

Good News!

The newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

February 2003

LENTEN STUDY GROUPS FORMING: SIGN UP NOW

Please sign up this month for a six-week Lenten Study Group, "The Way of Forgiveness," in the lobby of the church. If you would be willing to lead a study group, please speak with Pastor Denice Leslie. Study groups will meet in homes in March and April during Lent.

TEAM OF TWO NEEDED FOR SPIRITUAL LIFE RESOURCE SALE

If you would be interested in organizing a consignment sale of Spiritual-life resources for the congregation on a Sunday morning, speak with Pastor Denice. We will order our resources from Upper Room and have them available during late February or early March for sale to all.

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' ON A SUMMERS DAY! CAMPING AT PISMO BEACH ANYONE?

No, not in the middle of winter—some balmy summer day! If that sounds pleasant to you, share your interest with Roger Pachelbell. We're making plans!

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MINISTRY OPENING IN FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Would you enjoy coordinating fellowship events for the congregation? Events such as an evening potluck, the Advent Dinner, Fat Tuesday/Ash Wednesday Dinner, a church picnic, etc.? If so please speak with Pastor Denice. We have the position of Fellowship Activities Coordinator open for 2003.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Pastor Denice, Kim, Ian, Moira, and Rena thank you for gifting us at Christmas. Your thoughtfulness, caring and generosity communicate your love and appreciation. In turn, let us express our love and thanks to all.. Happy New Year!

The Leslies

CORRECTIONS

- Officers List names left off:
- Add to Worship Plan Team: Member at Large:
 - Carol Mohan
- Add to Worship Plan Team:
 - Seasonal Decorations:
 - Kayte Van De Mark, Gloria McClanahan
- Add under Communications:
 - Good News Editors:
 - Gail Davis and Kay Gonzalez
- Add under Trustees:
- Building Use Coordinator and Wedding
 - Hostess: Diane Zastovnik

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

JOIN THE BOUTIQUE GROUP

Who? Anyone who likes to craft, sew, quilt, crochet, knit, ANY kind of crafting.

WHAT? Do your own thing or participate in group projects.

HOW? We offer instruction, patterns, ideas, encouragement, materials, and Friendship.

WHEN? 9:00-11:30* Come every Wednesday or as often as you can. *(We turn into the "out to Lunch Bunch" at 11:30).

WHERE? Church Social Hall

WHY? To make articles to sell at the annual November boutique, a major fund-raiser for MUMC.

We would LOVE to have you. For information, call Barbara or Bev via the church office

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Feb. 3 - Board meeting, 9 a.m., Library

Feb. 18 - Regular meeting, 10 a.m. Social Hall Bring canned goods for needy families. Bring your own service for lunch. Everyone Welcome - Come Join Us!

Feb. 11 - Red Bird Circle, 9:30 a.m. Cleora Dillon's residence.

Feb. 26 - Wesley Group, 1 p.m., Social Hall

All groups are open to new members and visitors!

ATTENTION: METHODIST WOMEN

A great weekend for renewal, inspiration, and fellowship at 3 Rivers Retreat

March 7-8-9, 2003

\$125

Partial scholarship available

Forms in office

See you there!

UNITED METHODIST MEN NEWS

Men's group at Clovis UMC looks forward to some exciting new programs in 2003. Besides the monthly breakfast meetings and the newly started weekly T-Quest Support and Study Group, UMM is planning a number of community service and mission projects as well as work days for grounds cleanup.

Men's breakfast meeting is held at 8:00AM on the first Saturday of every month in the Fellowship Hall, unless otherwise announced. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other church members and enjoy Christian fellowship. Breakfast is served \$3 per person. You can't beat that! Mark your calendar for the next three meetings: February 1, March 1 (tentative), and April 5. All men in the church are invited to the meetings. If you like it, bring a friend, too!

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Thanks to a very good year at the Thrift Shop, a donation of \$10,000 has been made to Apportionment. Thank you all for the donations of discards, help and support. We appreciate it!

ONE DAY OFFICERS SPIRITUAL RETREAT MARCH 1

Officers and ministry teams and administrative committees, mark your calendar for a one-day spiritual retreat Saturday March 1. More information will be coming to you

FUNDRAISERS CAN BENEFIT YOUR GROUP AND YOUR CHURCH

Kayte Van DeMark, who is serving as our Communications officer this year, is very interested in repeating the successful fundraising experience we had with the Jennifer Myers concert and recital. Jennifer provided us with a concert of vocal music featuring herself and talented young people in our congregation as a fundraiser to benefit our capitol funds campaign for computer equipment. In return Jennifer was provided space for her vocal studio recital. This was a very mutually satisfying arrangement. We raised a little over \$1,000 and Jennifer's students appreciated the use of the church for their winter recital. In addition both the church and the vocal studio benefited from the publicity in the community. Part of the reason this was such a successful event was due to Kayte's work in publicizing the event through local media, signage, flyers, verbal announcements and newspaper articles and announcements along with her coordinating the actual event. If you have a group who would benefit from using the facilities in exchange for a fundraiser for the church or who would like to have a program that would be a joint fundraiser for your group and the church, contact Kayte and our Building Use Coordinator, Diane Zastovnik. They will put their talent and coordinating abilities to work for you and your church!

NEWSLETTER-BULLETIN INSERT- WEB PAGE DON'T BE INVISIBLE!!

Remember we have three visual ways of communicating information: Our Good News newsletter published monthly. The deadline is the 15th. You may e-mail copy to the church office, call Gail Davis or Kay Gonzalez our editors or turn in information to the office. If you don't fancy yourself a writer, consult with one of the editors and they will write up your information. The deadline for the Bulletin Insert is Wednesday noon weekly. Please

remember that the bulletin insert only reaches those people in worship on a given Sunday—not the whole church. About one third of the worshipping congregation is absent on any given Sunday. The Web page reaches the world! Don't forget about it! You can e-mail Webmaster Ron Zastovnik at

-Ronz@clovismumc.org or the church office at mumc@clovismumc.org with your information or simply turn it in to the church office. Have nothing new to share? Don't drop from public view!! Write up a standard paragraph giving the basic pertinent information (who, what, when, where, why) of your group the editors of the newsletter can plug in when they have no news from you. Remember: Think from the perspective of an outsider; a person who doesn't know anything about us!

GROWING OUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY

All children in first through sixth grade are encouraged to attend the Growing Our Spiritual Family (GOSF) programs from 5:30 to 7:15 pm on most Sundays. Occasionally, the time may change because of special events. Since the program returned to our weekly schedule in October, we have had an average of eight or nine children in attendance at our regular meetings. The numbers swell for special events such as the Halloween Party when we had over 100 children and adults enjoying the festivities.

In December the children participated in the concert featuring Jennifer Myers and gifted performers from our church, caroling at members' homes, and the all-church Christmas program which offered everyone the opportunity to tell the story of Christ's birth. A neighborhood party with food and games for February is in the planning stages. Look for more information in the Sunday bulletin and on the website. Please contact Diane Zastovnik if you have any questions or would like to help with the party.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS IN 2002

During the past year, members of our church contributed generously for computers and camperships, song books and sofas, blankets and bonuses -- just to name a few of the special offerings that were recorded. Listed below are some of the funds and the amounts received.

Hunger Projects 1,276

Pastor's Benevolences 1,054

Floor & Window cleaning 950

Seasonal Flowers 774

Building Improvements 652

Various Musical Purposes 629

Apportionments (from Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, designated gifts) 7,175

Computer 6,194

Library Furniture 3,170

Adult Education 2,779

Fountain Fund 2,315

Song Books 1,842

Various Benevolences 601

Hmong Ministries 556

Various Children's Projects 556

Employee Gifts 483

A report on all of the income deposited into the general checking and savings accounts is filed under Income Reports in the 2002 Budget & Finance Information binder on the counter in the office. This includes budgeted and designated contributions and is divided into the amount received in each fund. If you have any questions regarding church income, you may ask Diane Zastovnik.

BUILDING USE COORDINATOR NAMED

After years of serving as our wedding hostess, keeping an eye on the thermostats, and handling requests for use of the Fellowship Hall, Diane Zastovnik is now our official Building Use Coordinator. She is responsible to schedule outside groups, help them understand the Board of Trustees building use policies and fee schedule and to be sure these policies are followed. If you are associated with a group outside the church that would like to use the facilities, your group will fill out a building use request and see Diane. Diane will act as liaison between your outside group and any other groups using the space you request and connect you with anyone else who needs to be consulted. Remember, church groups reserve space by simply filling out a Calendar Date and Room Request slip and giving it to the church secretary.

T-QUEST GROUP FOR MEN STARTED

The opening meeting of T-Quest for Men was held at 7:00 p. m on Monday, January 13th in the Lose Library. T-Quest is a brand new weekly Bible Study and Support Group for men and will run for 40 weeks.

T-Quest is a ministry of the United Methodist Commission on Men, with its own published curriculum. The UMC M hopes to start at least one group in each of our denomination's 510 districts within the next five years. To the best of our knowledge Clovis MUMC is the first congregation in Fresno District to initiate a group.

T-Quest consists of Bible Study, prayer support, sharing, mutual accountability, and journaling. Each week's meeting will be about 90 minutes long and requires 30-45 minutes of preparation at home.

A second group will be started when at least four men sign up for it. If interested, please contact Parel Mathai.

Care Ministries
Giving Special Care to Others

NEED A RIDE?

Clovis Roundup bus service is available on Sundays to bring you to church. You must call 297-2482 by 5:00 p.m. on Friday for your reservation. The one-way cost is only \$1

CARE CLUSTERS WELCOMES NEW GROUP COORDINATOR

Janet Bonzo is our new Care Cluster Coordinator. It is Janet's job to add new members to our Care Clusters and share this information with our Telephone Shepherds. Max Cannon remains as overall Cluster coordinator, trainer and supervisor. If you are not receiving a monthly call from your Shepherd, please notify Max. The purpose of the Care Clusters is to keep in caring touch with the entire congregation, pass on any concerns or needs you may have and share information about the church with you.

**"SPECIAL THOUGHTS"
SECRET PRAYER PALS**

We have gotten off to a fairly good start with this program I want to thank all who are involved and remind you to please remember your secret prayer pal, I know a couple of the children have not received anything from their prayer pal if you have a problem with keeping your commitment please see Dorrie and let her know as the children that don't get anything are disappointed. We need to remember them with a card each month and a gift on their birthday and Easter. I know the children and adults look forward to looking at the table to see if there is anything there for them. If you haven't fill out and turned in your questionnaire that Dorrie gave you please do so as soon as possible if you have question you can get a hold of me at email nanny0219@attbi.com or call the church office. Thank you.

-Dorrie Osback

**DIRECTORY UPDATES AVAILABLE-
PHOTO DIRECTORY TASK FORCE
NEEDED**

You will find directory updates in the church lobby or on the counter in the church office. Our pictorial directory is no longer current. We have so many new folks who are not in the directory we need a new one. We need volunteers to serve on a task force for a new directory. Please speak with Kayte Van DeMark, our Communications officer, if you are interested.

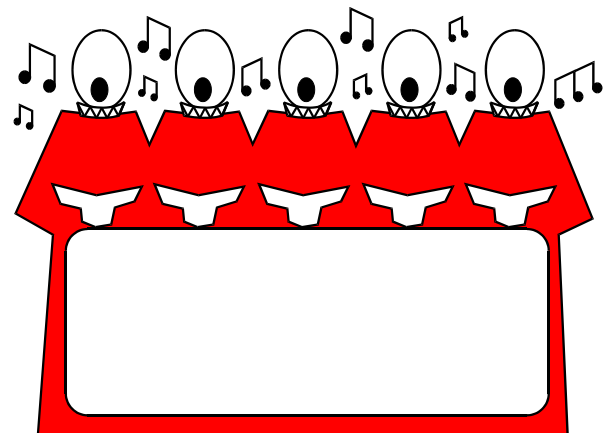
Worship Ministry
News from the teams that support
the Sunday worship services.
*"Make a joyful noise to the LORD...
Serve the Lord with gladness!" (Psalm 100)*

FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

Our Chime Choir, Fellowship of the Ring, has rehearsal every Sunday at 4:30. All members as well as newcomers are invited to come. For more information, see Jeanette Erikson or Sue DeFranco.

COME SING FOR EASTER!

The choir will be preparing for Easter. All who would like to sing for this season are invited to join us in rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.



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."



Sunday School

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

Our Sunday School starts at 8:45 with music then we go to our classes and learn different things about the Bible. The k-3rd and 4-6th graders are doing all kinds of fun craft projects. We could use baby food or small jars with lids, fabric, yarn, buttons and other craft materials you might have and not be using. If you want to donate please call or see Dorrie. Thank you.
-Dorrie Osback

Sunday School Superintendent

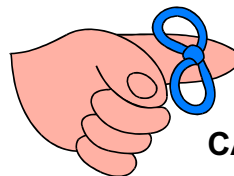
CHILD CARE NEEDED?

If you need childcare for any meeting, event or program, please contact our Childcare Coordinator and Supervisor, Dorrie Osback, as 392-0381. Please give at least a week's advance notice. Childcare is provided on an available basis only. Dorrie will let you know if no childcare provider is available for the time you request.

Youth Group News

NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR AND YOUTH COUNSELOR TAKE THE HELM

The Youth Board is pleased to announce our Interim Youth Director, Connie Alfaro has agreed to take the permanent position of Youth Director. After evaluating Connie's work with the Youth Ministry the Board decided at its November meeting to discontinue its search for a seminary intern as they had no contacts or candidates for the position. We also welcome to the group Michelle Hernandez, a new member and seasoned United Methodist Youth Director, who is volunteering as a counselor with the group. The Youth Group's regular meeting is Sunday 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Bungalow for Junior through Senior High Youth. For the complete schedule of youth events see the youth newsletter and calendar or speak with the Director.



JANUARY CALENDAR – YOUTH

Sunday 02/02/03 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting (Bungalow)
Sunday 02/09/03 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting (Bungalow)
Sunday 02/16/03 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting (Bungalow)
Saturday 02/22/03 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Youth Work Day at Poverello House
Saturday/Sunday 02/22-02/23/03 30-hour Famine Hunger Fundraiser
Sunday 02/23/03 NO YOUTH MEETING

CALLING ALL YOUTH! CALLING ALL YOUTH!

Do you want a fun group of Christian young people to hang out with? Are you looking for ways to serve your neighbor and your community? Do you want to find out more about the good things God wants for you? Are you in grades 7 through 12? You are invited to join our youth group at Memorial UMC! Here's just some of the things we have been involved in the last year:

- * Led the arts and crafts sessions for Vacation Bible School
- * Ran the haunted house at our neighborhood Halloween carnival
- * Attended a Christian hard alternative rock concert at Kuppajoe's
- * Collected Christmas toys for our neighborhood elementary school
- * Held fund raisers to help fight hunger in our community and the world
- * Worked at Poverello House (first Saturday of every month)
- * Participated in the True Love Waits commitment to abstinence program
- * Attended UMC district youth camp in Cold Springs CA
- * Spent a weekend playing in the snow in Yosemite

2003 will be a year of exploration: of our talents, of our friendships with each other and with God, of ways to serve God and our neighbors. And we want you to be a part of it. You are invited to join us for our weekly meetings on Sunday night from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., or at any of the events listed in the youth calendars in the church newsletter. If you have any questions, or would like to have the Youth Newsletter sent to you, please call Youth Worker Connie Alfaro via the church or email to connie@clovismumc.org.

FEBRUARY IS FIGHT FAMINE MONTH

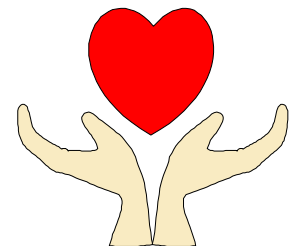
During February, our youth group will provide ways everyone can help raise money to fight world hunger. Starting on Sunday, February 3, we will provide collection boxes for church family members to keep in the office or kitchen or on the dining table. Whenever you eat a meal or have a snack, drop some change in the collection box. That amount can be the cost of the food you are enjoying, or any amount you wish. At the end of the month, please bring the collection boxes to Youth Worker Connie Alfaro. The money you raise will be donated to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

30-Hour Famine Hunger Fundraiser Feb. 22-23

To raise money for UMCOR world hunger relief, our youth will again participate in the 30-hour Famine. This is a "hunger-athon" event, during which the youth go for thirty hours without food, to gain an understanding of what it feels like to go hungry. During the Famine, the group will participate in community service at Poverello House and the church grounds, and discuss the issue of hunger in the world and God's commandment for us to love our neighbors. Money is raised from sponsors recruited from among our friends and families. We hope you will sponsor one or more youth in this important fundraiser.

Thanks!

Connie Alfaro



Coach's Corner

One of the nicest things about winter weather is hot soup, hot chocolate, crusty bread, warm muffins, warm apple cider, hot tea, macaroni and cheese, lasagna---I could go on but you get the point! Comfort foods that feed not only the body but lift your spirits. Winter is also a good time for us to fill up on the comfort of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ. Disciple makers need spiritual nourishment. This is a great time to practice the presence of God in your life: Make it a habit to pray daily, read scripture, read something edifying and inspiring written by another Christian believer.

Journaling is an insightful way to keep track of your relationship with God and others. Try writing daily notes to God on things you need God's help and guidance with and folks you are praying for. You'll be surprised when you revisit your writing some weeks later how God has been at work in your life!!

One of the more fun and simple things to do is to end each day by making a list of things you're grateful for. You will be surprised by the list you create every day!

Christian conferencing is another great way to grow spiritually. I invite you to sign up for a Lenten Study Group in the lobby of the church on Sundays. We will use "The Way of Forgiveness," a six-week study. UMW circles and UMM are invited to form groups and use this study as well. There will be daytime as well as evening groups. Be sure to note what time is best for you.

If you are just beginning to practice God's presence on a daily basis, begin with just one thing like prayer. They say it takes 21 days to make a new habit so give yourself grace and go for it!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Denice Leslie, Senior Pastor

MEETING SCHEDULE

(CLIP AND SAVE)

1. Council Second Wed. 8 p.m.
2. Ministry Groups Second Wed. 7 p.m. (This time is reserved for any ministry or other groups that need to meet prior to Council.)
3. Staff Parish Relations Fourth Tues. 7 p.m
4. Trustees Fourth Wed. 7 p.m.
5. Finance Third Wed. 6:30 p.m.
6. Horizon Team Fourth Wed. 7:30 p.m.
7. Youth Board Second Tues. 7 p.m.
8. Evangelism First Wed. 11 a.m.
9. Worship Plan Team Third Sat. 9 a.m.
10. Praise Ensemble Thursdays 7 p.m.
11. Choir Thursdays 7:30 p.m.
12. Fellowship of the Ring Sundays 4:30 p.m.
13. Parent's Time Out Sundays 5:30 p.m.
14. Youth Group Sundays 5:30 p.m.
15. Growing Our Spiritual Family Sun 5:30p.m.
16. United Methodist Men First Sat. 8:00 a.m.
17. United Methodist Women Unit Meeting Third Tues. 10 a.m.
18. Church Staff Meeting Tuesday 9:15 a.m.
19. Denny's Bible Study Wed. 7:30 p.m.
20. Special Friends Visitation Team Third Wed. 2:30 p.m.
21. Sunday School Teachers Second Monday
22. Executive Committee The Tues. one full week in advance of Council, 8 a.m. at the Waffle Shop in Barnyard Shopping Center.
23. Memorials and Gifts As needed.
24. Renovation As needed.
25. Boutique Wed. 9 a.m.
26. Thrift Shop Workdays As scheduled. Sales monthly. See schedule.
27. Thursday Prayer and Bible Study 3:30 p.m.

This is not an exhaustive list of meetings, simply the regularly scheduled groups meeting other than Sunday morning. Sunday morning Children's Church School meets at 8:45 a.m. and short term adult classes, the choir, and Praise Ensemble meet at 9 a.m. Worship is at 10 a.m. and other adult classes meet at 11 a.m. Child care is provided throughout the morning in the walkers nursery in Fellowship Hall and, for infants, in the Quiet Room in the Sanctuary.