

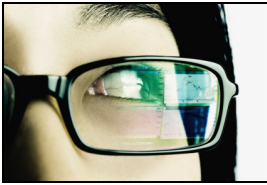


# GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United Methodist Church November 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



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**PARISH NURSES PRESENT:** On November 7 - immediately following the 11:00 am service an informative program will be presented by the Parish nurses in the Fellowship Hall. Salad will be provided; please bring a dish to share. Also bring your questions on Respiratory disease - we are planning to highlight Lung Cancer.

**MISSION TRIP 2011:** If you are interested in going on our summer mission trip in 2011, please plan to be at the church at 5pm on Nov 7. We will have initial signups that night (so bring your calendars!), and give more information about the trips available, and what we would be doing. If you cannot make the meeting but would still like to go on the missions trip, please let me know before that night. I will need to make reservations that next week, and want to make sure I reserve enough spaces for those who want to go. -Sara Glazebrook (299-4615)

**THE TIME IS HERE FOR OUR HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE!** November 12th & 13th are the dates; 9:00am to 2:00pm will be the times with lunch being served from 11:30am to 1:00pm. The Boutique Group has worked all year to prepare some wonderful handmade items; please come and see the results of our effort.

**ANNUAL ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE** will be held on Sunday, Nov. 21 beginning with a potluck lunch at noon. This is an important annual tradition in which we celebrate the ministry of the previous year, and look to the future. Here's how YOU can participate:

- ☞ On Nov. 21 - bring a potluck dish to share and plan to stay until about 1:30 p.m. for the full celebration.
- ☞ If you have pictures of MUMC people engaged in ministry in the past year, please get those to the church office by Nov. 16 so they can be included in our time of Thanksgiving for the ways God has blessed us these past 12 months.
- ☞ Be prepared to stay through the business meeting for these 5 agenda items that help us move forward in ministry for 2011:
  - ☞ election of officers
  - ☞ membership report
  - ☞ setting of pastoral compensation
  - ☞ 2 items from the task force to evaluate our church operating structure (these items are explained in an article elsewhere in this publication)

We will have fun together as we give thanks to God for the ministries of MUMC! Mark it on your calendar, and plan to be there!

**STEWARDSHIP:** a lifestyle of managing one's time, talent and treasure to extend God's holy realm. On Sunday November 7 MUMC will be celebrating All Saints Sunday - looking back with thankfulness for all those who come before us, who labored for God, that the Gospel message might be carried to future generations. With gratefulness for those who came before us in the faith, we take time to commit ourselves to follow their good example in giving the fullness of our lives to be used by Jesus. In the worship services the 7th, each member and friend of MUMC will have the opportunity to dedicate to God their LIFESTYLE! As we look to 2011, and plan for the ministries of the coming year, we will lift to God our commitment to serve and to financially support the ministries of MUMC. A mailing will go out the first week of November with an estimate of financial giving form and a survey regarding areas in which you would like to invest your time and talent. Please look for this mailing and prayerfully complete the form and survey. Bring it with you on November 7 to be dedicated in worship.

**CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING NOVEMBER 26:** Help us usher in the season on Friday, November 26 as we decorate the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary! We will meet at 1pm.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE CORNER

### WHAT HAPPENS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION?

Each June pastors and lay people from throughout California and Nevada gather for an opportunity to worship together, to discuss current matters affecting the church, and to conduct the business of our region. Lorraine May and Edie Dyer would like to share with you from their experiences last June.

“Bishop Robert Schnase, speaking at the plenary sessions, put substantial meaning into the conference theme, Radiate, Initiate, and Co-create. He shared a great concern about the future of the Methodist denomination, citing the historical manner which John Wesley founded our church still has significant implications for today’s lifestyle for individuals and in our communities. He focused his presentations on his book, Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, which are, Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. These practices describe the congregational activities through which God works to draw people into relationship. Followers of Christ aspire to grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God.

They do so by repeating, learning, and deepening their personal practice of generous hospitality, by placing themselves regularly under the influence of God’s Spirit in worship, by intentionally seeking to grow in Christ-likeness through learning in community, and by practicing compassion and generosity in concrete ways. In these simple practices of Christian discipleship, the justifying and sanctifying grace of God becomes visible, real, and life changing.”

Lorraine & Edie will share more of their experiences in worship on November 14.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**TOYS FOR TOTS:** Memorial UMC will be participating in the Toys for Tots program this year – an exciting opportunity for us to reach out to the community! Here are some ways you can help:

- ☺ Bring a new, unwrapped toy to the church by Sunday November 14 – we will be collecting them in the Narthex.
- ☺ Sign up to volunteer! We need help on November 6 signing families up who will receive toys, and then on the distribution day which will be announced at a later date.

If you can help, please contact Pai Yang or Sharon Hutchinson.

**THANKSGIVING OFFERING** This year, half of our Thanksgiving offering will go to the General Administration Fund; this is the apportionment fund that provides the infrastructure and staffing/administration for the conference, and allows connectional work to happen (so we know what happens in our sister churches across the world!!). The other half will be a love gift for Pastor Thao, in appreciation of all of the work he does with our Hmong language ministry.

**LIVE NATIVITY:** The Live Nativity is a time for us as a church to reach out to our community and give them a ‘hands on ‘Christmas Card’. We invite people to come and experience the story of Jesus’ birth with a tour through vignettes of the story of Christmas, with live actors and animals playing the parts of the shepherds, wise men, angels, and the holy family. It is also a time for us to meet new people and share the love of Christ with them. In order for us to give this wonderful gift to the community, we need your help! We need actors, set designers, carpenters, docents, servers, and musicians - the whole works! We also need people who will be intentional about meeting new people and welcoming them. There will be a Live Nativity meeting on November 7 after the 11am service in the Bungalow. Please consider being a part of this ministry as you think about the stewardship of your time and talent.

**ADVENT DINNER 2010:** Come join us in celebrating the start of Advent with our annual Advent Dinner on the first Saturday of December! This year it will be held on December 4 in the Fellowship Hall at 6 pm. If you plan on coming to this delightful holiday potluck, please sign up in the Narthex so we will have seats for everyone. If you would like to be the Host/ess for a table please indicate that as well when you sign up. The table ware is festive and ranges from paper goods to fine china- whatever strikes your imagination – it doesn’t have to be upscale! We’ll sing carols, hear the Christmas story and welcome in the season.

### **CHRISTMAS SEASON SPECIAL EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

November 21 - Academy Church Thanksgiving service at 2:30 pm

Throughout the month of December – bring hats, coats, scarves and gloves to decorate our ‘warm tree’ ministry for the homeless.

December 12 - Academy Advent service 2:30 pm

December 18 and 19 - Live Nativity

December 21 - Longest Night service at 7pm in the Sanctuary

December 24 - Christmas Eve service Academy 4:00 pm

December 24 - Christmas Eve services MUMC 7 and 11 pm.

### **HOLIDAY SERVICES AT ACADEMY CHURCH:**

Usher in the season by celebrating in worship with us at the historic Academy Church!

✠ Thanksgiving Service: Sunday November 21st 2:30 pm.

✠ Advent Service: Sunday December 12th at 2:30 pm

✠ Christmas Eve Service: Friday December 24th at 4:00 pm.

Academy church is located on Madsen off of 168 (Tollhouse Road) 10667 N. Madsen Ave. Clovis CA 93619.

## Congregational Life

**HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WITH SOME OF THE PRAYER REQUESTS?** There continues to be continued support for the importance of prayer - the first was a study of heart patients - the group prayed for had less hospital days and a quicker recovery in many ways!! A follow up

Garland Woodward 11/25 LeRoy Ehresman 11/28  
Ruth Lind 11/30

## TEAMS AND MINISTRIES CORNER

**THRIFT SHOP NEWS OCTOBER 2010:** The opening of the shop for October came fast this time and we were open on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. And what a week end it was! We were totally busy. If you have never been there at opening on Friday, you don't know what you are missing. Again, we had people waiting to get in. Our total week end receipts were \$1137. We were elated because adding the two months (September and October) gave us a total that evened out to our goal of \$1000 each month. God is sooo good! But again, we were short volunteers. Thanks to Janet who worked all day Friday and the morning shift on Saturday. And to Jodie who spent most of Friday there and part of Saturday. Jodie also helps open and close along with Howard and Mac. We couldn't do without those three because they do all the grunt work! And of course, we give a big thank you to our other regulars who work their shifts faithfully every month. Thanks to all who contributed this month. We had lots of really nice things and our receipts show that. Blessings to all! Are you giving serious thought to taking over this ministry??  
- Submitted by Pat Frey

**SPECIAL FRIENDS NEWS:** Have you ever listened for God's quiet voice in a loud place? Remember in 1 Kings 19:11-13 when Elijah was hiding in a cave and a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord? After the wind, there was an earthquake followed by a fire, but the Lord was not in them. Then there came a gentle whisper and Elijah heard the Lord!

James 1:9 reminds us that everyone should be quick to listen and slow to speak. When we are quick to speak, we are prone to miss what is being said. Listening first enables us to hear the message. When we receive or hear the message meant for us, it helps us to understand what another person is thinking or feeling.

In September we sent 29 cards and 11 letters, made 78 phone calls and 33 visits. Pastor Janette has been joining us on our visits to meet our special friends. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> in the Library. You are welcome to join us. Let us trust God to give us the courage and patience to listen to His voice and to the voices of others.

**UMW NEWS:** November 2010

- November 1 – Executive Board meets at 9am in the Lose Library

- November 16 – Regular meeting is at 10 am in the Social Hall. The program is the Election of Officers, and the Luncheon is Turkey dinner with all of the trimmings. Please bring your own service. ALL Methodist women and friends are invited.

\*\* Circles are dark in November.

**UMM BREAKFAST FOR NOVEMBER:** The UMM Breakfast will be on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall. If Howard

on a prayer request from 2 years ago - my brothers grandson - Zachary at 16 ( the age of our granddaughter Elisabeth) was diagnosed with a rare type of T Cell Lymphatic Leukemia - the parents were given no hope for his survival. There were prayers across the country - he and his family lived in Texas. Now 2 yrs later, after intensive Chemotherapy, Radiation, and Bone Marrow transplant - Zach graduated from high school this past summer. Behind his classmates but gradually he is getting back to a type of "normal". Houston Children's Cancer Center is to be commended and so are all of you for your prayers. Thank you on behalf of Zach.

-Lucy Elgin

### UPDATE FROM ASIMA:

Brightest Blessings Memorial family! Things are finally settling down for us, and I'm enjoying the new job in Kansas City. As Director of Marketing for Fresh Pork at Farmland Foods, I'm having fun learning all about pig parts and helping create more opportunities to brand our pork.

We are also moving again, for what we hope is the last time for awhile. We've rented a house in KC with a great kitchen, hardwood floors throughout and a big back yard and deck with big trees that are changing color. Plus enough squirrels to entertain the cats (from inside!).

Tom is still working in Austin, awaiting a transfer, soon to be minimally furnished, and catless. Prayers for a quick transfer and sale of the house in Austin would be great so Tom can join me in KC. We miss everyone, and appreciate the cards, facebook and emails! If you need our new contact information, give Sara in the office a call and she can pass it on to you! Give each other hugs from us, and love to see you if you come out our way!

**THANK YOU** for all your prayers and concerns especially as George continues to improve and gain strength after the Chemotherapy. Also from Lucy - Thank you for prayers for my recent heart procedure - I am "hanging in there". -From the Elgin's

**TO MY WONDERFUL CHURCH FAMILY:** Thank you, thank you for all of your love, concern, cards, and especially prayers during my illness. It has meant more to me than I can say. I love you and thank God for you. - Margie Magargee.

**I WANT TO THANK** our congregation for the loving celebration they shared with us on 10/10/10. Leonard Babcock and I both had birthdays on that date which only happens once in 100 years. The beautiful cards, phone calls and cakes were much appreciated - Thank you! -Pauline Middleton

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Margaret Nicholls 11/05 Candace Yang 11/06  
Barbara Grams 11/07 Maya Simpson 11/08  
Roberta Coon 11/10 Diane Zastovnik 11/10  
Blanche Spencer 11/13 Evie Weiss 11/13  
Shannan Yang 11/14 Richard Polson 11/15  
Helena Yang 11/15 Marlene Remer 11/16  
Luke Stoddard 11/23 Connie Alfaro 11/25



Cook is available, we will have pancakes, OJ and sausage.

Otherwise, you get the default breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits and OJ. We will be discussing ways to expand the membership and define the mission of the UMM. Pastor Janette offered some interesting possibilities in her presentation at our last meeting and, perhaps, will share those with us again. You don't have to be a member to attend so bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship. Be sure and notify Max of any additional guests.

#### **THURSDAY NIGHT DINERS NOVEMBER 2010**

Anyone is welcome! Please come at 5:45 – we will start to eat promptly at 5:55. These are only suggestions; you may bring anything you like to our potluck. If you have any questions, please call Barbara .

November 4: A little bit of Italy pasta night! Please bring your favorite pasta dish.

November 11: Diners will be dark this week – the Boutique will be Friday and Saturday and lunch will be served there.

November 18: Thanksgiving Dinner! The Grams will make the turkey, you bring the rest.

November 25: Diners will be dark this week – it's Thanksgiving Day!!

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE REVIEW COMMITTEE PROPOSALS FOR THE CHARGE CONFERENCE:**

Based on questions that were raised as to the clarity of our administrative structure and concerns as to whether it was conforming to the Book of Disciplines, a committee was formed to look at the current system. The following proposals are a result of a committee meeting October 12<sup>th</sup>:

1. Recommend the establishment of a task force, comprising a minimum of three people to evaluate the current administrative church structure based on the Book of Disciplines.

2. The pastor will be authorized to create a task force, during the coming year, for the purpose of enhancing our spiritual formation ministry.

These two proposals will be presented by the committee chair.

#### **HOLY CLUB YOUTH GROUP**

#### **YOUTH EVENTS:**

Nov 7 at 5 pm – Mission Trip 2011 meeting in the bungalow

Nov 7 at 5:30 pm – field trip to a prayer labyrinth or garden

Nov 14 at 5:15 – music; at 6 – youth group in the bungalow

Nov 21 at 5:15 – music; at 6 – youth group in the bungalow

Nov 26 at 1pm – Christmas Tree Decorating in the Sanctuary

November 27 at 8 am – Povorello House workday

Nov 28 at 5:15 – music; at 6 – youth group in the bungalow

#### **FROM THE PASTOR**

**IT IS TIME FOR A SPIRITUAL RETROFIT.** I believe that this procedure needs to happen with some regularity. You may be wondering what I mean by the term "spiritual retrofit." Let me elaborate:

We live in earthquake country. We all know that we do not currently have the capability to predict when or where earthquakes will happen, or how strong they will be. When earthquakes happen, all structures are at risk of damage. In order to minimize potential damage in this state in the past 20 years we have spend billions of dollars retrofitting our buildings and highways, making sure structures have stable foundations and structural supports that can withstand severe earthquakes.

One congregation I served was in the middle of a building project when the bishop sent me there. The church property had a house on it that had been used as a preschool. A huge addition to the house was being built, expanding the preschool program and children's ministries. As part of that work, the existing building needed a retrofit.

To make sure the existing house would withstand an earthquake one couple in the congregation were working daily to ensure the entire structure was firmly connected to the foundation. They had removed flooring near the walls throughout the house. I can still see the man, in his late 70's, half inside the house and half under it with his wife of 50+ years following his progress foot by foot. Together they made sure that the house was bolted to the foundation throughout, then replaced the interior flooring and connected the new and old structures together.

I have always thought of their efforts as a metaphor for our spiritual life, too. We can't predict when our world will be rocked by all manner of hardships to outright calamity. To be able to move through these various challenges we need to be sure we are firmly connected to the foundation of our faith – Jesus. Before we move ahead, expanding our ministries, we need to take time to be sure that whatever bumps and jolts we may experience won't cause us to shift away from God.

One way to keep connected to and strengthen our bond with God is through practicing spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines are "a means of grace" or a way to experience God. Often they accomplish this through small challenges that help us discover what impediments are inside us, prohibiting God from fully healing and transforming us into the people we have always wanted to be.

In the same way an athlete trains some everyday to grow in strength and endurance, spiritual disciplines provide regular opportunity for us to grow in our faith.

I am inviting the congregation to join me throughout 2011 in exploring 12 spiritual disciplines – one each month. I will publicize the disciplines through the newsletter, and talk about them in worship. For those who are inclined, I would be DELIGHTED to have weekly group time where we discuss our experiences and challenge ourselves to go deeper. Having a group to with which to share this journey can enhance the experience powerfully.

To help with this I will be using as a guide a book by Richard Foster, "Celebration of Discipline – the Path to Spiritual Growth." It is an excellent resource, and would be good to add to your personal library. You can find used copies online for under \$10 (which includes shipping). Older editions are fine.

In the stewardship letter you will be receiving the first week of November there will be a survey of how you would like to use your time and talents to extend God's holy realm. One item in that survey is making a commitment to engage in the spiritual disciplines throughout the coming year. I encourage you to prayerfully consider making this commitment. You will receive blessing "far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine!" -js