



GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United
Methodist Church December 2007

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Ring in the Season with the Annual Advent Dinner

Festive tables, special potluck dishes and desserts, carol singing and story telling, fellowship and faith are the hallmarks of the annual Advent Dinner scheduled for Saturday, December 1, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. For last minute reservations, leave word at the church office for Pat Frey. We will assemble Advent wreaths this year. A 7.50 donation per family unit is requested to cover the cost of the supplies for the wreaths and candles.

Winter Rose Healing Service

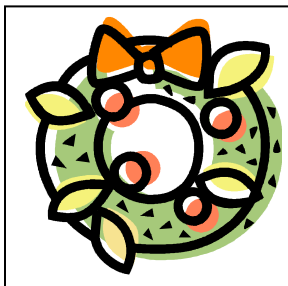
Remember and memorialize a loved one who has died at our December 4, 2007 Healing Prayer service at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Turn a blue Christmas into a time of sweet remembrance, hope and healing.

Sunday School Young People Provide Christmas Message In Drama and Song

Bring your friends and family to worship on Sunday, December 16, 2007 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service to receive a Christmas message brought by our Sunday School young people.

Christmas Caroling!

Bring cheer into the lives of those who are homebound and at Sierra Vista Rest Home with Christmas caroling, Sunday, December 16, 2007. We will gather in the Social Hall at 5:00 p.m. Our caroling will conclude at Dee and Warren Carr's for wonderful Christmas goodies.



Christmas Choral Music On Christmas Sunday

Our Chancel Choir and youth will bring us the inspiring music of Christmas in worship at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 23, 2007. Bring your friends and family for a special blessing.

Christmas Eve Services at MUMC and Academy

Worship at the historic Academy church at 4 p.m. (Tollhouse/168 to left on Maden), or at Memorial at 11 p.m. for candlelight, carols, the Christmas story and communion.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



UMM BREAKFAST MEETING December 1, 2007 - Breakfast will consist of pancakes, sausage and orange juice. We will be discussing activities for next year so be sure and get here if your schedule will allow it. There will be worship study facilitated by Rick Hutchinson immediately following breakfast. The Methodist Church is a church with Open Hearts, Open Doors, Open Minds so bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship.

UMW News:

*No board meeting this month

Dec. 18 – Christmas Tea 2-4 pm in the Social Hall

Dec. 12 – red Bird circle 9:30 am at Margaret Nicholls' house

Dec. 12 – Wesley Circle at Evelyn Haulman's house

YOUTH ZONE!!

Sunday 12/02/07 5:00 p.m. Movie Nite (Bungalow)

Sunday 12/09/07 5:30 p.m. Meeting (Bungalow)

Sunday 12/16/07 5:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling Party

Sunday 12/23/07 NO YOUTH MEETING - Merry Christmas!

Saturday 12/29/07 8:00 a.m. Youth Poverello House Work Day

Sunday 12/30/07 5:30 p.m. Youth Group (Bungalow)

Advent Warm Tree - It has become a beloved holiday tradition at Memorial to provide gifts of warmth for the homeless through our Advent "Warm Tree" collection. You are invited once again to bring stocking caps, scarves, gloves, socks, etc. This year our gifts will support our own Clovis UMC Homeless Ministry. Your gifts for men will be given to and distributed by the Clovis Police Department to homeless in our own community. Toiletries and personal care items are also welcomed. If you have gifts for women and children, we will be delivering these to the Fresno Rescue Mission or Poverello House. These gifts may also small toys, stuffed animals, and childrens' books. It is appreciated if you can wrap the gifts and be sure to include a tag with the contents and pertinent information such as size, etc. so that they can be delivered properly. Your gift(s) should be at the church by Sunday, December 16th. For more information, see Sue DeFranco.



ADVENT – The Christian calendar begins with the four Sundays before Christmas called Advent. Purple and royal blue are the liturgical colors used for this season because they

denote royalty. It is a time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. The Old Testament is rich with longing, prophesy, and the promise of a savior. As it was for the Jewish nation, so it is for us – a time for hope, expectancy, and preparation. The symbolism we use for Advent comes directly from the Bible. In Isaiah 11:1-2 we read "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will nest on him – the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and of power. "Trumpets and harps joyfully went ahead of arriving kings. Psalm 150:3 "Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet and praise him with the harp and lyre." Advent was even more personal to Mary. Luke 1:42 "In a loud voice Elizabeth exclaimed 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear!'" As we observe Advent, let us remember John the Baptist quoting Isaiah to his followers. "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight a highway for our God."

Submitted by Pauline Middleton

NEWS AND NOTES



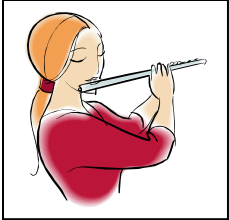
THRIFT SHOP NEWS

One more week end down! We were open the 2nd and 3rd of November and had a great sale! I was amazed at the seemingly unending supply of donations. I really thought that everyone would have completely exhausted their closets, kitchens, and wherever else they collect from for the big yard sale, but not true! We had lots of donations and as a result took in over a thousand dollars! Again! Thanks to all who donated, all who helped sort and price and all who worked the week end. You truly are a wonderful church family. We were again a bit short of workers, with at least one out sick and a couple on vacation. So you know I'm gonna ask, "Won't you please consider giving us a hand"? We did have Christmas merchandise out and plan to have more out for the December opening so take another look to see if you have any you want to get out of your closet and bring it on down! Also, if you've never visited us, you might want to wander in on one of the days next time we're open. Never know what treasure you might find. Oh! Jewellery really moves this time of year so give that a thought as well. God Bless each of you.

Submitted by Pat Frey

SPECIAL FRIENDS - A small group, Pauline, Pat, John and Lorraine gathered for the Special Friends meeting Nov. 13 2007 in the Lose Library. After reading the church's mission statement, we joined in prayer, read passages from Psalms and 1 Thessalonians, and sang "Come Ye Thankful People, Come." With Thanksgiving as our topic, we shared our blessings with each other, and included our joys and concerns. We updated the new surroundings for Betty and Jim Skidmore, Viola Hooper, and Mary Lou Hall. During October, this group made 41 phone visits, 11 visits, sent 55 cards, wrote 5 notes, and sent one grief recovery pamphlet. The meeting was closed with this thought: In service, we receive much more than we could ever give away. You are invited to join us at our next meeting, Tuesday December 11th at 1:30pm in the Lose Library.

-Lorraine May



Les Flutes Enchantees CD's are here!! To reserve your copy fill out an order form located in the back of the Narthex and turn it in to the office with your donation of \$12.

CROP Walk News - A special thank you to all who walked, pledged to our walkers, or prayed for us as we walked at this year's Fresno-Clovis Community Walk for Hunger. Sixteen from our church participated and our informal accounting told us that we raised at least \$1950. That's terrific! The funds from the Walk are divided between the Community Food Bank who help the hungry of Fresno County and Church World Service. CWS personnel are at work in the United States and all over the world, assisting those with immediate needs such as those recovering from the devastating fires in Southern California as well as working on long-term solutions for chronic hunger and malnutrition in projects that span the globe. Thank you all for stepping out for the hungry!

Special Thanks to the Boutique Group - A special thanks to the people who made this year's boutique so successful and to the many in the church and the community that supported it through purchasing. The funds raised will allow us to continue in our covenant relationship with United Methodist missionary to Macedonia, Carol Partridge. We will be sending a Christmas card to Carol soon, telling her about the success of our fundraiser and also asking her to accept our blessing of her mission work with women and children of the Methodist Church of Macedonia. Watch for more news from Macedonia soon. To God be the glory!



Season's Greetings



Christmas Blessings



Best wishes for the New Year

Leslie's Salt Shaker

Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" informs my Advent preaching this year. I am particularly taken with the soliloquy of Marley's Ghost in response to Scrooge's statement:

"But you were always a good man of business, Jacob," faltered Scrooge, who now began to apply this to himself.

"Business!" cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. "Humankind was my business. The common welfare was my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop in the water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!"

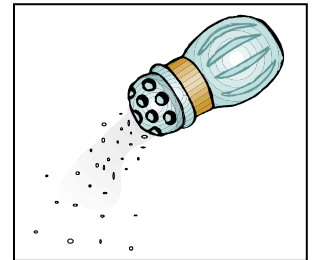
....."At this time of the rolling year," the spectre said, "I suffer most. Why did I walk through crowds of fellow-beings with my eyes turned down, and never raise them to that blessed Star which led the Wise Men to a poor abode? Were there no poor homes to which its light would have conducted *me*?"

At Christmas we turn our attention to the blessings of hearth and home, loved ones and festivities. And so we should. But in the course of our enjoyment and festivities let us not forget the one who came among us as a babe laid in an animal trough; the same One who set the stars in their courses and gave us this wonderful earth home and each other and all that we love and all that we struggle to acquire.

Let us remember, above all, that His business --- the saving of humankind--- is our business.

May the peace of Christmas steal softly over your soul and carry you through these days with the knowledge and love of God.

Pastor Denice



CONGREGATIONS' LIST OF SPIRITUAL LEADERS

The list of folks below were named by members of the congregation as people they consider to be mature in their discipleship and spiritual leaders. What an affirmation! By the way, every pastor associated with this congregation was also nominated, but their names are not listed here as the Spiritual Leaders Circle is laity.

Those names with multiple submissions were selected to receive a letter inviting them to stand for nomination and those who confirmed their willingness to serve were placed on the ballot submitted to the congregation on Sunday, November 11, with ratification of the vote at the Special Charge conference following worship. The Charge Conference also placed the new Spiritual Leaders in one of three year classes by drawing names. The Circle will begin meeting in January.

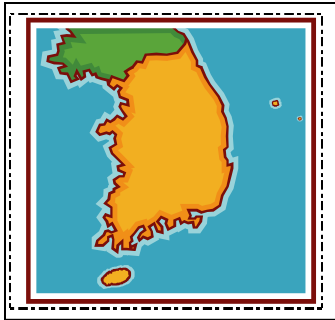
The new Spiritual leaders are: Kathy Cannon, Max Cannon, Lorraine May, Ozzie Hernandez, John Tallmadge, Sonny Uwaoma, Laura Williams and Ron Zastovnik.

The following are names of members submitted by the congregation:

Jim Acton	Connie Alfaro	Nancy Enloe	Jan Erickson
Nancy Locke	Mariama Mathai	Mac Magargee	Margie Magargee
Nell Marchbanks	Pauline Middleton	George Middleton	Ron Zastovnik
Diane Zastovnik	Ozzie Hernandez	Sharon Hutchison	Rick Hutchison
Lorraine May	Pat McGuinness	Norma Meek	Len Babcock
Barbara Grams	Roger Gram	Rich Bonzo	Janet Bonzo
Judy Gross	Sue DeFranco	Max Cannon	Shirley Golden
Scott Hatfield	Jim McClanahan	Gloria McClanahan	John Erb
Howard Cook	Bill Sautter	Sunny Uwaoma	LaDonna Snow
Pat Long	Pat Frey	John Tallmadge	Shelby Cox
Gene McGaughy	Cecil Leonardo	Dona Leonardo	Joe Lee
Mary Vollman	Minnie Eller	Carol Silva	Patti Pond
Evelyn Haulman	Don Haulman	Laura Williams	Kathy Cannon
Gil Stocks	Bonnie Harkins		

What?? She's Gone Again?? So where's the pastor been all summer? (And for that matter—last Spring??) I think I've been away from home more this year than any year in my 27 year's of pastoring! Here's where I've been and the information you need. Last May I went on a mission trip to Korea for almost three weeks. A wonderful opportunity I look forward to sharing with our United Methodist Women (UMW) at this month's unit meeting. When I got home I tried to jump right back into things. The jet lag caught up with me and I ended up exhausted and ill for about the next five weeks, through Annual Conference. Speaking of Annual Conference, that week away pretty much kicks off my annual summer schedule of being away. With the kids grown, you would think summer time would not be such a crucial time for vacation—that I could spread the four weeks-a-year out. But now that Kim, my husband, is a teacher, the school year continues to predict the majority of our vacation pattern. This summer I got in three of the four weeks. I catch as catch can any remaining vacation time through the school year, usually at Christmas. I also will take compensatory time off when holiday schedules pile on the hours. Camp, the all church campout weekend, and my annual sermon planning retreat finish out my regular away time most summers. This year because the church campout was postponed at the last minute, (*rescheduled for 9/21-23*) and I had the pulpit covered, I went ahead and joined Kim and daughter Moira for a trip to First UMC, Oroville. Kim was asked to return to this former church to preach for their 125th anniversary celebration. It was the first time in 10 years that we had been back. I was a member of the UMW there and did pastoral care for this congregation in Kim's absence although I served the Paradise UMC at the

time. This fall I had a year-ago-set Labor Day UMW date to preach at the South Hayward UMC, a church Kim and I served as co-pastors 23 years ago. Again, this was a roots trip for me. I remained in the area on my day off, Monday, in order to go to the Probationary Candidate's retreat through Thursday noon which was held in Santa Cruz at our UM Campground, Monte Toyon. I am responsible for this annual event as Chair of the Probationary Residents in Ministry Committee for the Board of Ordained Ministry, BOOM. Speaking of BOOM, due to my current responsibilities with the Board, I have stepped down from my District obligations including the District Committee on Ministry, the Fresno Mission and Church Extension Society, and will not be organizing the logistics or hosting the District



Council on Ministries district annual laity and pastors' training day held here at MUMC the last three years. All UM Clergy are members of and deployed by the conference and includes 20% of our appointment time dedicated to service in the conference beyond our local church. The Board of Ordained Ministry is my one commitment beyond the local church. It includes the following days away annually: One day prior to clergy session kicking off annual conference week in June. Three days in September for the RIM Candidates' Retreat. Three days in October and in April for full Board of Ordained ministry meetings. Three days away in February and two-three days in March for candidate interviews. These meetings are always Tuesday – Thursday. The Executive of BOOM has a monthly meeting in the intervening months through the school year in Sacramento on a Thursday. How I wish we had that bullet train! I try to get back in time for potluck and choir. Due to most administrative meetings scheduled for Tuesdays and Wednesdays, I use Thursday as an alternate day for scheduling pre-marital counseling etc. which then blocks out the usual events of this night. This summer I had 7 Thursday evenings of pre-marital counseling for a wedding September 15. I do want you to know that when I am to be out of town for BOOM events or for something such as the Bishop's All Clergy Convocation I do not take my day off on Monday. Any time you wonder where I am, need to make an appointment with me or need me for any reason, call me on my cell phone which is my constant companion day and night and is my ministry phone. Unless it is urgent, if you call on a Monday I will return your call on Tuesday. I will give my cell number here, but in case you misplace it and the church office is closed, remember Co-Pastor Kham Dy and I print our cell numbers in the bulletin insert weekly. The white board and bulletin insert lists may away dates and information as well. Please do not leave messages on my resident phone because with all of us at home using cell phones—no one besides me checks the land line and that could be a couple of days or in the summer time, weeks later. Finally, if you want me to attend your meeting please call me and let me know so I can schedule it well in advance. This is important because we have over forty-three teams, committees, groups and ministries meeting monthly.

In Christ's service, Pastor Denice Leslie



BIRTHDAYS!!

Wanda Grimsley 12/01
Rena Love 12/01
Nancy Enloe 12/02
Tammy Raddatz 12/03
Sharon Hutchinson 12/05
Erin Pachelbel 12/05
Cecelia Acton 12/06
Dick Gist 12/06
Novelle Rogers 12/07
Seela Lor 12/08
John Monis 12/08
Seela Xiong 12/08
Joua Yang 12/09
Jessica Stocks 12/14
Andrew Stocks 12/15
Jason Yang 12/15
Kao Cha 12/16
Geraldine Montgomery 12/17
Hayes Van-Remington 12/19
Bea Bannister 12/20
Jacob Crosslin 12/22
Gwen Emmick 12/22
Gao Xong Hang 12/22
Kristi Harkins 12/22
Robert Markland 12/23
Chang Hang 12/25
Miriam Schell 12/25
Kim Leslie 12/27
Jeff Pond 12/27
Kayleigh Smith 12/27
Suke Cherta Lee 12/28
Lois Ames 12/29
Sue Vang 12/31