



GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United Methodist Church October 2008

"The Mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

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THE STEWARDSHIP OF BREAD: The theme of this fall's financial stewardship campaign is titled "The Stewardship of Bread." The focus is on our spiritual hunger and the world's need for bread. Jesus is the Bread of Life. He calls us to be bread for the world in his name: to feed the hungry, cloth the naked, serve the needy and speak up for them. Each of three weeks, beginning Sunday October 12, 2008 our theme will focus on bread: Growing, Making and Sharing. Stewardship Sunday will be October 26, 2008. Watch for the beautiful posters in the lobby of the church designed by Jan Richardson, a United Methodist Pastor, and for inserts in your bulletin and letters sharing more with you about mission and ministry priorities for our new year.

BLESSING OF OUR PETS OCT. 5: On Sunday October 5, IMAGINE! will hold a Blessing of Our Pets service at 9:30 a.m. Bring your dogs, cats, goldfish, lizards, and parakeets to an outside worship area that morning, so that you and your animal friends can be blessed and prayed for. This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures, and as a reminder of our responsibility as stewards of God's world. Francis, whose feast day is October 4th, wrote many beautiful prayers and songs that praised and thanked God for all creation, especially the animals. He loved the larks flying about his hilltop town. And once, Francis and his fellow brothers, staying in a small hovel, allowed themselves to be displaced by a donkey! For more information, please contact Connie Alfaro.

CROP WALK – October 19th!! It's time to get out your walking shoes again! The Fresno-Clovis CROP Hunger Walk will happen at 2:30 on Sunday, October 19th. We will be walking for 1.5 or 3 miles (your choice) beginning and ending at the Islamic Cultural Center, 2111 E. Nees Avenue, Fresno. Registration for Walk participants will begin at 1:00. This event is the largest interfaith walk in Fresno County and include as walkers people of many different faiths and organizations. We are Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Scouts and students, youth group members and businessmen, teachers and homemakers, old, young, and inbetween. We have been walking in our community for over 20 years raising funds and raising awareness of the plight of those who must walk every day for their most basic needs. When you walk or support a CROP Walker, 75% of your donation will go to Church World Service, a national interfaith organization that works through partner agencies to help relieve the suffering of those touched by natural disaster, poverty, war, etc. The organization is a "first responder" to natural disaster. They were on the scene for the recent California fires and Midwest flooding and are in Texas right now, providing hope and help to those affected by Hurricane Ike. They are in India, the Sudan, Indonesia. Wherever there is need, Church World Service is there. The additional 25% of funds raised by the local walk goes to the Community Food Bank of Fresno County, helping the increasing number of hungry right here in our own area. For more information on how you can walk or support a walker, please see Sue DeFranco. Please pray for our Walkers that they may walk safely.

Upcoming Events!

FALL LEARNING EVENT- SAVE THE DATES!

This year's fall learning event is scheduled for November 7th & 8th. Friday will once again be geared toward pastors and key lay leaders, Saturday will be an opportunity for everyone to participate. As always you are encouraged to bring a team from your church! This year our teaching leader will be Doug Anderson, the executive director of the United Methodist affiliated Bishop Rueben Job Center located in South Dakota. The Bishop Rueben Job Center was founded in 1998 and focuses on providing leadership and church development resources and support to congregations. So mark November 7th and 8th for the Fresno District Fall Learning event, you won't want to miss it! More information about location, cost, and price incentives will be coming soon.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS MET BY CHURCH:

Research says that 70% of Californians expect the church to do more to help couples stay married. Marriage and Engaged Encounter weekends are available to everyone this October in the Sacramento area. Engaged Encounter may be the best divorce insurance a couple can find. Couples that take a pre-marital course have a 30% better chance of survival. Why? It is not luck but skill that makes the difference. The skills taught on the Engaged Encounter weekend will outlast your car, refrigerator or computer. Engaged Encounter is even more effective than a counseling session. Skills as in sports need time to develop, as on our Engaged Encounter two-day retreat and a life-time together. Remember, "A wedding is a day, a marriage is for life." The next ***United Methodist Engaged Encounter*** weekend is scheduled for October 17 & 18, 2008, at the United Methodist Conference Center, 1276 Halyard Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95691. To register or get more information please contact Jerry & Sue Angove, www.encounter.org. Registration fee:

\$50.00, total cost: \$250.00 including the \$50.00 registration fee.

NEW ARTICLES COMING SOON! At the August Administrative Support Team meeting, the subject of Team reporting and general Church communication was discussed. In the interest of better communication with you, the congregation, we are asking each Team Leader to report once per year. It is felt this will engender more enthusiasm and support for the various programs and activities within the Church. The Church office (Sara) will establish a schedule for the various teams and will remind the Team Leader prior to the Newsletter deadline. We look forward to some exciting reports. John Erb, Chair, Ad Support Team.

Congregational Life

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:30

THRIFT SHOP NEWS: Another weekend another thousand dollars! Isn't that great? We had a slower than usual day on Friday (even though we did pretty well) but Saturday was busier than our usual Saturdays are. Of course the big yard sale helped us out in that most of their customers came by to see what we had and some of them bought. Anyway we had a preliminary count of \$1054 for both days. It was gratifying to see all the helpers at the yard sale. I'm sure Gloria appreciated their commitment for 3 to 6 hours of work too for a once a year thing. And seeing all that, I had a great idea. What if each of those helpers (except those who already help us) would make a 3 hour commitment to the Thrift shop once a month or once a year even? With all those folks, we wouldn't need any one person for a lengthy commitment. And I'm sure Mac and Howard would appreciate a weekend off once in awhile if a couple of men would show up to help with the heavy stuff at opening and closing. And that only takes a couple hours a day. Anyway, I think it's a great idea, what do you think? We

YOUTH NEWS

thank our volunteers again for all their help with special thanks again to Jodie Booze who helped us out both mornings. And to Janet Bonzo who worked Friday morning and all day Saturday for us. Now THAT'S commitment. We received donations from the leftovers at the yard sale and we welcome your donations all of September for our October opening. Let's make this a red letter year for apportionments! Blessings and thanks to you and again, please keep us in your prayers.
- submitted by Pat Frey

BOUTIQUE: The boutique will be November 14 and 15 of this year – mark your calendars! Pat Frey and her crew will be serving lunch both days. We have a beautiful quilt and lots of crafts for your holiday shopping. Remember to support our Country Store with your home made goodies. We will accept your craft contributions any Wednesday morning between 9 and 11 am. We look forward to another successful sale benefiting our church and our missions.

-The Boutique Group

UMW NEWS:

- Oct. 6: Executive Board Meeting at 9am in the Lose Library.
- Oct. 8: Red Bird circle meets at 9:30 am in the Lose Library.
- Oct. 21: Regular meeting at 10 am in the Social Hall. Program: Denice Leslie with a luncheon to follow hosted by the Executive Board. Please bring your own service.
- Oct. 22: Wesley circle meets at 1pm in the

MANY THANKS: God blessed us with a loving church family that upheld us with prayer and concern throughout the months of George's illness. Your beautiful tributes to him are treasured. Now I am surrounded by your compassion, love and encouragement for the new chapter in my life. Thank you.

-Pauline Middleton

LOST: Small sewing basket with dish towels, embroidery thread and loop. Please call Shirley– these are things for our Christmas boutique.

YOUTH CALENDAR

- ★ Sunday 10/05/08
 - 9:30 a.m. Blessing of Our Pets Service
 - 5:00 p.m. Holy Club Movie Nite (Bungalow)
- ★ Saturday 10/11/08
 - 10:30 a.m. Bungalow Work Day (Bungalow)
- ★ Sunday 10/12/08
 - 5:30 p.m. Holy Club Youth Group (Bungalow)
- ★ Sunday 10/19/08
 - CROP Walk
 - NO HOLY CLUB TODAY!
- ★ Saturday 10/25/08
 - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Poverello House Work Day
 - 7:00 p.m. Halloween Party/Lock-In
- ★ Sunday 10/26/08
 - 5:30 p.m. Holy Club Youth Group (Bungalow)

BUNGALOW WORK DAY OCT. 11: Our Bungalow is a mess! And is full of stuff we don't need or use or want anymore. So it's time to clean house! Please come out on Saturday Oct. 11 at 10:30 a.m., work hard, and be rewarded with a pizza lunch at 12:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Connie Alfaro.

HALLOWEEN PARTY OCT. 25

- What: Halloween Overnight Party
- Who: All Youth Grades 7-12 FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!
- When: Saturday, Oct. 25, 7:00 p.m. through Sunday, Oct. 26, 8:00 a.m.
- Where: The Haunted Bungalow at Memorial UMC 1726 Pollasky/Scott Ave., Clovis
- Required: COSTUME!!
- Bring: Snacks to share; Sleep over supplies (pillow, sleeping bag or blanket, toothbrush, clean clothes for the next day, etc.); Permission slips for you and your friends
- Plan to go: To Church the next morning
- Questions: Call Youth Director Connie Alfaro

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)*

WHY IS PASTOR PAUL JOSEPH NOT IN WORSHIP? Many have missed Pastor Paul Joseph's presence in worship. Where has he been? Our Hmong Ministry is now CHRIST church in development! The launch took place on Sunday September 7, 2008. And what a celebration was had that afternoon with choirs and testimonies and presentations! Our District Superintendent, Mariellen Yoshino along with the chair of the Emerging Congregations, New Church Development Committee of the annual conference, Vickie Healy. 57 new members were added to the rolls with resounding verbal responses of "Yes! I do!" and "Yes! I will!" Rev. Yang spent many Sundays this past Spring and Summer preparing his leadership for this new launch following his training at the Academy for New Church Development and the Conference on New Church Development. He will be with us with an update of the ministries progress every 5th Sunday. On those Sundays be sure to take a minute to be in conversation with him after service.

IMAGINE! NEW SERVICE OFF TO A GREAT START: Thank you everyone for your positive support and feedback about our new early worship service, *Imagine!* The attendance between the two services seems to be pretty evenly divided and to be attracting folks who are inclined to the particular style of worship and music offered. Many folks tried both services in order to decide. That's great! We are still evolving and working out the kinks. We thank everyone for their patience. The time between services is scrunched now. The time frame of offering a new service to attract new, younger folks could not be any earlier than 9:30 a.m. so the 9:30 -11:00 a.m. time frame was necessary. The Praise Team and Choir are now meeting thirty minutes earlier in order to rehearse more and simply warm up on Sunday a.m.'s. Special thanks to Kathy Cannon who is coming early to warm up the choir in the library before a final run through with Scott Hatfield in the sanctuary. Folks are missing coffee

hour after the late service. Any volunteers? It would be swell to have this time together! Speak with Max Cannon, Pastor Denice Leslie or Kathy Cannon if you would like to coordinate this. It's been suggested different groups take a month at a time. We have topped the new service with a song by Mercy Me called, *"I Can Only Imagine,"* which we will be changing once we come up to speed on other Christian music appropriate to the occasion, theme or season. We thank LaDonna Snow for proposing the song and giving us the inspiration for the name of the service. Imagine that! It's been pretty amazing what talent lies in our own congregation. We thank vocalists Cecil Leonardo and Moira Leslie who have sung the Mercy Me song so far; Bucky Babcock for playing the drums, Darren Williams on acoustical guitar and Scott Hatfield on Clavinova. Also Eric Field, Any Hanson-Smith, Laura Williams, Dona Leonardo, and Diane Zastovnik. We look forward to having more of our young people participate in the weeks ahead. All of these folks are offering their service as part of their ministry to the church. And let's not forget our hard working Tech Crew: Ron Zastovnik who comes up with the amazing presentation images, Gary Gentry who mans the station each Sunday and Wayne Golden who is our faithful sound operator.

FROM THE PASTOR

LESLIE'S SALT SHAKER: PASTOR TELL ME WHY? THE MEANING AND PRACTICE OF SERVING COMMUNION We pastors sometimes joke together about different ways communion is served as we seek to be faithful to our ordination vows of Word, Sacrament, and Order in guiding our congregations to fully understand the meaning of the sacraments and the liturgical practices associated with them. For instance, when communion is done by stations without an intentional pace and ambience including music or singing it can become *"drive-by"* communion. Or when a communion tray of bread is simply presented to a parishioner at the rail instead of serving the bread to each one we will call it, *"self-serve"* commun-

ion---Like a self-service gas station. Gone are the gracious and hospitable days when a gas station attendant pumped your gas, washed your windows, checked your wiper blades and your oil with a courteous "Sir" or "Mam." Serving the body of Christ at the Lord's Supper to each person at the rail is very important demonstration of Christian service and hospitality. Worship is "theological drama"—meaning we act out in our worship what we believe and what Jesus' teaches us. So in our communion services the bread is handed to each person by those serving, who, at the very least, the pastor(s), eat after all have been served. Why? Because we are taught by Jesus to be servants in a servant ministry after his example of what it means to be a disciple. We are to behave in reverse of the world's idea of greatness. Serving each person the bread and eating last models these basic Christian teachings. This helps to demonstrate Jesus' new commandment given at this supper: to love one another as I have loved you." After receiving we leave the table and go out through Mel Ward's "Servant's Entrance" into the world to be the body of Christ in service to others. We serve as Jesus served. Demonstrating the servant nature of Christian discipleship at the last supper Jesus took a towel and bowl of water and got down on his hands and knees and washed the disciples feet, commanding us to do the same, saying specifically he has set us an example (John 13). Some have shared concerns about the spreading of germs in the receiving of communion. In discussions about this in Worship Plan Team we decided to institute the ancient Christian liturgical practice of hand washing on the part of the servers prior to serving. We have been using peroxide to wash the servers hands and clean towels. After doing this for a couple of months (prior to the new worship schedule), we have established visually that only sanitized hands will touch the bread. Serving the bread with sanitized hands eliminates everyone in the congregation from touching the bread. To be more efficient the servers will come forward with the ushers and we will now sanitize hands at the time of the offering. May the peace of Christ fill your fall days with gratitude.

-Pastor Denise Leslie

COACH'S CORNER: Last May the Network hosted a session for us to go through the *Vital Signs*' indicator following the reading of the book. We have 40 copies of the book out all over the congregation and thank everyone who took an interest in reading it and in participating in the group process of completing the indicator.

This month the conference's Council on Congregational Development will have an online site open for us to input our collective response to the indicator and we will get some instantaneous feedback and an option of consulting assistance from the conference to help us be more vital, grow and reach out to our community.

Our District Superintendent, Mariellen Yoshino will be present with us at Charge (Annual Church) Conference on December 7, 2008 (at 5:00 p.m. in the Social Hall). The majority of that time will be devoted to a conversation which Rev. Yoshino will be guiding.

She invites us to consider a quote from the author of *Vital Signs*: United Methodist, Dan Dick, and scripture from Hebrews:

"...the church isn't about us. Its about God and God's vision for all creation. If any church is truly vital, its vitality comes from God, and it is the unrelenting focus on God that keeps it vital."

"So, let's go outside, where Jesus is, where the action is...Not trying to be privileged insiders, but taking our share in the abuse of Jesus. This "insider world" is not our home. We have eyes peeled for the City about to come. Let's take our place outside with Jesus, no longer pouring out the sacrificial blood of animals but pouring out sacrificial praises from our lips to God in Jesus' name...share what you have with others. God takes particular pleasure in acts of worship—a different kind of 'sacrifice'—that takes place in kitchen and work place and on the streets"... (Hebrews 13, The Message.

"So come on..." as we are encouraged in Hebrews 6: 1-3, let us grow "grow up in Christ, ...turning in trust toward God, baptismal instructions, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. God helping us, we'll stay true to all that. But there's so much more. Let's get on with it!"



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!!

Craig Eckert 02	Gaofoua Hang 02
Don Haulman 02	Sara Pachelbel 02
Anne Iseli 04	Kong Meng Moua 04
Tyler Abbott 06	Wayne Golden 06
Kou Hang 06	Ger Lee 09
Leonard Babcock 10	Pauline Middleton 10
Dhawb Hang 11	Zack Stoddard 11
Abigail Davis 15	Ngia Lee 15
Nancy Lee 15	Gail Davis 16
George Elgin 16	Joe Lee 16
Xue Lor 16	Timothy Vang 16
Xue Lor Xiong 16	Nenzgeng Hurr 18
Carolyn Ann Pippin 19	Marilyn Weyant 19
Max Cannon 20	Tara Leslie 20
Jim McClanahan 20	Ge Vicky Xiong 20
Laurence Hill 22	Ernie Sapigao 22
Joyce Lewis 24	Jina Vang 24
Jerry Vang 24	Phoua Hurr 25
Joan Bowser 28	Edward DeFranco 30
Donna Wamsley 30	Katelin Williams 30
Carol Febuary 31	