

Good News!

The Newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

October 2005

COUNCIL MEETING TIME AND DAY CHANGE

Council voted to meet on the second Sunday of the month for the remaining quarter of the year beginning Sunday, October 9, thirty minutes after worship in the Lose Library. The hope is that we will have more leadership participate as well as make the work of the church accessible to more folks. The change will be evaluated in December.

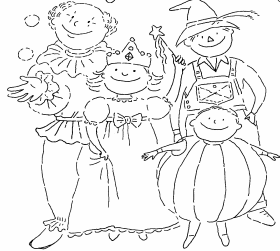
DISTRICT ENRICHMENT DAY AT MUMC: "WORKING AS A TEAM"

Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 5, 2005, 9:30 – 4 p.m. in our social hall for our annual district training. This is the third of our Fresno District Council on Ministries seminars on revitalizing the local church. The cost is \$50.00 for this wonderful opportunity. Our goal is to have a minimum of five participants and scholarships are available. To register call the church office and we will forward your registration to the District Office. Make your check payable to the church. When you call in your reservation please indicate if you need scholarship assistance.

NEIGHBORHOOD HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

Our annual Neighborhood Halloween Carnival is coming up! We need volunteers, and lots of candy! This is a great opportunity to outreach to our neighborhood kids, so if you would like to donate time to the carnival, here are ways you can help:

We're having a costume party!



- * help set up the carnival on Sun. Oct. 30
- * donate carnival games
- * help run games during

carnival

- * bake a couple dozen cupcakes for the cake walk
- * donate bags of trick-or-treat or fun-size candy

When you are ready to help, please call or see Barbara or Roger Grams, or Connie Alfaro anytime

Micah Ministries

Local & World Missions

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:6)

MISSIONS MONTH IN WORSHIP

This year our Mission Month will include a special mission emphasis each Sunday in October with three speakers. On World Communion Sunday, October 2 we will celebrate Children's Sabbath with Marylee Sheffer who will preach to us about the mission of the Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty. Sunday, October 9 Pastor Denice will lift up the mission work of our United Methodist Church and our Annual Conference. On October 16, our United Methodist Women and Pastor Denice will lead worship. Our speaker will be Kay Lewis, Executive Director of the Mary Elizabeth Inn. Then on Sunday, October 24 Pastor Kham Dy Yang will bring us up to date on the great progress of our Hmong Language ministry.

WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

The World Communion Sunday offering provides Ethnic Scholarships for undergraduate students, Crusade Scholarships for international and U.S. racial- and ethnic-minority graduate students, and scholarships for racial- and ethnic-minority persons seeking second careers in church-related vocations.

Our World Communion Sunday gifts enable persons to "press on toward the goal" of serving God in life-changing ministries. Please give generously on World Communion Sunday, October 2. Your gift makes a world of difference! *"I press on toward the goal for . . . the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."* Philippians 3:14, NRSV

ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY OCT. 30

Sunday, October 30, we will remember all the saints who have crossed the Crimson line before us as we celebrate communion. There will be an opportunity to list loved ones, friends, others you wish us to name on a Remembrance form that will be in your worship folder beginning Sunday, October 9. If you are unable to be in worship, please call the church office to submit names for the reading.

RENOVATION TEAM REPORT

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Pledge Payments: As of Sunday, September 11, 2005, outstanding pledges total \$3,785. Arrangements have been made to pay \$1,500 of this total later than October 2, 2005. That leaves \$1,285 expected by October 2. This will probably be received by the time you read this newsletter. Thank you and congratulations for a very successful support of the audio-visual project.

- Fund Raising Committee

SOUND PROGRESS!

New speakers are installed! Other equipment will be installed in the next two weeks. The new sound system should be fully operational on October 2nd. If you wish to become a regular sound operator, please contact Ron Zastovnik, or Denice Leslie. Training is mandatory for all sound operators. There will be at least two training sessions at the end of September. This is work in progress. The video equipment will be next. Your pledges and donations to the multimedia project are still needed.

THE WINDOW WALL

In response to Trustees' request, Council directed the Renovation Task Force to research and present a plan at the December 11 Council meeting for windows to be inserted in the window wall. A group will work on this. If you have suggestions or concerns, please present them in written letter form with your signature to Renovation Task Force as soon as possible. There is a "Renovation" mailbox in the office.

Care Ministries

Giving Special Care to Others

SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM REPORT FROM SEPTEMBER, 2005 MEETING

Pastor Denice Leslie, Evelyn Haulman, Dee Carr, Pauline Middleton, Max Cannon, Lorraine May, Margie Magargee, Pat Frey and Laurence Hill gathered in the Lose Library. For our worship we read and sang "A Liturgy from Christian Tradition"

and prayed for the needs of our group and our families.

We added four members to the Special Friends List for regular contact and removed four, and added one to the Watch List of 14 to keep track of. We each took assignments from the Special Friends List of 21 to visit, write or call in the coming month. Margie volunteered to drive a church member for eye surgery. We counted at least 23 visits, 57 telephone calls and 22 notes/cards during the past month.

The Grief Recovery Group is still meeting on the First Tuesday of the Month from 11 am to noon in the Lose Library. Anyone dealing with loss is invited to join us for informal discussion. You may contact John Tallmadge or Gil Stocks.

We gave thanks for the generous response to Hurricane Katrina, successful heart treatments and cancer and heart surgeries and the marriage of a grandson leaving for Iraq. We lifted up in prayers family separation needs, vein, eye and gall bladder surgeries and the survivors and rescue workers of Katrina.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 11, at 1:30 pm in the Lose Library. Everyone is invited.

Laurence Hill, Coordinator.

Congregational Life

News of the church life and the groups that meet for fellowship and support.

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

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S MEETING FOR OCTOBER 1ST

The meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall at 8:00am. Howard Cook has volunteered to do pancakes so come and bring a friend and enjoy great food and fellowship.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! CHARGE ALL-CHURCH DATE

We will once again join with Wesley UMC and New Community UMC for our annual meeting on Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 p.m. This year the New Community UMC folks will host us in Oakhurst. So mark your calendar now and let's be sure to car pool to spare the air, share the gas, and be sure folks who want to be there get there.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Oct. 3 – Board meeting, 9 am, Library
Oct. 18 – Regular meeting, 10 am, Social Hall,
Program on Missions by Pauline
Middleton. Potluck Lunch following.
Bring own service and a favorite dish.
Oct. 12 – Red Bird Circle, 9:30 am, Library
Oct. 26 – Wesley Circle, 1 pm, Social Hall

SMILE! AND GET YOUR PICTURE TAKEN

We have a new photo team and a digital camera for our use thanks to John Tallmadge. Diane Zastovnik and Ben Zastovnik will be setting up shop to take your picture. We want to get everyone's picture! You will have opportunity to sign up. The resulting photos we will reproduce ourselves as our new pictorial directory. For those who can't get out to church, we will come to you! We hope to offer you copies of your photo as well. Watch for more information.

PASTOR'S AWAY DATES FOR OCTOBER

Pastor Denice will be away midweek October 18- 20 for a full Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting in Sacramento and October 25 – 27 for the annual Probationers' Retreat mid week, October 25 – 27

COFFEE HOUR HELP NEEDED

Our fellowship time after worship is an important ministry that provides for a relaxed time to connect with our church family and with folk new to our congregation. Volunteers are needed to keep this ministry going on an uninterrupted basis. You can provide support by bringing treats, contributing to the basket on the Coffee Hour table, or helping to prepare, serve, and clean up on a Sunday or two. A core group of 4 – 6 people would make this an easy job for all. If you are interested, please see or call Sue DeFranco.

BOUTIQUE DATES

The Boutique will be held on Nov. 11 & 12. This is a week earlier than last year.



Please plan your contributions of crafts, handwork, jams, jellies and food. They are greatly appreciated and add to the success of this major fund raiser for our church.

GRIEF RECOVERY GROUP

All are welcome to our Grief Recovery Group, now meeting monthly on the first Tuesday, 11 am to noon, in the Lose Library.

Financial & Stewardship News

ATTENDANCE & FINANCE STATISTICS

August 2005

Attendance Total 135 (Weekly Average)
Hmong Attendance Total 41 (Weekly Average)
Total Attendance 702
Total Weekly Average Attendance 176
Total offering \$17,775
Needed for Budget \$18,076

GENERATIONS OF GENEROSITY

We have a lot to be thankful for! This year's Financial Stewardship theme is Generations of Generosity. We will begin our stewardship emphasis on All Saints Sunday, October 30 with the introduction of our theme and the campaign will conclude on Sunday November 20.

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."

SPIRIT QUEST OFFERING: DISCOVERING OUR GIFTS

Are you interested in discovering your spiritual gifts? Did you know the Spirit gifts each and everyone of us with useful gifts for building up the body of Christ? Our Spirit Quest Gift Discovery Leader, Lucy Elgin is offering a six week course beginning Sunday, October 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the Lose Library. Lucy is an experienced workshop leader in gift discovery. You may register by calling the church office 299-4615. Donation for materials is \$10.00 and scholarships are available. When you register, just note if you are requesting a scholarship.

This class is part of our Spirit Quest Discipleship Process provided to support you in growing in your discipleship. When you feel you are ready to use your gifts for ministry, you will have an opportunity to focus on your call to ministry, connect with a ministry that grows you as well as serves the gospel and receive the equipping you need.

DISCIPLE BIBLE THREE CLASS OFFERED AT WESLEY UMC

Disciple Bible Class Three, taught by Dr. George Elgin, is being offered at Wesley UMC, 1343 E. Barstow, beginning October 4, from 12:30 pm to 3 pm. The cost is \$40. Scholarships are available. This is an interesting and insightful study of the great prophets of ancient Israel from the Old Testament and a challenging study of the writings of Saint Paul in the New Testament. For more information, contact George Elgin, or call the church office.

Youth News

Saturday, Oct. 1, 8 am - 12:00 pm Poverello House
Work Day
Sunday, Oct. 2, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Meeting
Sunday, Oct. 10, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Meeting
Sunday, Oct. 16, NO MEETING - CROP Walk
Sunday, Oct. 23, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Meeting
Saturday, Oct. 29, 6:30 p.m. Halloween Party/Lock-in
Sunday, Oct. 30, 2:30 - 6:00 p.m. Help with
Halloween Carnival

HALLOWEEN PARTY/LOCK-IN

What: Halloween Overnight Party
Who: All Youth Grades 7-12
FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!
When: Saturday, Oct. 29, 6:30 p.m. through
Sunday, Oct. 30, 8:30 a.m.
Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m.
Where: The Haunted Bungalow
at Memorial UMC, 1726 Pollasky/Scott Ave.,
Clovis
Required: **COSTUME!!**
Bring: Snacks to share, Sleep over supplies (pillow,
sleeping bag or blanket, toothbrush, fresh
clothes, etc.) Permission slips for you and
your friends.
Plan to go: To Sunday School and Worship
Service the next morning
Questions: Call Youth Worker Connie Alfaro

Coach's Corner

Worship is the center of our communal life together. Yet how many of us remember receiving any instruction or information about worship? We tend to learn through our regular participation. And that's good. But there is so much more to know about the meaning of what we do and why that enriches our experience. As part of our Spirit Quest Discipleship class offerings, we will offer a seminar on worship.

I want to share with you a few things that you can immediately put to use. The first is about providing flowers for worship. The custom of offering a living example of God's creation at the foot of the cross is as old as Christian worship. It is a sign of resurrection which is why it is so important it actually be alive and not an artificial imitation, beautiful as they are—such as dried or silk flowers.

Cut greens or flowers or potted plants are always appropriate. Many arrangements that come from the florist often include other decorations such as a banner or spirals or flags or ribbons and bows or Christmas bulbs etc. These things are lovely but not appropriate for the occasion. The emphasis is on God's handiwork—not human and so we offer the unadorned beauty of God's handiwork. A word to your florist will prevent the necessity of removing artificial items from your floral display.

Of course God gives us the ability to create and imitate nature. The point is not to disparage our human efforts but to give God the glory by honoring God's miracle of life via the work of Jesus through the cross and through the act of creation.

Worship is theological drama—so whatever we use visually and where we place things or what actions the worship leaders and pastor do liturgically communicate meaning.

Honoring secular holidays is certainly a part of our life together as part of the larger society in which we live everyday. How we incorporate such an observance into Christian worship needs to be done with care so we do not confuse the secular observance with the worship of God or end up offering our worship to “idols.”

When we come into God's house we enter into a special zone free of all other identities and allegiances that claim us. We need to remember God is the Sovereign of all and we are here to worship God.

Worship is the time to set these other things either aside or place them in proper perspective by not making them the center of our attention.

I think we do a pretty good job most of the time in striking a balance. As we offer flowers in memory of someone or to honor an anniversary let us always remember they are an offering for the glory of God—a powerful living symbol of God's amazing creation and a testimony to the life, death and resurrection of Christ.

Blessings, Pastor Denice

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Just a reminder—we have a variety of Fair Trade coffee available for purchase at the Coffee Hour table after worship and in the church office during the week for \$7 a bag. Your purchase of fairly traded items helps to provide a fair wage and a sustainable income to coffee growers and laborers in developing countries. Any profit we make on our sale of Fair Trade coffee will benefit an ongoing mission project of the church. For more information, see Sue DeFranco or Jean Hill.

CROP WALK – OCTOBER 16th!!

It's time to get out your walking shoes again! The Fresno-Clovis CROP Walk for the Hungry will take place starting at Westside Church of God on October 16th. We will be walking for 1.5 or 3 miles (your choice) down historic and beautiful Kearney Boulevard. The Walk will be the featured event at a Westside Neighborhood Faire with food being prepared by the Fresno Police Department and lots of local community agencies providing information about their services. The Walk will start at 2:30 pm, but come anytime from 1:00 on for the other festivities.

This event is the largest interfaith walk in Fresno County. We have been walking for over 20 years to raise funds and awareness of the plight of those who must walk every day for their most basic needs. When you walk or support a CROP Walker, 75% of your donation will go to Church World Service, a national interfaith organization that works through partner agencies to help relieve the suffering of those touched by natural disaster, poverty, war, etc. The organization is now on the scene on the Gulf Coast providing hope and help to those living the nightmare of Hurricane Katrina. And they are on the scene in Niger and the Sudan, helping those who are suffering from famine, drought, and war. Where ever the need

is, Church World Service is there. The additional 25% of funds raised by the local walk will go to the Community Food Bank of Fresno County, helping those in need in our own area.

For more information on how you can walk or support a walker, please see Sue DeFranco.

THANK-YOU NOTE

My special Prayer to GOD,

I am so overwhelmed by the love poured out from this congregation. Surgery and recovery has been a breeze. With family so many miles away, our church family is so very important to us. You have shown time and time again what a church family is all about.

My prayer to God: Lord, help us that we may obtain the inspiration, wisdom and divine guidance to get the word out to the community. Every day, there are so many people so lonely, with no one who cares about them. Help us Lord to deliver the message Memorial is best known for. **YOU ARE NOT ALONE, GOD LOVES YOU AND WE REALLY DO CARE ABOUT YOU.** Help us to find them and bring them to worship with us and feel the love pour out from our church family....Amen

Thanks again for all your prayers, cards, and phone calls.

Barbara Grams

HELP! RECYCLER NEEDED FOR OFFICE

Lynn Seay was our Recycle angel, regularly picking up the pile of recyclable paper and some beverage containers and adding them to her curbside recycling pick up. Alas, now that Lynn has moved, we need a new angel! See Cheryl in the office or alert pastor Denice if you are our angel!

FRESNO DISTRICT LAY SPEAKER SCHOOL

October 9, 16, & 23

Basic and Advance Courses available. Sunday afternoons from 2 to 6 pm (snacks and materials provided). Location: First United Methodist Church, 500 East Bush Street, Lemoore, CA 93245. Cost: \$15 for basic course and \$30 for advance course. For more information, or to register, contact Pastor Thom Abrahamson at 559-924-5295.