



GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United Methodist Church March 2009 Ph: 299-4615

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

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ALL CHURCH SNOW DAY MARCH 7: On Saturday March 7, everyone is invited to a "Day in the Snow!" We will meet at the church at 8:45 a.m. and return by 4:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex, so we can get a head count and volunteers for food items. (FYI: We may decide that morning that the weather or the roads are too dicey, and we won't go after all. If so, we'll stay at the church and play games and other activities for the morning, and have lunch together before we go home.) If you have any questions, please call Connie Alfaro or Laura Williams.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME – SPRING FORWARD ONE HOUR: Don't be late Sunday morning March 8, 2009. Set your clock a head one hour the night before. What a blessing to have the gift of more hours of sunshine with us into the evening time. Enjoy!

FOOD DRIVE DURING LENT: The Micah Ministries team will sponsor a Brown Bag Food Drive during the season of Lent. Pick up a bag on Sunday, March 1st, drop in some non-perishable food items and return your bag on Palm Sunday, April 5th. Your food donations will benefit our church food pantry and any surplus will go to the Clovis Salvation Army. We hope you will give sacrificially of your bounty to help those in need.

LEADER NETWORK MEETS SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2009: All Leaders gather for coordinating, calendaring, support and networking Sunday, March 22, 2009 in the Lose Library for our quarterly meeting following worship. Bring your calendars. A soup and bread lunch will be provided.

MEMORIAL WELCOMES MISSIONARY CAROL PARTRIDGE: We hope you will make a special effort to be in worship on Sunday, March 29th. You will have the opportunity to be inspired by the work and words of United Methodist missionary to Macedonia, Carol Partridge. Carol will speak at both the Imagine and the traditional worship services. The Micah Ministries team and the United Methodist Women will host a special coffee hour between the services and a finger food potluck after the 11:00 worship so you may meet and greet Carol. We are very excited to have this rare opportunity to hear firsthand the experiences of an active United Methodist missionary! Did you know that a portion of your tithes and offerings goes to the World Service Fund of the United Methodist Church? This connectional fund of our denomination depends on the support of local churches like ours to fund the work of United Methodist missionaries. When our church gives to the World Service fund, we support the work of missionaries like Carol Partridge at work in over 80 countries in our world and in the United States. Through our sacrificial giving, we are blessed with the opportunity to reach out in love to so many in so many places.

Upcoming Events

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SUNDAY

MARCH 22, 2009: One parishioner said that "Special Sundays are an opportunity for me to walk the talk. My world is small, and by participating in these offerings, I help people who are beyond my limited reach". The General Conference has created six unique Special Sundays to help congregations work with communities and rebuild shattered lives. March 22 is one such Sunday: One Great Hour of Sharing. Necessities of life include food, shelter, and clothing. However, many people around the world lack these basic necessities. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering makes these necessities a reality by sharing the goodness of life with those who hurt. When a catastrophe occurs (like Hurricane Katrina) your offerings to One Great Hour of Sharing enable the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to reach out and ease the pain and suffering with humanitarian aid of food, shelter, health and peace. It is important to note that unlike other mission programs UMCOR receives no World Service or other apportionment money. This is why your faithful support of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is crucial. God calls us to be the hands, heart and hope of the church for people who are suffering. Through One Great Hour of Sharing we enable the church to answer that call.

FORTY DAYS ON FOOT: The forty days of Lent have already started, but it's not too late to join in on the forty-day Lenten jog-a-thon, walk-a-thon or bike-a-thon – anything powered by your own feet, including treadmills and stationary bikes. In the spirit of the CROP Walk, let's see how much money we can raise for our Ethnic Minority apportionment by collecting pledges for how far we can travel over forty days. Participants will move their feet at their own time over the forty days – a mile a day – five miles in a weekend – whatever fits into their schedule. Getting a group together to move out in force would work, too. Anyone who is interested in participating can contact

Diane Zastovnik, the church office, or pick up a pledge form and mileage log in the Narthex. Anyone interested in pledging can sign up with any of the participants, or on the pledge sheet in the Narthex. Participants will not only get the benefit of helping to raise some of the \$2,101 we need for our share of the conference's Ethnic Minority Fund (which helps fund our Hmong ministry) but they will also get forty days of exercise to benefit their health.

Congregational Life

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

UMM BREAKFAST FOR March 7th: FYI for the next meeting which will be March 7th. What breakfast will be is still a work in progress. An attempt is being made to prepare a heart healthy breakfast that will complement a brief presentation Dr. Eric Elgin will be giving on interventional cardiology. This is also the Saturday we have a Heart Healthy Luncheon with Dr. Elgin presenting followed by a workshop. The luncheon will be preceded by defibrillator training which will begin at 9:30am following our breakfast meeting. There are a few openings remaining so if any of you are interested in that training please call Lucy Elgin. The breakfast isn't limited to just UMM members so bring a friend and introduce him to our fellowship. However, please let Max Cannon know if you plan to bring a friend so he can prepare accordingly.

UMW NEWS:

March 2: Executive Board meeting at 9 a.m. in the Library.

March 11: Red Bird Circle meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Library

March 17: Regular meeting at 10am in the Social Hall. Program: Mary Vollman with lunch to follow. Red Bird Circle hosts – please bring your own service. ALL women are welcome.

March 25: Wesley Circle at 1pm in the Social Hall. Program: Musical Film by Judy Gross and Mary Vollman.

BOUTIQUE NEWS: Mark your calendars for Sunday March 29th. Our missionary, Carol Partridge will be visiting us! The Boutique group talked about helping support a missionary for several years, so in 2006 we contacted the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church to learn about the possibilities. After much research, we decided on a covenant relationship with Carol Partridge in Macedonia. It involved signing a 3 year commitment for \$2500 a year which we did. With your help we have been able to fulfill that contract. Now it is time to renew that pledge and we decided to take it one year at a time. With your help in donations throughout the year and supporting the November sale, we should be able to keep this 'covenant relationship' with Carol Partridge going. Thanks again, The Boutique Group.

SPECIAL FRIENDS: Ten members of the Special Friends' Group met February 12th in the Lose Library with the reading of the church mission statement. The scripture reading was 1 Peter 4:10 "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." We joined in singing "I Would Be True". Our meditation was "Christ Revealed in Acts of Kindness" taken from Alive Now Jan-Feb 09. Briefly we shared how God had been blessing our lives. April 5th, our group has been asked to have a conversation with the Spiritual Leaders about our ministry in the church. We shared ideas about our mission and each member was asked to bring suggestion to answer the format questions and develop our mission statement at our March meeting. During reports on Special Friends we were saddened by the death of Pauline Eastham and the announcement of her funeral service Feb 14th. Jean Lenderman is now at Hypana, and phone connection has been made with her. Following birthdays in February, Howard Nelson and John Tallmadge will be added to our Special '90' list – congratulations to Howard and John! The Special Friends recorded 51 visits, 52 phone calls, 61 cards and 4 notes. Our next meeting will be Thursday March 12th at 3:30 pm. A closing

thought: Lord you gave us talents when we were born. Help us to use them every day to make a difference in this world. Blessings, Lorraine May

THRIFT SHOP NEWS: We're baaaack! At least for one more month. We had a great February, even with all the rain. Our preliminary count was \$1011. Thanks to all of you who rallied around us and brought all that good stuff in. Special thanks to Carrie Stocks. Her skillets, pots and pans were a real favorite and of course sold out almost immediately. But now we need more "stuff". So once again, take a look around and bring us all the stuff you don't really need or want anymore. Or just go ahead and bring in that bag of things you have been putting off bringing in. We really do need it AND we want it! We especially need kitchen items again. Seems we are always out of that. But we are selling lots and lots of other things too. We need baby clothes; whatever you have we'll take it. I'm sure I don't need to reiterate "clean and gently used". Once again, thanks to all our volunteers for all the hard work they put in every month. They are faithful and we are grateful. And thanks to you for all you do for us in donations. Blessings.

-submitted by Pat Frey

GOOD NEWS FROM THE PARISH NURSES: Finally the Healthy Heart Potluck is going to happen! We have been advertising and we hope we have many attendees. The luncheon will be March 7, 12:30 pm with the speaker immediately following. So bring your potluck and a friend for an informative session. The speaker is Dr Eric Elgin, (pray he doesn't get delayed in Denver); this is an opportunity to get all your questions answered so come with your list. He will do a short Power Point presentation then the questions. We are also working on handouts, prizes - it will be fun. We have 18 people now registered for the training that will be 9:30 - 12:30 pm and those people will not be bringing a potluck we will "cover" them. We have space for two more people for the training so call Lucy or the church. Good Health, Parish Nurses.

TEAM WORK, HANDING ON THE BATON AND SUCCESS!

Have you noticed the lighting in the sanctuary? The theatrical light fixtures have been lowered to the yellow acoustical wall so we may reach them with our own ladders! But don't miss the beauty of the new focus job. The lights are directed to the people speaking and performing in the chancel area as well as softly lighting up the cross. A special design surprise is the soft shadows of the cross cast on the window wall. In addition we have new lights in the organ and choir area to light up music which have been focused on those areas without glare in our eyes as we look up there. Holley & Sons Electrical did a wonderful job under Cecil Leonardo's direction. Gloria started the lighting solution project and Cecil completed it. Dona Leonardo is the new Chair Person of the Renovation Team and please direct any concerns of lighting maintenance to Jim McClanahan, Maintenance Chair Person.

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)*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR LENT

The scriptures assigned for the Sundays of Lent are listed here. You are encouraged to read through them, list your questions and open your bibles during the sermon to follow along as we delve into God's word for us this season.

Transfiguration: 2 Kings 2: 1 – 12, Psalm 50: 1 – 6, 2 Corinthians 4: 3 – 6 and Mark 9: 2-9. [We will observe Transfiguration on the First Sunday in Lent this year.]

First Sunday in Lent: Genesis 9: 8 – 7, Psalm 25: 1 – 10, 1 Peter 3: 18 – 22 and Mark 1: 9 -15. [These scriptures will not be preached this year. See pastors article for a reflection on the gospel passage.]

Second Sunday in Lent: Genesis 17: 1 – 7, 15 -16, Psalm 22:23 – 31, Romans 4: 13 – 25 and Mark 8: 31 – 38.

Third Sunday in Lent: Exodus 20: 1 - 17, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and John 2:13-22

Fourth Sunday in Lent: Numbers 21: s4 – 9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17 – 22 , Ephesians 2: 1 – 10 and John 3: 14-21.

Fifth Sunday in Lent: Jeremiah 31: 31-34, Psalm 51: 1 -12, Hebrews 5: 5-10 and John 12: 20-33.

Mark is the gospel focus this year for Palm/Passion Sunday and for Easter Sunday. You are invited to read through Mark through Lent for your spiritual growth.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

DINNERS FOR EIGHT: This is a social group started in the church some years back. So long ago, in fact, that I can't remember exactly when. At least three of us have headed it. As I remember, Wanda Grimsley was the original one, followed by Nancy Enloe and currently me. It is a wonderful way to get to know people in the congregation. Even if you know who they are, sitting at a meal seems to allow for more relaxed conversation and ultimately more in depth knowledge. We have groups of eight or six as the case may be who meet at one of the homes once each month for three months. At the end of three months, we have a different set of people and it starts all over again for three months. We don't meet in the months of July and August because of vacations. And we don't meet in December. But those of us who are still in it have a great time and a marvelous meal once a month. We currently need more people in dinners for eight, which has really dwindled to dinners for six. If you are new to the church it's an avenue to meet people, share food, and enjoy great hospitality and fellowship. It doesn't matter who you are or whether you are single or married. We would welcome you. And if you prefer not to cook or don't really want to invite people into your home, other options are available. If

you area interested please give me a call -
Submitted by Pat Frey

FROM THE PASTOR

GRIEF RECOVERY: One of the loneliest feelings we can experience is when our loved one is no longer with us. The purpose of the Grief Recovery Team is to help the grieving person through several phases of recovery. These phases will not necessarily follow the same course for each person, nor do they have a set time period which they follow. There are many causes of grief besides a loss of life; we can grieve due to a change of life stage, a move due to position change or transfer, loss of home or property, disability, or other major life event. We may be in a state of shock from a tragic experience leaving us numb for a while as a temporary escape from reality. This may be followed by a show of emotion. Let it out. There is a stage of depression or loneliness, or even blaming someone for your grief – yes, even yourself. Panic may also grab hold of the grieving person. There may be other difficult stages for a grieving person, but do not despair! We listen and talk with you at anytime in fullest confidence. Please call John or Gil. With God's help we have been in touch with sixteen families in the short time we have been on call.

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH CALENDAR:

- ★ Sunday 03/01/09 NO Holy Club Meeting
- ★ Saturday 03/07/09 Snow Day (if we still have snow!)
- ★ Sunday 03/08/09 5:00 Youth Movie Nite, Bungalow
- ★ Sunday 03/15/09 5:30 Holy Club Meeting, Bungalow
- ★ Sunday 03/22/09 5:30 Holy Club Meeting, Bungalow
- ★ Saturday 03/28/09 8:00 a.m. Poverello House Work Day
- ★ Sunday 03/29/09 5:30 Holy Club Meeting, Bungalow

LESLIE'S SALT SHAKER: The gospel passage for the First Sunday in Lent is Mark 1 9 – 15. This is the account of Jesus being baptized by John in the River Jordan and how the God proclaims him, "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased." Traditionally during Lent, those new to the faith prepare for baptism. Baptism is God's welcome, God's embracing grace and affirmation that we are God's beloved with whom he is well pleased. We don't always get that message during Lent because the focus is on the costs of discipleship. Those who follow Jesus and are loyal to God's way run into the not-so-loving ways of the world. Our own limitations too often contribute to the hurt, pain and injustice of life. This is when we look to Jesus and see that he was willing to be God's embrace for the whole world even if it meant dying on a cross. We see his example and realize that discipleship can be costly for all who follow depending on the circumstance we find ourselves in. We are called to take up our cross and follow after him—that is: to be loving and just even if it means putting ourselves in harms way in order to be loyal to God's way. That is something we unconsciously dismiss and so we walk on by the cross without another glance in its direction. The rest of the scripture passage invites us to struggle with what it means to follow faithfully. It says after his baptism the Spirit immediately drove Jesus out into the wilderness where he was tempted for forty days and forty nights. Lent is a period of 40 days set aside to help us examine ourselves, our relationship with God, with others and with the larger world. Jesus knows our struggle because he is human just like we are. He was tempted, he was afraid, especially after his cousin John the Baptist was arrested and killed, but he chose to place his life in God's hands and continue his ministry of proclaiming the Good News of God's grace for all. It's a day by day decision we make. Staying close to Jesus through daily scripture reading and prayer is the best way to walk with him through the daily circumstances that call us to choose the his way or the world's way. It's a journey. May the journey of living the Good News daily be our home. Pastor Denice Leslie



MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

Cleora Dillon 01	Madysen Morales 11
Maikao Moua Xiong 02	Nancy Spencer 13
Carter Yang 02	Sharon Babcock 15
Ryan Alfaro 03	Chia Her 15
Stacey Crosslin 03	Mai See Vang 15
Gene Doss 04	Kindra Snow 16
Blair Markland 04	Matthew Babcock 17
Nadalie Vang 04	Kyler Chang 19
Rachel Hutchinson 05	Opal Spears 20
Curtis Autry 06	Herb Spencer/21
Xeng Vang 07	Andrea Pond 22
Kim Williams 09	Jan Brown 23
Wayne Adams 10	Carrie Stocks 25
Bev Daly 10	Clark Lee 28
Esther Gaffney 10	Nell Marchbanks 28
Susan Lowrey 10	Wanda Rogers 28
Stella Schaa 10	Sharlene Sautter 30
Rich Bonzo 11	Madeline Freundt 31