



# GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United Methodist Church April 2009 Ph: 299-4615

"The Mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

## QUICK LOOK



Upcoming Events,  
Page 2

Congregational  
Life,  
Page 2

UMW,  
Page 3

Thrift Shop News,  
Page 3

Special Friends,  
Page 3

Ministry Spotlight,  
Page 3

Youth,  
Page 4

From the Pastor,  
Page 4

Calendar,  
online

Birthdays,  
Page 5

**PEPSI BOOTH AT BIG HAT DAYS, APRIL 4 & 5:** We need volunteers to work the Pepsi Booth at Big Hat Days Saturday April 4 and Sunday April 5, 2009. Speak with LaDonna Snow or call the church office ASAP. The Pepsi Booth Fundraisers have proved to be very worthwhile both in terms of funds raised and visibility for our congregation in the community.

**PALM/PASSION SUNDAY COMBINED WORSHIP AT 11 A.M.:** Palm Sunday is also Passion Sunday on Sunday, April 5. We will have one service of worship with a Palm Processional at the top of the service with a Time for Children with Barbara Grams followed by a dramatic reading of the Passion of Jesus according to the Gospel of Mark and the Stripping of the Church. Families, youth, young adults are invited to join the Praise Team and Passion Readers in the Palm Procession. Gather in the lobby at 10:45 a.m.

**HOLY THURSDAY SIMPLE SUPPER APRIL 9, 6 P.M.:** Our annual Simple Supper after the manner of Jesus and the disciples partook at the last supper will be in the social hall at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, at 6 p.m. Please bring dried fruit, grapes, cheeses, cracker breads. Soup and beverage provided. Holy Thursday Communion service follows at 7p.m. in the sanctuary.

**HOLY THURSDAY COMMUNION WITH DRAMATIC MESSAGE:** Holy Thursday service with communion with the message brought to us via the vehicle of drama will be held Thursday, April 9 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Communion will be in the manner of the Upper Room meal.

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES: MEMORIAL AND ACADEMY, APRIL 10:** Friday, April 10 we will have two Good Friday Services: A service of Tenebrae: the Service of Extinguishing Lights as the Passion of the gospel of John is narrated will be held at the historic Academy church at 4 p.m. A service of Prayer Around the Cross with a brief message will be held at Memorial in the sanctuary at 7 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE 7:00 A.M.:** Greet the rising sun on Easter Sunday, April 12 at 7:00 a.m. at historic Academy church on Madsen Ave. Take 168/Tollhouse east past Academy to Madsen. Make a left turn on Madsen. Church up on the left. Dress warmly.

**EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICE 11 A.M.:** Celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday at 11:00 am in a combined service of worship. Those who are able will gather out side the front of the sanctuary for the beginning of the service with the Return of the Light. After the new fire of Easter is spread to the congregation, the Easter Victory Procession will dispel the darkness as all sing "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today." The Chancel Choir and the Imagine! Praise Band will provide music. Janette Erickson will perform *Panis Angelicus* on flute for the offertory. Families, youngsters and anyone interested are invited to be part of the Victory Procession to bring Easter into the sanctuary including the flowers of Easter day. The procession will form beginning at 10:30 a.m. out front of the sanctuary.

## Upcoming Events

**EASTER OFFERING 2009:** Our Easter offering will be split between two funds this year, one that reaches out around the United States and the world and the other benefiting a project a little closer to home. The World Service Fund is part of our connectional giving that supports missionaries and their ministries in the areas of spiritual growth, education, medicine, community development, etc. in over 80 countries around the world and in the United States. Our mission speaker from March 29th, Carol Partridge and her wonderful work in Macedonia is directly supported by this fund. Our Easter offering will also benefit the Volunteers in Mission program of our California-Nevada Conference. This group of dedicated volunteers is planning a much-needed "Habitat for Christ" renovation of the Oroville Hmong pastor's home. At this point in time the house is basically a shack, but with a little help from conference brothers and sisters the dedicated group of volunteers will be able to buy materials and complete this worthwhile project. The Micah Ministries Team encourages you to help us fulfill the mission of our church, to go and show Jesus' love everywhere, by giving generously to our Easter offering this year.

**SPIRITUAL LEADERS WILL MEET PALM SUNDAY:** If you are scheduled for your ministry conversation for Sunday, April 5 the Spiritual Leaders will meet in the Lose Library following the 11 a.m. worship service.

**LENT FOOD DRIVE:** Please return your non-perishable food donations for our Lent Food Drive on Palm Sunday. Your sacrificial gift of food will help our Food Pantry meet the needs of hungry in our area. Our goal- 40 bags of food, one for each of the 40 days of Lent. Any surplus food will go the Clovis Salvation Army for their outreach into the Clovis community.

**FORTY DAYS ON FOOT:** The Lenten Jog-a-thon continues until Easter. There is still time to make a pledge to support our Ethnic Minor-

ity apportionment. The conference asks us to give \$2,101 for our share of this important ministry which helps fund programs such as our Hmong Ministry. Funding is down throughout the conference and the committee may not be able to help us out this year. However, since we have benefited in the past, we have a certain obligation to do our best to fulfill our responsibility. Remember that this is really a mission program that helps fund mission work in our own community. It's not too late to be a participant in the 40 Days on Foot, either. If you get this by April 1, you still have eight days to walk, run, bike or whatever in support of this mission while getting healthful exercise at the same time. Pick up a pledge sheet and a mileage log in the Narthex.

**PUT ON YOUR EASTER BONNET!:** The church's most joyous holiday is coming, let's prepare ourselves to greet Easter morning with smiling faces and happy hearts--and our Sunday best! Parents Time Out (PTO) asks us all to don our finest clothes and especially, our most elegant chapeaus! That's right--Hats! Ladies AND gentlemen, if you have a formal or spring hat that you've been waiting to wear, Easter morning would be a great time to share it. (White gloves are optional!)

**TREES 'N' CHEESE CAR WASH SUNDAY APRIL 26:** Bring us your muddy SUVs, your dusty sedans, your grimy station wagons, yearning to be clean! Sunday, April 26, the Sunday School will hold a car wash to benefit its Heifer International "Trees 'N' Cheese" fundraiser. Just drop your car off at the Scott Ave. parking lot as early as 9:30 a.m. and it will be clean and ready to go after the 11:00 worship service. Tickets go on sale Sunday April 19 and on April 26 from any Sunday School teacher for \$5.00.

## Congregational Life

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Mt. 18:30*

**COFFEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Volunteers are needed, perhaps one Sunday a

month, to either set up the coffee, tea and snacks for the Fellowship Time between the two services. Ideally, we would like a team from the 11am service to set up prior to 10:30am and a team from the 9:30am service to clean up; we need several teams. If you would like to help, please call Sharon Hutchinson after 5pm.

**THRIFT SHOP NEWS:** We were open the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of March and we were fortunate to have lots of customers both days. Friday was an exceptional day for receipts with Saturday lagging a bit. However by Saturday our selection was down some. We came in a little short of our hoped for \$1000 but did get \$935. So we are happy with that. We work the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month. Many times we work additional Tuesdays and most always the Tuesday immediately prior to our being open when it is after the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. Kind of confusing, I know but we will take your donations anytime if you just let one of us know you want to drop something off. Again, we do need your donations, especially kitchen things. So keep those donations coming and Thank You!!! Once again, thanks to all our volunteers for all the hard work they put in every month. They are faithful and we are grateful. And thanks to you for all you do for us in donations. God Bless.

-submitted by Pat Frey

**APRIL UMW NEWS:**

Apr. 6 – Ex. Board meets at 9 am in the Lose Library.

Apr. 8 – Red Bird Circle meets at 9:30 am in the Lose Library.

Apr. 21 – Regular meeting at 10 am in the Social Hall. Program: missionaries by Barbara Nielsen with a luncheon to follow – Executive Board hosts – please bring your own service. All women are welcome!

Apr. 22 – Wesley Circle meets at the church at 11:30 am and carpools to the Clovis Botanical Garden. Evelyn Haulman will guide us through the garden. Please bring a sack lunch – drinks will be provided.

**SPECIAL FRIENDS:** Three members of Special Friends met March 12<sup>th</sup> with Dee Carr presiding for Lorraine who was ill. Prayer followed the sharing of the church mission statement. Luke 9:22-25 was the scripture, and “A Look at Lent” was the meditation taken from a Lenten Paper by that name. “Abide With Me” was chosen as a song of the Lenten season. Individuals shared briefly how Jesus has helped on their Lenten journey. Our conversation with the Spiritual Leaders has been moved to May 3<sup>rd</sup>, so no definite response was completed at this meeting. Report on Special Friends made us aware of the saints we lost this past month, Pauline Eastham, Gene Doss and Gene McGaughy. Several friends joined Stella Schaa to celebrate her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday March 10<sup>th</sup>. Reports showed we made 24 calls, send 31 cards and made 44 visits, including one made by Pat Frey at St. Agnes as hospital visits. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm. A closing thought: As we continue our Lenten journey with Jesus, let us remember that Christ gave up everything on the cross to save us from sin and death and to free us to live a new life in him.

- Blessings, Lorraine.

**DEAR CHURCH FRIENDS:** Thank you for all your prayers, concern and love during Gene’s illness. We felt your love and caring. Thank you also for your many phone calls cards and visits. We both appreciated them so much.

- Dorothy Doss

Joy and Robert Cole have moved! If you would like to stay in touch with them, please call the church office (299-4615) for their new address. Thanks!

## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

**COMMUNITY GARDEN:** Ten years ago last month, Houa Lee and I went to the Harvard Arms apartments over on Barstow and offered the Hmong ladies there what Houa called “a little bit of dirt” to garden in. The knot of ladies gathered became so excited you would have thought they had just won the lottery. And in

way they did. We had about a third of an acre of vacant land west of the social hall that was a dumping ground for trash, chunks of cement and dirt piles and was then growing a great crop of puncture vines. For a couple of years, I had wanted to turn it into a community garden but didn't know where to start until Rev. Sharon Stanley of Fresno Interdenominational Refugees Ministries came to speak at our church. FIRM already had other community gardens and the person who could be our contact with our Hmong neighbors – Houa Lee. They also offered a grant to fund the project. We signed up ten gardeners who happened to be lucky enough to be standing in that initial gathering at Harvard Arms and began the task of turning the dumping ground into a garden. Spring planting months passed while we ironed out details with the trustees and the city. The children in our Growing Spiritual Families helped clear away trash. Round-up took care of the weeds and a tractor leveled and furrowed the field. Finally, after their eagerness to plant was turning into anxiety over the wait, the first seeds went into the ground in June – but the ten gardeners had to share one hose attached to the spigot on the social hall because we were still waiting to get the irrigation system in. Howard Vollman, Rich Bonzo and others joined the gardeners and me in digging about 500 feet of trench and turning our hands purple for the summer as we glued together hundreds of feet of pipe and valves. Sometimes we thought it would never be done, but eventually the difficulties were taken care of, including one neighbor who found all sorts of things to complain about, including the fact that the gardeners talked while they were caring for their crops. For ten summers now, we've been able watch this little bit of dirt grow not only crops, but healthy bodies for the gardeners and their families and the self-esteem that comes with providing for their families by doing the work they were born to do. Denice once said that we are blessed when we are a part of the lives of those who are disadvantaged or distressed in some way because that is where we meet God. Our community garden has offered us that opportunity. The garden,

like an oyster, has taken a little bit of dirt and made a pearl.

## YOUTH NEWS

### YOUTH CALENDAR:

- ★ Sunday 04/05/09 5:00 p.m. Holy Club Movie Nite, Bungalow
- ★ Sunday 04/12/09 NO HOLY CLUB - Happy Easter!
- ★ Sunday 04/19/09 5:30 p.m. Holy Club Meeting, Bungalow
- ★ Saturday 04/25/09 8:00 a.m. Poverello House Work Day
- ★ Sunday 04/26/09 9:30 a.m. Trees 'N' Cheese Car Wash
- ★ Sunday 04/26/09 5:30 p.m. Holy Club Meeting, Bungalow

## FROM THE PASTOR

**LESLIE'S SALT SHAKER:** Winter seems to clash every year with spring, unwilling to let go of its cold and grumpy grip. But always, spring's smile prevails and the world warms, flowers bloom, trees fill out, lawns green up and we all breathe a big sigh of relief and joy! Similarly, the grasp of death, darkness, evil and injustice gives way to the victory of Christ in the resurrection. Christians are known as the Easter People. Every single Sunday is a "little Easter" on which we celebrate the good news of God's saving, life-transforming activity in Jesus life, death and resurrection. God's self-giving is poured out in Jesus who loves us, his disciples, "to the end" as John's gospel says. And all the way beyond to new life! Eternal life! Come and celebrate on Easter morning!



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

Koushoua Hang 04

Jonathan Yang 04

Louise Buckley 05

Deena Crosslin 05

April Hang 06

Art Daly 09

Howard Vollman 09

Kayte VanDeMark 11

LeRoy Magargee 12

Dylan Smith 13

Yer Cha 14

Bob Spencer 14

Yer Cha Vang 14

Betty Wipf 16

Brielle Yang 16

Kylee Pachelbel 17

Ashley Simpson 17

Alissa Williams 17

Sharee Woxell 17

Norma Meek 19

Eleanor Patton-Knudson 19

Tom Vang 19

Ian Goudelock 20

Gilbert Stocks 20

Benjamin Zastovnik 21

Joyce Ladd 24

Kathryn Cannon 25

Ethel Schwartz 25

Kosher Chang 27

Alex Jennison 30

Lori Sapigao 30