

# Good News!

The Newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

May 2007

## FAREWELL FOR VICKIE HEALY, DS MAY 19

We are invited to attend the Farewell Celebration to honor Vickie Healy, our retiring District Superintendent, on Saturday, May 19, 2007 from 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program to recognize Vickie will be at 1:00 p.m. A luncheon of BBQ chicken, Tri-Tip or vegetarian meals, catered by Tours Mesquite Grill may be reserved for \$20.00. Deadline for checks made payable to the Fresno District Office is May 6. MAIL TO: Fresno District Office, 2435 N. Thesta, Fresno, CA 93703, with your name and the number in your party and the preferred meal.

## THANK YOU GIFT FOR VICKIE HEALY

If you would like to donate to a thank you gift for Vickie Healy, our retiring District Superintendent, please make your check "Vickie" and place in the offering plate Sundays May 6 or 13. Or you mail your check directly, payable to the Fresno District Office and mail to the district office at 2435 N. Thesta, Fresno, CA 93703.

## UMW FASHIONS 4 ALL SEASONS

Plan now to attend the United Methodist Women Fashions 4 All Seasons Fashion Show and Salad bar luncheon on Saturday, May 12, 2007 at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$7.00.

## LOVE OFFERING FOR STAFF RECOGNITION SUNDAY MAY 20

Each year in the late spring we recognize our staff for their faithful service with a small token of our appreciation Sunday, May 20, 2007 we will take a special offering for this purpose. Please mark your donation "staff." Thank you! Staff Parish Relations Committee.

## TIME FOR GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Please submit names of graduates to the office by May 20. Include name, degree being awarded and or level of schooling completed. Thank you!

## MOTHER'S DAY WORSHIP DEDICATION

Sunday, May 13, we will dedicate sanctuary memorial gifts: a new Paschal candle in memory of Jennie Strain, the restored baby grand piano, in memory of Jennie Strain, the new Yamaha Clavinova electronic piano in memory of Ralph Enloe and grandparents of Nancy Enloe, as well as in memory of Lynette Jordan, the new lectern in memory of Delores Nelson and new hymnals in memory of many loved ones. Family members are invited to submit memorial information for publication in the bulletin insert by May 9, 2007 to the church office, 299-4615.

## PASTOR GOES TO SOUTH KOREA

Pastor Denice Leslie will be in South Korea, May 14 – 23 for a Western Jurisdiction Korean Mission Evangelism trip that will include learning about Korean church growth through worship, evangelism, prayer and outreach ministries in Seoul as well as trips to mission sites.

## 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)*

## AN INSPIRING THEORY

Nudgings. That's basically what we focused on at the District Training Session on Saturday, April 14, 2007. Have you had an inspiration of something you'd like to do or see done in our church? Such desires or guidances inspired by God are called spiritual agitations. These are inspirations that become struggles and sometimes die because they are not supported or implemented. These are ministries that we really are asked to do but they don't happen and we end up in our boring meetings again and again. Denice and I spent the whole day Saturday listening to a revitalization theory. The speakers were from a church in Ohio with less than 100 members, on its way out, dying, actually, with a 2% unemployment hoisted on its community every year from factories closing. This

church grew to three services, 600 members and 150 ministries in 10 years. It is now a thriving, vital church serving and giving in an authentic manner, straight from the hearts of its members. They have had spiritual growth that develops strong participants who are supported and have a way to get things done that are effective.

We talked about how many times we drop back from inspirations to a comfort zone, a place where we don't have to think about "that idea" because we became uncomfortable and discouraged and sometimes isolated.

The name of our conference was "Deepening your Effectiveness", by Dan Glover and Claudia Levy. It is a church revitalization experience laid out in steps with good definitions. There is hope. You will be hearing more. A lot of times, those good ideas or inspirations are messages of things we need to do. Listen carefully. Let us know. More is coming.

Gloria McClanahan

## Administration & Stewardship

### GIFTS AND MEMORIALS REPORT

The new podium that has appeared on the chancel floor is from the Dolores Nelson Memorial Fund. The bright new spring flowers recently planted in the church grounds are from Jane McClanahan's Memorial Fund. Lynette Jordan's Memorial Fund is being applied to the Clavinova balance. We graciously thank these families for remembering Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis in the loss of their loved ones and for their choices which enhance our church.

## 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*

### UMW NEWS

- May 7<sup>th</sup> – Board meeting, 9 am, Lose Library
- May 9<sup>th</sup> – Red Bird Circle, 9:30 am, Lose Library
- May 12<sup>th</sup> – Fashion Show, Salad Luncheon, 11:30 am, Social Hall, Tickets: \$7
- May 15<sup>th</sup> – Regular meeting, 10 am, Social Hall.  
Program: Pauline Middleton "In Search of God's Gold"
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Wesley Circle, 1 pm. Dorothy Heskett's home, 7840 E. Bullard, Clovis

## 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)*

### SIERRA VILLA REST HOME

We are pleased to "welcome aboard" Cecelia Acton to our team at Sierra Villa each Friday to share the good news of God through songs, words from the Bible, and caring.

Pastor Denice brings the communion service and message to them once a month. Molly Lovgren and Margie Magargee treat the residents with a birthday cake and party the third Friday of each month, while Judy Gross delights them with songs on the electrical keyboard. The remaining Fridays the message has been coming from Pastor Laurence Hill, Judy and Lorraine. We shall miss Pastor Laurence as he heads for Kansas. He has been a true asset.

It's a rewarding ministry. We'd like you to share that time with us, too. Just speak to Pastor Denice or Lorraine May

### THRIFT SHOP NEWS

We were open once again on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of April. We were running competition with Big Hat Day in Clovis on Saturday so it was a rather slow day. However, Friday was great and between the two we took in around \$750.

Again, we had some really good merchandise and that helps so much. So thanks for all you give.

I know I keep saying this but 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. Pauline has expressed a need for someone to help her in jewelry and fabric. If you would consider giving her a hand, please call her.

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. We have had reports of donations being taken from the shed.

Submitted by Pat Frey

# Congregational Care

*Giving Special Care to Others*

## **SPECIAL FRIENDS**

On Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, Special Friends members Max Cannon, Janet Bonzo, Pauline Middleton, John Tallmadge and Lorraine May, met in the Lose Library at 1:30 pm

We opened our meeting with a version of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm used at the UMW Retreat at Oakhurst, and sang "He Leadeth Me: O Blessed thought." We joined in prayer for our group and asked for guidance as we explored ways to be special friends.

Briefly, we shared what was happening in our own lives. Our learning exercise, "Helping One Through Grief," came from Kenneth Haugh's book, *Experiencing Grief*.

We added new addresses and phone number for two special friends when giving our reports. During March, 48 phone calls were made, 1 letter was written, 50 cards were sent, and 20 visits were made, 4 to hospitals.

I want to add a special thanks to Mac Magargee, who isn't a member of our group, but has been our "transportation officer" taking Betty Skidmore to two destinations. We are seeking more volunteers to fulfill this needed service for our shut-ins.

We closed with prayer at 2:30 pm. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 pm in the Lose Library. Will you join us?

Blessings, Lorraine May

## **THANK-YOU NOTES**

Please accept my appreciation to Denice Leslie, George Elgin, Laurence and all of you for your prayers, calls, cards and visits while I was in the hospital. I am home now and doing well.

God bless, Opal Spears

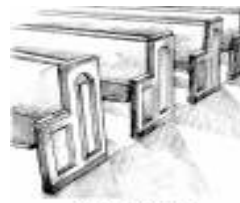
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Thank you for your continuing prayers for our 3-year-old great grandson, Jacob Tubbs. His brain tumor is inoperable. So far monthly tests show it has not grown. He takes medicine to stop the seizures. He looks and acts like a normal child. His father's ulcers have returned. We can only pray for a miracle. Your support means so much to us all.

Art and Bev Daly and family



- Sunday 05/06/07 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Movie Nite (Bungalow)  
Sunday 05/13/07 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting (Bungalow)  
Sunday 05/20/07 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting (Bungalow)  
Saturday 05/26/07 8:00 - 12:00 p.m. Poverello House Work Day  
Sunday 05/27/07 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting (Bungalow)



Back Pew

## **FAREWELL TO CHERYL ROBLYER, SECRETARY**

April 30<sup>th</sup> we said goodbye to our church office secretary Cheryl Roblyer. Cheryl has been with us for the past nine years. During

that time she has "held down the fort" for all of us through thick and thin. Working in a front office environment of unrelenting interruptions Cheryl smiled and carried on with patience and good humor bearing with saints and sinners.

While with us, she and daughter Kimmy lost their beloved husband and father Augie to the ravages of diabetes. Cheryl's own health over these years has suffered a blow with deteriorating disks in her neck causing radiating numbness and pain, headaches and swelling of her hands. In addition, her mother's health has declined to the point where Cheryl decided it is necessary to provide her with more attention and daily care. Future plans include more schooling to improve her long term economic well being.

We appreciate everything Cheryl brought to the office and to all of us and wish her God's speed in the years ahead. The office volunteers and others gathered for a farewell luncheon to say their goodbyes. If you would like to drop a note of appreciation to her, please address your cards to the office and we will forward them to her.



## LESLIE'S SALT SHAKER

Sunday May 20 is Pentecost! I invite you to wear flame colors to worship. Pentecost is the fiftieth day after Easter when the first disciples received the Holy Spirit. The scripture in Acts 2: 1-21 tells us that the disciples were all together in the upper room when tongues of fire appeared over each one, and they began to proclaim the good news of the gospel. All who heard understood in their own languages!

We are blessed at Memorial to have ministry occurring in three language groups every Sunday: English, Hmong and Korean! All of us proclaiming the good news in our own language and yet all of us understanding one another: the saving grace of Jesus Christ!

The Holy Spirit speaks to us in "sighs too deep for words" regardless of our culture or language. The Holy Spirit brings the words of scripture, over 2,000 years old, alive and applicable for a new day. The Holy Spirit guides us in communicating the message of God's unconditional love for a new generation. And yet the message itself never changes!

Christ's spirit is alive and well and active among us. Our task is to be present and to listen for the nudgings and the warnings of the Spirit so we may be attuned to God's will for us as individuals and as congregations.

## COACH'S CORNER

Last month we initiated efforts to begin evangelistic outreach for church growth to senior adults and to a younger generation as we contemplate new worship services designed to meet the needs of each, as well as ministries addressed to each. This is part of our church growth strategy.

Some are concerned that we are dividing along generational lines. The gift is the church is the last institution in America where all generations gather and are present to one another. Old and young need each other. It is also true that there are different generational needs that the church needs to address. These include different styles of worship and music.

The fact is that these worship and musical interests are not entirely confined to any one specific generation—some younger people prefer more traditional worship and music while some older people prefer more contemporary music and worship. The point is to give people choice. Choice results in more participation by a greater number of people because more needs are being met. Targeting specific constituencies through worship styles and music meets more needs than one blended service of worship can offer.

Memorial had a service aimed at younger people started more than 20 years ago. Over time, as the years passed, both services were meeting the needs of mostly one generation. That service dwindled and music leadership declined. We combined

the services in order to improve the quality of worship overall, the energy present in our large sanctuary and to put our best foot forward musically in order to maximize the strengths that we had at that time. Now it is time to "branch out" again. We have many assets now we did not have before both musically and technologically—AND multi-culturally!

As we age and as the culture changes around us the differences in generational life experience and needs widens. Unless we address those realities, we will not reach younger generations with the gospel. At the same time we have the opportunity to play to one of our strengths: mature adults. I don't know of any churches targeting the needs of seniors. So... our evangelism strategy has a two pronged approach: mature adults and younger folks.

God is good! Let us lift up these efforts in prayer, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I ask each of you to consider how you can do your part in supporting them. More information will be coming to you—watch for it.

With hope and anticipation, Pastor Denise Leslie

## THE RITUALS OF LEAVING

To the Post Office for change of address cards. To U-Haul for boxes. Signing out with PG&E and Clovis Water and Sewer. Moving our address with Better Homes and Gardens, etc. Saying goodbye to the Memoir Writing Group and the Quilters' Guild. These are some of the rituals of leaving.

Yet the most painful rituals are the ones of leaving our Church family. They have already begun with the hugs at UMW, Men's Club, Thrift Shop, Boutique, Special Friends and Witness Group. You are missional. We remember the Hmong Ministries and the tremendous offerings for Katrina's displaced persons. You worship well. We know you so well that as you go up for communion we can identify you by your limp, leap or shuffle. And you know us so well that you can tell at a glance when we're stressed out.

Day by day our house gets emptier and emptier as things disappear from the walls to nestle in boxes labeled "kitchen" or "living room", threatening to swamp the house. We have to acknowledge that we'll most likely never again see Shaw and Armstrong, Bullard and Clovis Avenues and yes, even 1726 Pollasky. And we must admit that chances are we'll never again see you, our many dear friends and co-workers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Because we are called by God to minister to little Timmy and let our son, Tim, minister to us, we are tearing up our roots here (they got deeper than we ever dreamed) and going to little city called Tonganoxie, Kansas with a fine United Methodist Church, not far from the University of Kansas at Lawrence. There we will go through the rituals of putting down new roots.

Yet, there is a brighter, positive, hopeful reality. As Dee Carr put it, "you will be missed but love goes with you". You are not like our house. We cannot close the door and walk away. You have given us too much and have changed us too much, and are inside our hearts. Some have even said "You be sure to call and tell us when you get safely to Kansas." We thank you all.

So Christ is in His Body both here and in Kansas. Thus the spark of the Holy Spirit leaps from here to there and back. We love you and will miss you but we are united in the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

Jean and Laurence Hill, April 22, 2007