

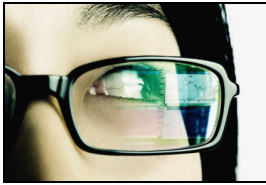


# GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United Methodist Church Sept. 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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### **STAFF RECOGNITION SUNDAY – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

We are blessed to have dedicated and creative staff members at Memorial United Methodist Church and we encourage the congregation to show their appreciation for their diligence in our everyday interaction. This year, on Sunday, September 26, we will officially celebrate our gratitude with Staff Recognition Sunday. On both Sunday, September 12 and Sunday, September 19, we will be collecting a special Love offering for the staff. Please plan on attending the September 26 10:30am Coffee Time and contributing to the Love offering.

**END OF THE SUMMER GETAWAY:** The Pachelbel family invites you to join them at their cabin at Huntington Lake on Saturday September 18th. Come early and stay all day! Bring something to grill, and a dish to share for dinner, served around 4 pm. They will have a campfire after dark, too. The cabin is located at Downville West at the west end of the lake. Call Cheryl for directions.

**SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL HUNGER ACTION MONTH:** Hunger is a year-in, year-out problem. But during September hunger advocates, agencies, and alliances across the country work together to focus attention on the issue of hunger in America. Make no mistake – there is hunger in this, the wealthiest nation on the planet! Some 49 million Americans now live with food insecurity – the situation in which one never knows from day to day if they will have enough food for their children and themselves. And this plight is exacerbated by the nationwide depression affecting just about everyone. September is "National Hunger Action Month," which offers the opportunity for your church to become more aware of the need that exists right in your own community and all across the land, and to rise to the challenge of feeding the hungry. MUMC has taken the challenge, and will be having a food drive throughout the month to support our pantry that helps so many in our community. <http://calnevumc.org/news/detail/2234>

**SIGN UPS FOR SMALL GROUP MEETINGS WITH PASTOR JANETTE:** Due to a busy summer of settling into life in Clovis, the small group meetings to get to know Pastor Janette will start in September. We will have sign – up sheets for those times at church on Sunday, August 29.

**PICTORAL DIRECTORY:** So far the response to our directory project has been fantastic, but we need **everyone** to have their picture taken. We have 2 more days scheduled in September - Tues and Wed the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> that are almost filled, and hope to have so many signups for those dates that we will need to add days in October! If you haven't signed up yet, give the office a call to schedule your picture: 299-4615.

**CARE CLUSTER CALLER MEETING SEPT 19:** Please join us in the Lose Library after the 11 am service on Sept 19 for a meeting with Pastor Janette.

**LIVE NATIVITY PLANNING SEPT 12:** We will meet again to firm up more details for the exciting 'Christmas Card to the Community' event we will be putting on. Join us after the 11am service in the Library on Sept 12 and be a part of this great outreach ministry!

## *Congregational Life*

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

**NOTICE TO MUSICIANS:** Starting September 9, the Imagine! Team will join Thursday night rehearsals at 6pm. We'll do our regular practice, and then have some time to rehearse with the choir as well.

### **LAY SPEAKING TRAINING EVENT**

When: September 11th and 25th— Attendance on both days is required to complete the course.

Time: 8:30am— 4:00pm

Where: Wesley UMC, 1314 Oswell, Bakersfield

What: Basic Lay Speaking— Led by Mac Philips.

Advanced Lay Speaking— led by Karen Stoffers-Pugh

Who should come: Any Lay person as well as Certified and Local Lay Speakers. (No experience necessary for the basic course.)

What to bring: Lunch/lunch money for both days and your required text for your class.

Please have attendees RSVP to the District Office.

Our number is 559-226-9094.

### **NATIONAL ALZHEIMER AWARENESS MONTH:**

September has been indicated as National Alzheimer Awareness Month. As our population matures - this has become one of the dreaded diseases, it can affect younger adults - as well (50ish)! As other diseases, it affects of course, the patient and the immediate family members; however Alzheimer's is far reaching - it affects all those and the lack of ability to care for oneself - it is progressive, agonizing, and destructive in many ways. Relationships suffer tremendously.

Alzheimer's is only one of a group of disease that are under the main topic of Dementia - there are several types of dementia - it is a group of symptoms with a loss of two or more brain functions - memory, language skills, perception, the inability to reason and loss of judgment. Nerve cells (brain) stop functioning, there is a loss of connections in the brain and brain cells die. Other types are: Vascular Dementia - caused by a lack of blood to the brain, and Lewy body. Parkinson's and Dementia can also be

associated with HIV (Aids). Alzheimer's was first documented in 1906 by a German doctor, in the past few years we have learned so much more through research.

An ounce of Prevention is always worth at least a pound of cure! With Alzheimer's this is especially true - so brain activity is encouraged - learn a new skill, study something new, meditate and exercise daily - walking -regular sleep and of course nutrition.

The brain needs sugar and the food lists include fish - those omega 3's are believed to enhance memory. Nuts and dark chocolate are highly recommended, whole wheat and avocados, as well as blueberries.

There are several tests that can be used to diagnose Dementia - if concerned seek help - just remember "Losing your keys is not the problem, it is when you find them and you don't know what to do with them".

6.8 million people have dementia, 1.8 of those are severely affected. Dementia is not a normal process of aging!

This month read the articles available. Awareness aids in prevention.

-Good Health, Lucy Elgin. MSN, NP

**CROP WALK IS COMING!** It's almost that time of year again for the annual CROP Walk. Signups and more information will be coming soon, so stay tuned!

**IT'S SO NICE TO SHARE:** Thank you to everyone who uses SHARES cards at Savemart! For the April, May and June quarter we earned \$347.58. Please remember to use your card every time you shop so we can earn a bigger bonus next quarter. If you don't have a SHARES card, you can ask for one in the church office. Savemart gives us a percentage of purchases made using the card at no cost to us!

**PLEA FOR ADDITIONAL RENOVATION FUNDS, BUILDINGS' FACIA TRIM PAINTING:** I want to thank everyone who responded to my request in the June 13 and June 20 Church Bulletins by continuing their pledge, or made new ones, to the renovation fund. By doing this we were able to repaint and re-

carpet the Ladies' Lounge and Pastor's office, and the repainting of another office. As I also reported in those bulletins, the paint on the Sanctuary's fascia trim boards is badly peeling and in need of repainting. On closer inspection, some of the trim paint on other church buildings is also deteriorating. We need to have the trim repainted soon to avoid further deterioration of the boards. When I made the last appeal we had no cost estimate for the painting, and I indicated I would report back when this was obtained. A preliminary bid puts the work at about \$10,000. In the meantime, in addition to the deteriorated paint, we have discovered that at least six of the wood columns supporting the portico outriggers at the front entrance of the sanctuary have rotted at the bottom and need to be replaced. This work can be done by volunteers, with the only cost being the wood, at about \$500 - \$600.

Obviously, we do not have this amount of funding available, so once again I am turning to you for help. I am asking those who pledged funds to renovation, and are able to do so, to please continue your support. I would also ask anyone who has not pledged in the past to consider a pledge. Given the amount that is needed for this work, cash donations would also be greatly appreciated.

If you have questions, or would like additional information, please feel free to call me. Again, thank you for your support.

- Dona Leonardo, Renovation Committee Chair

### **WRAP-UP SESSION ON THE GOSPEL OF MARY**

**OF MAGDALA:** Join us on Monday evening September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to conclude our Mary of Magdala series. This class is open to all - even those who did not attend the other classes. Lucy and I will do a quick review and then answer any questions to the best of our ability. -George

**RESOURCE AVAILABLE!** Please check the book rack in the Narthex and explore the "Alive Now" booklets. They are free, and a publication of the Upper Room. The subject matter in each one contains food for thought for our Christian journey. - Lorraine May.

**MESSAGE FROM KENYA:** Hey, y'all! This is Kevin Bonzo, and I just wanted to tell you all how great an experience Kenya was. It's all thanks to your guys' support, too; I am so grateful for all of your support, both financially and prayerfully. As a small offering of what I intend to share with you all at a later date (when my teammate Jordan and I have the time to come down for a Kenya presentation in Clovis), I want to first share this write-up I did for a Sunday presentation at the church I attend in Turlock. Do enjoy:

I can't give a summary of my experience in Kenya with many stories, but I can share one story with you that summed it all up for me. So, I'll just pick a day where we walked...a lot. I had asked our guide, Patrick, if it'd be alright to take pictures on our way. He told me it would, but that I should let him know when I want to so that he can check around. By this, he meant that the section of the Kibera Slum we'd be traveling into wasn't as safe; looters abounded there, on the lookout for unwary visitors...especially American visitors. That day, Jordan and I had left with a group from the Raila Educational Center to travel deep into Kibera for the express purpose of visiting a friend. The whole group consisted of Phillip, a school administrator, Patrick, the school chaplain, many students, Jordan Burnam, my teammate, and myself. The friend we were visiting was Prudence, an older student at Raila who had been bed-ridden with tuberculosis for a month.

As we began our journey, I immediately noticed our new surroundings: it felt as though we were taking back routes through Kibera, entering into another "district" as it were. I recall a whole lot's worth of land dedicated entirely to rubbish and refuse. I also recall a flowing stream of human waste in a "canal" that eventually became non-existent, simply following the downward slope of the dirt paths. Downward we also went, the toxic, brown stream our constant companion.

When we arrived, only half of us went beyond the sheet-metal gate at first, since only that many could fit inside her home. Throughout all this, I had outwardly been fascinated by whatever conversation had been struck up with my guide and friend Patrick. Inwardly, though, I had been trying to cope

with all the desperate poverty around me. While we waited, I took pictures of our surroundings; then, off in the distance, beyond a wall that serves as Kibera's border, I saw something that almost set me over the edge – fresh, clean, tall apartment complexes. I couldn't help but think to myself, "How could someone stand to live so close to this poverty? Do they even care or notice?"

But as I was thinking this, my thoughts were interrupted by a God-send – music. Sweet, beautiful voices, raised together in praise and worship to the Father. I stopped taking all the pictures, switched to video and got close to the gate so I could record their singing. I don't know what I was expecting when we were told we were going to visit Prudence in the first place, but I'm glad that it finally hit me then and there – Prudence's family was coming to visit her...and we had the honor of being a part of it.

When they finished, it was our turn to step inside of her home. We sort of piled and crammed into whatever seating was available, but it was actually kind of comfortable. Then, I saw Prudence. She was sitting upright in a chair, with bottled-up excitement and joy showing through her eyes. We soon were just as excited, as Patrick shared with us that Prudence hadn't even been able to sit up in bed the last time he saw her. We shared, we prayed, we sang, we encouraged. At the end, Jordan gave her a gift from a friend she had made on last year's Kenya team. She immediately took off her bracelet and gave it to Jordan to pass on to that friend.

When we had taken pictures together, Prudence actually walked with us for a time, Philip offering an arm to support her. As we walked back the same way we came, the streams still flowed and the rubbish piles still persisted. But that wasn't on my mind so much anymore – instead, a new-found sense of family had entered my awareness. What is common practice in their lives, I've only experienced a handful of times in my own. Recklessly mobbing a member of the family with smothering love? Huh. I wonder what effect I'd have on my family if instead of carefully portioning off time to spend with them, I carelessly and recklessly bestowed Jesus' love on them whenever I had the chance? Well, only one way to find out.

Thanks for reading, y'all. Have a great month, and God bless each of you!

**THANK YOU!** Thanks you to all of the nice people for the cards and calls that made my 85th birthday so perfect! God Bless, Helen Tashjian

**GREETINGS CHURCH FAMILY!** Good news: I have found a job! Thank you so much for all your prayers! They have carried me through the wilderness once again. I am going to be the Director of Fresh Pork Marketing and New Product Development for Farmland Foods in Kansas City! Tom will relocate there too upon being granted a transfer. We've only been in the house a month now, and not even unpacked much, so this will be crazy! I'll write when I have an address in Kansas City. Our phone and emails are correct on the directory. We miss you! Asima and Tom Foster

**CELEBRATING A JOY, AND MANY THANKS:** I celebrate being done with chemo, and want to thank all those who kept encouraging me during this period with prayers, cards, and other forms of encouragement. –George

## ***TEAMS AND MINISTRIES CORNER***

### **THRIFT SHOP NEWS AUGUST 2010**

Another month has gone by. We were open the 6th and 7th of August with a wonderfully cooler weekend. (Funny how we think the low to mid 90s is cooler). At any rate, we did make our goal of \$1000 this month with eight cents to spare. Praise God! We got three bicycles in and all are in really good condition so if anyone needs a bike please stop by and see us. We thank Carolyn and Gary Gentry for bringing many lovely dresses, tops and vests (on hangars even) that were a big hit. If you haven't visited our shop, you really should. You don't know what you are missing and we would be so happy to see you. We give special thanks to Katherine Dickinson who filled in on Saturday earlier than her regular afternoon shift because we were short volunteers. And of course, to all our other faithful volunteers who work doing all the work required to keep

the shop functioning. We can't forget you, our congregation, for all the support and donations. It really is a team effort, isn't it? Thanks!

-Submitted by Pat Frey

**BOUTIQUE NEWS** I know some of you are curious to know what the Boutique Group has been up to the last few months. Well, we have been very busy making items for our Holiday Boutique planned for Nov 18th & 19th; that's a Friday and Saturday. It doesn't seem possible that our boutique is only 14 weeks away but it is. We will have some of your favorite items; homemade jam and jellies, cookies and such as well as handmade quilts, afghans, scrubbers & tea towels. Our group strives to make items that appeal to the homemaker; whether established or new and holiday shoppers in general. If you have any suggestions or ideas about what you would like to see at our boutique; I would love to hear about them. Or if you wish to donate a handmade item please contact Carole Schweitzer or Lynn Golden or Barbara Nielsen.

### **UMW NEWS: Sept 2010**

Sept 8: Red Bird Circle at 9:30 am in the Lose Library

Sept 21: UMW meeting at 10 am in the Social Hall "World Day of Prayer" – Rev Newell Knudson.

Please bring your Blue Boxes full of the change you have saved all year! Host for luncheon after: Wesley Group. Please bring your own service This meeting is open to ALL Methodist women young and old. See you there!

Sept 22: Wesley Group – Lunch out TBA

-Submitted by Barbara Nielsen

**PANTRY NEWS:** Thanks to all who donate to the church pantry! It is a need in our immediate community that we try to help others out in these especially difficult economic times. Starting in September, I would like for all to remember to bring an item to donate to the church pantry on the first Sunday of each month. There will be a basket in the Narthex and there is also a place in the church office to place your donated items. Items needed are all nonperishable such as: box of cereal, bottle of juice,

can of fruit, can of veggies, can of meat (such as Spam or tuna fish), small container of peanut butter, package of dried beans or a can of beans, package of rice or package of spaghetti, can of pasta sauce, box of Mac & Cheese or Rice-a-Roni, can of soup or Top Ramen noodles or some crackers. Those who receive a bag of groceries are truly thankful for the extra food to help them out.

- submitted by Janet L Bonzo

**SPECIAL FRIENDS REPORT:** The apostle Paul calls the body "a temple of the Holy Spirit" and then advises "therefore glorify God in your body." Prayer is a vital part of the Special Friends mission. Psalm 139 recognizes a connection between body and prayer. "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Take a look in the mirror. Instead of inspecting yourself for flaws, as many of us are accustomed to doing, gaze upon your own reflection. Be amazed at the wonderful works of God. How long has it been since you've thanked God for your body? Although we did not meet in August, we did remember our special friends with 16 visits, 34 cards, 3 letters and 34 phone visits. Next meeting will be Thursday September 9th at 3:00 pm. Bring your body and join us. Blessings, Lorraine May.

## ***HOLY CLUB YOUTH GROUP***

### **YOUTH CALENDAR AND NEWS**

- ☞ **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5 AT 5PM: HOLY CLUB YOUTH GROUP – MOVIE NIGHT**
- ☞ **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12 AT 5:30 PM: HOLY CLUB YOUTH GROUP – OZZIE HERNANDEZ, GUEST SPEAKER**
- ☞ **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19 AT 5:30 PM: HOLY CLUB YOUTH GROUP – DR. KATHY CANNON, GUEST SPEAKER**
- ☞ **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25 AT 8:00 AM: POVERELLO HOUSE WORKDAY, THEN BACK TO THE CHURCH FOR LUNCH AND WORKING ON THE BUNGALOW. WOOHOO!!**
- ☞ **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26 AT 5:30 PM: PARENT MEETING IN THE BUNGALOW (ABOUT A HALF AN HOUR)**
- ☞ **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26 AT 5:30 PM: HOLY CLUB YOUTH GROUP – "PSYCHOLOGY OF CHOICE" SERIES WRAP-UP**

**PSYCHOLOGY OF CHOICE SERIES: WE'RE GOING TO DELVE INTO THE HUMAN PSYCHE THROUGH THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AND TALK ABOUT THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CHOICE - HOW MUCH POWER DO WE REALLY HAVE OVER OUR CHOICES, AND HOW DOES FAITH INFORM/INFLUENCE THEM? WE'LL DO A MOVIE NIGHT ON THE FIRST SUNDAY (THE 5TH) AND HAVE OZZIE HERNANDEZ AND KATHY CANNON (BOTH PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS) AS GUESTS ON THE 12TH AND THE 19TH. SEE YOU THERE!**

## FROM THE PASTOR

**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:** Hello, Memorial! How are you? I am personally feeling a bit overwhelmed!

Listening to the stories of your lives, I know that many of you have experienced overwhelming times in your lives, and many of you are going through those times right now.

It is perplexing why life can't be arranged a little more conveniently. Why are there times with few challenges, and then times when new challenges get added daily to the already large pile challenges already on our plates? When the challenges become great in number, most people draw back from the mission and ministry of the church. We feel we need to become more inwardly focused for a time, in order to get through the rough patch, and then we will re-engage. I would encourage each of us, myself included, to resist this logic. It is actually counterproductive.

Remember that what is sooo BIG to us is NOT so big to God: when life's challenges begin to mount is a great time to be more intentional about staying connected to God and being useful to God! In doing so we have the opportunity to be strengthened daily in ways we hadn't anticipated. When we invite God to use even our greatest personal struggles as a way to bless others, we find a source of hope and healing for ourselves as well.

One of my favorite scripture passages is found in Ephesians 3:20-21. These verses remind us that God's power is at work within us. When facing challenges, we need to let that holy power work on our behalf. When we do so, we will be amazed at what can be accomplished.

I like to use this scripture verse as a unison benediction each week as we prepare to depart from worship. It is important for us as individuals and as a congregation to be reminded that it is GOD's power at work within us. GOD's power is not limited by our human frailties. Opening ourselves to this power, trusting God and allowing God's power to work through our lives, we will be amazed at what is accomplished - far more than we thought to ask for in our prayers, or even even dreamed was possible.

On September 12 we will begin to use this scripture at the benediction each week. As the weeks roll on I invite you to memorize the passage, to recall it daily to strengthen you on life's journey. Paul writes: "And now to our God, who, by the power at work within us, is able to accomplish far more abundantly than all we could ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus our Lord, to all generations forever. Amen." jls

**KEEPING IN TOUCH:** Beginning in the middle of September, Pastor Janette will try to be in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. If you are on site it is fine to drop by to see her. If you are off site, please call to make sure she is in her office before you come! Also, you can shoot an email to her.

**HEY!** Pastor Janette invites everyone who is on Facebook to "friend" her!