

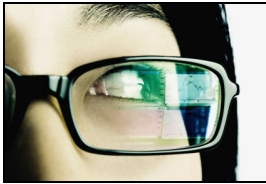


GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United Methodist Church August 2010 Ph: 299-4615

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

QUICK LOOK



Congregational
Life
Page 2

Thrift Store,
Page 2

Special Friends,
Page 2

Youth,
Page 3

From the Pas-
tor,
Page 4

Calendar,
Page 5

Birthdays,
Page 6

CHARGE CONFERENCE TO APPROVE PASTOR'S PACKAGE Aug. 3: Any member who wishes to attend a charge conference for approving the pastor's package is welcome to attend. The conference will be August 3 at 4:30 pm in the Lose Library.

NEW DIRECTORY PICTURE SIGNUP DATES: Since we've had such a huge response to the picture signups, in addition to the August 13 & 14 dates we will also be taking pictures September 10 & 11 for our new pictorial directory with LifeTouch photography! There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex – please select a day and time that you can come to have your picture taken.

"THANK YOU CONNIE" PARTY Aug. 15: We want to thank Connie for all the years she has put in as youth director here at MUMC with a party on Sunday Aug 15 at 5:30 pm. If you have any pictures of Connie or past youth events, or a written memory or 'thank you', please leave them in the office or send them to Sara at sara@mem-umc.org.

LIVE NATIVITY PLANNING MEETING Aug. 22nd : The Live Nativity that we did last year was such great way to reach out to our neighbors and community that we want to do it again! It almost seems too hot to be thinking about Christmas yet, but we want to be prepared and on top of things, so we're going to meet in the Lose Library on Aug. 22 after the 11:00 worship service. There will be a yummy lunch provided, so come join us, and help us to plan this wonderful event!

NETWORK MEETING Aug 29: Network will meet at noon on Sunday, August 29, starting with a salad lunch in the church library. Our focus will be planning for fall and winter events in addition to setting up a communication system that works. Network is the programmatic hub of the church with the goal to connect people to the life of the church and to facilitate communication. Everyone is invited – however, if you are planning to attend, please sign up on the clipboard in the church office so there is plenty of lunch. If you have topics for discussion, please call Sharon.

SIGN UPS FOR SMALL GROUP MEETINGS WITH PASTOR JANETTE: Due to a busy summer of settling into life in Clovis, the small group meetings to get to know Pastor Janette will start in September. We will have sign – up sheets for those times at church on Sunday, August 29.

Congregational Life

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

DINNERS FOR EIGHT, SEVEN, SIX, FIVE OR EVEN

FOUR: We are starting a new season of Dinners for Eight and want to invite everyone that is a Memorial United Methodist Church member to join in and be part of the fun group in sharing dinners with one another. It does not matter whether you can cook or not as everyone brings something to share, such as desserts, salad, breads, specialty items or the main course, so do not hesitate, but instead.....SIGN UP!

We look forward to the new year and will be kicking off the year with Dinners for Eight starting in September. Each group will be assigned and you will be able to see the group you are in along with their names, address and phone number. The person named at the top of the list will be responsible for calling the other names on the list and arrange the first dinner date with them, along with the other members of that group.

Please call me. I will be happy to put you on the list.

We will also have a list of people to fill in, in case one member of your group can't make it in a particular month.

Any questions or comments call Carol February.

FRESNO BEE ADVERTISING

The church currently advertises bi-weekly in the religious section of the Fresno Bee. The cost of this program is \$45 a week or \$1,170 annually. This program also includes a church website at

<http://www.fresnobee.com/worship>. It has been suggested that we expand that it to weekly. It would reduce the cost to \$40 a week but the overall cost would increase to \$2,080. This would require an additional cost of \$75 a month. If there is anyone who is interested in assuming the responsibility of funding the increase in the cost of this ministry, please contact Max Cannon.

TO MEMBERS OF MY CHURCH FAMILY AT MUMC:

Thank you so much for the generous gift of organ music. I was amazed and delighted to learn of a web site with hundreds of choices. I can view the music online

and make selections as easily as thumbing through a book in a store. I am sustained and encouraged by your constant support. Many thanks! Kathy Cannon.

THEY'VE MOVED: Tom and Asima have moved! For contact information, please call the church office. Best of wishes to them in their new home!

TEAMS AND MINISTRIES CORNER

THRIFT SHOP NEWS JULY 2010: We opened our shop on the 2nd of July to the usual crowd of regular shoppers waiting for all the bargains. The week end was a holiday weekend and we really thought it would be a slow one with small amount of income. But, we were wrong! Our total for the 2 days this month was a bit over \$1300. But the big surprise was Saturday (the day before the holiday) when we took in over \$400. It was probably our biggest Saturday this year. What we had expected to be a laid back 2 days was another marathon. Praise God!! Thank you to our cashiers, baggers and clerks who got a real workout. We worked many hours this month getting all the donations ready and it would not have been possible without all your donations. So again, thank you. More important, the faithful volunteers who show up every work day, and this month, put in many extra hours getting it ready, made it all possible. We are so blessed to have them. Thanks be to God. We also extend a big thank you to Don Haulman and his pickup, to Edie Dyer for a large ticket donation and to Mac, Howard and Jodie our "always there" open and close crew. This month I leave you with these words of wisdom: "If wrinkles must be written upon our brows, let them not be written upon the heart. The spirit should not grow old" James A, Garfield - Submitted by Pat Frey

UMW NEWS: The executive board will meet Aug. 16 at 9 am in the Lose Library. Everyone else is dark through August.

SPECIAL FRIENDS REPORT: Have you scheduled time with God this week? Jesus wanted his disciples to serve, but more than that, he wanted relationships with them. In addition, Jesus invited them into times of rest to renew their minds and bodies for the work they were called to do. In June, we shared God's love in 16 vis-

its, 37 cards/notes, and 45 phone visits with our Special Friends. We will not meet in August, but will continue the work we feel called to do. Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 9th at 3:30 pm. Come! Give us a go! Blessings, Lorraine May.

OTHER UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

****Saturday, August 14: 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. and Saturday, August 28: 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.**

Organic Farm Field Day & U-pick @ NE corner of Chestnut & Barstow (parking available off of Chestnut). Meet with faculty and students involved on Student Operated Organic Farm and learn about various teaching and research opportunities available at Fresno State. Come and pick your own choice of seasonal organic vegetables at special prices! Seasonal organic produce include: Organic cherry tomatoes, eggplant, okra, bell pepper, and melons. For more information on this event and the Student Operated Organic Farm, please contact Dr. Sajeemas 'Mint'

****Tuesday, August 17: 11 a.m.**

CARA (California Alliance for Retired Americans) have scheduled a major rally for August 17th at the Federal Courthouse in downtown Fresno. We plan to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Social Security with cupcakes and beverages & a petition to sign & deliver the Senator Feinstein's office.

...The President's National Commission on Responsibility & Reform (the debt commission) are including Social Security & Medicare in considering budget cuts; and many of you already known that Social Security does NOT contribute one cent to the budget deficit. We will be gathering signatures from everyone (do not have to be a registered voter—but that would help) and will deliver those petitions on August 17th at the end of the rally. Should you have any questions and/or concerns I will be available to address and address them.

****Thursday, September 9: 5 – 7:30 p.m.**

15th Annual Empty Bowls Benefit for Community Food Bank. For more info and copy of invitation/flyer contact: Vivian St. Louis, Associate Development Director, Community Food Bank www.communityfoodbank.net

****The Valley Water Consortium and the UU Social Justice Committee present a Wednesday Water Film Series: ***Whose Water Is It and How Much Is There?**** Unitarian Universalist Church, 2672 E. Alluvial Ave., Fresno, CA. (between Chestnut and Willow)

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

No charge

Aug. 4 Tales of the San Joaquin

Aug. 11 FLOW

Discussions led by Valley Water Consortium experts will follow each film. The goal of the series is to improve our understanding of water and its related issues, and to provoke thoughtful conversation and discussion based on facts. In order to reach this goal the discussion leaders will not only try to focus the discussions, but also attempt to make certain that varying perspectives are heard. The series will educate us about the immediacy of our water problem by understanding our environment, and how our society is over-reaching the limitations of all our natural resources. We cannot live without water! Come to this important series and learn how to help preserve our precious resource! It's YOUR water; it's MY water; it's OUR water!

HOLY CLUB YOUTH GROUP

☞ **SUNDAY 08/01/10**

☞ **4PM – PTO AND HOLY CLUB MOVIE NIGHT, SIERRA VISTA CINEMA 16**

☞ **SATURDAY 08/07/10**

☞ **6:30 PM – WE MEET AT THE CHURCH TO EAT WITH, PLAY GAMES AND STUDY WITH THE YOUTH FROM SAN DIEGUITO UMC.**

☞ **SUNDAY 08/08/10**

☞ **NO HOLY CLUB TONIGHT**

☞ **SUNDAY 08/15/10**

☞ **5:30 PM – THANK YOU CONNIE PARTY IN THE SOCIAL HALL.**

☞ **SUNDAY 08/22/10**

☞ **5:30 PM HOLY CLUB MEETING, BUNGALOW**

☞ **SATURDAY 08/28/10**

☞ **8:00 A.M. POVERELLO HOUSE WORK DAY**

☞ **SUNDAY 08/29/10**

☞ **5:30 P.M. HOLY CLUB MEETING, BUNGALOW**

WELCOME IAN: WE'LL BE SEEING A LOT MORE OF IAN – HE HAS AGREED TO BE AN INTERN WITH THE

HOLY CLUB! WE'RE SO EXCITED ABOUT THE GIFTS THAT HE BRINGS TO THE GROUP. COME AND HANG OUT WITH HIM ON SUNDAY EVENINGS – YOU MIGHT LEARN A THING OR TWO ABOUT HIM THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW!

INCEPTION MOVIE NIGHT: PTO AND HOLY CLUB ARE GOING TO SEE INCEPTION AT SIERRA VISTA CINEMA 16 ON AUGUST 1, 2010. WE WILL MEET IN FRONT OF THE THEATRE AT 4PM, AND AFTER THE MOVIE, WE'LL HANG OUT DISCUSS WHAT WE SAW.

BECOME A FAN ON FACEBOOK: WE NOW HAVE OUR OWN FACEBOOK PAGE! SEARCH FOR MUMC HOLY CLUB AND BECOME A FAN TO SEE UPCOMING EVENTS, PICTURES FROM TRIPS, EVENTS AND JUST HANGING OUT, AND TO GET UPDATES ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR GROUP!

FROM THE PASTOR

Romans chapter 8 has a wealth of wisdom to share with us on our everyday life journey. Today I am especially thinking of verses 26-28. In these verses Paul describes the work of the spirit in prayer – interceding for us when we do not have the words to articulate pains we carry in the core of our being. “The spirit speaks for us in groans too deep for words.”

This year in my pastoral ministry I have encountered an exceptional amount of pain – both in Trinity and here at Memorial. We are going through a time of upheaval that brings with it loss, discomfort and a measure of instability. Many of us in our personal lives are passing through a period of great loss: perhaps the death of a loved one, the loss of employment and/or home, the breaking of a marriage, the wonderings of our children, the concern for the environment – particularly the long-term damage by wars and oil spills... There is much pain around us, among us, and within us.

I have asked people to pray (at least 15 minutes in one block, at least 3 times a week, for starters). I encourage you to remember that listening is part of prayer: listening to the spirit's prayer – groans too deep for words. Listen, too, to God's response – to bring hope and comfort in amazing and surprising ways.

Verse 28 has a twist – after acknowledging that there are times when our pain is so deep we

can't find words to describe it, Paul BOLDLY asserts: “We know all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to God's purposes.”

HUH?!?!?!?

How can our pain possibly be used for something good?! What good can come of this? Whenever I hear that question arise within me, I am reminded to look to the cross of Jesus. I believe the first disciples asked that very question when they saw him dead on the cross, “What good can come of this?” It seemed hopeless. It truly seemed all was lost.

BUT!!!!

It wasn't lost! Our God is a God of surprise endings! Even our pain can be transformed into something to beautiful, when we fully surrender our lives for God's use: when we love God enough to allow God to use us “according to God's purposes.”

I am still packing boxes and cleaning the house that I lived in... I am sick of packing boxes. I have barely begun to unpack boxes. I wasn't ready to move. -BUT- I have been faithfully praying that God will use me – even if that means I need to move unexpectedly. And as the move approached and is unfolding I have been praying that God will use this time of upheaval to bring about beautiful transformational ministry.

I have been blessed to be assigned to serve at Memorial. I have been warmly welcomed and supported: allowing me extra time to try to get things settled with our house in San Jose, bringing food to the family, personally inviting me to join studies and groups, recognizing my son's birthday, offering words of encouragement and lifting me and my family in prayer. Thank you all so much!

To be sure: there are challenges. BUT – what is sooooo BIG for us, is NOT so big for God! I am already seeing that God is bringing amazing blessing out of the pain and loss that has been occurring. I know that God is faithful: and God will bring greater blessing as the months unfold.

Let us, likewise, be faithful to God. Let us listen to the groans of the spirit, and also look to God for transformation. Our God IS an awesome God! Truly, GOD IS ABLE! -js