



# GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United Methodist Church May 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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### **STAFF APPRECIATION LOVE OFFERING SUNDAYS: May 10 & 17th**

Your Staff Parish Relations affirms your hard working staff each year with a small token of appreciation usually in the form of gift cards and a word of thanks. Sundays May 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> you will have opportunity to be part of our affirmation with your gift toward our annual Staff Appreciation. The staff members will be recognized on Sunday, May 31st.

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE June 17-22**

Annual Conference is just a month away. We will be represented by our Pastors and also by Dee Carr (who is home again!!) and Lorraine May. Our Conference Offering this year will go to our West Angola Partnership, designated for purchase of a John Deere tractor, disc plow, and cultivator for the Agricultural Training Farm near Porto Quipiri, north of Luanda.

A message from our Bishop:  
*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

*I look forward to greeting you at the 161st Session of our California-Nevada Annual Conference, to be celebrated June 17-22 in Sacramento, California. We will gather under the theme of our Conference Vision - extolling "Passion in Jesus Christ, Compassion for All."*

*This year we will begin our work by gathering together as one group on Wednesday, June 17 at 10 am to open our days of Christian conferencing before moving to clergy and laity sessions in the afternoon. Furthermore, I am eagerly anticipating the opportunities for learning and growth that will be afforded by the Thursday workshops.*

*Please join me in prayer that our work in preparation for this session and the work of the session itself will honor and glorify the One we are called to serve, so that disciples are made for Him, for the transformation of the world.*

*Your Brother in Christ,  
Warner H. Brown, Jr.*

### **MISSION PROJECT: BRING YOUR USED GLASSES, HEARING AIDS AND CEL PHONES!**

We will be collecting these items to take with us to Annual Conference! Recycling these devices benefits the needy and provides income for travel expenses for our Volunteers In Mission coordinator. We will have a basket in the narthex next week.

**IMAGINE! UPDATE** - The **Imagine!** service has added a new element, "The Work of the People" in which a different ministry or mission leader lifts up a particular ministry to help us pray for the work of this particular expression of our discipleship to Show and Tell Jesus Love Everywhere and to reinforce our vision of Empowered Servant Leadership. Also, as a way to engage the five senses in experiencing God's presence, a water bowl has been added the entrance to remind us of the waters of baptism and feel the refreshing presence of God. Worshipers may dip their hands in the water, or dip and touch their faces or make the sign of the cross as they enter or exit.

We also recently purchased an electronic drum set with grant money, which greatly improved the drumming options and the quality of the sound. We've been blessed with our musicians!

Please continue to pray for this ministry as we prepare to take the service "public." Next we are adding a table at the back for children to color or do activity pages during worship with a helper each Sunday. Bring your little ones, they are welcome! Dorrie always has the Quiet Room open and ready too for wee ones and moms or dads if they want a space where they can hear and see worship and baby can be baby.

## Upcoming Events

### **ANNUAL INTERFAITH BACCALAUREATE:**

For the third year, the Interfaith Youth Alliance is hosting an Interfaith Baccalaureate, to be held here at Memorial UMC on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30 – 6:00. Honoring the Class of 2009 from Clovis, Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley, they will have a program which includes:

- Guest speaker: Mikendra McCoy, 2009 Clovis Unified Crystal Award Winner, Teacher and award winning Forensics and Debate Coach, Clovis East
- Musical Performances by:
  - The Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble
  - Roaa Atef, CEHS Senior Exchange Student from Yemen

There will be refreshments served (\$5 donations accepted), and everyone is welcome!

### **GRADUATION AND PROMOTION SUNDAY!**

Watch for more info – Scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup>!

**NEW ADULT CLASS - Sunday, May 17, at 11:00 A.M.** - *The Jesus We Never Knew: The historical Jesus and the Christ of Faith.*

Who was Jesus of Nazareth? Who is the Christ of the Gospels? What did he teach about the reign of God? What happened to convince his followers he was God with us? What is his message and his work for today? How have they been misunderstood and obscured and how are they being rediscovered in our time?

Explore these questions using resources such as Huston Smith's classic *The Religions of the World*, Brian McLaren's *The Secret Message of*

*Jesus*, and Phillip Yancey's *The Jesus I Never Knew*. If this sounds like something you'd like to explore, bring your Bible and join Kim Leslie in the Library. This class will meet through June.

### **NETWORK LEADERS TO MEET MAY 31<sup>st</sup>!**

The Network is for **all** Leaders of the church and is the heart beat of Empowering Servant Leaders and Showing and Telling Jesus' Love Everywhere. **If you lead a group, ministry or mission team, Network is where we "network": support each other, cooperate, calendar, coordinate, seek feedback from your group or teams on issues affecting the whole church, or plan events for the whole church.** Luscious soup lunch provided. The Network meets on Sunday after the second service May 31st in the Lose Library.

### **PRAYER AND MEDITATION SERVICE**

**Tuesday, June 2**

Need an evening of respite, prayer and meditation? Come to the Prayer and Meditation Service held the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. This is a lovely, quiet and nourishing hour of worship. Communion is celebrated, intercessory prayer is lifted up and prayer for health and wholeness is offered at the rail.

Here's what one member had to say about a recent service: "The Healing Service promotes joy. The healing service works well for problems but there are also wonderful things about coming to the monthly event. Denice always gives a short inspiring message and recently at the rail for private prayer time, I asked that my mother who at 89 years and in good health be blessed. It was a wonderful uplifting experience to have Denice pray for a precious part of my family's life, my mother." Gloria McClanahan

### **FRESNO DISTRICT LAY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY AT WESLEY UMC IN BAKERSFIELD, CA: May 16**

Great workshops are planned for this Academy! Saturday May 16: Workshops 9:30AM to 10:50AM and then repeat 11:10 – 12:30 p.m.

#### Topics:

1. Basic Lay Speaking - Susan Foster. A continuation of the year long training for lay speakers.

2. Men's Ministry with Richard Thompson. How to develop a vital men's ministry, resources on men's ministry, questions and answers.
3. Nothing but Nets with Karen Stoffers-Pugh. Overview of this mission ministry, history, ideas, ways to get involved. Bring a Bible.
4. Drama Ministry with Mack Phillips. Purpose, types and how to build a drama ministry.
5. Small Group Leadership with Mike Harrell. Overview of small group leadership dynamics.

**ST. PAUL'S UMC 135<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:**

**Saturday, May 16**

St. Paul's UMC in Fresno invites you to celebrate 135 years of ministry with them! Join St. Paul's for a picnic on their church grounds at noon. Then on Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup> they will celebrate with a guest preacher Mariellen Yoshino.

**MAY UMW**

No Executive Board Meeting this month

**May 13 – 9:30 am** Red Bird Circle - Library

**May 19 – 10:00 am** Regular Meeting - Program: Newell Knudson "World Day of Prayer". Bring Blue Boxes. Lunch after by Wesley Circle. Bring your own service. ALL women welcome!

**May 27 – 1:00 pm** Wesley Circle – Social Hall



**MINNIE ELLER**

Longtime member Minnie Eller passed away the morning of Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> after having a major stroke at the end of the preceding week. Our condolences and prayers are with Joan Pregno and Minnie's entire extended family.

A Memorial Service followed by lunch was held here at Memorial UMC on Monday, May 4th at 12:00 p.m. Minnie's family has indicated that Memorial gifts may be made to Memorial UMC, Academy Church (send to MUMC) or Nancy Hinds Hospice (Hinds Hospice Home, 1416 W. Twain Avenue, Fresno, CA 93711).

**C.H.R.I.S.T. CHURCH – WE REMEMBER** Our Hmong congregation lost two beloved fathers in April, Tong Xeng Yang, and Jousa Vue Hang.

Our prayers are with the Hang and Yang families and the entire Hmong family for their losses.

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

**COFFEE HOUR**

Sidewalk café style coffee hour is now being offered between services outside the Fellowship Hall. Come join us! We are rotating hosts and cookie donations. If you, your team or group would like to host a coffee hour, please contact Sharon Hutchinson or Gloria McClanahan.

**COMMUNION OPTIONS!**

You have more communion options than ever at MUMC to personalize your experience. Every week communion is served in the Imagine service, and everyone is welcome! In the 11 am service, we've changed the way we get to and from communion to come forward using the center aisle, and after you've received communion, you can choose whether to stand or kneel at the rail and pray for a time, or return to your seat for your meditation. Of course, those with mobility concerns may remain seated in the pew to be served.

**GOT FREQUENT FLYER MILES?**

Rev. Carolyn Talmadge & Deacon Diana Bohn are trying to send young people to national UMC events and are in need of frequent flyer miles on American, Allegiant, Delta or Continental Airlines. Young people considering ordained ministry are hoping to attend the Exploration Event in Dallas in November, and college students are looking forward to attending the UM Student Forum in Shreveport. If you are willing to donate miles please contact Diana in the District Office.



**PARISH NURSE NEWS**

The Healthy Heart Day was very successful. Twenty five people are now certified for CPR and to use our new Defibrillators - This is great - add this to those already trained (including two of our teenagers) and we have a great team.

The luncheon was great - the food is always superb. I have heard nothing but compliments of

our speaker. Our son Eric was holding to a promise from a couple of years ago - (I think he thought I would forget) - to present a program. Eric is board certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiology and recently Interventional Cardiology.

A humongous thank you to the many people that contributed time and talents in making this so successful. We - the Parish Nurses hope that this will contribute to a more physically healthy congregation. Future plans are for a program on Cancer and I have not forgotten the request for "Ask the Nurse Practitioner".

Blessings and Good Health, Lucy and the Parish Nurses.

### MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

**SPECIAL FRIENDS:** On April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Special Friends Group began with the Mission Statement followed by prayer. The scripture was Mark 14:66-72, Peter's denial of Jesus. "The Cock Crows" was the meditation taken from the Upper Room for Maundy Thursday. The Lenten song was "When I survey the Wondrous Cross." We shared our walk with Jesus this Holy Week.

We reviewed the questions to be discussed during the conversation with the Spiritual Leaders May 3<sup>rd</sup>. As new business we were asked to think about a policy giving guidance to those fulfilling a need requesting help, and a suggestion for an earlier meeting time for Thursdays. Reports on Special friends showed 56 phone calls, 24 cards, 30 visits plus 39 made by Pat Frey at St. Agnes Hospital. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm. Closing thought: The painful truth of Good Friday makes possible our eternal Easter.

Blessings, Lorraine May

### YOUTH NEWS

#### YOUTH CAR WASH RESULTS

We washed 19 cars for a total donation of \$185.00, including one kind donor who gave us \$20.00 to NOT wash his car!

#### **YOUTH CALENDAR:**

- ★ Sunday 05/03/09 5:00 p.m. Holy Club Movie Nite, Bungalow

- ★ Sunday 05/10/09 5:30 p.m. Holy Club Meeting, Bungalow
- ★ Sunday 05/17/09 5:30 p.m. Holy Club Meeting, Bungalow
- ★ Sunday 05/24/09 NO HOLY CLUB - Happy Memorial Day!
- ★ Sunday 05/31/09 5:30 p.m. Holy Club Meeting, Bungalow



### FROM THE PASTOR

#### LESLIE'S SALT SHAKER

I was leaving for potluck and choir rehearsal last Thursday when I stepped out my front door and this big old golden lab bounded up on the porch and nearly knocked me flat. I grabbed her collar and knew immediately if I didn't let her go she'd happily drag me down the street with her. She was bored out of her mind.

Her owner, an elderly neighbor up the street came up with her leash and of course that just caused "Abigail" to happily bound off. As we watched her sniff everything in sight and run as fast and far as she could away from that leash and the same old same old yard where all the sniffs were old hat, I thought to myself: "We all need a walk!" Everybody needs a walk away from the routine of daily life once in a while.

With the Spring weather and summer not far behind I wish us all a good walk—a walk of refreshment with Jesus during this Easter season. A walk that will raise us up to new "sniffs" and endless possibilities about what might lie around the corner of the next house, the next street, the next day. May we always be open to the wonder and possibilities God blesses us with in life and enjoy it all—every possible moment, and each other, and everything everywhere!

In the name of the Risen Christ who walked out of the cold tomb and into life to lead us into life, may you walk faithfully in his name.

Pastor Denice Leslie