



# GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United Methodist Church January 2010 Ph: 299-4615  
"The Mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

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## HUMAN RELATIONS DAY SPECIAL OFFERING

January 20, 2008: Human Relations Day is one of the opportunities for United Methodist Churches to celebrate our connectional work. This day of social action and raising awareness aims to heal social ills at the national level. It supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service (UMVS), and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. The first two programs are administered through the General Board of Global Ministries.

In The United Methodist Church calendar, Human Relations Day happens the Sunday immediately following the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. The juxtaposition of these two very special days is not a coincidence. The United Methodist Book of Discipline describes the purpose of Human Relations Day as a call to "the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other."

The Community Developers program is one of the most exciting opportunities through which United Methodist churches assist ministries in racial-ethnic United Methodist Churches and communities throughout the United States. Local congregations initiate the work of a community developer, create effective responses to specific community needs, create a network of community developers that resource each other, and provide training and resources for them. The result is that these congregations make systemic changes that allow them to provide services in their communities, ranging from education and substance abuse to employment training, affordable housing, at-risk youth programs, HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, and much, much more.

Through the United Methodist Voluntary Service, Global Ministries seeks to be in supportive relationship with grass-roots organizations that work through youth and young adult volunteers to challenge oppression and injustice and to improve the lives and fulfill the potential of those whom Jesus called the "least of these." History

Human Relations Day was established by the 1972 General Conference to promote support for the Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service, and Police-Community Relations programs. In 1989 the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program replaced the Police-Community Relations Program to respond to the growing population of youth offenders and their need for creative redirection. Programs supported through the receipts of the Human Relations Day offering include but are not limited to:

- \* HIV/AIDS
- \* Youth Empowerment/Initiatives
- \* Youth Leadership
- \* Restorative Justice
- \* After-School & Summer Initiatives
- \* Affordable Housing
- \* Mental & Physical Health
- \* Senior Citizen Assistance
- \* Prison Ministries

## Congregational Life

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

### THRIFT SHOP NEWS DECEMBER 2009

We had a wonderful ending to the year for our "Little Thrift Shop that can". Our total sales were \$1411 if we counted right! We were, of course, elated. The perfect ending to a long and busy year. Our thanks, again, to all who donated. But, we are down to nothing now so keep those donations coming in. We are so grateful to all our volunteers who have helped us all year long. We treated them to lunch on the 11<sup>th</sup> to say thank you. It was well attended and we hope everyone had a good time. We met before the luncheon to approve the fourth quarter donation to the church apportionments. We approved a payment of \$5500, bringing our total for the year to \$13,000. This compares to \$11,750 last year.

In addition, we have been able to reach out to 2 people coming out of prison, with clothing. We helped a family from out of state who were in need. We have contributed to the Poverello House and the Holy Cross center. The Marjorie Mason center has accepted luggage we were unable to sell. Many have been referred to us by Love Inc. Some we were able to help, others we didn't have sizes or preferences for. We praise God that we were able to help.

Blessings to each of you, and may your new year be the very best.

-Submitted by Pat Frey

### 2010 THRIFT SHOP DATES:

Jan. 8&9	Feb. 5&6	Mar. 5&6	Apr. 2&3
May 7&8	June 4&5	July 2&3	Aug.6&7
Sept. 3&4	Oct. 1&2	Nov. 5&6	Dec.3&4

**SPECIAL FRIENDS:** The Special Friends group met December 10<sup>th</sup>, sharing the MUMC Mission statement, following a prayer and the Bible passage John 1:6-8, we read the words to Star Child because our

voices weren't the best for singing. The meditation came from the Upper Room for Nov-Dec p. 36. The season of advent lays the foundation for the celebration of Christmas. In Advent we have an opportunity to prepare to receive the Christ anew in our lives. We remembered two Special Friends, Miriam Schell and Myrna Jones, who have gone to spend Christmas with Jesus. The Special Friends policy is now in the hands of the church lawyer for review. Together we made 34 visits, sent 36 cards and made 19 phone calls. Join us Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. for our next meeting. Closing prayer: O God, make us ready to welcome, in the birth of the Christ child, the hope and purposes of your vision.

-Blessings, Lorraine May

### UMW NEWS:

- January 4: Executive Board Meeting at 9 a.m. in the Library.

- January 13: Red Bird Circle at 9:30 a.m. in the Library.

- January 19: Group Meeting at 10 a.m. in the Social Hall. Program: George Elgin 'Prayer and Self Denial' with a luncheon to follow – Red Bird Circle hosts. All women are invited to attend – please bring your own service.

- January 27: Wesley Circle at 1:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.

**NO UMM BREAKFAST FOR JANUARY:** Have a Happy New Year – we'll see you in February!

### INSPIRATION

George MacDonald, the author, wrote this: "Man finds it hard to get what he wants, because he does not want the best. God finds it hard to give, because He would give the best and man will not take it." Those are wise words for when we try to revitalize the church. What is the best? We cannot compromise before we begin. We have witnessed this in all the vision, care and work given to our Live Nativity Scene Christmas Card to the community. Wow, wow, wow, thank you every one and Praise the Lord!!! Gloria McClanahan

## GIFTS AROUND:

Gianni of CSI Carpet and Floor care has donated his services in cleaning the preschool room floors and both the Infant Care and old Conference Room carpets. It was a \$195.00 job and we are so grateful. If you need your carpets cleaned at home, please remember Gianni, his phone number is 367-7393.

Raul Sandoval, "Making families smile one paint job at a time", painter, painted the preschool room with two coats of paint and then added cleaning up the doors and clear-coating them for no additional charge. He also painted the inside and outside of the north and south entry doors of the Fellowship Hall for a very reduced price. We are grateful for his vision when he saw how badly those doors needed paint. His phone number is 974-8883. This project is financed by undesignated gifts in the Gifts and Memorial Fund.

## FOR THE LITTLE ONES

The preschool room in the Fellowship Hall has had a "sprucing up". The walls have been painted a refreshing peach color and both the carpet and hard floor have been cleaned. We hope to refurbish further with appropriate furniture and new toys. We want to first coordinate with our Hmong and Korean co-users of the room. More will be reported later. Walk by and have a look!

## HOTCHIKISS SENIOR HUD HOUSING

Hotchkiss Senior Housing, (Barstow and Minnewawa) is a HUD and Presbyterian housing development for low income seniors is building a second building of 62 units which will be offered to those on the current wait list. That will open the list for applications to members of local churches first before the public is notified in general. If you are interested in an application please see Pastor Denice.

## TOFFEE BARS:

-Ingredients: Saltine Crackers; 2 cubes butter, melted; 1c sugar; 1 (6oz.) pkg. semi-sweet chocolate chips; 1 (6oz.) pkg. peanut butter chips; chopped pecans or walnuts.

-Directions: Line jellyroll cookie sheet with foil. Arrange 1 layer of saltine crackers close together on foil. Melt butter with sugar and boil for 2 minutes. Pour mixture over crackers and bake in preheated oven at 400 degrees for 7 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle chocolate chips and peanut butter chips over hot crackers. When chips melt, spread evenly with a spoon, and then sprinkle with nuts. Cool in refrigerator, and then break into chunks like toffee. Enjoy!

-Submitted by Mary Vollman

## **YOUTH NEWS**

### **YOUTH CALENDAR:**

- **SUNDAY 01/03/10 5:00 P.M. MOVIE NITE, BUNGALOW**
- **SUNDAY 01/10/10 5:30 P.M. HOLY CLUB MEETING, BUNGALOW**
- **SUNDAY 01/17/10 NO MEETING - MARTIN L. KING JR. WEEKEND**
- **SUNDAY 01/24/10 5:30 P.M. HOLY CLUB MEETING, BUNGALOW**
- **SATURDAY 01/30/10 8:00 A.M. POVERELLO HOUSE WORK DAY**
- **SUNDAY 01/31/10 5:30 P.M. HOLY CLUB MEETING, BUNGALOW**

## *FROM THE PASTOR*

### **Nativity Wonder!!! Didn't get to go: Experience it Here:**

Words can't begin to express the joy and delight and truly amazing evening of the Walk Through Live Nativity. I have never received a more rewarding or beautiful gift from any congregation I've served than this night on December 20, 2009! Asima Seyed-Foster's count was between 550-600 folks who enjoyed the evening!

With your encouragement and support I went to my daughter Moira's wedding shower at 4:00 p.m. knowing I was leaving everything in good and capable hands—that was really never a question in my mind—it was more a feeling I was jumping ship at a crucial moment.

However, the planning, the follow through, the pulling together were phenomenal! And the weather could not have been more perfect—no wind, rain or fog! While driving over to the church after the shower I

was biting my lip and saying to God, "O what if no one comes?? Everyone has worked so hard!" So many resources from so many generous folks had come together to make this possible.

Then when I came around the corner and saw all the PEOPLE! I was stunned--and so moved I cried! The parking lot was so full; folks were driving around looking for places to park. The traffic control was outstanding and orderly. No sooner did I find a space than the Channel 30 News van pulled up. They interviewed me and took a lot of footage and later on we were featured not only on Channel 30 news but also lead the top of the story teasers for Channel 26 who had come out earlier and interviewed Asima!

Fortunately, Baby Jesus (Owen Glazebrook) made it through most of the evening and managed to be in the manger for one of the stations shoots! After the Fresno Bee interview and photo shoot the previous Wednesday in which Owen was featured as baby Jesus with a gorgeous smile on the front of the Life section along with Jordan Alfaro wearing the head piece George Middleton brought home from Jerusalem in 1955--well, Sara realized Baby Owen needed to be there that evening for as long as possible.

When I had an opportunity to take the walk I was so impressed with what a quiet and sweet evening it turned out to be--far beyond my expectations! The scenes were well staged and choreographed. The fire brazier in the center of the walk was a great spot to warm up and mingle while eating refreshments, getting a photo taken or waiting for the fingerprinting.

Scott Hatfield's musical compositions, orchestrations and Newell Knudson's voice on the DVDs' at each station were phenomenal and really worked! The members of the cast did an outstanding job and carried on, on cue in every scene right up until the end--even as little angels began to yawn and Mother Mary's eyes grew weary and the Wise Men wrapped themselves up in their ample and wonderful capes!

The carolers were all smiles and brought folks in on cue for the carols and families with wide-eyed little ones and couples, and grandparents and folks in wheel chairs all were able to participate and be inspired. Many folks went back through a second time!

The animals were perfect, especially the little baby lambs in arms--their bahhs added to the authenticity of the evening and the miniature horses at the Wise Men scene and at the Photo Op were a big hit

with everyone. What a thrill to get to pet them and the donkey at the Nativity scene. And the photos and fingerprinting opportunities were sooo appreciated by everyone who came--another great gift to the community! The choirs did an outstanding job at that scene singing Silent Night together, CHRIST Ministry in Hmong and the Chancel Choir in English at the same time. Our nativity was multicultural just like God's family worldwide!

The luminaries the kids made really worked--their soft glow lining the entire path of the walk added so much. While our electricians had strung soft Christmas lights all along the playground fences and around the overhang of the church all the way around the building!

The Parish Nurses, the UMW and other volunteers as well as the women of CHRIST Ministry served refreshments: a gazillion wonderful cookies and hot drinks: cider, cocoa, hot coffee and nauvan (the tapioca pearls drink provided by CHRIST Ministry) were all big hits. And did I mention we had GAZILLION--at least 3500 cookies if not more!!!! THANK YOU!! Dee Carr and crew have bagged the remainder for sale to all of us and the proceeds will be used for next year's nativity.

The Salvation Army kettle gave folks an opportunity to make a donation in appreciation for the evening--and many wanted to give to the church. George Elgin was sitting in the sanctuary when a man came out and asked if he could put a donation in the plate by the doors. The sanctuary was open and the Christmas lights on the rail and tree were lit as well as lights across the front of the chancel steps highlighting the beauty of the nativity and the cross. It was gorgeous!

Out front the nativity scene against the backdrop of the sanctuary windows made for the perfect Christmas Card! In the words of Eleanor Knudson, the evening was simply well: "It was just magnificent." And would you believe it was 98% cleaned up in an hour?

Thank you everyone! May the glow of good will and lovely memories live on in our hearts as we enter the New Year together.

Congratulations! You were a great example of Servant Empowered Leadership Showing and Telling Jesus' Love Everywhere!!

Pastor Denise