

# Good News!

The newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis  
January 2005

## ITEMS WITH LOST OWNERS

We have lots of things – keyboard, drum set, huge flashlight, musical instruments, and other items. They are in the organ chambers, church office, sanctuary and social hall. Please claim them by letting Cheryl know they are yours. If you no longer want them, tell her so. We plan to relocate these items in March.

## THANK YOU NOTES

Thanks to all who contributed items to help our new Hmong families. We took about 10 car/truck loads of clothes, toys, furniture and many other items to two churches. Whatever you contributed, it was most appreciated. Special thanks you to my husband, Erick, for all his help. What a wonderful church! You're always there when help is needed.

Lynn Seay

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Many thanks for the cards, calls, food and visits from the church family, and Denice's visits. Your thoughtfulness is really appreciated.

Dolores & Howard Nelson

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The Florida Disaster Recovery Project would like to thank you for the special offering which was taken up for repairs to Margie Harris' roof. We know it will be a blessing to her to know that so many people care about her. It is truly amazing how God has used this disaster as an opportunity to encourage communities to come together to care for the needs of friends and strangers. May God bless you and your congregation for your generosity.

Regards,

Marilyn Swanson  
Project Director

## LINK CARE CENTER

Presents

### "Ministry of Helps"

A biblical lay-COUNSELING training program  
Instructor: Dale Ackley, Ph.D.

Purpose: To provide the tools, training, and an understanding of basic biblical counseling dynamics to be able to facilitate a "Ministry of Helps" program within the church body. The goal is to come alongside hurting and wounded people within a congregation.

Training Dates: These 15 weekly classes (3-4 hours in length) will be given in February and August. Included is monthly in-service training for one year after completing the course of study. The first Training Program will begin on Thursday, February 17, at 6 p.m. at the Link Care Center.

For more information, contact: Link Care Center,  
1734 W. Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93711  
(559) 439-5920, Ext. 115 \* E-mail:  
daleackley@linkcare.org

## ENDOWMENT FUND

It is no secret that our church has a Permanent Endowment Fund, nor is it a secret that we need to add to it by our gifts. We accept gifts of any monetary amount and pool them into our growing Permanent Endowment Fund. We also accept gifts of real estate or stocks or bonds, too. If you would like to learn more about how to give to our Permanent Endowment Fund, please speak with Rick Hutchinson or John Tallmadge.

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## Worship Ministry

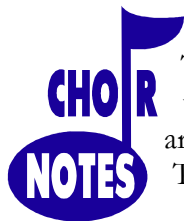
News from the teams that support the Sunday worship services.

*"Make a joyful noise to the LORD...  
Serve the Lord with gladness!" (Psalm 100)*

## Music Notes

### FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

Our Chime Choir, Fellowship of the Ring, has rehearsal every Sunday at 4:30. All are invited to come. For more information, see Janette Erickson or Sue DeFranco.



### SING UNTO THE LORD!

The choir is always welcoming new voices. All who would like to sing are invited to join us in rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

### SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to those who purchased flowers during our Fall and Christmas Season. They give the sanctuary an added touch. Our Brother and Sisters the Korean Congregation also participated with us.

Our next big floral display will be Easter. We hope you will continue to support this aspect of ministry.

Thank you, The Worship Committee

## Care Ministries

Giving Special Care to Others

### SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM REPORT, 12/04 MEETING

We gathered to address pastoral care, visitation, and prayer needs in our congregation: Pastor Denice, Minnie Eller, Max Cannon, Evelyn Haulman, Margie Magargee, Lorraine May and Your Coordinator.

Opening worship dwelt on the prayer "Lord, let me be an instrument of your peace" in the hymnal.

Invitation: The Mennonite churches are offering a "Ministry of helps" training program in Feb. to improve skills in visitation, etc. See Pastor Denice.

During the previous month we reported a number of visits, calls and cards sent.

For the next month we accepted assignments for contacts. We added two people to our Special Friends list, having removed one due to death.

We prayed for peace and many with illness, pain and the wounded soldiers.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, JANUARY 11, 1:30 PM. We will discuss the idea of a senior birthday party for those over 80.

### PANTRY NEWS

The pantry has been scrubbed, sprayed and debugged of the pesty weevils! We plan to re-open after the New Year and will need a few donations to re-start. We had to throw away all of the paper bags with handles, so we need a new supply. We can use mac-and-cheese and spaghetti sauce. No flour products. Thanks for all your donations this past year!

Bob & Joan Bowser

### THURSDAY NIGHT POTLUCK

Are you lonesome, don't feel connected to our congregation, then, Thursday Night Pot Luck is the answer. It is a great time for devotional, fellowship, and prayer. This is a wonderful group. We start at 6:15 and finish promptly at 7:30pm. You don't have to cook, just run into your local grocery store or favorite fast food restaurant and pick up something. We eat anything and everything that is brought to the table. If you haven't tried it, you don't know what you are missing.

The Grams

### UNITED METHODIST MEN'S MEETING FOR JANUARY 8TH

The meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall at 8:00am with a surprise breakfast; a surprise because I haven't worked up the menu yet. We may also have a surprise presentation for the same reason. We will do some pruning around the church following the breakfast so bring the appropriate gear and dress accordingly. Come and bring a friend and enjoy great fellowship.

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN RESULTS

Our Financial Stewardship campaign for 2005 has resulted in a total pledge of \$184,000, a 12% increase over last year's total pledge of \$165,000 and our highest pledge on record. The new figure includes pledges from members who have been contributing to our non-pledged giving during the current year. As new members make first-time pledges, their giving is transferred to the pledge line. Therefore, with more pledges, our non-pledged income tends to decrease. Even so, the overall estimated income from contributions for the New Year has increased by 6%! That is outstanding. Thank you one and all for your faithful stewardship. Truly one of the spiritual gifts of this congregation is giving.

Pastor Denice Leslie



## Sunday School

### Christian Education

*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable."*

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:45 a.m.  
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 & 11:15 a.m.

### CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation classes will begin in mid-January. All students 7th grade and up are invited to attend. Classes will be held during Sunday School. We will have on-going lesson each week thru Easter. If you have a child interested, please contact Barbara Grams.

### SUNDAY - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Parents and Grandparents of School Age Children, When is the last time your child has been to Class? If they have not been this fall they are missing out.

This fall, the Christian Education Program was revamped. We are excited about the changes and

want to share with you some of the program. Each month we start a new topic. Every Sunday we have a different phase of that topic. The First Sunday, is the introduction of the Subject. Generally this is a video or skit to introduce the Students to topic.

The Second Sunday is our cooking Sunday. We interpret the Story thru cooking. The children participate making this special treat. The Children love this.

Third Sunday - This is our Special Day we all meet in the fellowship hall. The young adults play Christian music for our Children. Sometimes we will have other special guest.

Fourth Sunday – Game or Craft. We finish up our theme for the month with a special game or craft. This is fun for all ages.

Once a month we have a special treat, each time a different treat is planned such as, pancakes, apples dipped in caramel, waffles etc. They love it.

We encourage both Adults and Children to come and visit our newly redesigned Sunday School Program. We always have room for more.

If you would like to help or have any questions, please call Dorrie Osback-Rose, our Sunday School Superintendent, or leave a note in the church office.

## YOUTH NEWS

### NEW T-SHIRTS

In January, we will be creating our new T-shirts! Please buy your own plain T-shirt, in whatever bright color you like. Make sure the T-shirt has no pocket, and is of good quality. We will make our final decision on our design, and have the shirts silk-screened by the end of the month. If you (or your parents!) run across a really good deal, it would help if you could pick up an extra one or two in different size and colors, for future youth group members. You will be reimbursed. If you have any questions, please contact Youth Worker Connie Alfaro.

### ALL ABOUT YOU NIGHT!

Want to learn more about the members of your youth group? His most embarrassing moment? Her favorite snack food? Her Number One Pet Peeve? Join the rest of the 7-12 graders for "All About You Night" on Sunday, January 8, as we spotlight one of your youth group friends! Who will it be? Come and find out!

## NEW ADULT STUDY

### "DaVinci Code" Sunday at 9:00 A.M.

"Truth and Fiction in "The DaVinci Code"" is the title of a book by Bart Ehrman of UNC Chapel Hill. It's also the topic for the Sunday morning 9 a.m. adult study led by Kim Leslie for the next six to eight weeks. The book, published by Oxford Press, will be the outline for studying author Dan Brown's historical /theological claims in the novel. Two video programs will provide supplemental material. Participants may find it helpful, but not necessary, to have or share a copy of the novel and/or Ehrman's book.

## Coach's Corner

Happy New Year! Each new year is certainly a grace from God, giving us all another opportunity to improve our lives, contribute to the lives of those we love and to the world as disciples of Jesus Christ. The New Year is also the time to put our church house in order. Order is one way in which we minister to one another and support one another in the operation of our ministry task. In this January article of my Coach's Corner I want to outline the things that will help us function as a team administratively and facilitate our ministry together.

In this issue you will find helpful information regarding the functioning of our church including the 2005 Officers list. Please keep this issue and the officers list for future reference. The purpose of the information is to facilitate communication. Communication is always a challenge in a volunteer organization such as the church and is dependent on everyone doing their best to provide correct information to the office.

The church office is the hub for all of our printed and web site communications. Please alert the office if you have a change in plans no matter how small or if you think no one but your group needs to know and they've all been informed. Your information helps us know when to reset thermostats, controlling heating and cooling costs, reserve space for a meeting or release space when a meeting is cancelled, avoid meeting space conflicts between groups within our congregation as well as

with the Korean Congregation and outside building use groups.

Each group is responsible for providing and updating newsletter information, bulletin insert information, calendar information, and web site information of its activities, ministries and events and any additional information you want in meeting reminders. If the office fails to follow through on getting out submitted information, please let us know!

If you don't get a meeting reminder—call the office and report it—check to be sure the information we have on how you wish to receive reminders is correct and that your name is on the reminder list. Don't make assumptions as to why something did or did not happen. Go to the source and ask direct questions. Working together and supporting one another will increase the effectiveness and quality of our communications.

Planning ahead is essential for good communication. Try to plan at least three months in advance and report your plans to Council.

Getting monthly information into the newsletter is the most important thing you can do to publicize your ministry. The newsletter and our web page are the main ways we communicate to people new to the church. If your group is not in the newsletter, you are invisible. If you teach a class, lead a group, are the chair of a committee etc. please get your information in for publication. Don't assume the whole church knows because you put information in the bulletin insert. One third of the congregation is absent from worship on any given Sunday. The monthly newsletter deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Please be sure to take minutes of any meetings you are responsible for and turn them into the office for the counter books so the congregation may have access to your work. Hand written copies are fine. Emailed or faxed minutes or information is fine.

In conclusion, above all let us practice what we proclaim to the world in our vision statement: our purpose is to demonstrate the love of God in a spirit of acceptance.

Translating that means having grace for one another as we seek to live out God's grace in the world. One of my goals this year is to help every group address our vision in all its work by asking this same question: How does our ministry, event, activity demonstrate the love of God in a spirit of acceptance?

With hope and anticipation of another great year in ministry, Pastor Denice