



Good News!

The Newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

April 2006

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Passion/Palm Sunday with the Liturgy of the Palms and the dramatic reading of the Passion narrative is Sunday, April 9, 2006, 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Simple Supper and Last Supper Drama and Communion Service are Thursday, April 13, 2006. The Simple Supper is at 6 p.m. Pat Frey and Company are coordinating the supper composed of foods of Jesus' day. Our Maundy Thursday service will be a dramatic re-enactment of the Disciples Upper Room meal with Jesus. Each Disciple will share with us his innermost thoughts of how he came to know Jesus. Communion will be served.

Good Friday service, April 14, 2006, will be here at Memorial at 7:00 p.m. and a Good Friday Service of Tenebrae (the extinguishing of lights and reading of the passion narrative) will be held at the Academy Church at 7:00 p.m. (Take Hwy. 168 east, turn left on Madsen Rd. Church is down the lane on left.)

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, April 16, 2006 is at Academy at 6:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday Celebration Service, April 16, 2006, with Victory Procession is at Memorial at 10 a.m. Children and youth are asked to arrive at 9:30 a.m. to line up for the Victory Procession.

Academy Church Easter Sunday Potluck will be at 12:30 pm, with church service following at 2 pm.

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 13th is Holy Thursday. We will enjoy a simple soup supper at 6 pm in the Social Hall. Then we'll proceed to the sanctuary for service. Please bring fruit, nuts or bread. Soup will be provided.

OVER \$500.00 RAISED!

The Souper Bowl of Caring VI was a winner! Through your kind donations, the youth group collected \$329.00 for Poverello House. Our 30-hour Famine bake sale brought in \$181.00 for UMCOR--well worth staring at all the wonderful goodies while we were starving! Grand Total: \$510.00. Thanks to everyone who donated time, money, goodies, or all three.

ATTENTION!!!!

It is that time of year again. Our students are getting ready to graduate!! We will be recognizing our graduates on Student Sunday in June. If you have a child or grandchild who is graduating from high school or college please let the office (299-4615) know so we can make up our list.

We need this information no later than May 21st. Thank you, Dorrie Osback-Rose

THE LOWREY'S ARE MOVING

We are leaving California on April 4 and starting our retirement as "Zarks" on April 10th, 2006. Please keep in touch, or better still, call us and come on down for a visit. We are located 20 minutes south of Branson.

Susan, Jim and Neal Hoffman Lowrey
1180 Tate Road
Ridgedale, MO 65739

THANK-YOU NOTE

We would like to thank everyone in our church family for their prayers, get well cards, visits and phone calls during LeRoy's recent knee replacement surgery. We have such wonderful new friends in this Church and are truly blessed. God bless all of you!

Thank you all so much!
LeRoy and Ruth Ehresman

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

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

The Thrift Shop was open the first week end in March. We had lots of former customers and quite a few new ones. Our proceeds, however, were under \$600. We think that is because we are very low on items in some areas of the shop. Again we ask that you pray for us as we continue in this mission. And again we thank you for your support in getting contributions to us. We do still need kitchen items, small appliances, pots and pans and any other kitchen items that you really don't need. My plea last month brought in quite a bit. But we sold almost all of the new items the first day. So take a look around and see if there is something you haven't used in years! Don't forget, we are truly thankful for whatever you give.

We would still like to see some new faces on our work days, the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month! We will take your contributions whenever you can bring them; if the shed and church are both closed, please call either Margie or me and one of us will come and take them. Our numbers are in the church directory. Again, thanks for your continuing support.

Pat Frey

UMM BREAKFAST MEETING - April 1, 2006

United Methodist Men will meet on April 1st. A cook hasn't been lined up yet but I'm hoping to talk Howard into doing pancakes again. George Elgin has just had a book published and will be giving a short presentation about the book. It's a book that I think you will find unique in its content. He will also have copies available. Open minds, open doors, and open hearts aren't restricted to just Methodists so bring a friend and come and enjoy great fellowship.

Max Cannon

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

April 3 – Board meeting, 9 am Library

April 6,7,8 – Spring Retreat at ECCO in Oakhurst

April 12 – Red Bird Circle – 9:30 am, Library

April 18 – Regular meeting, 10 am Social Hall.

Speaker: Vickie Healy, District Superintendent.

Luncheon following – Potluck. Everyone welcome!

April 26 – Wesley Circle, 10 pm, Social Hall

Administration & Stewardship

ATTENDANCE & FINANCE STATISTICS

February 2006

English Attendance Average –141 Total – 562

Hmong Attendance Average – 64 Total – 191

Total Attendance – 753

Total offering - \$19871.12

Received for 2006 as of Feb. 28:

Pledges: \$27,781

Percent of due-to-date: 86.6%

Thrift store: \$1,213

Hmong Mission: \$1,430

Building Use: \$2,330

Renovation: \$70

Coffee: \$75

Pastor's Fund: \$149

Multimedia: \$1,410

Christmas: \$185

Human Relations Day: \$171

Grants: \$10,000

Memorials: \$490

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 COMMITTEE MEETING

The Missions Committee will meet on Monday, April 3, at 7 pm in the Library

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."

YOUTH NEWS

Sat. 04/01/06 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Poverello

House Work Day

Sun. 04/02/06 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Youth Movie

Night (Bungalow)

Sun. 04/09/06 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Make Your Own Pizza Night (Bungalow)
Sun. 04/16/06 NO MEETING - Happy Easter!
Sun. 04/23/06 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Meeting (Bungalow)
Sun. 04/30/06 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Meeting (Bungalow)

MAKE YOUR OWN PIZZA! BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

On Sunday, April 9, all young people grades 7-12 are invited to a Make Your Own Pizza Party in the Fellowship Hall. We will get started at 5:30 p.m., put together our favorite concoctions, and share the results of our experiments - er, recipes! Sodas and place settings will be provided. Friends are always welcome! For more information about what to bring, please call Youth Pastor Connie Alfaro

LESLIE'S SALT SHAKER

Coming out of worship on Sunday, March 26, 2006 Lorraine May asked me if I noticed who had given the flowers that morning and for what purpose. I was surprised to find the gorgeous roses were provided by Sue DeFranco in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women in the United Methodist Church and in honor of myself as a clergy woman.

This acknowledgment brought a rush of memories and feelings and foremost the realization that I had long forgotten any feeling of “forging the way” as a woman in a centuries old male only vocation. I mostly feel fortunate to have been born at a point in history where I was able as a woman to fulfill my call in pastoral ministry.

I remember my first year in seminary. Prior to my class, there was only a small handful of women— perhaps six or seven who were a head of us. Glenda Thomas and Roberta Corson were two United Methodist Clergy women married to clergy who were out there truly forging the way having graduated at least five years earlier. Glenda was the first clergy woman to be ordained and pregnant.

Glenda's daughter Amy Beth baby sat for myself and Katen McClintock at annual conference the year our babies were too big to take on the conference floor-- as we had done a year earlier--there was no childcare at that time. Karen and I went on to remedy that situation and today

we have on-site childcare and enrichment programs for infants through high school every year at Annual Conference. Our daughters Moira and Rena went through the program as it grew and Moira “graduated” into serving on staff for a number of years. Ian went from the youth programs to serving as a Youth Delegate for a couple of years.

The sudden swell of women the year I entered seminary was like a big wave that hit the beach and tossed us up on the shore like sand dollars. There were so many of us the faculty couldn't possibly throw us all back! And many wanted to do just that. Barbara Troxell was the only female faculty on campus at the time—and adjunct faculty at that in the area of field education—not a professor of New Testament or Church History. Barbara and Glenda went on to eventually serve as the first women District Superintendents in this annual conference.

Probably the most memorable event I have is making history with the clergy women in putting forward the candidacy of Leontine Kelly for Bishop as the second female Bishop (after Marjorie Matthews) of our denomination and the first African American woman Bishop in the world.

As for myself, I was surprised to realize I was among the first 38 women ordained as an Elder in Full Connection in our conference. We number well over 150 some 25 years later as of June of this year. 25 years. I have to say it again because the time has passed so quickly and with so many rewards. Did I have my hassles because I was a woman in ministry? Yes, surprisingly mostly from other women in the churches I've served.

I want to thank my United Methodist campus pastor Nancy Self who went on to pioneer the Commission on the Status and Role of Women for the General Church. Having a role model made a world of difference. Nancy's personal story is one of true discrimination by a Bishop who was otherwise considered quite progressive, Gerald Kennedy.

I want to thank my husband for his encouragement and faith in me as I found my way forward and the pastors I interned with, Franklin Scott, Jerry Lowe and Bill McCord. Each one championed our cause, made room for us in their ministries and prodded us forward.

I want to thank the congregations I have served on staff or as intern: St Marks, Sacramento, First UMC, Napa. And those churches I've pastored: St. Helena UMC, Wesley, Hayward, Tracy, (North Indiana Conference), Maple Lane, (North Indiana Conference), Biggs UMC, Paradise UMC and YOU Memorial!

And finally, I thank the Holy Spirit for lighting my way every step. To this day I can't imagine doing anything else with my life other than serving Jesus Christ. God is good! And so are you.

Pastor Denice Leslie

COACHES CORNER

A lot is going on around here! This is always a busy, active church. The two Disciple One classes are still open to new members: One class meets on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. and the other meets on Thursdays at 12:30 .m. Our Lenten Mission, donating for blankets for Church World Service has been very successful. I want to thank the Missions team and Sue DeFranco who authored our Rainbow of Caring Devotional highlighting the needs of the oppressed in places like Darfur where CWS is active providing blankets and tools bringing hope to the hopeless.

We have our Maundy Thursday Last Supper drama coming along with thirteen men of this congregation cast as Jesus and the Disciples who will share their innermost thoughts with us in the Upper Room. The choir is working on Holy Week and Easter music and I hope everyone will make a special effort to participate in our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday observances here at Memorial and out at the Academy Church.

Speaking of churches, the efforts to begin a new United Methodist Church in the Prather area are off to a good start with a meeting of interested local folks in the area in March. Please keep Dick and Myrna Jones in your prayers as they lead this effort. We will be supporting this new church with our presence and office support as we are able. We will keep you posted on when Memorial's presence is needed.

As I write this, we await with anticipation the decision of our conference Board of Missions on whether we shall receive a grant funding Pastor Kham Dy for full time ministry with the Hmong community here at Memorial. Vickie Healy, our District Superintendent has been a consistent advocate of this ministry and as a result, the conference New Church Development Committee has recommended our grant request to the Board of Church and Society. We should know any day now.

Our Renovation and Design Team has forged ahead with a plan for renovation of our sanctuary with the first step of the installation of our new communion rails. Hats off to Cecil Leonardo who designed, built, finished and installed the rails and to Dona Leonardo for making the kneeling cushions. We are so blessed to have so many gifted and committed members!

I challenged you to consider how we can be in ministry with the homeless who are sleeping on our grounds. I learned the City of Clovis has identified the need for a center for abused women and children as well as a homeless shelter. I would like to see members of this congregation step forward to serve on these city projects as your ministry of discipleship for Jesus Christ.

We have our Spirit Quest leaders offering classes or mentoring people in discipleship. We have a Beyond 30 Seconds class that will be meeting after worship for the purpose of welcoming and reaching out—making our congregation visible in our community.

Although there's been a lot of talk there is still very little movement in getting a team together to reach a new constituency—namely young adults with an eye to beginning a second service. We have funding waiting in the wings through our Fresno Church Extension Society. What we need is for me to get folks together. If you would like to be a part of this team please see me.

Finally, we are slowly but surely finding our way forward in our new Administrative Support team as we seek to work from our faith and our mission statement as our basic foundation for decision making so that all things may be done for the sake of the gospel. We are taking baby steps forward in growing together spiritually as a team and learning how that informs all that we do.

In the midst of our church life I want you to know that my goal for us as a congregation is to make disciples who are in ministry inside and especially outside the doors of our church. Easter is just around the corner and Pentecost not far behind. Let us follow Jesus into the world!

May the Risen Christ keep us young,
Pastor Denice

VENDOR'S FAIRE - MAY 6

At Clovis Memorial UMC

Featuring over 25 vendors

- ☞Silk and cashmere scarves ☞Silk Jackets
- ☞Crystal and gemstone custom jewelry
 - ☞ Arbon Cosmetics
- ☞Soy candles, natural soaps and balms
 - ☞ Beaded purses
- ☞Custom wallets, belts, and moneyholders
 - ☞ Seawater pearls
- ☞Go Natural foods and chocolates
 - ☞ Pampered Chef products
- ☞Bridal bouquets, jewelry and accessories
 - ☞Happy Memories – Antique toys
 - ☞ Stamping products
- ☞Fair Trade Coffee Beans, Chocolate and Tea
 - ☞Yard Art
- ☞Tea for Two ☞ Hand-woven Textiles
- ☞Masseuse products ☞Handmade Dolls

If you have a pop-up shade cover, or furniture dolly that we can borrow for the May 6 Vendor Faire, put your name on your items and bring to the church office. We also need 30 gallon plastic trash cans. Questions? Call Gloria McClanahan at 291-8403, or Charlene DeTurk at 323-5112. Remember: Booths are only \$45.00 and proceeds go towards our sanctuary renovation fund.

“THE SHOE MAN”

I showered and shaved, I adjusted my tie.
I got there and sat, in a pew just in time.
Bowing my head in prayer, as I closed my eyes,
I saw the shoe of the man next to me, touching my own. I sighed.
With plenty of room on either side, I thought, “Why must our soles touch?”
It bothered me, his shoe touching mine, but it didn’t bother him much.
A prayer began: “Our Father”...I thought, “This man with the shoes has no pride.
They’re dusty, worn, and scratched, even worse. There are holes on the side!”
“Thank You for blessings,” the prayer went on.
The shoe man said a quiet “Amen.”
I tried to focus on the prayer, but my thoughts were on his shoes again.
Aren’t we supposed to look our best, when walking through the door?
“Well, this certainly isn’t it,” I thought, glancing toward the floor.
Then the prayer was ended, and the songs of praise began.
The shoe man was certainly loud, sound proud as he sang.
His voice lifted the rafters, his hands were raised high.
The Lord could surely hear the shoe man’s voice from the sky.
It was time for the offering, and what I threw in was steep.
I watched as the shoe man reached into his pockets so deep.
I saw what was pulled out, what the shoe man put in.
Then I heard a soft “clink”, as when silver hits tin.
The sermon really bored me, to tears, and that’s no lie.
It was the same for the shoe man, for tears fell from his eyes.
At the end of the service, as is the custom here
We must greet new visitors and show them all good cheer.
But I felt moved somehow, and wanted to meet the shoe man
So after the closing prayer, I reached over and shook his hand.
He was old and his skin was dark and his hair was truly a mess
But I thanked him for coming, for being our guest.
He said, “My name’s Charlie, I’m glad to meet you, my friend.”
There were tears in his eyes, but he had a large, wide grin.
“Let me explain,” he said, wiping tears from his eyes.
“I’ve been coming here for months, and you’re the first to say ‘Hi.’”
“I know that my appearance is not like all the rest
“But I really do try to always look my best.
“I always clean and polish my shoes, before my very long walk.
“But by the time I get here, they’re dirty and dusty, like chalk.”
My heart filled with pain, and I swallowed to hide my tears
As he continued to apologize for daring to sit so near.
He said, “When I get here I know I must look a sight.
“But I thought if I could touch you, then maybe our souls might unite.”
I was silent for a moment, knowing whatever was said
Would pale in comparison, I spoke from my heart, not my head.
“Oh, you’ve touched me” I said “And taught me in part;
“That the best of any man is what is found in his heart.”
The rest, I thought, this shoe man will never know.
Like just how thankful I really am that his dirty old shoe touched my soul.
You are special to me and you have made a difference in my life.
I respect you, and truly cherish you.