



# Good News!

The Newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

April 2007

## **PARENTS' TIME OUT April 1**

No foolin'! Due to popular demand, Parent's Time Out (PTO) meets again! Starting on Sunday, April 1, at 5 pm, we will meet on the first Sunday of every month. As the name implies, it's a chance for the grown-ups to meet (without the kids!) for chat, Bible Study, eats, games, whatever kind of fun we want! We kick off with the Bible study, "The Gospel According to the Beatles," covering topics from John Lennon's statement that they were "more popular than Jesus," to their unwritten gospel of hope, love, peace, and personal freedom. There will be supervision, activities, and snacks for younger children. Youth grades 7 - 12 may join the youth group in the Bungalow for our regular Movie Nite. If you have any questions, please contact Connie Alfaro.

## **PALM/PASSION SUNDAY APRIL 1**

Palm/Passion Sunday begins on the high note of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with the waving of Palms. Children and Youth are invited to join procession as the choir rings out the anthem "Wave the Palms." Our youth will bring us a dramatic reading of the Passion Narrative of Jesus crucifixion from Luke. The service concludes on a somber and silent note with the stripping of all of the adornments of the sanctuary signifying the absence of the Lord.

## **HOLY THURSDAY DRAMA OF DA VINCI'S "LAST SUPPER" AND SIMPLE SUPPER, THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2007**

Thirteen men of the church are rehearsing diligently for their roles as Jesus and the disciples to bring us the inner most thoughts of each man who followed Jesus and that last meal together in the upper room. The choir will sing "In This Very Room." Communion will be served. Invite your family and friends for an inspirational observance of Maundy Thursday. Come to the Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m. for a Simple Supper composed of the foods Jesus and his disciples would have eaten prior to the Drama.

## **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES AT ACADEMY AND MUMC**

The lovely service of Tenebrae, the extinguishing of candles during the reading of the Passion from John's Gospel, symbolizing the going out of the light of the world as the result of our sin will be observed at the historic Academy church at 7 p.m. Good Friday, April 5, 2007. The Academy church is located 10 minutes east on 168. Turn left on Madden and the church is further up on the left.

Also at 7 p.m. at Memorial, for those who need a service closer to home, a brief Good Friday service with holy week hymns and the Reproaches recited as the cross is carried down the aisle will center us in on our responsibility for the sin of the world that led to Christ's death.

**ANNUAL HMONG EASTER CELEBRATION PICNIC AT WOODWARD PARK HOLY SATURDAY** A day of food, fun, games and fellowship, everyone is welcome.

## **EASTER SERVICES, SUNDAY APRIL 8**

Celebrate the victory of the Resurrection Easter Sunday:

**Easter Sunrise Service:** 6:30 a.m. at the Academy Church.

There is nothing like facing east and watching the golden streaks of sunlight creep over the silent hills in the beauty of Easter dawn.

**Easter Victory Celebration:** 10:30 a.m. at Memorial. The service begins in the patio area outside as we carry the new light into the sanctuary and find our seats. Following the return of the light, children and youth are invited to join the choir for the Victory Procession in re-adorning the sanctuary with the glory of the Easter flowers as we resurrect our Alleluias with the singing of "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!"

At 12:30 pm there will be a potluck at the Academy Church, with Church Service following at 2 pm.

**DEEPENING YOUR EFFECTIVENESS:  
MEETING THE UNSPOKEN  
SPIRITUAL/LIFE NEEDS OF PEOPLE  
ENTERING OUR DOORS**

Our next District Learning Event is Saturday, April 14, 2007 at St. Paul's UMC, from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$15.00 and includes lunch. Dan Glover and Claudia Lavy will give us a workshop that can deepen the effectiveness of our church in the spiritual transformation of people's lives with God's love, grace and good news in Jesus Christ. Need a ride? We will carpool from the church, beginning at 8:30 a.m. To register, call the district office at 226-9094 or email to Marlene in the Fresno District Office at [fresnodistrictumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fresnodistrictumc@sbcglobal.net). You can pay at the door but registration is needed for a lunch head count. You may order a copy of the book Deepening Your Effectiveness, by the presenters from Amazon, Barnes and Nobles or Discipleship Resources.

**Worship Ministry**

News from the teams that support the Sunday Worship services. *"Make a joyful noise to the Lord... Serve the Lord with gladness!" (Psalm 100)*

**PRAISING THE GOD OF GRACE**

Want to learn the great hymns and songs of faith? Join us for a new class that will meet on Sunday mornings during Sunday School at 9 a.m. in the Social Hall around the piano to sing the hymns and great songs of faith beginning Sunday, April 15, 2007 with Pastor Denice Leslie. Any pianists out there who can help out? Speak to Pastor Denice.

**Administration & Stewardship**

**ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TEAM MEETS TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 7 PM.** The Administrative Support Team, responsible for the oversight of our finances and facilities and the work of the trustees of the corporation meets at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17, 2007. On the agenda: Results of research on the purchase of light weight tables. Replacing the freeze ruined landscaping (Renovation and Design/Facilities Maintenance Team).

The **Finance Work Team** meets monthly to crunch the numbers and review income and expense reports and to adjust the budget up or down as giving

indicates on the second Wednesday, at 7 p.m. in the sixth-eighth grade Sunday School room.

The **Facilities Maintenance Work Team** meets as needed on the fourth Tuesday morning in the Lose Library. Plans for mending the walls are in the works. Have a work team request? Fill out a work project requisition form, found on the bulletin board in the office and put in Facilities Maintenance Team box.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETS APRIL 15, 2007**

Church Council's next quarterly meeting is Sunday, April 15, after worship in the Lose Library. Horizon Team and the Executive Committee will be bringing a proposal to have Leader Network (responsible for congregational networking and input) meet monthly on a Sunday beginning in May of this year and to phase Council into a Vision Board of Elders (responsible for the spiritual health of the congregation and for launching new ministries.) beginning January of 2008.

**HMONG LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETS SUNDAY, APRIL 29**

The Hmong speakers Leadership Team meets this month on the fifth Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m. instead of the normal fourth Sunday. Leaders of the church are welcome.

**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*

**SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY MEETING SATURDAY APRIL 21**

Those interested in our outreach ministry and new worship for mature adults, are invited to meet with Pastor Denice to get organized on Saturday, April 21, 2007, at 10 – 11 a.m. in the Wilbur Lose Library. Bill will most certainly be with us in spirit! The meeting will begin and end promptly.

**REACHING A YOUNGER GENERATION'S NEEDS**

Those interested in our outreach ministry and new worship for Baby Boomers, GenXers and Millennials (all those born between 1948 and 1985) are invited to a catered supper and planning meeting Sunday evening, April 22, 2007, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Child care provided. Please RSVP for dinner head count. Sue DeFranco and Pat Frey are planning a menu of Gramma Jennie Strain's spaghetti!

## UMM BREAKFAST FOR APRIL 7, 2007

The UMM will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall for their monthly breakfast at 0800 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April. Pancakes will be provided by Howard Cook with some tasty maple-flavored sausages. There will be a special power-point presentation by Corporal Vincent Weibert of the Clovis Police Department on Identity Theft followed by a Q & A. It's a crime all of us are potential victims of so it should be helpful and informative. Just remember; Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors, so bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

April 2 – Board meeting, 9 am, Library

April 11 – Red Bird Circle, 9:30 am, Library

April 17 – Regular meeting, 10 am, Social Hall

Program: Air Pollution and Your Health by Carolina Simunovic. Lunch following. Bring Your own service. Hosts: Board members  
Every Methodist woman is invited.

April 25 – Wesley Circle, 1 pm, Social Hall

## 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)*

## HOMELESS MINISTRY COLLECTION BEGINS

The Homeless Team is ready to begin its collection for bags and sundries for the homeless. The following items are needed for donation and may be brought to the church lobby and placed in the basket provided on the Garden Cart:

Toothbrushes

Toothpaste

All-purpose wet-wipes, Resealable

Wash Cloths, used or new (bundles sometimes sold at dollar stores)

Metal can opener

Sealed plastic wear (from fast food stops)

Plastic drinking cups (old Tupperware is great)

Combs

Small bottles of sunscreen

Brimmed fabric hats

Baseball caps (I'll bet you've got a collection at home!)

Tubes of antiseptic or antibiotic cream

Used backpacks or other carry all bags.

The following food items are needed for Homeless food pantry bags: Pop top soups (Target, WinCo or

Food Max least expensive), baked beans, small cans of fruit, peanut butter in plastic bottles, crackers.

These items may also be put in the Garden Cart in the lobby of the church. Thank you for your support!

## EASTER OFFERING 2007: ORANGE COVE AND KATRINA CHURCHES

Please give generously to our 2007 Easter Offering which is designated this year for two projects: Our Katrina Covenant Churches' Nursery Project, and for Freeze Relief for Orange Cove families.

## THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Another month, another \$700! We did have a good month, the preliminary count actually being \$780. We had a lot of really neat merchandise and all because of you AGAIN! Thanks again. Keep those donations coming, one of these days we'll break \$1000.

Special thanks to Don Haulman who did a special delivery for us this month. To George Middleton, Howard Vollman, and Mac Magargee for again doing all the carrying, lifting, and other grunt work to get us opened and closed each day. And to the Saturday afternoon crew for taking over for me and doing all the closing paperwork etc. There are sooooo many people we couldn't do without.

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 the first full weekend of each month, 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. And please don't hesitate to call us, sometimes it's not a good idea to leave it in the open shed.

Submitted by Pat Frey

## Equipping Ministries

“Equipping Disciples for every good work”  
“...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ...” Ephesians 4:12

## MINISTRY OPENINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

**Sanctuary Seasonal Team:** Are you creative? Do you enjoy textiles, organizing your environment, beauty and meaning? Do you look forward to every holiday and opportunity to decorate for them? Do you prefer to work behind the scenes? You are invited to be a part of

the Sanctuary Seasonal Team. The purpose of this team is to "set the sanctuary stage" specific the high holy days we celebrate annually: Advent/Christmas, Lent/Holy Wee/Easter, Pentecost, All Saints Day etc. Speak to Pastor Denice Leslie for more information.

**Worship Plan Team Coordinator:** Are you a general without an army? Are you good at delegating? Do you enjoy people? Do you have good communication skills? Do you enjoy seeing the worship service run smoothly? Do you enjoy seeing the telephone a convenient way to follow up on the troops? Are you good with detail and have a good sense of how much time a task takes? Have you ever fantasized about being a movie producer or the director of a drama? This ministry is for you! Training provided. Some reading required. You will work closely with the pastors and the worship plan team and have responsibility for oversight of all the worship logistic teams, working with their leaders and teams: projection, sound, ushers, greeters, announcers, communion stewards, sanctuary seasonal team, banner team, etc. Speak to Worship Plan Team co-chair Max Cannon or Pastor Denice Leslie

### **Hospitality Sunday Morning Refreshment Host/Hostess**

Sue DeFranco is stepping down from setting the refreshment table, cleaning up and making the beverages including coffee every Sunday. She will continue to do the coordinating of hosts/hostesses and the purchasing of all supplies. If you are interested in this very, very important ministry of hospitality, if you enjoy people, enjoy entertaining and desire to see our church put its best foot forward ---and *can talk to a tree* like Gladys Manual, speak with Sue. Regular, reliable hosts and hostesses are needed for specific Sunday mornings.

## **Congregational Care**

*Giving Special Care to Others*

### **SPECIAL FRIENDS**

On Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, nine members of the Special Friends group met in the Lose Library. Among those attending were Dee Carr, Max Cannon, John Tallmadge, Pat Frey, Margie Magargee, Denice Leslie, Evelyn Haulman, Minnie Eller and Lorraine May, chairing the meeting.

We opened with Prayer for the Presence of Christ. The scripture was from ! John 4:7-12 taken from the Upper Room's message on Love and Light.

We sang "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go, and meditated on the question, How does God's light and love shine through me?"

One person was added to our Special Friend's list. February was a busy outreach month, reporting 25 visits, 47 phone calls and sending 14 cards, in addition to Pastor Denice's pastoral ministry.

We prayed for each other's concerns and people on the Special Friend's list. We gave thanks for successful surgeries and raised up those recovering from surgeries and illness.

We are looking for someone to facilitate the requests for rides from members of our church family from a list of volunteer drivers.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm in the Lose Library. Come join us for this rewarding ministry as servants of Christ.

Lorraine May

### **THANK YOU NOTES**

George and I wish to thank our church family for their love and support in the loss of his sister's husband, Ira Miller, and my beloved sister, Thelma Ford. We are so grateful that we had celebrated Thelma's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in January with so many friends and family members at the Tulare Methodist Church where her husband had been the ministry. Ira and Thelma both leave a legacy of living their Christianity daily and we have been enriched by their lives. Your cards and condolences have been a blessing.

George & Pauline Middleton

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Thank you for the cards and phone calls to me and visits to Jim during his stay in Horizon. We appreciate our church family.

Betty Skidmore

## **YOUTH NEWS**

Sunday 04/01/07	5:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Youth Movie Nite (Bungalow)
Sunday 04/08/07	NO MEETING -	Happy Easter!
Sunday 04/15/07	5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Meeting (Bungalow)
Sunday 04/22/07	5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Meeting (Bungalow)
Saturday 04/28/07	8:00 - 12:00 p.m.	Poverello House Work Day
Sunday 04/29/07	5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Meeting (Bungalow)