



# GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United  
Methodist Church March 2008

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**HEALING SERVICE MEETS SECOND TUESDAY IN MARCH** The Healing Service usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. In March it will be held the second Tuesday, March 8, 2008. This is a service of prayer, song, communion and an opportunity to kneel at the rail for anointing of oil and prayer for specific concerns. Join us for a quiet, restorative worship experience, and remember, a Healing Prayer station is available every communion Sunday at the back of the sanctuary during communion.

**PALM/PASSION SUNDAY WITH PALM PROCESSION MARCH 16** Palm Sunday worship begins with a palm procession of children and passion readers who will gather at 9:45 a.m. to line up. Palm fronds and Eco-Green Balloons will be available. Following the liturgy of the Palms the message of the morning will be a dramatic narrative reading of the Passion of Jesus according to Matthew interspersed with hymns. The Stripping of the Church by the Chancel Choir will conclude the service.

**HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE AND SIMPLE SUPPER** Mark your calendars for Holy Thursday worship, March 20. The evening will begin with a "Simple Supper" at 6 p.m. in the social hall consisting of foods which Jesus and the disciples would have eaten at the Passover Meal of the Last Supper. This is a potluck. Soup and beverage is provided. Please bring fruits, nuts, and cheeses to accompany the soup. The service will begin at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary and will include a communion supper in the manner of the last supper with unleavened bread and hymns.

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES** Academy church will provide a service of Tenebrae (the extinguishing of lights) as the passion narrative from the Gospel of John is read at 7:00 p.m. under the leadership of George and Lucy Elgin. Memorial church will provide a service featuring the reproaches as the cross is carried down the aisle, and laid on the chancel steps for prayer around the cross at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. The historic Academy church is located on Madsen off Tollhouse/168. Take 168 east, past Academy Rd to left on Madsen.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE AT ACADEMY CHURCH** Rise! Shine! And celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday morning, March 23, at 6:30 a.m. for an Easter Sunrise Service at Academy Church. See directions to church under Good Friday services announcement.

## **EASTER VICTORY CELEBRATION PROCESSION AND RETURN OF THE LIGHT**

Easter Service at Memorial will begin at 10:30 a.m. out front of the sanctuary with the lighting of the Paschal Candle to lead the Victory Procession into the church. You may gather outside for the procession or take a seat inside. Light from the Paschal Candle, symbolizing the return of Christ, the Light of the World will be spread through the congregation. The lights will come up as we shout "He is risen indeed!" and we sing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." A flower cross for children to cover with roses will be a part of the Victory procession as we bring the Resurrection beauty into the church. All children, parents, choir members, youth and young adults will gather at 10:15 a.m. in the social hall to line up for the procession and receive lilies, flowers and other sanctuary items. The processors will gather out front for the lighting of the Paschal candle and follow the candle into the church.

## ***Stewardship and Administration***

### **COUNTER BOOKS HAVE MINUTES/BUDGET FOR REVIEW**

All meetings of the church are open to members of the church. A schedule of the meetings for the year is printed in the January Good News and is printed weekly in the bulletin insert and on the Good News monthly calendar. Minutes of meetings and monthly expense reports as well as a copy of the budget are filed in "counter books" available in the office. The office is open 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The binders are called "counter" books because they are kept on a counter in the office for easy access. If you need help finding minutes or the expense line item you are looking for, the staff will assist you. If you would like a copy of any minutes, copies can be made for you.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TEAM MINUTES**

The Administrative Support Team meets monthly at 4:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the library unless otherwise announced. It is open to all members of the church. Minutes are available in the Counter book, on the web page and will now be available on the information table in the lobby of the church. If you wish them emailed to you, please notify the office.

## ***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*

**LEADER NETWORK SETS MEETING DAY** The Leader Network met for a potluck orientation and calendaring of annual events and meetings. The following issues were listed for 'networking' through the ministries of the church for future meetings: Budget education, Fundraisers, Sunday morning schedule. The Network will meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. 25 groups were represented. Under "Floating new ministries" Nancy Enloe is going to offer Physical Tune Up, exercise for seniors adults. Lucy Elgin is going to offer Living and Dying Well and Gifts Discovery again. George and Lucy Elgin will be offering a Dream Seminar in April or May. The Young People's Board informed us they encompass Family Life, Parent's Time Out and Young Adults in addition to Youth and Church School for children. Pastor Denice will provide newcomer information to ministries and groups where an interest has been indicated.

### **SPIRITUAL LEADERS BUILD COMMUNITY, LEARN, PRAY AND SET DATE**

The Spiritual Leaders met for a Saturday morning retreat in January. Pastor Denice led a lecto divina reflection on a scripture passage from Romans using the Message paraphrase. Spiritual leaders participated in group building exercises followed by an orientation to the church's vision, mission, core values, and system for supporting ministry (church structure). Each person was given a small book titled, "Sleeping with Bread, Holding What Gives You Life, a contemporary version of the ancient spiritual discipline of the Examen to be used at each meeting for watching over one another in love for the purpose of spiritual support and accountability. Another ancient practice of the church for Christian conferencing in seeking God's will: Discernment was introduced and will be explored further in future meetings. The Spiritual Leaders look forward to conversations with each existing ministry and mission of the church to help each one develop a mission or purpose statement, and to help us align our ministries with the vision, mission and core values of our congregation to help us serve and make disciples of Jesus. The group agreed to meet the first Sunday of the month after worship in the Library.

## **YOUTH NEWS**

- Sunday 03/02/08 5:00 p.m. Movie Nite  
(Bungalow)
- Sunday 03/09/08 5:30 p.m. Youth Group  
(Bungalow)
- Saturday 03/15/08 8:45 a.m. Snow Trip
- Sunday 03/16/08 5:30 p.m. Youth Group  
(Bungalow)
- Sunday 03/23/08 NO YOUTH GROUP -  
Happy Easter!
- Sunday 03/25/08 7:00 p.m. Young People's  
Board (Library)
- Saturday 03/29/08 8:00 a.m. Poverello House  
Work Day
- Sunday 03/30/08 5:30 p.m. Youth Group  
(Bungalow)

**ALL CHURCH SNOW DAY MARCH 15** On Saturday March 15, everyone is invited to a "Day in the Snow!" We will meet at the church at 8:45 a.m. and return by 4:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex, so we can get a head count and volunteers for food items. (FYI: We may decide that morning that the weather or the roads are too dicey, and we won't go after all. If so, we'll stay at the church and play games and other activities for the morning, and have lunch together before we go home.) If you have any questions, please see Connie Alfaro or Laura Williams.

## **PARENTS' TIME OUT (PTO) SUN. MARCH 2**

- Parent's Time Out (PTO) meets on the first Sunday of every month at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. As the name implies, it's a chance for the grown-ups to meet (without the kids!) for chat, Bible Study, eats, games, whatever kind of fun we want! Currently, Andy Hansen-Smith is leading us in a discussion of "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren. This book has been described as "a manifesto for Christian living in the 21st century, proposing a lifestyle based on eternal purposes, not cultural values." There will be supervision, activities, and snacks for younger children. All youth grades 7 - 12 are welcome to join the youth group in the Bungalow for our regular Movie Nite. If you have any questions, please call Connie Alfaro.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, STELLA!** A dear lady in our church family, Stella Schaa, will be celebrating a very special birthday on March 10 when she will be one hundred years old. She still lives in her house across the street from our former Methodist Church on 5<sup>th</sup> street. Stella is bed ridden, but her mind and memories are still clear. She enjoys visits with old friends – but call ahead. It would be nice to shower her with birthday cards.

**BIG HAT DAYS FUNDRAISING BOOTH** April 5&6, Memorial UMC will be hosting a Pepsi and water booth in Old Town Clovis. There will be signups passed around and also in the Narthex. Help Memorial in this fundraising venture!

## **UMW NEWS:**

- March 3: Board Meeting at 9am in the Library
- March 12: Red Bird Circle meets at 9:30am in the Library
- March 18: Regular meeting at 10am in the Social Hall. Program: Globalization presented by Mary Vollman. Luncheon is hosted by Red Bird Circle. Please bring your own service. ALL women are welcome.
- March 26: Wesley Circle meets at 1pm in the Social Hall

**THRIFT SHOP NEWS** We were open for business the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of February. What started out as a rainy Friday actually ended up being a pretty nice weekend. For the first time that I can remember, we took in within a dollar the same amount both days. Preliminary count for the two days is \$921. Friday total was \$460.56 and Saturday \$460.85. We were steadily busy both days. We welcomed back Mary Vollman from a long sick spell. And Janet Bonzo helped out on both mornings. Other faithful workers came in and worked a shift. Thanks to all. Again we ask that you keep us in your prayers as we tirelessly work this ministry. Also remember us with all the neat clean things you're throwing away. We need kitchen things again and all kinds of knick knacks. But we will take whatever you have that we can sell. Books, especially paper backs, always. Thank you again for all your support. -Submitted by Pat Frey

**SPECIAL FRIENDS:** Tuesday February 12<sup>th</sup>, Special Friends members Janet Bonzo, Pat Frey, Max Cannon, Pauline Middleton, Evelyn Haulman, John Tallmudge, and Lorraine May welcomed Nancy Locke to our group. Nancy has been so helpful to Jim and Betty Skidmore during Jim's surgery and subsequent death. We opened with the MUMC Mission statement, followed by a prayer. The Bible reading was John 15:12-17. Our meditation "Passing Jesus By", was from the January issue of Alive Now, and led us to the song, "Change My Heart, O God". Many blessings appeared during the sharing of our personal joys and concerns. Report on Special Friends: The death of Jim Skidmore and his memorial service at the church Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, and grief support for Betty. A correction was made for Agnes Emmanuel's address after a visit from Pastor Denice. Carl Nutting's name was added to our "Special 90" list. The month's activities by members included 74 cards, 57 phone calls, 22 visits, and 1 letter. It was a productive month. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm, in the Lose library. Come, join our mission fun. The meeting closed with the reading of a poem, "Love and Care" by Michael Dubina.

-Blessings, Lorraine May

**UMTV:** You are United Methodist television. By sharing compelling stories of ordinary people making a difference, you are the force behind UMTV. What's happening in the church? Tell us so we can let the world know. Send us your story ideas: united Methodist News Service, UMTV and UMC.org. [newsdesk@umcom.org](mailto:newsdesk@umcom.org).

### **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)*

**REACHING A NEW GENERATION TALKS MUSIC, MUSICIANS** The Reaching a New Generation new service team met in February

to discuss music and musical needs of the new service. Launch date is next fall. Contact was made with Easum/Bandy requesting a worship coach to work with us. A marketing strategy will be developed and some equipment purchased after a careful assessment of what is needed. It is the hope of the team to attract adults who are the age of the children of the current membership and their children. Please pray for this ministry and its success for our future.

**LESLIE'S SALT SHAKER** I love pretzels. Especially chocolate covered pretzels. Lent and Easter season is a great excuse to indulge! I know, and you thought it was all about *giving up* chocolate and the like! It's about practicing the presence of God—both in abstinence and indulgence. You see, it's about doing what draws your heart to God first. Sometimes that happens when we find we are without something we enjoy, rely on and find absent (by choice) through the days of Lent. Other times, its about looking at a pretzel's crossed arms, recalling this is a sign of prayer with God, savoring the smell of fresh baked pretzels as they come out of the oven and the salty savor or that first bite of a Hot Cross bun and remembering to "taste and see the goodness of the Lord." So it is with chocolate Easter bunnies and jelly beans! When I was little I LOVED going to communion because of the little sip of that sweet grape juice—although the bread was nothing to write home about as it was usually a little bit of what I called "hard tack." Not exactly something to give you the idea you are the leaven in the lump! I much prefer the Hawaiian sweet bread I was introduced to at a Tongan communion service. Yes, Easter is about the best God has to offer us: Abundant life, eternal life, life in all its fresh vividness—God springing into life through the power of the Holy Spirit in us as Resurrection People. So savor the sweetness, or anticipate the return of the absent and remember its all about Alleluia! (Praising the God of Life in Jesus Christ!)

May the Risen Christ keep us young,  
Pastor Denice