



Good News!

The Newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

December 2006

ADVENT DINNER FEATURES MUMC MINSTRELS

On Saturday evening, December 2nd the annual festive Advent Dinner will feature our Praise Ensemble turned Wandering Minstrels singing songs of the seasons. There will be a Christmas story for all, carol singing and a bountiful potluck feast for one and all! If you still need to sign up for seating, or to decorate a table, call the church office ASAP at 299-4615. The Advent Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. and the hall will be open for decorating tables in the afternoon. Pat Frey is in charge.

LES FLUTES ENCHANTEES PLAY FOR GRATITUDE SUNDAY MEAL

Sunday, December 3, Les Flutes Enchantes, flute choir, under the direction of their founder Janette Erickson, Principal flutist of the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra since 1985, will provide glorious music for the Gratitude Sunday dinner following worship in the social hall. They will play music of the season accompanied by a bass clarinetist, and string bass and harpist.

A free will offering for the flute choir to support the updating of their CD will be received. The CD's purpose is to preserve and document the work of Russell S. Howland, Jan's former teacher who began composing and arranging pieces for the group in 1985. Jan has been successful in publishing eleven of Russ's pieces. Three of the pieces have won top awards in best of newly-published music from the National Flute Association. We truly look forward to this occasion! A 5.00 donation per person and no more than 20.00 per family for the luncheon will also be requested.

A CAROLING WE WILL GO!

Join us for Christmas Caroling Sunday, Dec. 10. We will gather in the parking lot at 5:30 p.m. and return to the church by 7:00 p.m. for desert. Bring a finger food or Christmas goodie to share. Beverage provided.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

You are invited to the Memorial UMC Christmas Program

"It's A Wonderful Night"

Sunday, Dec. 17, 2006 - 7:00 pm

Holiday Cookie Reception

To follow in the Social Hall

CHANCEL CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA SUNDAY MORNING DECEMBER 24

Sunday morning, December 24 our message will be brought in the story of scripture and song by our Chancel Choir and members of the congregation. Gift your friends and family with an invitation for this inspirational service.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES DECEMBER 24

Academy Church Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 4 p.m. at the historic mother church on Madsen off Tollhouse will feature George and Lucy Elgin's granddaughter playing Silent Night on the guitar. Peggy Boss at the organ.

Memorial's Candlelight Christmas Carol Communion Service with the Chancel Choir will be at 10 p.m. this year. Kathy Cannon will be at the organ with Scott Hatfield at the piano.

ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one, please fill out the form available in the insert or church office and place in the offering basket along with your check. The cost is \$3.50 each. The Poinsettias will be in the Sanctuary beginning December 17th.

Micah Ministries

Local & World Missions

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:6)

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Our 2006 Christmas Offering will be used to help one of our covenant recovering churches in New Orleans equip a nursery. We are hoping to help them obtain some of these items on their wish list: Baby Crib, High Chair, Changing Table, Microwave, Play Pen, Small Rocking Chair, and Small Refrigerator

Your gifts of cash or check will enable us who are truly blessed help those less fortunate. Please label cash for Katrina Churches. Checks should be made out to MUMC and noted for Katrina Churches.

BROWN BAG SUNDAY

Our Brown Bag food drive will go through Advent this year and again benefit the Salvation Army in Clovis and our own Food Pantry. If you would like to help the hungry of our community, please pick up a Brown Bag in the church narthex, drop in some non-perishable food items, and bring it back to the church by Sunday, December 17th.

THE ADVENT WARM TREE PROJECT

It has become an annual joy for our church to provide gifts of warmth for the men, women, and children served by the Fresno Rescue Mission. If you would like to take part, bring items such as gloves, coats, scarves, socks, blankets, etc., new or gently worn only please. Items such as small toys, stuffed animals, toiletries and personal care products are also appreciated. Please wrap your gift(s) and tag them so that those passing out the gifts will have the information they will need to get them to the right recipient (size, adult or children's, etc.) Bring them to the church and place under the Advent Warm Tree. The gifts will be delivered after church on Sunday, December 18th. For more information about the project, contact Sue DeFranco.

THANKSGIVING OFFERING BENEFITS KATRINA CHURCH

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Thanksgiving offering. We collected \$1770.30 to date which will be sent to our Katrina Covenant Churches to furnish one of the three church's baby nurseries.

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*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN TO INSTALL NEW OFFICERS

On Sunday, December 10, we will install the new officers of the United Methodist Women's unit in worship following the sermon. The United Methodist Women (UMW) serve to support missions. An insert in the bulletin will provide information about the UMW and each office. The UMW across the denomination raises 50% of all our mission dollars.

UMW NEWS

Dec. 4 – Board meeting, 9 am, Library
Dec. 10 – Installation of Officers at church, 10:30 am
Dec. 19 – Christmas Tea, 2 to 4 pm, Social Hall
Dec. 6 – Wesley Circle Christmas Party, 1 pm, Evelyn Haulman's home.
Dec. 13 – Red Bird Circle, 9:30 am, Margaret Nicholl's home.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

We were open Nov 3rd and 4th and had another lively weekend. Again, I can't say it enough, thank you to all who so readily help out on these weekends. A special Thank you to Margie Magargee, Mary Vollman and Barbara Nielsen who "held down the fort" on Friday morning in both the shop and the social hall during my absence.. As always, we couldn't do it without ALL our dedicated volunteers and we give them a big thank you! Additionally, we give thanks and praise to God for them. Preliminary count for November is just over \$700. We give thanks to God for helping us in our ministry.

We will be working our regular days this month to get ready for the next opening and the last one of this year. It's been a good year in the Thrift Shop and we feel good about what we've accomplished. You, members of our church family, should feel good too. This is a joint effort so "good job you good and faithful servants".

We will take your contributions whenever you can bring them; if the shed and church are both closed, please call either Margie or me and one of us will come and take them. If you have a large donation, we prefer that you call us first so that your donation gets to the Thrift Shop.. Our numbers are in the church directory. Thanks, again for your continuing support.

Submitted by Pat Frey

Congregational Care

Giving Special Care to Others

SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM REPORT: November

Around the table in Lose Library there were: Dee Carr, Pat Frey, Pastor Denice Leslie, John Tallmadge, Margie Magargee and

myself in our monthly meeting to coordinate pastoral care ministries for members and friends with critical issues in their lives.

We shared critical issues in our own lives and offered support. Then we worshipped: Sang Come, ye thankful people come and heard Pauline Middleton's meditation on The Outstretched Hand, on the need to reach out to those in need among our near neighbors. We added three people to our Special Friends List and 2 to our Watch List and reported 16 on-site visits, 10 telephone visits and 56 cards sent in addition to Denice's pastoral ministry and that of members not reporting. We prayed for each others concerns and for the people on our Special Friends List. We gave thanks for healing and raised up those with illness and impending surgeries and family stresses.

We set our next meeting for (2nd Tues.), December 12 @ 1:30 P.M. in Lose Library. We like to have visitors. Come see us, check us out and maybe join us. We welcome new people called to this ministry.

Cordially in Christ,
Laurence Hill, Team leader

Coach's Corner

I want to thank everyone who took time to complete the "Congregational Brainstorming" question "If money were no object, what would we most want to do as a congregation." From your responses, previous individual conversations, discussions with Leadership Network, and Horizon Vision Team, a new direction has emerged with five priorities for 2007:

1. Reach a New Generation with a Contemporary Worship Service.
2. Reach Senior Adults with a Vital Elder Ministry
3. Staff for Growth
4. Increase Our Visibility in Our Community with Advertising
5. Plan a New Facility for Thrift Shop/ Recycle/Administration and Youth Ministries
6. Sponsor a Missionary

The list of responses that resulted in these priorities follows:

Reach a new generation
Meet two working parent family needs
Parents Night Out
After school program for school age kids
Contemporary service
Contemporary music
Senior adult ministry program/worship
A church van
Minister of visitation
Serve the people who come to us with whatever needs they have
Move out and contact our neighbors
Establish a school for tolerance in Mideast
Multicultural church
Lots of small groups, mission and ministry teams
Sponsoring a missionary
Fund mission trips/ VIM trips
Homeless shelter in Clovis
Grants for seminary intern from Lily Foundation
Equipping staff person
Office open more hours
Custodian
Hire program staff
Full time youth/family staff person
Better office equipment

A brand new thrift shop/office, recycle/ and church office building
 Thrift Shop needs replacing.
 Thrift Shop roof is in bad shape.
 Thrift Shop has water damage, mold.
 Thrift Shop needs work room space
 Need for more classroom space
 Need work space in office
 Need staff office space
 Advertising
 People need to know we're here—get word out.
 Church signs replaced and updates needed on big sign
 More banners out about events
 Landscaping on Scott Avenue

In addition to these responses, Leader Network responded to the other two questions on our brainstorm form:

"As a congregation, our greatest gift is...." And here are the responses:

The people who are MUMC
 Loving Helping People
 Concern and support of others in need
 Compassion for others in need
 Compassionate, open heartedness
 Nurturing and encouraging people in need
 Food pantry for the hungry
 Facilities and their accessibility to disabled
 Friendliness, warmth and kindness
 Stewardship
 Openness

The third question was, "List the top five things this congregation has done in the last decade" and here are all the responses that came in:

Hmong Evangelism in our community
 Community Garden (feeds 20 families)
 Hmong new congregation and pastor
 Community Halloween Party
 Healing Service Ministry
 Renovation of church campus inside and out
 Library, parking lot, painting, landscaping, sanctuary etc.
 Discipleship study with Council
 Growing Our Spiritual Family years
 Horizon Vision Team: New mission, core values.
 Equipping for ministry/ discipleship process
 Audio visual updates: sound, projection, presentation
 Strong youth ministry
 Disciple Bible Studies 1 – 5,
 Adult Education
 Fellowship of the Ring (chime bell choir)
 Organist / Pianist/ Music Director/ Bell Choir Director/Youth
 Director/Secretary/Risk Management-Child Care Coordinator
 Computers/server/networked
 Web page
 Successful United Methodist Women Unit
 Vendor Faire
 Leader Network/Equipping/Administrative Support/Facilities
 Maintenance Team/Finance Team (Restructure)
 Fundraiser Team
 IN addition to this list many of the activities and groups of the church were listed:
 Joy in the Morning
 Witness Group
 Senior Citizens
 San Simeon All Church Beach Worship Weekend
 Food pantry

Choir
 Dinners for Eight
 Warm Tree/Brown Bag
 Care Clusters Shepherding of Congregation
 Special Friends/Parish Chaplains
 Poverello House
 Sierra Villa Ministry (25 years)
 Mission Thrift Shop
 Wow Potluck Group
 Boutique
 Young Adult Class/ band
 HPI Support by Children's classes
 Weekly Bible Study
 Quiet Room Sanctuary Nursery

Thank-You Notes

Words cannot express our appreciation for the kindness shown to me and to my family while my mother was ill and after she passed away. Your cards, your caring words, and prayers made a difficult time easier. A special thank you to Pat Frey and her crew for the lovely reception they hosted after Mom's memorial service. My eternal gratitude goes to Pastor Denice for the loving care she took of Mom and of us as we said goodbye and for all the time she took to help us plan a memorial service that would honor her so beautifully. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't miss my mom, but I know that she is reassured to know that I have been so lovingly surrounded by dear people such as you. God bless you all. Sued DeFranco

Sincere thanks to my church family and friends for your many kindnesses during my brief hospital stay and recovery from pneumonia. Your prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers and visits to me, and to mother at home, were greatly appreciated, and, I'm sure, hastened my healing. Being a part of this church family is truly a blessing.
 Lorraine May

CHILD CARE

Child care is available Sunday mornings and as needed. If your group needs child care for a meeting, please let Dorrie know at least 2 weeks before so she has time to make arrangements for you. Please know that due to school and work schedules, she may not be able to get someone for you, however, she will do her best. We now have four child care workers in addition to Dorrie.

YOUTH CALENDAR

Saturday 12/02/06 8:00 - 12:00 p.m. Youth Poverello House
 Work Day
 Sunday 12/03/06 11:30 - 2:30 p.m. Help with Stewardship Dinner
 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Movie Nite (Bungalow)
 Sunday 12/10/06 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling/Pizza Dinner
 Sunday 12/17/06 7:00 p.m. Church Christmas Program
 Sunday 12/24/06 No Meeting - Merry Christmas!
 Sunday 12/31/06 No Meeting - Happy New Year!