

Good News!

The newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

July 2003

GAIL MADDUX TO SING JULY 6

Our United Methodist Women's worship on July 6, 2003 will have an Independence Day theme. Edna Maddux will preach and Gail Maddux, who is a professional opera singer for the Opera in Lucerne, Switzerland will do a number of solos for the service. Pastor Denice will preside at communion.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY CONFIRMED

On Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2003 we baptized Kevin Bonzo and Richie Bonzo and Confirmed Sarah Pachelbel, Hayes Van Westervelt, and Andrew Zastovnik who are all now full members of our church! Congratulations to them and their families. Each youth received a cross or fish necklace from more mature members of our congregation who sponsored them. Our hope is that the necklace will be a reminder that they are surrounded in faith by their Christian community and a great cloud of witnesses who have gone on before them in the faith.

VACATIONS ARE IN FULL SWING

Enjoy your time for recreation and fun but don't forget your church: the summer months are our tightest cash flow time. You can help by getting your giving in before you go. Bring back a bulletin from churches you attend while away and we will count you in our attendance.

Just put your names on the bulletin and drop by the office. Thank you!

GIRL SCOUT TROOP HONORS MUMC

Our Girl Scout troop presented us with a \$200 check to help defray expenses for the renovation of the Fellowship Hall. Did you know that because our fellowship hall is used by the scouts annually for distribution of Girl Scout cookies that we are known in our community as "the Cookie Church"? For this service and the use of our facilities our troop not only raised money to help us with our Fellowship Hall project but wrote to the Governor, the Legislature and the Federal government, both the House and the Senate

to nominate us for a community service award! We have some very lovely certificates of recognition we will soon be displaying as a result along with a plaque presented to us by our troop. Thank you girls! We are honored!!

SCRAPBOOKING NIGHT

Get out your pictures and share some memories. Join the scrapbooking group on the third Friday of the month in the Fellowship Hall. The fun starts at 6:30 and child care is provided.

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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 18:20

THRIFT SHOP NEWS *by Bev Daly*

Can you give us *just* 3 hours once or twice a month??

Some of the things you could help us do:

ON WORKDAYS:

Unpacking and sorting donations.
Affixing price tags. (price list supplied)
Putting clothes on hangers.
Folding linens.
Putting books on shelves.

MEN

Identifying hardware, sporting goods, men-stuff
Pricing men-stuff.
Moving boxes.
Testing electric appliances.
Simple repairs.
Taking out the trash..(just like home!)

OPEN DAYS

Cashiering (the cushy job)
Bagging purchases
Assisting customers.

We made \$790 in June. This is the biggest fundraiser Memorial has. It is doubly important in the light of decreased Church revenues. Please seriously consider donating some time.

Our next workdays are July 1 & 8, 8:30 to 11:30
Our next open days are July 11 & 12. Two shifts:
9 - 12 & 12 - 3.
The August schedule: Workdays July 22 & 29.
Open Aug 1 & 2.



JOIN THE BOUTIQUE GROUP

Who? Anyone who likes to craft, sew, quilt, crochet, knit, or 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.

For information, contact Barbara Nielson or Bev Daly.



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 324-2760 by 5:00 p.m. on Friday for your reservation. The one-way cost is only \$1.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

Did you know we have a number of 90+ year old members whose birthdays are all in July? Ila Davidson will be 90 this month. Lou Bailey and Betty Skidmore will be 93! Mable Pheif is in her 90's as well and there may be others we've left off this list! Congratulations to one and all—not just Happy Birthday—but applause for long and successful living!

CARE CLUSTER POTLUCK COMING

Wouldn't it be nice to have supper with your Care Cluster one night this summer so you know who lives in your neck of the woods? Well, watch for more information as we are planning a Care Cluster Potluck! The idea is for everyone to get their dinner and then sit together in their Care Cluster groups.

Our hope is also to build trust and confidence in one another so when your Shepherd calls you feel more comfortable speaking to each other. Remember, if you have a special need you don't need to share all the details with your Shepherd, just let him/her know you have "a special need" and to please pass that information on to the pastor. If your need is especially urgent you can say that as well and your Shepherd will promptly relay the message the pastor

THE SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM

Pat Frey, Pauline Middleton, Minnie Eller, Max Canon, Evelyn Haulman, Pastor Denice and myself sang "Happy Birthday, John Wesley" at the 24,000th meeting of the MUMC Special Friends Team June 10, to celebrate the beginning of his 301st year.

Once again we "rang the bell" as in just under one hour we prayed for six surgery patients, reported twelve care visits in addition to our Pastor's and celebrated eight cards and notes sent. We reviewed our Special Friends and Watch lists and noted that Ila Davidson will be 90 in July and Lu Bailey is comfortable in her new home. We considered how to minister to several post-surgical patients and their families.

There is a need for more persons on our Team and to be available to take people to the doctor and to worship. If interested, please contact me or attend our NEXT MEETING on TUESDAY, JULY 8 AT 1:30 pm IN THE LOSE LIBRARY.

Laurence Hill

Special Friends Team Chair

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)



KOREAN CHURCH INVITATION

Looking ahead, mark your calendars now for Thursday evening August 7, 2003 when the Korean congregation will sponsor a world famous instrumental ensemble in concert at 7:30 p.m.

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 normally rehearses every Sunday at 4 pm. See calendar for July dates. All members as well as newcomers are invited to come. For more information, see Jeanette Erikson 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.

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."

CRAFT DONATIONS REQUESTED

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 have things to donate to the Sunday school or the nursery, please put them in a bag marked "Attention Dorrie" and put them in the church office. I will find them and add them to our inventory. Thank you.

Dorrie Osback
Sunday School Superintendent



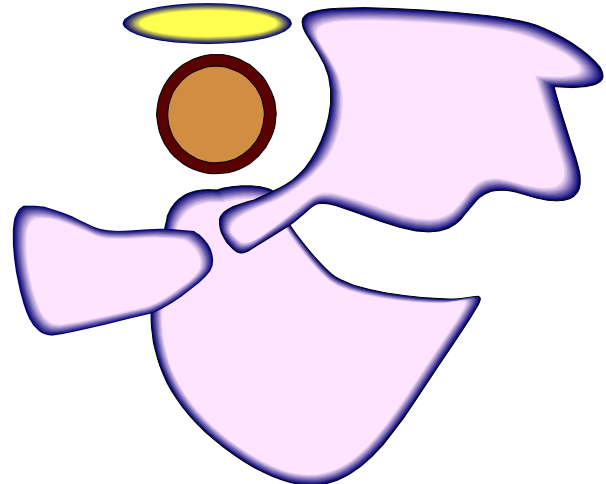
Sunday School

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

All children in grades K-6 are invited to participate in our one-room Sunday school this summer. Most Sundays, parent volunteers will lead the classes. Other weeks, the children will view Veggie Tales. Junior and High School students will meet with Connie in the Bungalow.

CHILD CARE NEEDED?

If you need childcare for any meeting, event or program, please contact our Childcare Coordinator and Supervisor, Dorrie Osback. Please give at least a weeks 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

You Are Cordially Invited . . .

. . . to join a great group of Christian young people!

Who: All Seventh through Twelfth Graders
Welcome!

When: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Most Sunday nights
(Check the Youth calendar for other events of interest)

Where: The Bungalow
Memorial UMC, Pollasky and Scott

What to Bring:

- #1 - Your Own Unique Self
- #2 - A desire to find out more about the good things God wants for you
- #3 - The willingness to put God's commandments into action

R.S.V.P. - No need, just show up!

For more details, see the Youth newsletter, or contact Youth Pastor Connie Alfaro, connie@clovismumc.org

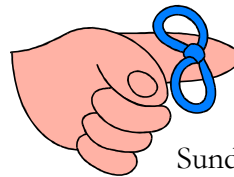
HEY BATTER! HEY BATTER!

On Sunday, July 27, the youth group will go to a Fresno Grizzlies game at the downtown stadium. Friends are welcome! Please check the July youth newsletter or with Youth Worker Connie Alfaro for permission slips and more information.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

The youth group has a band! Under the guidance of Mike and Julie Hamilton, the youth group is working hard to serve the church by leading the praise singing, and by playing special music during the worship service.

All youth grades 7-12 are welcome to join. You don't have to be an expert musician, you just have to want to make music for worship. Mike and Julie are great teachers--very professional, very loving, and very patient! Rehearsals are Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you are interested in joining, or have questions about the band, please see Mike or Julie after church (they can usually be found in the choir loft!) Or talk to any of the following youth band members: Katelin Williams, Eric Jennison, Richie Bonzo, Ben Zastovnik, Madeline Williams, Ian Goudelock, and Hayes Van Westervelt.



JULY CALENDAR YOUTH

- Sunday 07/06/03 5:30 -7:30 pm
"Team Rocket" Night (Bungalow)
- Saturday 07/12/03 8:00 am Poverello House
Work Day
- Sunday 07/13/03 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. "All About
You" Night
- Sunday 07/20/03 4:30 - 7:30 pm Swim Party with
Wesley UMC
- Sunday 07/27/03 7:00 p.m. Grizzlies Game

SWIM PARTY WITH WESLEY JULY 20

All youth grades 7-12 are invited to a Swim Party at the Pachelbels' on Sunday July 20. We have invited our friends in the youth group at Wesley UMC to join us. For more details, see the July youth newsletter, or contact Youth Worker, Connie Alfaro connie@clovismumc.org.

Coach's Corner

There are times in life when we just have to step out in faith. But boy I find it hard to trust sometimes. I don't expect God to be a Santa Claus but I do know God through the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives to accomplish all that God desires and so I want my life to be lived in concert with God's will. I saw this same heart felt desire expressed at our June Council meeting.

I want to commend our church leadership present at last month's Council meeting for being willing to wrestle with a tough decision about a proposal to hire Pastor Kham Dy Yang as Associate for Hmong Ministry half time here at Memorial in the wake of disappointing news regarding dwindled stock revenues for funding our general church Board of Global Ministries grants for 2003. By now you will have received my letter to you with all the particulars regarding the crisis this presented us. But every crisis is a wonderful opportunity if we are willing to take time to discern what God would have us do in the midst of changing circumstances. In this instance we chose to step out in faith on behalf of our expanding Hmong ministry. Pastor Kham Dy will now move from part time employment as Hmong Equipping Pastor to appointed half time Associate for Hmong Ministries. Please let me take this opportunity to give you the names of Pastor Kham Dy's family. His wife is Mor and their six children are Wesley, Carter, Jonathan, Jeremiah, Destiny, Janell and soon to be born fifth son in August, Nehemiah. Those of you who were present at the Council were as impressed as I was with the work Pastor Yang is doing in our community through Hart Academy which will have 110 students next year along with his ministry with the Hmong in our area. Sometimes life just doesn't give us all the information or certainty we would like to have in

order to make a decision. Sometimes we really do have to search our hearts, seek God's perspective in prayer and conversation together and then take a deep breath and step out into space! But one thing IS sure: God is with us wherever we go, and in what ever we do. Scripture tells us "In all things God works for good through them who love the Lord." I believe we have made the right decision under the present circumstances. It is an honor to be the pastor of such faithful folk. I look forward to my seventh year with you!

In Christ's Service, *Denice Leslie*

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway, it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They each grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement, he quieted down. A few shovel loads later, the farmer looked down the well, and was astonished at what he saw.

As every shovel of dirt hit his back, the donkey did something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off.

The Moral: Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of it is to shake it off and take a step up. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up!

from the Editor