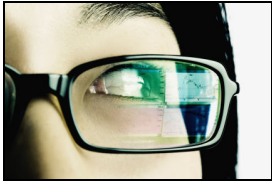


GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United Methodist Church November 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



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ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOV. 1 Every year on All Saints Sunday we remember those who have crossed the Crimson Line before us and recall all the saints, both with a small s and capital S who have graced our lives. Imagine! service folks are invited to come dressed as a favorite saint. For example: St. Peter may show up with fishing lures all over his hat! Get on the internet and do a little research. Mother Theresa may show up with a white blue edged tea towel tucked like an apron in her waist band. Think outside the box!

LIVE NATIVITY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING NOV 1: Every group is asked to send a representative to the Live Nativity organization meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 1 after the 11 a.m. service in the Lose Library. We will be creating a live nativity for our community which will involve all three congregations. This will be our Christmas Card to the Community on Sunday evening, December 22, 2009. We need everything imaginable—but most importantly willing hands and open, cheerful hearts! A light lunch will be served.

ALL CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING (CHARGE CONFERENCE) NOVEMBER 22, 2009: We will be serving a catered luncheon after the second service as we open our 2009 all church annual meeting. Vickie Healy, pastor of Wesley UMC will be our supervising elder. We will elect officers, approve pastoral compensation, recommend lay speakers and confirm our Spiritual Leaders priority and key initiatives for the ensuing year.

IMAGINE SERVICE PUBLIC DEBUT NOV. 8, 2009: The Imagine Service makes its "public debut" Sunday, November 8, 2009. Efforts are underway to get the word out to the community that we are offering a second service with a new format as a part of our overall marketing endeavor to reach out to our community and grow our congregation.

CHRISTMAS CHORAL CANTATA: CANDLES AND CAROLS REHEARSING NOW: Do you love Christmas Carols? Feel you just don't quite get enough Christmas music? Like to sing? Come and sing for Christmas with the Choir. We meet Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.. We will be extending our rehearsals to about 9 p.m. so we can present this year's Candles and Carols choral cantata on Sunday morning, Dec. 13 2009 in a combined service. The music is built on familiar carols and is easy to sing. CD's of each part: alto, soprano, tenor and bass are available for every singer along with the music. Harriet Alooian and Scott Hatfield are our directors. This will be a lovely, joyous Christmas gift you will want to invite your friends and loved ones to receive as the message of Christmas is brought to us in the treasured songs and candle light of the season. Youth as well as adults are welcome.

Upcoming Events

FRESNO METRO MINISTRY THANKSGIVING

CONCERT: Fresno Metro Ministry presents its 26th Annual Thanksgiving "Festival of Choirs" on Sunday November 8 at Hope Lutheran Church 364 Barstow in Fresno, CA. This year's theme is "We are One Voice and We are Singing" The concert features choral and other musical groups from many of the faith and cultural traditions in our community. Two of our own members, Summer Yang and Carolyn Gentry will sing together Mass choir pieces will open and close the concert. A pie and beverage reception follows in the church social hall. This year the concert is being presented as a gift to the community and there is no admission charge. A free will offering will be taken and financial sponsors are being sought who will be listed in the program as "Friends of the Concert". For more information, contact Tamara Sanders or Devoya Mayo at 485-1416. Plan now to enjoy this inspirational start to the holiday season!

ADVENT CLASS: Sundays 9:30-10:30 begins Nov. 29. Lucy Elgin will lead the class. All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING PARTY 4 P.M.

NOV. 23: In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the holidays, the sparkle of lights and splashes of Christmas colors--green, red, gold, white--can lift our spirits with the joy of this holy season. To help bring this light and sparkle to our sanctuary, please join us at 4:00 pm Monday, 11/23/09, to decorate the church Christmas tree and the altar rails. The Holy Club youth group will be on hand to do the heavy lifting. We will end the evening with a light supper together. If you would like help with transportation, please call Connie Alfaro at 905-2240.

UMW NEWS:

- November 2: Executive Board Meeting at 9am in the Lose Library
- November 17: Thanksgiving Luncheon at 10am in the Fellowship Hall
- *Red Bird and Wesley Circles dark

UMM BREAKFAST November 7th: We will be having pancakes, sausage and OJ compliments of Howard Cook and Max Cannon. Pastor Kim Leslie will be our guest presenter and the topic will be the Interfaith Forum, a club he shepherds at Clovis East. The purpose of the club is to promote respect, acceptance, and appreciation between students of different religious faiths and to increase students' knowledge of the diverse beliefs of Clovis East students. The breakfast isn't limited to just UMM members so bring a friend and introduce him to our fellowship. However, please let Max Cannon know if you plan to bring a friend so he can prepare accordingly. You can contact him by phone at 298-3544 or 593-2074 or by email at mcanon05@comcast.net.

CHAPLAINCY TRAINING Are you looking for a way to become more personally involved in your community? We are offering a FREE TRAINING COURSE for chaplaincy ministry. The four day training is sponsored by the Fresno County Sheriff's Department. Students completing the course receive a certificate of training and qualify to apply for chaplaincy with their local police department, the Sheriff's Department, Fresno County Jail, Juvenile Hall, and other agencies. This training will provide you with new ministry skills that can be used in a variety of situations. Whether you plan to volunteer or not you are welcome to attend this course. To register, contact Ron Richardson Chaplain Services International 4460 W. Shaw Avenue, #223, Fresno, CA 92722 Mobile: 559-273-8787 Email: roncsi@sbcglobal.net Web: www.OperationCSI.org

WATCH FOR SNOWFLAKE DESIGNS leotards in action in the new CBS drama, Three Rivers http://www.cbs.com/primetime/three_rivers/. The show centers around organ donation and the lives that it affects. The upcoming Sunday, November 8th episode will be centered around a gymnast who has over used anti inflammatory drugs to the point of liver failure. Snowflake Designs has proudly donated leotards, grips, & gym bags to supply the "hero" team.

TAKING ACTION

THANKSGIVING OFFERING FOR 2009

This year's offering will be split between our Pastor's Discretionary Fund for the needy here in our own community and the ongoing Volunteers in Mission Project we supported last year: the renovation of the Hmong pastor's residence in Oroville. Last year we were able to send \$500 for the project. The work is being done by volunteer work teams. A complete report on the progress and needs of the project will be coming to you in this year's Thanksgiving Letter with an envelope for your contribution. Know that you are turning a moldy shack that houses eleven people with no heater into a habitable home and that your gifts are helping those who must make forced choices between which basic necessities they will go without in order to by medication or go to the doctor. Mark your offering: Thanksgiving.

COOKIES NEEDED FOR LIVE NATIVITY DEC. 20

As you we are planning an all church Live Nativity for Sunday evening, Dec. 20 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This will be our Christmas Card to the community. There will be a hospitality center at the end with refreshments and information about our church. We need cookies. We are asking you to make a dozen or so cookies or to buy nice cookies for this evening. These can be brought to church on Sunday, Dec. 20 when you come for worship. Please bring them to the Fellowship Hall. We will need a volunteer to be in the hall to receive the cookies and stow them away for the evening.

We are giving you this information now so you may include cookies for this event in you planned baking for the holidays as there is always more than enough to do during the season itself. There will be an organizational meeting this Sunday after worship (11 a.m.) in the Lose Library. All are welcome, but we would especially like to invite leaders of the UMW, Circles, Diners Out, and ministry teams. Thank you, Pastor Denice and the Zero-120 Team.

IMAGINING GOD'S FUTURE! STEWARDSHIP

CAMPAIGN: We will be hearing more about who we are and what we have to offer and what we hope to accomplish for the gospel of Jesus Christ this month

as our financial stewardship campaign continues to unfold. November 22 will be our concluding Stewardship Sunday in worship. Watch for testimonies and letters this month. And remember: God is imagining a future for us—the question is can we? Our financial stewardship makes God's future possible.

Help Wanted: Marketing and PR "Work Team"

Members: There's a new team in town! We're going to get the word out about MUMC and we need your talent! Right now we'll be meeting at least once a month, plus everyone will have things to write, do or contacts to make outside the meetings. Most of our work will be on the computer, and email will be the essential form of communication for the team. Asima Syed and LaDonna Snow will be leading this team of communicators!

The Mission of this team is to present the church and its message professionally, persuasively and consistently to the community, in support of making Disciples for Christ.

Key strategies:

1. Support the key initiatives the Spiritual Leaders agree on each year.
2. Help proof communication for consistency before it is printed or used and provide training to staff and leaders once key elements are developed. (Applies to each major communication initiative that will be seen by the congregation or community, ex, brochures, advertising, flyers, web etc.)
3. Create a compelling web presence for the church, and establish procedures for updating.
4. Assist Pastoral and Lay leadership with internal communication needs.
5. Manage advertising efficiently (within budget) and effectively (best vehicles for the target, with clear, concise, persuasive creative).
6. Seek grants and monies for communication outreach.

To accomplish this, we need a few good youth, men or women with some talent and time. Do you write well? Are you comfortable talking to people in the media, and representing our church or one of its activities? Are you good at proofreading? Cold calling businesses or vendors? Do you have any graphic or art skills? Are you computer savvy? Can you take/proof and pick up printed materials around town? Can you do

layouts of creative copy? If you have any of these talents, we need you! Email Asima at asi-mass@sbcglobal.net to discuss!

Congregational Life

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

THRIFT SHOP NEWS For October 2009

What a wonderful weekend we had! Our total receipts for the weekend \$1400. Made possible by our donors. Thank you so much to all who contributed this month. We had several large ticket items this month and sales of \$10 and over really help our total. Again a reminder, we work the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. It would be helpful if your donations would arrive prior to one of those two days. We almost always work on the Tuesday just prior to being open even if it's after the fourth Tuesday. We do this to clean up any extra that has come and take small amounts of donations that haven't come in prior to it. We will, of course, take your donations whenever you can get them to us and we appreciate all you give. We also appreciate anything you can do to make our work load easier. Special thanks this month to Bea Trainer. Bea gave us a large donation of really usable things but she also offered to launder stuffed toys for us. Something one of us didn't have to do after spending hours at the Thrift Shop. Lorraine May came and helped out on Friday morning. We appreciate her. And to Janet Bonzo, who always gives well over 100% and did so again. We thank Howard Vollman and Mac Magargee who always show up to help open and close. Again, we could use help doing that so all the work doesn't fall on them. Please give me a call! Our Thrift Shop operates because we have many loyal and steady volunteers. And many friends who step in when we are short of help. We give thanks for them and to them. God Bless.
- Submitted by Pat Frey

SIGNS ON OUR CHURCH CAMPUS

With gratitude to the Gifts and Memorial fund, we have been able to place signs on the buildings to help new persons find their way to worship. Perhaps we at Memorial United Methodist Church can pray this prayer from Above the Clouds by Jan Karon: "...Thank You for going ahead of us as we visit our neighbors, and cutting for each and every one a wide path to Holy Tri-

nity. Draw whom You will to the tenderness of Your unconditional love, the sweetness of Your everlasting mercy, and the balm of Your unbounded forgiveness."
-Gloria McClanahan

SPECIAL FRIENDS: Special Friends gathered with the MUMC Mission statement, October 8th. The Bible passage was James 5:13-16. With a celebration of St. Francis of Assisi, we joined in the hymn "All Creatures of our God and King". For our meditation, we read silently "A Prayer of St. Francis", then read together "A Contemporary Prayer of St. Francis." We received our Special Friends list, reporting on contacts we had made and added three new names. Lucy shared answers she had researched to questions posed after our Special Friends Policy. We made 30 visits, places 72 phone visits, sent 15 cards and 6 letters. John also sent two booklets. We felt blessed for sharing these times. If you feel the call, please join us November 12th at 3:30 pm. A closing thought: Christ wants to be the whole part of each life. Blessings, Lorraine.

A NOTE FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP CO-CHAIR: In Exodus 10 God spoke to Moses saying – I AM the Lord. Because of Pharaoh's refusal to humble himself before God, plagues were sent to Egypt – locusts, darkness, and death of the 1st born. This indicates the importance God puts on humility. This is a key part in becoming a Steward and putting stewardship to work. One should be careful when using personal reference to I AM for then we and others are usurping God's place. We show true stewardship by our body language, our speech and our deeds. Jesus did not force himself upon others he told and showed God's work. He was humble but was not a coward. He taught peace and compassion but when necessary could and did wield a firm hand in praying a point. Jesus praised the widow for giving what she could. Do not let us try to get by giving less than we can afford. Be a good and better steward.

A NOTE OF THANKS: Dear church family, Since everything has been so upside down for our family lately, I must apologize for taking longer than I planned to send this letter to the church. I would love to personally speak to each of you and thank you for the numerous and loving things you have said and done for me as I travel down this rough road. To do this would be

almost impossible, so I am sending this letter, which is meant for each of you instead. When Jim went into the hospital, beautiful cards poured in daily. I taped each card on his hospital wall, leaving the message and signature part of the card open, so that all the love and well wishes could pour into the room. Calls, a rock of hope, a blue bird, kind words, love. And countless prayers were a constant source of support. It was also during that time that I received an absolutely beautiful prayer shawl made by the loving hands of the ladies in the Prayer Shawl Ministry. I know that each member of this committee prayed for us as she worked on the shawl, and that Pastor Denice blessed it at the following church service. When I arrived at the hospital on the day that I received the shawl, Jim was in the holding room waiting for his second bone marrow test to see if the cancer was in remission. I wrapped the shawl around him and told him of the prayers that had been said and I told him I knew that he would be fine. And guess what... !! The test came back that he was in remission. The shawl and this memory will always be cherished. I never thought for a minute that Jim would not make it. I am still in shock, but I am also trying to be as strong as possible. I have all of the get well cards, and also all of the Sympathy cards. They remind me of your love and prayers. The memorial was very special. Dona Leonardo, Wayne, Asima, Carolyn Gentry, the organist, Pastor Denice, and all who participated did an outstanding and beautiful job. Jim was watching from heaven, and I know he thanks you also. The meal prepared by the UMC Kitchen Crew was a wonderful one. There was such a variety of dishes, and I know that to work so hard, and on such a hot Fresno day was done in love for Jim and our family. Thanks for the food preparation, and for the long hours you worked. I love you and appreciate all your time and effort. I miss being with you, my church family. I want to come to service, but still feel lost and am not sure if I could make it yet. Time will give me more strength to handle where I am now, and where I need to be. Love, thanks and may God bless each of you. Cecelia.

PROJECTOR BULB: Thanks mostly to our Korean and Hmong brethren, we raised almost enough to pay for our replacement. The remaining \$32 was covered by a gift from the Gene and Ruth Bell memorial.

OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES: The September 11 and 12 Coming Fully Alive as You Age seminar meetings were conducted by Susan Harlan and Vivian Silva who are gerontologist with the Older Adult Ministry of the United Methodist Church in Northern CA. Topics included Laughter and Brain fitness, Aging as a Spiritual Journey, ABC's of Fitness, Creativity and Aging, and Elders as Earth Advocates. Two sessions were conducted on Friday afternoon and three on Saturday morning. The Thursday evening potluck was changed to Friday evening and was in conjunction with the two day event. UMW served a light breakfast on Saturday morning and a chicken lunch at noon with salads and desserts. Both speakers remarked about the wonderful hospitality and fellowship they enjoyed at our church. The Friday potluck was a big event with good food and enthusiastic singing of hymns. UMW and Judy Gross, especially, were responsible for the planning and all aspects of this successful event.

IN MEMORIAM

We remember our beloved members who have passed on by our gifts that we bestow in their honor. Please remember Ruth and Gene Bell as your worship is enhanced by the upgrades to our audio and visual system which were made earlier this year. Enjoy a quiet moment or a friendly chat seated on the benches near the Bungalow and remember Stanley Cate, Helen Miles, Gladys Manuel and Julia Steffensen whose memorials helped fund them.

TREASURING THE ORDINARY

When does one become surrounded with many delicate scents? Possibly while in an orchard, farmers market or a flower garden. I become surrounded with many delicate scents in the fresh produce section of the grocery store. The fragrances from fresh fruits and vegetables are truly God's perfume. I also find myself in the midst of lively beautiful colors and textures of all the fresh food. It feels so good to just stop and appreciate. One of my favorite items is the Fuji apple. Did you know that in Japan the Fuji apple as a gourmet item is offered as a gift to one's host. According to an article in a recent Sunset magazine, in Japan the Fuji apple is grown in individual paper bags and cut off the tree with people wearing soft cotton gloves. That's quite a contrast to speed picking and grabbing a bargain cello bag of them. Treasuring the ordinary is a

wonderful way to experience God's gifts. Gloria McClanahan—do not hesitate to share a message in this newsletter

As we go through our daily life, I show my concern for my beautiful wife. Weeks turn into months and months into years sometimes things happen that bring us to tears. We pray to God to keep us strong to be by our sides all day long. We look to the heavens with hands held high praising the Lord for our home in the sky. Thanking the Lord for all he has done the Lord made a place in Heaven for all, not just some. By reading the Bible, you'll see God's plan. He has made his plan for every woman and man. The longer we live the more we learn about Christ's writings and his great concern. Just Me! I love you!

– Submitted by Wayne Golden

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH CALENDAR

SUNDAY 11/01/09: 5:00 P.M. HOLY CLUB MOVIE NITE, BUNGALOW

SUNDAY 11/08/09: 5:30 P.M. HOLY CLUB YOUTH GROUP, BUNGALOW

SUNDAY 11/15/09: 5:30 P.M. HOLY CLUB YOUTH GROUP, BUNGALOW

SUNDAY 11/22/09: 5:30 P.M. HOLY CLUB YOUTH GROUP, BUNGALOW

MONDAY 11/23/09: 4:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING PARTY

SATURDAY 11/28/09: 8:00 A.M. POVERELLO HOUSE WORK DAY

SUNDAY 11/29/09: NO HOLY CLUB MEETING – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

FROM THE PASTOR

Leslie's Salt Shaker: "Imagine a place where you belong! Memorial United Methodist Church." We hope the whole community thinks MUMC whenever they hear or see this slogan: Imagine a place where you belong! Our community, its many and varied

ministry opportunities, our generosity, our network of caring support, our hands on mission opportunities, our worship offerings on Sunday morning all provide a spiritual home we love and appreciate. Our challenge is to share what we have with others, to find ways to get the word out and help others be a part of it. To that end our Spiritual Leaders presented us with a new ministry direction for the future: Evangelism: Church Growth with five focus areas: Hospitality, Contacting and Connecting, Outreach, Differentiating from Other Churches and Marketing & Public Relations. Each of these focus areas has a Key Initiative: an implementable, concrete objective for 2009 that everyone can participate in.

The Key Initiatives are as follows:

Hospitality 2010 Key Initiative: A unified hospitality system for welcoming guests on Sunday mornings.

Contacting and Connecting 2010 Key Initiative: A System for Contacting and Connecting Newcomers
Outreach 2010 Key Initiatives: Expanded Walk By Nativity and Researching Community Opportunities for Service and Promotion.

Differentiating from Other Churches 2010 Key Initiatives: Emphasize UM Framework for Faith in Print Materials: Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience

Marketing & PR 2010 Key Initiative: Launch Marketing Campaign: "Imagine a Place Where You Belong!"

Even as I share here with you, Champions are rising up with passion and enthusiasm for these initiatives. We will soon have a new Marketing Team and a new Hospitality Team. This year's Walk-By Nativity will break ground for what we hope will become a community tradition while we hope to involve people who love people to shepherd new comers into our loving and giving community. In all of these ways we serve Jesus and his good news of God's unconditional love for every person. In all these ways we affirm one of our core values here at MUMC: that each and every person is made in the image of God. Let us continue to Show and Tell Jesus' Love Everywhere as we fulfill our vision of Servant Empowered Leadership.

With hope and anticipation, Pastor Denice Leslie