



Good News!

The Newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

June 2006

WELCOME PASTOR KHAM DY YANG TO FULL TIME APPOINTMENT

Effective July 1, Pastor Kham Dy Yang will join our staff full time as the Hmong Language pastor. Please take a moment to welcome him and keep our mutual ministry in your prayers.

JUNE 4 PENTECOST SUNDAY! WEAR FLAME COLORS

We will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church on Sunday, June 4, Pentecost. Pentecost means 50 and is the conclusion of the fifty days of the Easter Season. The color is red and we will leave up our red banners and paraments for the entire month as the “season after” is one long green season! And it isn’t easy being green for soooo long! See you in your flaming clothes!

JUNE PLANNING BBQ POTLUCK AND SWIM PARTY

Everyone is invited to join the PTO (Parent’s Time Out Fellowship) for a summer planning BBQ Potluck and Swim Party at Pastor Denice’s on Sunday, June 4 from 3- 6 p.m. at 2475 Scott Avenue, Clovis. Bring your own meat, a dish to share and your swim suit and date book or calendar. We will plan the annual worship at the beach trip and have some other great fellowship and worship ideas in mind. Beverage and place setting provided. We can always use an extra grill if you have one portable enough to bring. See you there! (A/C inside patio room for those who prefer.)

LAST HART GRADUATION TUESDAY, JUNE 6

You are invited to the final HART Academy graduation ceremony and dinner at 6 p.m. (begins with dinner) in the Fellowship Hall of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church. Pastor Kham Dy will conclude his service as director of the school as he prepares to come on full time here at MUMC.

PEACE WITH JUSTICE OFFERING

On Peace with Justice Sunday, June 11, we are called to care for every one of God’s children, especially those who have never known peace. Your special offering helps God’s people everywhere to learn to live lovingly and peacefully. Because of your generosity, global outreach

through the General Board of Church and Society and annual conference-related peace with justice ministries are strengthened. In his letter to the church at Rome, the apostle Paul wrote: “All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God” (Romans 8:14, NRSV). Plant seeds of hope by giving generously on Peace with Justice Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost. Your gift makes a world of difference! Thank you.

JUNE 11 WE WILL HONOR OUR CHOIR, GRADUATES, STAFF AND PRESENT BIBLES

June 11 is our appreciation Sunday. Be in worship to honor our choir on their last Sunday, recognize our graduates and our hard working staff members. We will also present bibles to our graduating third graders and to those who have yet to receive one. Please let Laura Williams know if your child needs a bible or has not received one from the church. Thank you.

JUNE 18 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Our Claim the Name Confirmation Youth will be confirming their baptismal vows or be baptized and take their membership vows on Sunday, June 18. Many thanks to Youth Director, Connie Alfaro for teaching the confirmation class this year. Be in worship to support our young people in this important step in their lives.

JUNE 25 JOY IN THE MORNING: LEGACY CLASS

We are looking forward to having Lucy Elgin, NPR, Physician’s Assistant and Parish Nurse offer a class on our Legacy including an opportunity to fill out an advanced medical directive. Bring your dish and plan to be there for the fellowship and this wonderful opportunity!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

All children from pre-school through sixth grade are invited to join in the fun at our neighborhood Vacation Bible School. The program will run Monday, June 19, through Friday, June 23 from 6pm to 8:15pm. Our theme this year will be based on Isaiah 55:12 “You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.”

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Each year, we have about 50 people from our church who help make our VBS a big success. We are seeking volunteers to carry on with the tradition once again this year. We need to provide four to six stations of games, crafts or storytelling for five nights. If you can plan a station, man a station, provide or prepare snacks, lead singing, give a donation to help defray costs, or help in any other way, please sign up in the Narthex or talk to Diane Zastovnik or Connie Alfaro.

MEMORIAL CHANCEL WINDOWS

After requests to give windows in memory of loved ones, the Church Council, after many months of discussion and consideration, has opened the five remaining chancel windows (the window wall behind the cross) for memorial gifts. The Council approved a protocol for the windows including a list of appropriate symbols in keeping with the current windows. The original artist, Mr. Hovenisian of Hovenisian Art Glass Studio, will execute the designs and create the windows.

The protocol includes: Only one window per family, symbols to be selected from the approved list. If another symbol is desired, it must be Biblical, reflect the valley area, and be approved by the Council. No repeat symbols. There has been interest expressed in all six remaining windows and is being handled by Dona Leonardo and Renovation and Design Team.

SPRING ARTISAN FAIRE REPORT

Anyone who attended our Spring Artisan Faire would have been amazed. The whole place lit up with all the vendor booths. It really looked great thanks to Charlene DeTurk with her organizational expertise and to the many persons who gave their time and talents. Several vendors want to return next year. There's been some discussion about having booths with items for men and for children. An accurate accounting will be shown in the bulletin when all figures are in. We had a lot of expenses but some will be donated and some were one-time expenses because it was our first production. We look forward to having another vendor faire next spring.

YOU ARE INVITED

Have you heard about Annual Conference Session every year and always wondered what goes on in Sacramento each June? Never wanted to commit for the whole week, but heard about powerful mission experiences and wonderful worship? You are invited to visit the Session this year (or any year really). Annual Conference session is an open event. Visitors sign in at registration and have stadium seating in the Plenary Session. Worship and mission events are open to everyone.

If you are interested and would like more information, talk to Jean Hill, Denice Leslie, Mary Vollman or Judy Gross. Also, Roberta Coon often attends. You can also go to our Conference web site and hit the 2006 annual Conference Session for schedule, recommendations, reports, special events and meals etc.

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CONNECTIONS—OUR CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

Our office is forwarding our California-Nevada Annual Conference monthly newsletter to everyone with email. The Connection is just what it says: a way for you to stay connected with the larger ministry of our annual conference, other churches and the General Church. Our Bishop, Beverly Shamana writes a regular column. There are articles about how our offerings are being used here at home and around the globe plus other news and views. The office does not give out emails beyond the local church without your permission. If you do not want to receive this publication call the office.

UNITED METHODIST LINKS ON OUR WEB SITE

Check out the United Methodist Links page on our church Web page. It is impressive to have so many larger church information links at our finger tips! Thank you, Ron Zastovnik, for doing such an outstanding job with our Web page. Don't forget, groups, teams, fellowships, classes: you can have your events and pictures on line just by submitting them to Ron. Please do so as this is how many people new to churches get their information. Power Point presentations and videos with sound and music may be submitted as well. Cool!

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

UMM BREAKFAST MEETING JUNE 3, 2006

United Methodist Men will meet on June 3rd. Unless I can get Jon to fix us a Mexican breakfast you will probably be stuck with the Cannon special, scrambled eggs, biscuits, and sausage. Shelby Cox is planning on giving us information concerning the latest efforts to establish a homeless shelter here in Clovis. It should be very informative. Open minds, open doors, and open hearts aren't restricted to just Methodists so bring a friend and come and enjoy great fellowship.

“MISSION MAMAS”

Potluck Picnic

June 30, 12 noon - Academy Church

Madsen & Academy Ave.

Carpool from church at 11 am

All women, young, old and in between are welcome.

Come and see what we are all about!

For more information, contact Dee Carr or Barbara Nielsen.

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)

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

The Thrift Shop was open the 5th and 6th of April. We again had a great week end. Donations were great and again our shelves and tables were full. We are very grateful to the family of Mildred Dresser for a very large donation of clothing and other belongings of Mildred's. The fair on Saturday sent some traffic our way which helped our receipts for that day. We took in \$845 for the weekend.

I can not say it often enough. Thank you for your support in getting contributions to us, for all the help we get and for all the purchases made by our church family. We are truly thankful to each of you. If you have questions about a donation please give one of us a call.

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, Our numbers are in the church directory. Thanks, again for your continuing support.

Submitted by Pat Frey

SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM REPORT MAY 2006

Six members met around the table in the Lose Library on May 9: Pastor Denise Leslie, Dee Carr, Pauline Middleton, Pat Frey, Lorraine May and Laurie Hill.

We focused our worship on prayers and hymns from the recent United Methodist Assembly in Anaheim, sharing our celebrations and concerns and praying for one another. Our training was to read aloud together a Stephen Ministries piece: “The After People”: “We are there: After the nursing director shakes your hand and says “Welcome to your new home”; After the doctor says “There's nothing more we can do”; After you arrive home from the funeral service; After the relationship is ended but the wounds are still bleeding; After the baby has arrived, putting one too many demands on you; etc., etc.....

We added a new “homebound” person to our Special Friends list for a total of 20, corrected addresses, etc and elevated Mary Lou Hall and Gerry Montgomery to the “Special 90” hall of fame.

We reported more than 26 visits, 15 telephone calls and 34 cards/notes in the last month and accepted assignments to visit for the next. We raised in prayer persons with gall bladder and hernia surgeries, congestive heart failure, grief and family changes and their families, cancer treatments, and so forth.

The Grief Recovery Group will continue to welcome all who are dealing with loss, on the first Tuesday of the month (June 6) in Lose Library from 11:00 to noon. We invite YOU to join us if you feel called to this kind of ministry, at our NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 13 at 1:30 P.M. in Lose Library.

Cordially, Laurence Hill, Coordinator.

DISCRETIONARY FUND GOES BEGGING

Please remember to give to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund on communion Sundays when you come forward to receive communion. Last month we helped a single Dad whose car was in the shop so he could return to his Pizza Delivery job he relies on for the support of his two daughters. But now the cupboard is bare again! We get many requests from the working poor. Please remember them. Thank you.

Renovation

PLEDGE OPPORTUNITY FOR SANCTUARY RENOVATION REMAINS OPEN

If you have not yet pledged, just think, for example, \$2.00 a week (209 weeks in a four-year period) will give a \$418 gift; \$10 a month is a \$480 gift; and \$20 a month is a \$960 gift. So, “When you give a little, you really give a lot”!! Although we are trying to process financing now, we'll accept new gifts and pledges on an ongoing basis from those of you who have not had an opportunity to commit. If you want to make a pledge and cannot guarantee it for any reason, just note “not guaranteed” on your pledge and we will not plan financing based on such pledges. This may allow many persons the opportunity to participate as much as possible and get us closer to our goal. Thank you.

SANCTUARY RENOVATION PROJECT

We will soon bring our pledge totals to the Church Extension Society and request the four-year loan. To date (May 15) we have \$35,873 in pledges and \$5,350 in one-time gifts. There are also some funds in the church budget for this purpose.

We are taking this opportunity to explain why we are using a goal of \$100,000. The estimates of portions of the project are as follows:

Lighting budget \$20,000

Tile and concrete extension of chancel floor \$13,700

Paint budget \$11,500

Altar organ chambers \$4,500

Carpet \$10,530
 Mini Blind replacement \$1,900
 Pew cushion replacement \$16,000
 Sign improvements \$2,000

These are budget figures and total \$80,130. They may be actually higher or lower depending on the results of the bid process. Also factored in the \$100,000 goal is the cost of borrowing the money over a four year period.

If you know of tile, concrete, electrical, drywall and paint contractors to recommend for the bid process, do not hesitate to let us know. Gloria's E-mail is:

cloglo@att.net.

We will begin work on the first four items on the above list and see how far we can get.

The Renovation Committee: Gloria McClanahan, Dona Leonardo and Joan Bowser.

LANDSCAPING REPORT

Have you noted the beautiful, green turf around our church? Because one family gave us a very generous gift last year, we have been able to finish the irrigation corrections to keep our lawn green and lush. No more patches of dirt in the middle of the lawn! The last push was \$3,000 spent to repair and add new irrigation to the lawn directly in front of the church on Pollasky and behind the adobe fence to your right as you drive into the parking lot. Also, how about those beautiful flowers in the parking lot islands? We thank Karen Faulkner again. We are so blessed with all the flowers Karen planted that have popped up from last year's plantings. If you have need for such beauty in your homes or businesses, contact Karen Faulkner of Specialty Interiors and Gardens at (559) 323-5221. She deserves our recommendation!! Coming next is the hydro-seeding of the dirt area facing Pollasky. Things are looking up.

Renovation: \$816
 Vendor Faire: \$1,311
 Coffee: \$180
 Pastor's Fund: \$927
 Multimedia: \$1,460
 Church World Service Blankets: \$195
 Grants: \$10,000
 Memorials: \$920



Youth News

Saturday 06/03/06 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. Poverello House Work Day
 Sunday 06/04/06 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. "Claim The Name"
 Confirmation Class (Bungalow)
 Sunday 06/11/06 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. "Claim The Name"
 Confirmation Class (Bungalow)
 Tuesday 06/13/06 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Young People's Board Meeting
 Sunday 06/18/06 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Worship Service (No Youth Meeting)
 Sunday 06/25/06 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Welcome 7th Graders BBQ/Swim Party

WORK DAY AT POVERELLO HOUSE SAT. JUNE 3

This month, Poverello House has a different assignment for us, to join other volunteers and make hundreds of sack lunches for a special need. We will work there at a different time, Saturday June 3, 1:00-4:30 p.m. I hope you will join us: The time spent together helping other people really brings us closer together, and it lets us get a clear picture of the needs of many families in the Valley. All youth grades 7-12 are invited--bring your friends! If you have any questions, please contact Youth Worker Connie Alfaro.

BACKPACK PLANNING MEETING June 13

All youth parents are invited to a backpack planning meeting on Tuesday June 13 at 7:00 p.m. This is our regular Young People's Board meeting, and we will plan the backpack and finalize the rest of our summer plans. See you there!

OUR VBS NEEDS YOU!

Vacation Bible School for the younger children of our church and our neighborhood will be held June 19-June 23, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The Youth Group is again in charge of running the games portion of each day's activities. Please check your calendars and consider working at least one night that week. Youth Worker Connie Alfaro will be asking for sign-ups. Be ready to say "Yes!"

WELCOME 7TH GRADERS PARTY JUNE 25

Administration & Stewardship

ATTENDANCE & FINANCE STATISTICS

April 2006

English Attendance Average -146 Total - 729
 Hmong Attendance Average - 62 Total - 301
 Total offering - \$23,719
 Needed for Budget \$22,595

FINANCE REPORT

Received for 2006 as of April 2:
 Pledges: \$55,058
 Percent of due-to-date: 111%
 Thrift store: \$2,256 (Through March)
 Hmong Mission: \$3,031
 Building Use: \$3,675

LESLIE'S SALT SHAKER

On Saturday June 25, the youth group will hold our annual "Welcome Party" for our new 7th graders. We will meet at 4 pm at the Williams' house for swimming, BBQ burgers and dogs, and lots of fun. If you know of a seventh grader (or any youth grades 7-12) who would like to join us for this and other fun events, please invite them! People with last names starting with A-M should bring a side dish; people with last names starting with N-Z should bring snacks or a dessert item. BBQ items and drinks will be provided. For a map, permission slip, more information, or questions, contact Youth Worker Connie Alfaro conniea@clovismumc.org.

Coach's Corner

As we prepare to have Pastor Kham Dy Yang begin full time service for the purpose of growing our fledgling new Hmong church start, we are in the process of discussing moving of the Hmong worship from 3 p.m. in the afternoon into the early service hour on Sunday morning. Sunday morning is when people want to go to church and look for a new church. As I write this we are still in process of getting your feedback. So far 88% of respondents are comfortable with this change. We will have final survey results following one more Sunday of surveys in May.

This change, if approved, will facilitate the growth of our Hmong leadership, our joint ministry, fellowship, church school and youth ministries as we will share the 9:30 church school hour. The proposed change is moving our English service forward one half hour from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. This will permit our Korean United Methodist congregation to continue to have its traditional service at noon. Your worship team has analyzed our current service to tighten it up on dead space and eliminate some things so we will not trespass on the Korean service time. Thank you everyone for your feedback and ongoing support of this evangelistic outreach as we shepherd this chick under our wing until it is ready to fly!

With hope and anticipation, Pastor Denice

"We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord, we bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord. And we offer up to you, the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and we offer up to you the sacrifices of joy." Huh? Does this mean when I sing this song after our greeting time that I am wishing I were out on the golf course instead of in church (i.e. the "sacrifices of joy")? Good question! I was asked this question the other day and I had to think about it. I invite you to share your questions because if you have a question, someone else has the same question and exploring the answer benefits all of us.

Actually, the idea of a sacrifice of praise, thanksgiving and joy is scriptural. Paul says to us in Romans 12:1 *I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.*" And Hebrews 13:15 tells us, *"...let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."*

Before there was Christian scripture, there was Christian worship. And that worship, in contrast to our ancestral worship of prostration and animal sacrifice, was a worship characterized by intense gratitude, joy and thanksgiving for what Jesus had accomplished for us. We understood, and continue to understand ourselves as his body at work in our world today redeemed by his blood, and made whole by his gracious all-giving love for us. What a gift! Our sacrifice then is an "attitude of gratitude" arising from a converted heart and life that has chosen not to be conformed to this world but conformed to Christ.

In our communion prayer of thanksgiving we pray, *"And we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and LIVING sacrifice in UNION with Christ's offering for us..."* So when we sing *we bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord* we are serving and praising God, offering up ourselves in service and giving God the praise and thanksgiving God is due for our salvation. Certainly something to do with joy! Joy is a great gift to offer our God.

With thanksgiving and much joy for the opportunity to serve as your pastor for a new appointment year,
Pastor Denice Leslie