaiah 9:2&6, and Isaiah 11:1-10. We meditated on the Advent Season being a time of preparation for the Prince of Peace, as promised by the ancient prophets, sang Hark the Herald Angels Sing, and shared a special memory that we had of Christmas, especially those from when we were children. Briefly, we shared our personal joys and concerns, then had reports of our special friends. Jim Skidmore had more testing Dec. 14th after a mass was spotted on his lung. Mary Lou Hall passed away, and a memorial service was held at the church December 17th at 10:30 am. Laurie Hill is having treatments for lymphoma at his new home in Kansas. Reports on visits showed an active November with 14 visits in homes and hospitals, 92 cards sent, 26 phone visits, and 3 letters sent. We closed the meeting with a prayer written by Pastor Laurie Hill: "Knit us together, Lord." The next meeting will be at 1:30 pm January 8th in the Lose Library.

Searching for the Prince of Peace, Lorraine.

Thrift Shop News: WOW! We ended this Thrift Shop year with a bang. Our preliminary count for the weekend was \$1224. That is probably our biggest weekend for the past two years. And, of course, you should be as elated as we are because it was a joint effort. Thank you again. Special thanks to Sharee for working all day on Friday and to Janet for working both Friday and Saturday mornings. We also thank Shirley (Denice's Mom) for giving us a hand on Friday morning. Because of the rain, we had to use the Social Hall for the things we usually display outside, and Shirley and Mac were nice enough to sit in the Hall for us. Thanks as well to all the others who came and gave us 3 or 4 hours of their week end. We really do appreciate you! As our year ends, we look back with satisfaction at our accomplishments. We were able to assist 3 different individual families with clothing and other needs who were referred either by Love Inc, or members of our church. We reached out to the victims of the fire on Clovis and King's Canyon with boxes of clothing for children and adult women. We have donated to the Poverello house every month all year. Additionally we sent luggage and purses to victims of abuse at the Marjorie Mason center and filled a request for small bottles of lotion, soaps etc. by the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Lastly, we helped with the homeless project by providing bags and backpacks, socks, and some clothing. We donated a total of \$10,000 to our church for apportionments. All of this made possible by our church family; those who donate, sort, price, hang, launder, place, cashier, buy, and anything else that needs to be done. You have done good, gang. Thanks a million. Next month we get to start all over again. Know that, we are depending on you for all those wonderful donations.

God Bless each of you. Submitted by Pat Frey



Boutique News: Thank you all for your support of this year's Boutique. Attendance was great! Many people came from outside of our congregation. The Country Store sales increased, thanks to your generous contributions from your kitchens. The lunches were outstanding, served up by Pat Frey and her crew. Our final Boutique total was \$5755.40. This enables us to fulfill our obligation to our missionary and contribute to our apportionments. We are so happy to be able to fund these projects! Thanks again to all who worked so hard to make it a success. We are already planning for next year and look forward to another successful Boutique. We welcome any of you who like to make things to join us on Wednesday mornings in the Social Hall. We are a group of all levels of skills and interests. We have such a good time, and most of us go out to lunch together afterwards. Come and join us when we resume in January! If you have questions, contact Barbara.

-The Boutique Group

Permanent Endowment Fund: Please take a few minutes to reflect how you might be able to help your church by including its Permanent Endowment Fund as a beneficiary in your will. Our church is here to serve one and all to the best of its ability. Its ability is limited by its available resources so your financial support is needed. If you would like to learn more about how to add our church's Permanent Endowment Fund as a beneficiary of your will, please speak with Rick Hutchinson.

Worship

WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS –A MOVING TARGET After experimenting during Advent with having the announcements in the middle of the service, the Worship team's evaluation is that they need to return it to the top of the service, but inside the worship hour rather than before worship begins. The new pattern will be: Welcome, Announcements, Greeting One Another. With this new pattern it will be very, very important for all of us to plan ahead and get our announcements to Jim Acton either on a white card prior to the service OR by email. Announcements printed in the bulletin will now be projected on the screen to help highlight them, reduce paper and time spent on announcements. So we ask that no verbal announcements be made repeating print announcements. Also, if you need to make a verbal announcement, keep it to 30 seconds, come to the mic and "line up" behind Jim immediately. Of course plans change or information gets scrambled or omitted and announcements need to be made—the whole idea is simply to keep announcements specific, applicable to the whole body, and brief so information gets out appropriately and we don't cut into worship. Thanks everyone for your cooperation. –Worship Plan Team



Administration and Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP TEAM NEED Stewardship is not just about money. Its about the way we live on this earth and use what God's given us in the way of gifts, talents, time and resources including wealth for the work of Christ. The role of the pastor is to preach and teach about stewardship. But it is the role of the lay leadership to call us all to provide for the needs of our church. If you feel called to this very important ministry please speak with John Talmadge or John Erb or Rick Huchinson, Equipping Team Leader.

2008 LEADER ORIENTATION IN MINISTRY AND MISSION MEETINGS This year Leader Orientation will be specific to the group. The majority of ministry and mission leaders will be oriented at the Leadership Network meeting on January 13, 2008. The remainder will be oriented at the first meeting of the new year of their teams.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN Installation of new United Methodist Women's officers will be Sunday in worship January 13, 2008 at the 10:30 English service. Our new officers are Dee Carr, President; Dorothy Heskitt, Vice President, Roberta Coon; Secretary, Judy Gross, Treasurer; Mary Vollman Program Resources; Evie Wiess, Membership, Nurture, and Outreach; Lorraine May, Spidritual Growth, Eveleyn Haulman, Social Action; Pauline Middleton, Education and Interpretation; Ann Isle, Red Bird Circle Leader; Judy Gross, Wesey Guild Circle Leader.

THANK YOU CONNIE AND YOUNG PEOPLE FOR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM A special word of appreciation to our young people for their Mary Sunday worship in December. And an special thank you to Connie Alfaro, our Youth Director and Kim Williams, youth, for *writing the entire script!* Well done!

COMING FULLY ALIVE! SEMINAR SET FOR END OF FEBRUARY Mark your calendars now and look for more information and registration pamphlets for an upcoming and excellent series dealing with the issues of life as an older adult in a Coming Fully Alive! Seminar to be held here at Memorial UMC Friday, February 29, and Saturday, March 1, 2008. Lunch will be included in the nominal registration fee which will cover travel and board for the teachers. Judith Pruess-Mellow, a UM Deacon and the director of the Senior New Ways older adult ministry located at First UMC of Los Altos is the creator of this wonderful series Judith will teach one of the sessions and be joined by three other lecturers. This seminar series is made possible by a Buelah Foundation Grant specifically for Clovis and two other local churches in our conference. Get the word out to your friends and save the date. More details to come.



TWO MUMC MEMBERS SERVE ON CONFERENCE OLDER ADULT MINISTRY TEAM We are privileged to have Nancy Enloe and Judy Gross serving on our California Nevada Conference Older Adult Ministry (OAM) Team. Judy and Nancy went to their first OAM meeting in November and wowed everyone with the number of ministries we have in place for older adults here at MUMC.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2008—MAKE NOTE

Space doesn't allow for listing all of the mission and ministry teams or all of the Administrative Support related teams. These represent the "backbone" of the church. "AS" designates an Ad. Support related team.

Administrative Support Team	4 th Tuesday, 4:30 p.m.
Equipping Team	Moves around at members convenience.
Finance Work Team (AS)	3 rd Wed. 7 p.m.
Facilities Maintenance Team (AS)	As needed on 4 th Tues. 9 a.m.
The Leadership Network	2 nd Sunday after worship.
Spiritual Leaders Circle	1 st Sunday after worship.
Staff Parish Relations Team	2 nd Wed. 7 p.m.
Youth/CE/Family Min. Board	2 nd Tues. 7 p.m.



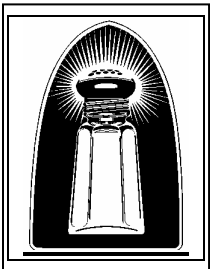
CONFIRMATION ANYONE? Would you believe that Ash Wednesday is right around the corner? It's February 6th this year. Which means Lent is almost here and Epiphany over! Time to consider your journey with Jesus if you are a young person interested in becoming a life long disciple. Some of you are baptized and some are not. The term "confirmation" means to confirm the baptismal vows taken on your behalf as an infant for yourself now that you are able to do that. Others may not be baptized but may wish to do so and be a disciple of Jesus. Let Connie Alfaro, Youth Director, or Pastor Denice know if you are interested or want to know more about it.

MISSION AND MINISTRIES AT MUMC Please inquire in the office as to the meeting times for the mission, ministry, small groups, classes and fellowships listed in the Lay Leadership Report enclosed. Notify the office if your group was omitted and receive our apologies. As groups multiply we will be having everyone "sign in" to keep track of who is doing what at meetings as part of our Equipping Ministry data base support systems.

We hope to have a new Counter Book available for your use soon. It will list every team and group to assist in connecting people to existing ministries and will be updated regularly.

LESLIE'S SALT SHAKER: PRAYER CELLS BEGIN THIS MONTH Knowing God's will for our lives is the hearts desire and the souls deep longing. This fall many of you signed on and are signing on to participate in small prayer cells. I am now in the process of initiating those cells. Since we have so many it will take a while! I will initiate and orient each group. I will contact you as to when your cell will have its first meeting. We will meet in my living room. At that meeting the group will build community. The group will also determine who will be the group facilitator and for how long that person desires to serve. The responsibility of the facilitator is to follow the group meeting format and receive the inspiration for the meeting which will be provided. Your group will determine the best time and place to meet: in a home, rotate homes, at the church? An evening or day time meeting? And how often the group will convene: monthly or twice a month?

I will converse regularly with each facilitator for a while and then quarterly for ongoing support, monitoring of how things are going. Prayer cell facilitators will participate in the Leadership Network as well. You will be scheduled for your first meeting soon. If you haven't done so and would like to participate, call, speak to, or email me. I will be working consistently on initiating new groups from now on. Groups will not exceed five or six members. If you have a friend outside the church who would like to participate, please invite them and give me their name.



GREEN TEAM APPEAL Do you have a heart burst or heartbreak for the environment? Join the MUMC Green Team. Contact Diane or Ron Zastovnik or Sue DeFranco to get involved. The

Team will be exploring such issues as solar power for our church, what we can do to be better stewards of our environment here at church and as individuals.

WANT TO START A NEW MINISTRY OR MISSION PROJECT? If you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to take on a new ministry or mission project and don't know what to do, talk with Pastor Denice or the Lay Leader, Sharon Hutchinson. They will get you scheduled for a conversation with the Spiritual Leaders Circle to get your ministry up and running and connect you to the Leadership Network.

SPIRIT QUEST NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS FORMING If you have been attending MUMC for a while and are interested in exploring membership, please join the pastor in her office on Sunday mornings at 9:30 beginning Sunday mornings for "Connecting to the Church," Class 1 in the Spirit Quest Maturing in Discipleship series. It addresses the faith question: "How does my faith fit/connect with the church?" Watch for announcements of other Spirit Quest Classes. They may be taken in any order:

Class 1: Coming to Faith This class addresses the Faith Question: "What needs do I bring with me which faith in Jesus Christ and church can address? It explores who Jesus Christ is.

Class 3: Practicing My Faith. This class addresses the Faith Question: "What does it mean to walk faithfully with Jesus?"

Class 4: Ministry and Mission. This class addresses the Faith Question: "What is God's ministry or mission call to me as a disciple of Jesus?"

Class 5: Sustaining/Visioning Leadership. This class addresses the Faith Question, "What is God calling me as a leader of leaders to do that will transform lives and the world through the gospel of Jesus Christ?"

COACHES CORNER It's time to get organized for a new year of ministry. You will find lots of useful information in this issue of the Good News. Please hang on to it for future reference. Please review the Lay Leadership Report enclosed and report errors, omissions, and updates to the office. The Leadership Network meets this month on the second Sunday. This group will be the heart beat of the congregation. If you are a leader of anything, be there. This is where we will network what's happening around here, provide support, seek input from the larger congregation and hold each other accountable for our discipleship leadership. **I want to remind us of our Growth Strategy** as we begin the new year as well. A third prong is being added to it.



The First Prong is to grow a strong vital older adult ministry (OAM) that addresses the spiritual and life transition needs of senior adults. We --all of us-- will be working on getting the word out to the senior adults of Clovis. To that end let people know and plan now to attend: we are offering an OAM seminar weekend, *Coming Fully Alive*, February 29 and March 1, 2008, provided by Senior New Ways and made possible through a grant from our conference's Beulah Foundation. As we enact our second prong (see next) the current service will be even more directed to meeting the needs of the older adult.

The Second Prong is to reach a younger generation (people your children's age) through a new second English service. A team of people continues to meet to plan this service. We will be looking at Sunday morning scheduling and seeking feed back from the congregation through a worship time survey. Research shows the best way to grow a church our size is to add a new service targeting a new group.

The Third Prong is to become multicultural. We have three United Methodist congregations meeting in our facility. Currently the Hmong speakers are members of Memorial. We are hoping to build an alliance among all three congregations, English, Hmong and Korean, under Memorial's banner that will bring us into a federated mission and ministry together.

California is multi-cultural and Clovis is becoming increasingly multi-cultural. I know my neighborhood at Armstrong and Shaw is. Getting the word out we offer services in three languages: Korean, English and Hmong will grow us and serve more people in our community. Divided we fall, together we not only stand but thrive into the next three decades.

Building use creates tensions and a landlord tenant mentality. This is not what Jesus would have. We pastors, Paul Joseph Yang, Young Kim and myself are working toward building a strong covenant of Christian commitment. We will be working on building that bond among us as congregations as well. Communication and building personal relationships are key to helping that happen. And remembering that its not about the "American" or "Hmong" or "Korean" way, its about THE JESUS WAY. Jesus is our leader, our friend, our Lord and our Savior. Together with him we can confess our "James and John" desire to be first in the Kingdom and instead do as our Lord commanded on Maundy Thursday (Maundy = mandatum= commandment): take a towel and wash each others feet in humble servant leadership. Open your hearts, open your minds, open your doors all ye United Methodists!



Sia Yee Her 01/01
Margie Magargee 01/01
I.B. Moua 01/01
Jasmine Yang 01/01
Minnie Eller 01/02
Shelby Cox 01/04
Jon Alfaro 01/05
Bryon Autry 01/05
Vernon Crooke 01/06
Wesley Yang 01/08
Andrew Zastovnik 01/08
Vang Yee Her 01/09
Phillip Heskett 01/09
Mary Vollman 01/09
Wiley Harkins 01/11
Sebastian Chee Meng Hang 01/12
Brent Lee 01/12
Pang Ying Yang 01/12
Ying Yang 01/12
Eric Cannon 01/13
Denine Rudolfs 01/18
Ia Lor 01/20
Tiffany Motter 01/20
Tong Xeng Yang 01/20
Margie Cox 01/21
Matthew Remer 01/23
Stacy Smith 01/23
Sarah Hutchinson 01/24
Tou Lee 01/25
Edgar Michel 01/25
Clara Yang 01/25
Norma Crooke 01/27
Rebecca Hutchinson 01/27
Marilyn Lungren 01/27
Rodger Pachelbel 01/27
Rick Snow 01/27
Carl Nutting 01/29
Corinne Williams 01/29
Moom Moua 01/31