

Good News!

The Newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

February 2007

Let us be "Fishers of Men"

by Gloria McClanahan

Do we think in terms of telling all our friends and acquaintances where we go to church? Let's get the word out. We are a little church with a big heart. Let's bring in our friends. If we don't say anything, we remain the best kept secret in Clovis. What good is that?

As we seek to fill the pews on Sunday, here are some words of wisdom from Mother Teresa's instructions to nuns who joined her: "Speak tenderly to them. Let there be kindness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile, in the warmth of your greeting. ... Don't only give your care, but give your heart as well." She was talking about the "down and outs" in India. We may be approaching people who need a boost to handle their "down and out" situations. We can use this attitude in welcoming friends to worship here at Memorial United Methodist Church.

O my gosh, one might say, "Are you suggesting that we become evangelists?" That very question hits me between the eyes. I am often shy and sharing my religion seems such a difficult concept. For my lifetime, the name of a church was enough. We were there, people came and life went on. However, have you looked around on Sunday in our sanctuary? I don't know about you but I see some empty pews. I have become strongly motivated. I want our faith to live, to be available for many generations to come. I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that we can do this. I say, "Let's double our attendance in three years". If we are serious, we can probably triple our attendance. Who is up for the challenge?

Attendance--every one of us can become involved in a sincere, one-by-one way. I am reading *The Unchurched Next Door* by Thom S. Rainer. It is a report of a study conducted nationwide to compile statistics regarding church attendance. The most revealing fact it portrays is that 90% of the persons interviewed were willing to talk about religion. Only 10% didn't want to discuss religion. Then the next big whammy was that most of the non-attending persons interviewed didn't go to church because they had not been invited. Think about it, "THEY HAD NOT BEEN INVITED".

This month's Interpreter discusses church growth and the best examples are Methodist churches just like our church that have grown because its members invited people to join them. Hmm, that seems simple. In our Witness study group, we discussed the delicate subject of sharing religion. We had a consensus that people are not comfortable discussing religion without a feeling of trust. Trust takes a while to develop. So don't worry about "converting" your friends. All we have to do is invite them to church; let them know we are here. The rest is in place. We have worked on making the "campus" and "buildings" of the church look welcome and attractive. We have a loving pastor and church family and activities and things going on that will interest people. So let's get started. Our Witness group is developing some materials for your use. We are trying to make growth an easy and fun adventure. Please call me if you have any ideas.

Gloria McClanahan

STUDY OF MINISTRY COMMISSION

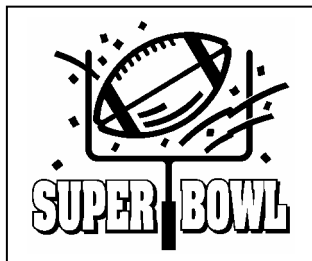
A preliminary report from the Study of Ministry Commission can now be found on www.gbhem.org [<http://www.gbhem.org/>](http://www.gbhem.org/) , along with a survey which will allow people to respond to the Commission's recommendations.

All members of the clergy and lay members of the annual conference are invited to read through the report and comment on its proposals using the online survey. Information from the survey will be shared with the Commission when it meets in February and will be considered when the final report is written in May. The report and any legislative proposals will be submitted to General Conference through the GBHEM when it meets in August. Please read this report and give comments through the online survey by April 15.

Study of Ministry Commission
Bishop William Willimon, Chair

ALL CHURCH SUPER BOWL PARTY SUN. FEB. 4

Everyone is invited to the Umpteenth Annual All Church Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 4. Game Day starts with a tag football game on the church lawn at 2:30 pm. The OTHER game will start around 3:00 pm, and will be on the "Big Screen" in the Fellowship Hall. This is



a great opportunity to get together with your church family for fun and fellowship. Please bring your own beverages, pillows, blankets, chairs, etc., and snacks to share with your fellow fans!

GAME DAY IS COMING FAST FEB. 4!

"Souper Bowl of Caring VII" is coming up on Super Bowl Sunday, February 4. Here's how it works: As you leave worship service that Sunday, the youth group will accept your donations in soup cauldrons, bowls, or baskets. Every dollar we collect that day will go directly to the local charity we care most about, Poverello House.

There will also be a canned food drive for our church Food Pantry that day. On either side of the doors coming into the sanctuary will be a box designated for one of the two teams playing in the Super Bowl this year. Drop off your canned goods donation in your favorite team's box. We'll announce during the service which team "won!"

Our biggest Souper Bowl collection amount in the past was \$425.00. We challenge our church family to match that goal, and beat it! So come prepared to share your spare change for a good cause!

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*

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

We started the year out with a bang! Friday was one of our biggest days yet but Saturday fell rather short for most of them so together we had a fairly normal week end. Preliminary count was \$649, with \$461 coming from Friday. Not too bad for the first week end of the year. But that combined with December, pretty much cleaned us out! So we need more "stuff". We especially need kitchen things, small appliances, pots and pans etc. Thanks for thinking of us!!!!

I know we always seem to be complaining but here's another. If you have something large and heavy, such as an exercise bike, please don't just drop it off in the shed. None of us who work in the shop is brawny enough to carry something like that in. So please if you plan to give us something heavy let us know ahead of time. We appreciate your consideration in this. Please understand we are small old ladies, for the most part, who work in there so we do need you to be considerate.

We could use more volunteers. If you can give a few hours either on a Tuesday (we work the first and third Tuesday of the month) or a Friday or Saturday morning or afternoon, please consider giving us a hand.

And again, we will take your donations anytime if you want to call one of us (Margie or me). We are both in the church directory and or the Clovis phone book.

Submitted by Pat Frey

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S NEWS

Feb. 5 – Board meeting, 9 am, Library
Feb. 14 – Red Bird Circle, 9:30 am, Library
Feb. 20 – Meeting, 10 am, Social Hall.
Program by Norma Meek.
Hosts for lunch – Red Bird Circle.
Bring own service. All women welcome!
Feb. 28 – Wesley Circle, 1 pm, Social Hall

ATTENTION 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 3 days. All meals included. Some partial scholarships are available. For more information, call Dee Carr at 291-7316.

HEALTHY HEART POTLUCK

You are cordially invited to participate in the 2nd Healthy Heart Potluck on Saturday, February 10th, 2007 at 5 pm, Social Hall. Blood pressure checks available prior to dinner. Bring your favorite heart-healthy dish to share (suggestions – cookbook in the office). Prizes! If you have questions, please leave a message with the church office.



Helen Miles – January 13th, 2007

Gladys Manuel – January 20th, 2007

Lynette Jordan – January 24th, 2007

Julia Steffensen – January 29th, 2007



Youth Page

Saturday 02/03/07	8:00 - 12:00 p.m. Poverello House Work Day
Sunday 02/04/07	Souper Bowl Sunday (See Below)
Sunday 02/11/07	5:30 p.m. Meeting
Sunday 02/18/07	5:30 p.m. Meeting
Saturday 02/23/07	8:30 a.m. 30-Hour Famine Event Starts
Sunday 02/25/07	NO MEETING

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING VII FEB. 4!

On Sunday Feb. 4, we will hold our seventh annual Souper Bowl of Caring, where we collect donations and canned goods after the worship service to benefit the Poverello House. Please wear football type clothes to church that day, just for fun!

30-HOUR FAMINE FEB. 24-25

This month, our youth will participate in the 30-Hour Famine to raise funds to benefit UMCOR, over the weekend of Feb. 24-25. The 30-Hour Famine is a nationwide "hunger-a-thon" event, during which we go for thirty hours without food, to gain an understanding of what it feels like to be hungry. We will begin our fast Friday night, and meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, to spend the day together in study, service projects, and fellowship. After a sleepover at the church Saturday night, we will break our fast together Sunday morning before church. Money is generated from fund raisers held during February and that weekend, and will be donated to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), to help fight hunger on a global scale. Permission slips and informational flyers will be available on the table in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Youth Director Connie Alfaro, connie@clovismumc.org.