

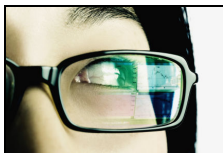


GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United Methodist Church Jan-Mar 2011 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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HUMAN RELATIONS DAY OFFERING JAN 16: In Oklahoma, 50 percent of children whose parents are incarcerated will be incarcerated themselves. Redemption Ministries is seeking to turn that around. As a ministry already focused on prisoners and ex-prisoners, it was natural for Redemption to reach out to children and families. Joy Block is the youth director for the Redemption Youth program at Redemption Penn Avenue United Methodist Church. She was once incarcerated herself and can identify with both the children and their parents. Joy knows that the key to breaking the incarceration cycle is to surround these young people with God's love. "What I want them to do is follow God first," Joy says. "That's number one. Because that's going to be their strength always in life." Your gifts to [Human Relations Day](#) provide for compassionate and life-changing ministries like Redemption Youth.

MONTH OF DECEMBER REVIEW: We will meet at 3pm on Monday Jan 17 (MLK Day) to review the activities from the month of December, and plan ahead for the 2011 winter season. Anyone who has a role in activities going on in December is encouraged to attend.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT MEETS ON A NEW DAY!! Attention all Administrative Support Team members: starting in Jan of 2011 we will be meeting the 3rd Monday of the month at 4:30 pm. The January meeting will be on the 17th which is Martin Luther King Jr day – we WILL be meeting, even though it is a holiday.

FIFTH SUNDAY FUN! PTO (Parents' Time Out) plans to have extra fun on the 5th Sunday of January, the 30th. We will head to Rodeo Lanes for bowling, and dinner out (either at the Lanes or a fast food place nearby.) The cost is \$4.25 for shoe rental, and \$5.20 per game. Give Andy Hansen-Smith a call if you plan to join the fun (so we are sure we have reserved enough lanes and so we don't leave you behind if you are running a little late): Meet at the church at 5 p.m., we will carpool to the lanes at 5:15.

COME OUT AND ENJOY THE SUPER BOWL GAME WITH MEMORIAL FRIENDS! The Super Bowl party on Sunday, Feb. 6th begins at 2:30 with a tag football game on the church lawn before the Big Game is shown in the Fellowship Hall. Bring snacks to share and your favorite non-alcoholic beverage; paper goods and ice will be provided. You're welcome to bring along blankets, pillows, lawn chairs or whatever you need to get comfortable! Also, if a jigsaw puzzle, your current crochet project or a "whodunit" gets you through the game, bring that too! Come and go as you please; the TV game starts at about 3:15 and runs until around 7pm. Any questions, call Laura Williams. Go, team!

UMM CAKE AUCTION: On Feb 6 after each service the UMM will be holding a cake auction in the Narthex. Come hungry! The donated funds will all go to great causes around the church!

WILL MEMORIAL BE GROWING THIS YEAR? We are planning to! One way this could happen is through "uniting" with the Fresno Korean UMC that is currently worshipping in our facility. We are beginning to do serious exploration about what is involved in this, how it could best be accomplished, and how this would be reshaping the ministries of Memorial. Please keep this in your prayers! Also, if you are interested to be part of the exploration and development team, talk with Pastor Janette or Max Cannon. There is meeting planned for February 7 in the morning, and a field trip planned to southern California for later in February to learn what other congregations have done in similar situations.

"COLORING OUTSIDE THE LINES WITH GOD" HAS BEGUN! Our course on spiritual disciplines began with the new year: about two dozen people engaged in three small groups meeting each week, and an online group. We are excited and learning wonderful things already! You may still jump in and join this spiritual adventure! Talk with Pastor Janette if you are interested.

UPCOMING EVENTS



INTERFAITH SCHOLAR WEEKEND

This year the speaker will be Dr. Elliot Dorff, Rector and Sol and Anne Dorff Distinguished Service Professor in Philosophy at American Jewish University in Los Angeles. The topic for the weekend will be "Matters of Life and Death: Jewish, Christian, and Secular Approaches to Modern Medical Ethics." On Friday, February 11, at 7:00 p.m., at the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno, Dr. Dorff will speak on "Religious and Secular Approaches to Bioethics: Why the Differences?" On Saturday, February 12, at Temple Beth Israel, the topics of Dr. Dorff's lectures will be "Issues at the Beginning of Life: Preventing and Assisting Reproduction," and "Issues at the

End of Life: Removing Life Support and Organ Transplantation." The event will conclude on Sunday, February 13, at Wesley United Methodist Church, with Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., each with a Sermon by Rabbi Dorff: "A Values Approach to the Distribution of Health Care." Registration for the Saturday lectures: \$40 for preregistration, \$45 for on-site registration, \$10 for students. The price of

registration includes a continental breakfast and vegetarian lunch on Saturday. Questions: call the church office 559-299-4615 for more info and contacts.

HEALTHY HEART POTLUCK - FEBRUARY 26, 2011 -

FELLOWSHIP HALL. The Parish Nurses are once again sponsoring the Healthy Heart Potluck. This has become an annual event. This year the program will start with renewal of CPR training and the use of AED. Naomi Isaak from the American Heart Association will be the trainer. The training will start at 10:00 am followed with a luncheon - Healthy Heart foods, of course. (A cookbook will be available in the narthex or office if you need any suggestions). Dr Wissell a local Cardiologist will be our luncheon speaker - so plan on preparing your special dish and attend on February 26th in the Fellowship Hall - Questions - call the church office or Lucy Elgin.



CELEBRATING OUR WESLEYAN HERITAGE: UMM RETREAT MARCH 4 AND 5

*Program : Videos and Discussion:

Methodism – From the Wesley's to the Present.

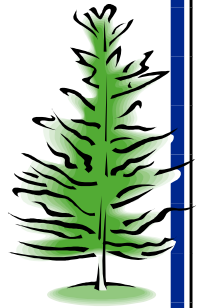
*Dates: Friday March 4 from 7pm to 9pm

Saturday March 5 from 8am - 3pm.

*Cost: \$12.50 (includes breakfast and lunch)

*Location: Social Hall - Memorial UMC Clovis.

WOMEN'S RETREAT REMINDER: March 11-12-13 at the Evergreen Conference Center in Oakhurst (ECCO). Registration closes Feb 22, so reserve your spot now! There are registration forms in the Narthex, and scholarships are available. If you have any questions or need a scholarship application, please call Barbara Nielsen or Dee Carr.



SPOTLIGHT ON MINISTRY

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is a committee that every congregation in our denomination is mandated to have. This group works to make sure that the relationship between the congregation and all the staff members is functioning well. Additionally, they do an annual evaluation of the pastor(s) on behalf of the entire congregation, which is submitted to the Annual Conference, and they interface with the Bishop and District Superintendent when a new pastor is being sent into a congregation. Beyond the oversight of the Pastor(s) this committee hires other staff positions in a congregation. (In congregations where there is no staff beyond the Pastor, this committee is known as the PPRC.)

If you find you are having a difficulty with a pastor or any staff person, you are always encouraged to speak directly to that person. If after this you find that the difficulty persists, you are encouraged to seek out a member of the SPRC to help in communication and problem solving. The SPRC for this year is: Sharon Hutchinson, chp., Pai Yang, Bea Bannister, LaDonna Snow, Patti Pond, Tony Vang, Dee Carr, Matt Babcock, Baoui Her

SPECIAL FRIENDS

Special Friends is a ministry that is unique to Memorial. This is a team that is in regular contact with our home-bound members, and those currently in the hospital. They provide consistent and loving support for people who are unable to remain active in the ministries of the congregation. While this ministry is hugely important, it is not mandated by the denomination and is not present in most United Methodist congregations. We are EXTREMELY blessed by the faithful work of this team of faithful servants: Lorraine May, chp., John Tallmage, Max Cannon, Lucy Elgin, Evelyn Haulman, Pauline Middleton, Nancy Locke, Dee Carr

ANNUAL CONFERENCE CORNER

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT: What happens at the Annual Conference Session held in June each year? Lorraine May and Edie Dyer offer another glimpse: "At a meeting in Visalia, April 24th 2010, Bishop Brown mentioned there would be changes in the Conference. Those changes were made known at the June Session. The former seven districts are now integrated into four districts: Bridges, with 89 churches, El Camino Real, with 88 churches, Great Northern, with 105 congregations, and Central Valley, with 85 churches. There are four District Superintendents appointed to supervise the four districts. Rev. Mariellen Yoshino will be our Superintendent in the Central Valley. Rev. Ted Virts was appointed as Conference District Superintendent. The Conference also appointed forty-five Circuit Leaders assigned to lead and facilitate the forty-five clergy circuits within the conference. The work of the circuits was described as a covenant for mutual accountability and support. These circuits are seen as one of the most important attributes of our being connected as one Body of Christ."



SWEATSHIRTS---We have black zip front hoodies ranging from adult small to adult xx large available in the office. (Suggested donation: \$20.00.) This money goes back into the marketing fund to continue promoting the Church. Please wear your sweatshirts for Church events, walks, and just plain about town. Be prepared for people to notice them and ask questions. After all that's what we want!!!

HOSPITALITY REPORT: We are now acquiring our janitorial supplies from Central Sanitary Supply because they have donated Kimberley Clark dispensers for handsoap, new paper roller dispensers and two large toilet paper dispensers free of charge. To make a long story short, we are simplifying replacing paper supplies by having all the same dispensers and supplying all same soap dispensers that will remain in working order. Our obligation is to purchase janitorial supplies for five years. If you notice a need of supplies, please report it to the church secretary. We are promised prompt service.

DEAR FRIENDS: Jambo! (Hello!) I realize it has been a long time in coming that I get back to you about my wonderful experience in Kenya. For some of you reading this, I've not seen you since...I last saw you... [here] in Clovis. Thank God for the blessing you've each been in my life! If you will recall, I was on a short-term mission trip in Nairobi, Kenya for 5 weeks. There, I stayed with Chris and Irene Okuna's family; these are the representatives of the international organization First Love. I had the privilege of seeing God actively working in the lives of our fellow Christians in the Kibera Slum. I saw 23 girls delivered from slum life with hope of a future at the Karen Orphanage. I saw a brand new dorm building at Karen near completion, waiting to receive 80 more orphans from slum life. I saw the Love of God in action. Thank you for helping me get there, fellow Christians. Mungu awabariki! (God bless you)... -Kevin Bonzo



Congregational Life

THE WORLD IS A RAINBOW: of postcards! We want to create a visual 'rainbow' of where all of you have traveled this year, so send us postcards when you are away, or bring one back with you, so we can stick it on a map and make a visual representation of the different parts of the world we have touched.

"GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD" MATTHEW 6:11 It's cold outside and people have been coming in for warm foods from our pantry. Let us remember on the first Sunday of the month to bring an item(s) to keep our church pantry well stocked and ready for those who need us at this time. Items such as soups, stews and chili as well as hot cereals like oatmeal are needed during this cold season. Special thanks to the Holiday Boutique for donating a check to the church pantry to help in this ministry of helping those who need food at this time.

Submitted by Janet L Bonzo

COFFEE HOUR



It is fun to have a nice place to pause and refresh between services. We hope people are catching up with friends they don't usually see because of the two services and that it is enjoyable. Our café tables took a tumble two times and didn't survive but thanks to Will Swieso, they are being made whole so we can enjoy all

THANK YOU! Thanks to everyone for the prayers, calls and cards! They were so appreciated! - Shirley Monis and family

THANK YOU THANK YOU a million times over for all your support with the cookies for the live nativity. We tried everything we could think of, but the rain still came down in buckets! So many people worked together in love to make plan B (and even plan C!) work in the downpour. The leftover cookies from that great event all found good homes: some were put in the freezer to be used for coffee hour, some were given as a surprise in the food bags from the pantry, some were taken to the community hospital resident lounge, and some to the children's center. Once again, bless you for giving. Thank you again, also, for your donations to the 'socks for Sierra Villa' drive – we were so blessed to see many happy smiling faces as the residents enjoyed their gifts and licked their yummy candy canes. Because of your generous donation to the Sierra Villa project, when we heard that there was a toy shortage in the Toys for Tots drive, we were able to take the leftover money, add a bit more, and give \$50 to that ministry as well! We all felt the special warmth of the children as they said thank you.

-With gratitude, UMW



Bad News: We have roughly at \$50,000 short fall (essentially the amount of our apportionments)

Good News: We have potential to raise most and possibly all of this money through new ministries that will launch this year, through reduced expenses, and through a large fund raiser that will happen at the end of April.

LaDonna Snow and Sharon Hutchison will be holding meetings to gather ideas for the fundraiser. It will likely be one that has multiple components and is targeting the community around us in order to generate "5 digit" income.

The entire congregation is invited to be open to the leading of the spirit as we look into ways to reach out in ministry and generate income. Some ideas already lifted up include "senior day care," and "child care program."

Also, we are pursuing a ministry partnership with Grace UMC in Fresno outreaching into the Hmong community to do Hmong Christian funerals. Please keep this ministry in your prayers and be ready to help, if you are able.

APPORTIONMENTS! WHAT ARE THEY?! They are "a portion meant" for others! Because we are a "connectional" denomination, each congregation of the United Methodist Church pays a portion of its financial resources to the larger church to fund ministry and programming world-wide.

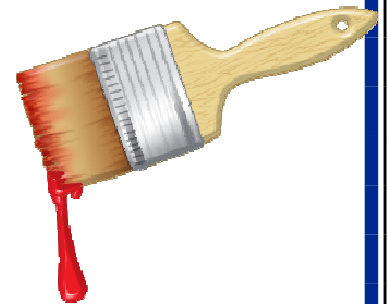
In the coming year we will take time in worship to lift up ways we are connectional, especially focusing on the ministries funded through our apportionment dollars. We will have opportunities to give thanks to God for this powerful tool for transforming the world into God's Holy Realm.

In 2010 we paid approximately 50% of our apportionments. We are putting serious effort into significantly increasing that percentage for 2011. It has been about 16 years since we have paid our apportionments in full. Let us all resolve to change that in the coming year!

RECENT PAINT WORK ON EXTERIOR OF CHURCH

How clean and welcome the new trim paint on our buildings makes us look!! Thanks to Wanda and Will Swieso for contributing the lumber for new vertical

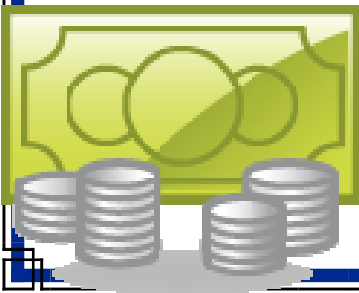
supports where needed in front and back of the church and to Dona Leonardo for coordinating the bidding process and overseeing the work in progress. We thank Art Dixon of Dixon Painting for painting trim on all other buildings at no charge. Don't forget Art when you have a painting job at your house or business. He will also paint the bungalow for free when weather permits.



NUTS AND BOLTS

NEW BULLETIN FORMAT: In order to further conserve office time and resources, we will be printing a 'permanent' copy of the order of worship that will go in each of the pew pockets. This will include a copy of the 'regular' 11am order of worship, the order of worship for the 11am communion service, and the order of worship for the Imagine! service. There will be a 'test' version printed first that will remain in the sanctuary for 2 months. If you notice errors, please let the office know. We will be printing a more permanent version after the first 2 months. We will still hand out a weekly insert with the announcements, opening prayer, scripture readings, sermon title, etc...

2011 FINANCES: The Finance team has compiled the proposed budget for 2011 which will be presented in full at the AST (Administrative Support Team) meeting on January 17. A budget overview was presented to the entire congregation after worship on January 2.



TEAMS AND MINISTRIES CORNER

PTO EVENTS IN 2011

- 5th Sun in January – Bowling nite
- 1st Sun in February Superbowl party
- 1st Sun in March - Game nite & high caloric munchies
- 2nd Sun in April – Ballroom dancing with Edie Dyer
- 1st Sun in May - Bike ride
- 5th Sun in May – Yard game fun
- 1st Sun in June. - Kite flying
- 1st Sun in July - Picnic at Academy
- 5th Sun in July – Family party
- 1st Sun in August - Hiking
- 1st Sun in September - Bike ride
- 3rd Sat and Sun in September - Camping at Huntington Lake.
- 1st Sun in October – World Communion Sunday all church fun
- 5th Sun in October – Glow in the dark games
- 1st Sun in November – Create a craft for the Boutique!
- 1st Sat in December - Advent dinner

PTO GAME NIGHT! March 6th! Be there! 'Got a new board game you enjoy or an old card game that gets your adrena-



line pumping and you need some partners? Gather up your games and meet at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall for a rowdy good time! Bring some snacks to share, beverages

will be provided. Any questions, call Laura Williams. See you there, cardsharps!

THRIFT SHOP NEWS What a grand finale and or a great beginning! Our total receipts for the weekend are \$1580. What a wonderful way to end our year. A big thank you for all those donations. And, again thanks to all our faithful volunteers. Many put in extra hours to get it all ready for opening. Thanks to Gloria for coming forward to take over the job of the Thrift Store (and to Janet who has volunteered to help her). Gloria will do a great job! It is with some sadness that I compose this last article for the Thrift Shop. Though, it's been very labor intensive, I found that the volunteers who have been there faithfully for the past 5 years have helped make it worth the effort and they have become very special to me. They truly show that there is no I in team. They are a wonderful group including the guys (Mac and Howard) who come at "dark thirty" every month to help set up I will miss them. As important, I have formed many many friendships with the rest of the members of this congregation. I have been a part of

several ministries in the church and as such have interacted with almost every one of you at some point. I value the friends I have made and you will go with me in my heart. I will miss you. I will remember each of you as I do my "home-work" every day. Please keep me in your prayers too.

- Submitted by
Pat Frey

MISSION THRIFT SHOP--

We are looking forward to another successful year at the Thrift Shop. We have a great team

ready to work hard and we gratefully anticipate your contributions in the future. Specific items we need are fabric, sewing notions, small appliances, dishes, small furniture and tools. Thank you for remembering us when you clean out those closets, etc. Call Gloria McClanahan for drop off details or the church office 299-4615 for contact info.



THURSDAY NIGHT DINERS

Gather at 5:45pm, dinner served promptly at 6. If you have any questions call the Grams or Dorrie

JANUARY

*20- Ordinary night, bring your favorite dish.

*27- CHINESE NEW YEARS: it's the Year of the Rabbit! Bring your favorite Chinese food dish or give \$5.00 (in advance) to purchase Chinese Food

FEBRUARY

*3- Soup or Bowl - It's Super Bowl weekend! Bring a pot of Soup or a Bowl of anything you like.

*10- VALENTINES PARTY - Tonight we celebrate GOD'S LOVE: Our Lord and Savior is the Love of our life, tonight we dedicate this evening to him. The complete dinner will be prepared by the Grams. Cost \$5.00 per person. Please RSVP by Feb 7th

*17- Honor our Presidents Night; make a good old American dish.

*24- Ordinary Pot Luck, bring your favorite dish

MARCH

*3- FAT TUESDAY - Diners Celebrates Fat Tuesday early. Everyone in our church Family is encouraged to attend. Bring a breakfast dish to share: Egg dish, juice breakfast breads, Waffles, biscuits and gravy.



SPECIAL FRIENDS: As

I write this, Christmas approaches, and I want to encourage us to think of special gifts we can give all year 'round: spending time with each other and with special friends, bringing joy to other, making phone visits, sending cards and notes, remembering to thank others with notes for gifts we receive, baking goodies and sharing with others - but the best gift of all, and offered to all people, is God's gift of Jesus, his beloved son. May we rejoice at his coming! During the month of November, the Special Friends ministry made 36 phone visits, sent 14 cards, 9 notes and made 18 visits. Our meetings will be: January 13th at 3:30 pm, February 10th at 3:30 pm, and March 10th at 3:30 pm. May the peace, love and joy of Christmas be yours in this New Year. Blessings, Lorraine.



UMW NEWS JAN- MARCH:

JANUARY

*Jan 18 – Monthly Meeting at 10 am in the Social Hall. Program: Newell Knudson “Prayer and Self Denial”. Luncheon Hosts: Red Bird Circle. Please bring your own service. ALL women invited.

*Jan 26 – Wesley Group – 1:00 pm in the Social Hall
FEBRUARY

*Feb 9 – Red Bird Circle at 9:30 am at Judy Gross' house
*Feb 15 - Monthly Meeting at 10 am in the Social Hall. Evelyn Haulman will be speaking. Please bring your own service. ALL women are invited.

*Feb 23 – Wesley Group meeting at 1pm in the Social Hall

MARCH

*Mar 7 – Executive Board Meeting at 9am in the Lose Library
*Mar 9 – Red Bird Circle at 9:30 am in the Lose Library
*Mar 15 – Regular meeting at 10 am in the Social Hall, Pastor Janette Saavedra will be the speaker. Executive Board hosts.
*Mar 23 – Wesley Circle meeting at 1pm in the Social Hall

HOLY CLUB YOUTH GROUP

YOUTH EVENTS THROUGH MARCH

- ***SATURDAY JAN 15 – MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 7:30 AM TO HEAD TO POVORELLO HOUSE!**
- ***SUNDAY JAN 16 – MUSIC AT 5:15PM, REGULAR GROUP AT 6PM – ROB BELL ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION VIDEO**
- ***SUNDAY JAN 23 – MUSIC AT 5:15PM, REGULAR GROUP AT 6PM – BOOK OF REVELATION WRAP-UP**
- ***SUNDAY JAN 30 – MEET AT 4:30 FOR THE MISSION TRIP MEETING – YOUTH GROUP TBA (POTENTIALLY GOING BOWLING WITH THE PTO)**
- ***SUNDAY FEB 6 – SUPERBOWL PARTY!! MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 2:30 FOR TAG FOOTBALL – GAME STARTS AT 3:15**
- ***SUNDAY FEB 13 – MUSIC AT 5:15PM, REGULAR GROUP AT 6PM – LET'S TALK ABOUT DATING; WHAT DO HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS LOOK LIKE?**
- ***SATURDAY FEB 19 – MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 7:30 AM TO HEAD TO POVORELLO HOUSE!**
- ***SUNDAY FEB 20 – MUSIC AT 5:15PM, REGULAR GROUP AT 6PM**
- ***SUNDAY FEB 27 – MUSIC AT 5:15PM, REGULAR GROUP AT 6PM**
- ***SUNDAY MARCH 6 – MUSIC AT 5:15PM, REGULAR GROUP AT 6PM – WE START A STUDY ABOUT LENT AND THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES**
- ***SUNDAY MARCH 13 – MUSIC AT 5:15PM, REGULAR GROUP AT 6PM**
- ***SUNDAY MARCH 20 – MUSIC AT 5:15PM, REGULAR GROUP AT 6PM**
- ***SUNDAY MARCH 27 – MUSIC AT 5:15PM, REGULAR GROUP AT 6PM**

MISSION TRIP 2011 MEETING JAN 30: It's coming! We are getting closer and closer to our mission trip to Northern CA July 3-9. We will meet Sunday Jan 30 at 4:30 pm to finalize signups and talk about fundraising opportunities to make the trip as affordable as possible. We have 10 student spots available – you can hold your spot by turning in a \$50 deposit at or before the meeting. Sara has a few ideas for fundraising but would love more; bring your own ideas of big fundraisers and ways to get the community involved. If you have any questions, you can call Sara at the church 299-4615.



PURPOSE

OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose **PURPOSE** is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

FROM THE PASTOR

As I write this it is approaching mid-January. It was balmy outside at 3 a.m. today. I know this because the dogs needed to go out. By now many of you know that my family moved from a nice home with a doggy-door and yard in San Jose to an apartment in Clovis that has neither. The 14 year old beagle is especially having problems adapting. So, when I heard him walking in the hallway at 3 a.m., I knew I had a choice: leave the bed and wander the apartment complex or clean the carpets in the morning. I got up.

It is a curious thing: God brings blessing in amazing and unexpected ways. Even in the midst of great challenges, God is working to bring us blessing. When we open ourselves up to these blessings we become overwhelmed with grace upon grace. But, we can miss the blessings if we persist in hanging on to disappointments and resentments, or even just petty complaints.

A year ago I was NEVER out walking the dogs at 3 a.m. As a matter of fact, I have never before been out walking the dogs at 3 a.m. A big part of me wants to feel resentment that I now find myself wandering outside in the middle of the night with an old dog who doesn't adapt easily, and a young dog who won't be left behind.

But, a different part of me marvels at the beauty that surrounds me: the clarity of the sky and brilliance of the winter constellations, the ducks and geese on the ponds (who knew they would be paddling around in the middle of the night!), the sheer joy of being warm as I walk outside at 3 a.m. in mid-January! And, a part of me wonders who is harder to teach new tricks, the old dog or me? Who has a more challenging time adapting: the old dog (with no access to a yard) or the woman (with increased access to good physical and spiritual health that still is tempted to complain about it).

Why would I even consider having resentment about the new routine when I experience so many blessings from it? I get MUCH more exercise now than a year ago and my body is stronger because of it. I have a much deeper spiritual life and more regular and better quality prayer life by being awaked daily by two dogs who need to go out: enjoying the beauty of stillness around us, the quiet of our home, the time to really pray and not rush a quick "thank you" to God. Yet, I somehow find myself LOOKING for some reason to complain!

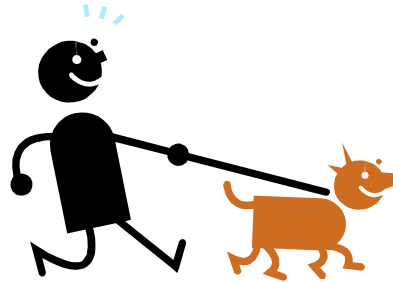
Time to repent: to turn and go in a new direction.

I share this story because perhaps some of you have had a similar experience, or are in the midst of "curious blessings" now. "Curious blessings" are the blessings that are disguised as problems. Because we think we are facing a problem we have a certain attitude at the ready, and then suddenly we find ourselves in the middle of a blessing instead.

The story in Genesis of Joseph being sold into slavery by his brothers contains this beautiful line near the end: "What you meant for harm, God meant for good." We will all encounter many challenges in our lifetimes. Some of us will encounter horrific situations. Yet God is always working to bring blessings to our lives. When we surrender our pain to God, God will redeem and sanctify it. When we don't see how anything good can come from the tragedies, God brings forth such beauty as will take our breath away.

We don't know what 2011 will hold for each of us. I pray you will experience amazing peace, beauty and joy this year. I pray, too, that in the times of heartbreak and grief you will be able to let God bare the pain for you, and bring to you transformational curious blessings.

Surely, God is able! -js



JAN - MAR BIRTHDAYS:

Margie Magargee 01/01
Shelby Cox 01/04
William Rose 01/04
Jon Alfaro 01/05
Vernon Croke 01/06
Jonathan Shue Feng Yang 01/07
Andrew Zastovnik 01/08
Phillip Heskett 01/09
Christine Uwaoma 01/09
Mary Vollman 01/09
Wiley Harkins 01/11
Denise Fang Yang 01/11
Pang Ying Yang 01/12
Eric Cannon 01/13
Blake Glazebrook 01/19
Tiffany Motter 01/20
Margie Cox 01/21
Matthew Remer 01/23

Sarah Hutchinson 01/24
Clara Yang 01/25
Norma Croke 01/27
Rebecca Hutchinson 01/27
Rodger Pachelbel 01/27
Rick Snow 01/27
Carl Nutting 01/29
Corinne Williams 01/29
Khan Yang 02/01
Stan Jenanyan 02/02
Jake Stoddard 02/02
Howard Cook 02/04
Pat Long 02/04
Helen McGaughy 02/04
Lew Pond 02/07
Lucy Elgin 02/09
Julie Film 02/09
Richie Bonzo 02/11
Shirley Golden 02/12
Tim Holzmer 02/15

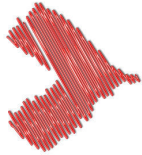
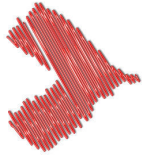
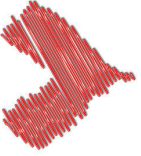
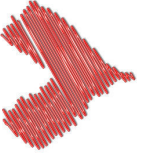
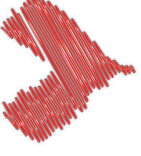
Ron Zastovnik 02/16
Jennifer Lee 02/19
Dorrie Osback-Rose 02/19
Moirra Leslie 02/20
Iona Mears 02/20
Howard Nelson 02/22
Heidi Markland 02/25
Nao Yang-Lee 02/25
William Pregno 02/26
John Tallmadge 02/26
Linda Lee 02/27
Susan Lee 02/28
Sonny Uwaoma 02/28
Cleora Dillon 03/01
Ryan Alfaro 03/03
Stacey Crosslin 03/03
Rachel Hutchinson 03/05
Nou Xiong 03/05
Xeng Vang 03/07

Kim Williams 03/09
Wayne Adams 03/10
Bev Daly 03/10
Susan Lowrey 03/10
Stella Schaa 03/10
Pa Ngia Yang 03/10
Rich Bonzo 03/11
Nancy Spencer 03/13
Ethan Moua 03/14
Sharon Babcock 03/15
Kindra Snow -Walker 03/16
Isaac Thao 03/16
Matthew Babcock 03/17
Opal Spears 03/20
Herb Spencer 03/21
Andrea Pond 03/22
Carrie Stocks 03/25
Nell Marchbanks 03/28
Wanda Rogers 03/28
Sharlene Sautter 03/30




Every Sunday	Every Monday	Every Tuesday	Every Wednesday	Every Thursday	Every Friday	Every Saturday
*9:30am Imagine! Worship *10:30 Coffee Hour *11am Sunday School *11am Worship *2pm CHRIST Sun Sch *3:30pm CHRIST church *5:15 Youth Music *6pm Youth Group		*2pm Spiritual Disciplines Class	*7:30 am Country Waffles Bible Study *9am Boutique Group *7pm Spiritual Disciplines Class	*9:30 am Spiritual Disciplines Class *5:45pm Thursday Night Diners *6pm Imagine Rehearsal *7pm Choir Rehearsal	*2pm Sierra Villa Rest Home	*3pm CHRIST Ministry Choir

February 2011

		1	2	3	4	5
*bring something for the pantry! *after services Umm cake auction *2:30 pm Superbowl party!	*MUMC growth meeting	*8am Thrift Shop Workday	*7pm SPRC	*3:30pm Special Friends	*8am Thrift Shop open	*8am Thrift Shop open *8am UMM
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			*9:30 am Red Bird circle *4:30 pm Lay Leadership Team		*7pm Interfaith Scholar Weekend	*9am Worship Planning *Interfaith Scholar Weekend
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
*5:30 pm Imagine! planning	*Valentine's Day	*10 am UMW	*1:30pm 0-120 Team *7pm Finance Team			*7:30 am Youth work day at Poverello House
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
*5:30 pm PTO Bible Study	*President's Day - office closed *4:30 pm - Admin. Support team	*8am Thrift Shop Workday	*1pm Wesley Circle			*10 am Healthy Heart potluck presentation
27	28	** Network meetings in 2011 Palm Sunday in April,	4 th Sun in June, 4 th Sun in August, 4 th Sun in October.			
*12noon Network meeting *5:30 pm Imagine! music planning						

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March 2011

	Remember: Lent begins this month!	1	2	3	4	5
*bring something for the pantry! *5:30 pm PTO Game nite	7	8	*9:30 am Red Bird circle *4:30 pm Lay Leadership Team *6:30 pm Spiritual disciplines class *7:30 pm Ash Wednesday service	10	*8am Thrift Shop open *7pm UMM retreat	*8am Thrift Shop open *8am UMM retreat
→ *5:30 pm Imagine! planning	14	15	*1:30pm 0-120 Team *7pm Finance Team	17	Women's retreat	*9am Worship Planning →
*5:30 pm PTO Bible Study	21	22	23	24	25	19
*5:30 pm Imagine! music planning	*4:30 pm - Admin. Support team	*8am Thrift Shop Workday	*1pm Wesley Circle	*St Patrick's Day		*7:30 am Youth work day at Poverello House
	28	29	30	31	