



Good News!

The Newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

January 2007

NEW CLAVINOVA MEETS CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS AND BABY GRAND NEWS

We are very fortunate to have had Nancy Enloe step forward and donate 50% of the cost of the new Yamaha Digital Piano known as a Clavinova in memory of her husband Ralph. Our challenge now is to pay for the remaining balance of 3200. The good news is we have one full year interest and principle free (no accruing interest either) to begin payment thanks to John Erb who is carrying the purchase for the church in order for us to have this option. We were able to buy it at a greatly reduced price thanks to a sale and a discount. The versatility of this instrument permits us to provide quality musical orchestration for a variety of musical styles and tastes.

Our goal in purchasing the Clavinova is to provide music for more than one style of worship. Janette Erickson said she was looking forward to playing it and noted she liked the sound, and particularly made mention of the fact that it can be made bright or mellow, a wonderful option.

Pastor Kham Dy Yang was thrilled to be able to provide music for the Hmong New Year of such excellent quality vs. his little keyboard--especially as they hosted several Hmong congregations in the congregation. The choir appreciated the different orchestral voices such as the harpsichord, guitar and brass without having to hire a small orchestra. The Korean praise pianist was delighted to walk in and find the Clavinova which is perfect for contemporary worship. And we plan to use it for our new contemporary service as it is a key component in our plans for reaching out to a new generation. So it's a good tool and its small size makes it possible to have it next to the baby grand. The Council voted to refer the raising of funds to the Fundraising committee. However, we want you to know under what circumstances we have purchased the instrument, and certainly wouldn't turn away anyone's contribution toward it. There is more good news:

Thanks to Sue DeFranco and the estate of her mother Jennie Mae Strain, the Baby Grand piano will be repaired! This means that when we have a soloist who needs a piano accompaniment or a pianist play for our enjoyment, in concert or for worship we will have the classic beauty and verb of the baby grand available to us. We are so fortunate to have this baby grand--the cost of a new one would be around 25,000 and a used one 14,000! Yes, it is an older piano, and not the top of its line but it is only half way through its life cycle which means another 80 years of service and since we got it just for the cost of the move, even the extensive repairs required it is still a great deal. We are blessed!

Denice Leslie

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY SPECIAL OFFERING JAN. 14

Your offering on Human Relations Day, the Sunday before the birthday observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth. Please give generously! Your gift makes a world of difference! Thank you!

LEADER NETWORK MEETS JAN. 20, 9:30 A.M. LOSE LIBRARY

If you are a leader, teacher or facilitator of a small group, study group, ministry or mission team, administrative team, Leadership Network is for you. Here is where communication happens, nurture, support, collective action, coordination, skill building in being a disciple and spiritual care is provided. We meet on time and conclude promptly at 10:30 a.m.

LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION DATE CHANGE

Since Pastor Kham Dy Yang will be away for a doctor of ministry course until January 8, so we will postpone the Leadership Orientation to Sunday, January 14, after church in the Library. A soup lunch will be served. If you are a leader of a team, committee, group, class, etc. be there for the straight skinny: we will review the church structure, budget and expenses, policies, calendar, communication and deadlines etc. - all the operating things that facilitate your work.

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

OUR FAMILY

As of this writing, Ed Ede has been hospitalized with a stroke and we hope he will be home by the time you receive this. He tells us, "I am blessed!" and sends his love to all. Give him a call. Vi and Carol Nutting are on the mend after both being hospitalized in November. Howard Nelson was able to take a trip out of state to be with family for both Thanksgiving and the Christmas holidays—a great accomplishment after a couple of hospitalizations. Go Howard! Kay Martin's life was honored with a private, family funeral earlier this month. Helen Miles is at 944 N. Chapel Hill in hospice care and her daughter Mary is encouraging all who know and love her to visit. Ila Davidson is home following rehab and awaiting word on possible surgery. Barbara Nielsen is anticipating work on knees in the new year. Congrats to Barb for being honored with a mission pin by our UMW at this year's Christmas Tea. Barbara joins a long list of distinguished women honored for their service in mission. Jake Stoddard had surgery at Children's Hospital. Betty Anderson continues her valiant struggle to regain eye sight following repeated procedures including cornea replacements. Warren Carr is enjoying his new Jazzie electric chair which facilitates mobility and he and Dee hosted MUMC Carolers in late December with their renowned Christmas treats. Our search for Helen Ring goes on and your prayers are coveted. Mel Ward and Gene Doss are still recovering - Gene following heart surgery and Mel following hospitalization for a heart valve. There are many others with health needs and many with other kinds of needs. Please pray for the well-being of our community that we may continue to be faithful in service regardless of our circumstances, rejoicing in God.

--Pastor Denice

BOUTIQUE NEWS

The 2006 Boutique was a huge success, thanks to all who participated. We were able to pay for several mission projects on the church apportionment list amounting to \$3000. There is enough left to contract for a missionary. With the help of the "Mission Committee, we chose Carol Partridge who works with women and children in Macedonia. The paper work has been started and you will be kept informed of our progress. Many thanks to one and all for making this possible.

CAROL PARTRIDGE

Carol Partridge is a missionary of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church assigned to the United Methodist Church of Macedonia as Director of Christian Education.

Carol first went to Macedonia as a Peace Corps Volunteer; she served from 1997-1999. "Even then, I felt the Holy Spirit was leading me," she says. She connected with the UMC in Macedonia by attending services, making friends and even teaching Sunday School. "I was at home in the UMC in the States, so it felt like a welcoming place in Macedonia, too." Carol returned to Macedonia as a missionary early in 2000.

"I love my work and I feel this is exactly the place God wants me to be. Being a missionary is even more fun and rewarding than being in the Peace Corps. A Macedonian teacher and I started a Saturday morning Bible class for neighborhood children. We knew it was a success when the children did not want to leave at the end of class."

Carol works with all thirteen of the UM congregations in Macedonia, especially with children, youth and women. Her responsibilities include development of Sunday school materials in the Macedonian language; training Sunday school teachers and youth group leaders; teaching Bible classes and English classes and organizing summer programs, including Vacation Bible School and multiethnic youth camp. She helps with classes and seminars for women on such topics as health and wholeness and leadership development, and with ecumenical activities like World Day of Prayer. Carol spreads the word about the UMC in Macedonia through the articles and stories she writes, many of which are published by church magazines and newspapers in the US and Western Europe. She also participates in the church's humanitarian outreach programs. Carol leads a monthly English language worship service in the UMC in Skopje, the capital of Macedonia. She writes and directs dramas that are presented by the children for Christmas, Easter and Mother's Day and VBS.

Carol served as director of Christian education of Twin Towers United Methodist Church in Alameda, California from 1993-96 and has been a writer of children's books, short stories and articles. In addition, she was editor and publisher of "Young Reader's Page," a Christian newsletter for children.

A native of Maine, she is a 1969 graduate of Colby College in Waterville with a B.A. degree in Latin. She earned an M.A. degree in English in 1995 and a TEFL (Teacher of English as a Foreign Language) certificate in 1996, both from Holy Names College in Oakland, California. Carol holds local church membership at Twin Towers UMC (California-Nevada Annual Conference) where she served on many committees and boards.

Carol Partridge is available for Covenant Relationship support in California/Pacific Annual Conference, California-Nevada Annual Conference, Rocky Mountain Annual Conference, and Yellowstone Annual Conference.

UMW NEWS

1/6 – District meeting, Hanford

1/8 – Board meeting, 9 am, Library

1/16 – UMW meeting, 10 am, Social Hall.

Program: Laurie Hill, "Call to Prayer"

1/10 – Red Bird Circle, 9:30 am, Library

1/24 – Wesley Circle, 1 pm, Social Hall

ATTEN: WOMEN

Do you want some quality time for fellowship and spiritual renewal? Come to this year's Retreat at ECCO near Oakhurst, March 23, 24 & 25. The cost is \$150 for all 3 days, including meals. Some particle scholarships are available. For more information, contact Dee Carr.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

We opened for the last time in 2006 on December 1st and 2nd. It was a great way to end the year. We were very busy and our preliminary count for the weekend is \$839. We are pleased and again thankful for and to all who made that possible. As we end this year I want to publicly thank the "guys" who do the behind the scene work for us and make the shop a success. So our hats are off to George Middleton, Howard Vollman and Mac Magargee. They do all the heavy and grunt work for us and we really do appreciate it. Thanks guys!!!

We are also happy and thankful for the arrangement to have our shop sprayed. The spiders were about to outnumber volunteers. We have an especially large number of black widow spiders. Hope this gets at least some of them. We're really tired of trying to get all the cobwebs too.

We will be working our regular days this month to get ready for the next opening. This will be our beginning of a new year. With your help and God's blessings it will be another good one. Please remember this is a good money maker for the church and continue to support us. I'm confident you will. AND if anyone wants to make a new year's resolution to do some more volunteering this year we would gladly welcome the help.

Our faithful advisor and all around thrift shop "material girl", jewelry expert and bag arranger has a request. Pauline Middleton makes sure every month that we have enough bags in all sizes sorted and stacked ready for customers. Here's what she's asking of you; if you are donating grocery sacks to be used in the shop, please be sure they are clean and have no holes; don't send the thin transparent vegetable bags; and fold them rather than wadding them up. A smooth bag for purchases gives a much better impression than a crumpled one. Pauline will appreciate your cooperation.

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

Administration & Stewardship

2007 LEADERSHIP LIST ENCLOSED

Every year we mail out a copy of the current list of those serving in leadership in the church. Please save this list for future reference.

CHURCH STRUCTURE

Enclosed is a copy of our church structure. Please save it for future reference. You will see that our structure reflects our ongoing efforts to serve our core purpose of making disciples and facilitating lay owned and operated ministry that is less bureaucratic, encourages new ministries, and small groups.

The *Church Council* is the final decision making body of our church.

The *Administrative Support Team* is the policy making folks responsible for directing our finances and facilities toward implementing our mission. Members of the Ad. Support team is elected as the officers of the incorporation to serve as trustees. The Finance Work Team, the Office and Stewardship Team, our Counters, the Facilities Maintenance Team and the Design and Renovation Team are the doers who keep our facility and finance ministries humming along.

The *Equipping Team* is responsible for our lay mobilization systems: identifying leadership, gifts and discovery, nominations where required, mentoring, training, support and data entry as well as our Spirit Quest process for maturing disciples.

The *Leader Network* is new. Its purpose is to gather all those who are leaders of ministry teams and small groups for nurture, support, encouragement, networking, skill building, inspiration and outreach and assimilation of new disciples into the life and ministry of our church.

Among those Leader Network is designed to support are the many ministry and mission teams you are familiar with, such as the *Worship Plan Team*, our *Children's Ed. Team* our *Missions Team*, our *Thrift Shop Team*, *Special Friends*, *Care Clusters*, etc. that are faithfully meeting and serving in their appointed ministries. For a complete list see the enclosed Leadership List for 2007.

The *Executive committee of the Council* continues to meet. Its purpose is to create and review the agenda for Council. The *Staff Parish Team* also continues in its responsibility. Its ministry is personnel.

The *Horizon Team* continues to meet. Its purpose is to keep our vision and mission of Showing and Telling Jesus' Love Everywhere alive, and keep our ministry focused and help us take next steps as we continue to transition our ministry to meet current realities.

Congregational Care

Giving Special Care to Others

SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM REPORT: December, 2006

"Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free". We sang, after Charles Wesley: Dee, Margie, Denice, Max, John, Pauline and myself.

And we built prayers in an exercise used in chaplain training:

-What do you call God, want to tell God, confess to God, ask God for, thank God for, feel about who God is, want to say to God? Here's how mine came out:

"Lord of deliverance, my world (Your world) is cracking.
I don't know how to fix it, or even do a little to help you.
Give me peace, guidance and responsiveness to you.
Thank you for Jean, Jesus and your church.
You are hard to get in touch with,
But lead us to freedom in your love."

Then we shared our life-concerns and supported one another in them. We reported on our pastoral care ministries: not counting 2 of our most prolific visitors who could not be present: 8 onsite visits, 10 telephone visits and 51 cards and letters sent.

After praying for families afflicted with stroke, heart problems and grief, we agreed to meet again in January on the 2nd Tuesday and Invite you to come check us out, 1:30 P.M. in our Lose Library.

In Christ's Name,
Laurie Hill, Team Coordinator,



Youth Calendar

Monday	01/02/07	Afternoon at the Movies (TBA)
Saturday	01/06/07	8:00 am to 12:00 pm Poverello House Work Day
Sunday	01/07/07	5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting (Bungalow)
Saturday	01/13/07	7:00 p.m. Movie Madness Lock-in (Social Hall)
Sunday	01/14/07	NO MEETING
Sunday	01/21/07	5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting (Bungalow)
Sunday	01/28/07	5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting (Bungalow)

January Is Movie Madness Month!

All youth grades 7 -12 are invited to join the youth group during Movie Madness Month, January 2007. Here is the schedule:

Afternoon at the Movies: Join us at the movies on Tuesday, January 2, 2007. At the time the newsletter went to publication, we hadn't yet decided which movie we wanted to see. so there will be more information to come by e-mail and by phone. Friends are welcome - everyone must have a permission slip! If you have any questions, please contact Connie Alfaro at connie@clovismumc.org.

Movie Madness Lock-in: We will hold a Movie Marathon/Lock-in on Saturday, January 13, 2007. FYI: "Lock-In" is youth group slang for "sleeping over at the church, with the doors locked and all of us inside." Plus, it just sounds better than "sleep-over" or "slumber party"! We'll start at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, and end on Sunday morning before Sunday School. Bring: sleeping bag, pillow, toothbrush, snacks to share, and good clothes for church for the next morning. Questions? Contact Connie Alfaro at connie@clovismumc.org.

COACHE'S CORNER

I am really excited about our new year! We designated five priorities we want to initiate in 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

Here is a report on the progress we have made so far:

Reaching a New Generation: We now have a new Yamaha Digital Piano which makes many styles of music possible not only for different generations but for our Hmong language service as well. This versatile instrument is the first step in planning a service for younger people. This gift was made possible by a generous memorial gift for half the cost from Nancy Enloe in memory of her husband Ralph.

Reaching Senior Adults: As I write this column in late December I have just confirmed a meeting in Palo Alto with Judith Pruess-Mellow, UM Deacon and director of *Senior New Ways*, a ministry with mature adults. We will meet January 8.

At some point this year we will initiate two different services: one for senior adults and one for younger adults.

Staffing for Growth: The Horizon Vision team is making grant writing a first priority starting this month. We plan to apply for a grant to the Fresno Mission and Church Extension Society who has offered us a grant in the past, as well as explore other foundation grants.

Increase Our Visibility in Our Community: I am committed to gathering folks interested here at Memorial in engaging our community in the Homeless issue and working with our dedicated Clovis PD. Pat Long had an excellent idea: that we begin with a backpack ministry. Let me know if you are interested, I'm making a prospects list. Also, Kate Hunter, our Music Director has suggested we have concerts in our sanctuary because it is a beautiful venue and the acoustics are spectacular with the improvements. What a great idea!

Plan a New Facility for Thrift Shop, Recycling, Admin. Offices: We had a feasibility task force meet last year and need to resurrect it and get their input and establish a new task force with representatives of the different needs the building is planned around. March 09 is our target year for building as well as repaving the parking lot once our current indebtedness on the social hall is paid.

Sponsor a Missionary: This goal is accomplished thanks to the hard work of our Boutique group's financial support. They have selected UM Missionary, Carol Partridge, at work in Christian Education in Macedonia. Our partnership covenant support is 2500. Once we begin paying our apportionments in full (we reached 80% this year). Our apportionments are our first mile

giving, supporting specific mission projects and personnel in place is our second mile giving. Our goal is to assume this responsibility as part of our congregational stewardship in missions. Our prayer and our goal is to grow enough to do this: both spiritually and numerically which we hope the above priorities will accomplish. When Carol is able to itinerate here we will invite the neighborhood.

That's it! It looks to be an exciting year ahead full of outreach and hope as we seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ with our community. Don't forget we are also in mission in our nation to three devastated Katrina UM Churches in Louisiana. Jesus said, I will make you my disciples in Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth: Clovis, America and the ends of the earth!

With hope and anticipation,
Pastor Denice

MUMC STRUCTURE CHART

CHARGE CONFERENCE

COUNCIL

Executive Team

(Proposed for future: Vision Board – Purpose: Spiritual Guidance, Oversight, Direction, “Mission Trail Guide” Accountability to Mission for new ministries)

EQUIPPING DISCIPLES TEAM

Lay Leadership & Nominating Team
Spiritual Quest Discipleship Process

LEADERSHIP NETWORK

All leaders of Teams

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TEAM

Finance
Counters
Stewardship & Accounting
Facilities Maintenance
Renovation & Design
Memorials & Gifts
Prayer Gardens
Endowment
Fundraising

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE