

# Good News!

The newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

September 2003

## **JOY IN THE MORNINGS RESUME WITH CARE CLUSTER POTLUCK SEPT. 21**

Mark your calendar for the resumption of our Joy in the Morning Kick Off Potluck on Sunday September 21. After September, Joy in the Morning Potlucks will be held on the last Sunday of every month unless otherwise announced due to holiday events. The kick off Joy in the Morning Potluck will be our promised Care Cluster Potluck. One major change this year: you may bring whatever potluck dishes you wish-for lunch or brunch or whatever you desire! Beverages and place settings provided. Another change this year is: we won't normally have an additional program planned for these gatherings. This will be a time for us to socialize and enjoy each others company. From time to time we may find Joy in the Morning a convenient time to share something special or important with the whole church such as the annual meeting when we get that opportunity or a special recognition etc. So plan now to come to Joy in the Morning Potluck, pick up your meal and sit with your geographical Care Shepherd will be there to greet you. Cluster. This will be a time to meet your Care Cluster Neighborhood and your Shepherd face to face! See you there.

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## **"GROWING SPIRITUAL REDWOODS"-SIGN UP NOW FOR FRESNO DISTRICT TRAINING DAY!**

We are so fortunate! This is our opportunity as a congregation to receive discipleship training from internationally respected United Methodist church consultant, Rev. Tom Bandy, who will be coming to our district for our annual Fresno District Training Day November 8, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to approximately 4 p.m. And it will be right here at Memorial!! Normally a top drawer, too often "clergy only" opportunity like this means shelling out big bucks and traveling or flying a long distance! The cost for this training day is just 20.00 which includes lunch and you only have to drive to church! This is truly a bargain and a wonderful opportunity for us as an entire congregation to have a SHARED learning experience together! I treasure this opportunity for us and pray you will join with me. I am counting on you to be there. Of course we will be needing help that day with registration check ins, serving lunch, ushering, technical support and the book table so please pray about your involvement and meanwhile register soon. Space is limited! Childcare will be provided. Registration is required. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information and the registration form. Don't be bashful if you can't afford the registration fee: adult education funds are available for scholarships, simply return your registration to the church office instead of the district office if you need a scholarship. I don't want anyone staying away for lack of funding!!



## IT'S CROP WALK TIME AGAIN!

Get on your walking shoes. It's time to join others in our community to raise money and raise awareness of the tragedy of hunger in the world and in our local area. The date for this annual event is Sunday, October 19th. We will begin our 3-mile walk at 2:30 at Pilgrim Armenian Presbyterian Church, at 1st and Huntington, and stroll down historic Huntington Boulevard and the surrounding area. A portion of the money we raise goes to Church World Service, an interfaith, ecumenical organization that works in partnership with others like Heifer Project to provide sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance. Another portion is divided between two local organizations that feed the hungry, the Food Bank and The Living Room. Our church has been participating in this event for over twenty years! If you are interested in walking or sponsoring, please see Sue DeFranco. Walkers and sponsors please note: This year all pledges should be collected before the Walk and your envelope should be returned before the Walk.

### Fellowship Time After Worship Goes "Fair Trade"

Beginning in September our fellowship time after worship will feature Fair Trade Coffee. Coffee is the second largest U.S. import after oil and we are the largest consumers of this beverage in the world. Few Americans know that many small coffee farmers receive prices for the beans they toil so hard to grow that are less than the cost of production. Many of these farmers are forced into a cycle of poverty and debt. To become Fair Trade certified, a coffee importer must meet certain criteria. These include agreeing to pay a fair minimum price to the grower for coffee beans, encouraging and

helping to provide healthy and safe working conditions for laborers, assuring that child labor laws are not being abused in the growing of the beans they purchase, buying from producers who engage in environmentally sustainable practices, etc. By purchasing Fair Trade Certified products, we show our support for an equitable partnership between marketers in North American and growers in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. For more information on Fair Trade, see Sue DeFranco or Diane Zastovnik. Your contribution to the basket on the Coffee Hour table will sport our effort to extend our faith walk into the world. May God Bless our desire to live by His words: "I want you to share your bread with the hungry, open your home to the homeless poor, remove the yoke of injustice, let the oppressed go." Isaiah 58

### 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 by Bev Daly

We made \$622 in August. Our next open days are Sept 5 & 6. 9:30 to 2:30. The next workdays are Tuesdays Sept. 23 & 30, 8:00 to 11:00.

We are still very short-handed. One of our workers will be leaving us, and one is on the disabled list. On the last open weekend four people had to do double shifts. We are not able to get all the donations processed due to lack of workers and increased donations. **We have to have help.** We cannot continue to overload the faithful. Please search your hearts, adjust your schedules, give us a hand and pray for us.

## 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.

## NEWCOMER WELCOMES SCHEDULED MONTHLY

September's Newcomer Welcome with the Pastor is scheduled for Sunday morning, September 28 after worship. Meet in the pastor's study. After September's meeting Newcomer Welcomes will be held monthly on the third Sunday of the month after worship. Help yourself to refreshments and come into the pastor's study. All welcome—including "old comers!"

## BOUTIQUE BULLETIN

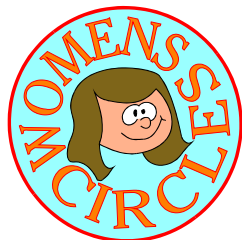
The Boutique will be held November 14 & 15 this year. This is a week earlier than usual. We hope you will continue to support us with your craft and food items. There will be no silent auction or white elephant sale this year.

## UMW NEWS

Regular meeting - Sept. 26, 10 am, Social Hall  
Quiet Day for Prayer and Self Denial  
Wesley Group Hosts  
Bring Own service  
Everyone Welcome!

Red Bird Circle - Sept. 10,  
9:30 am, Library

Wesley Group - Sept.  
24, Applebee's



## Care Ministries

Giving Special Care to Others

## THE SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM

Over 90% of the team showed up for practice as coaches on 8/12/03. Denice Leslie and Laurie Hill, Minnie Eller, Lorraine May, Bob Anderson, Pauline Middleton, Pat Frey, Evelyn Haulman and Max Cannon assembled in the Lose Memorial Library to deal with pastoral care needs in our parish. In addition we welcomed Dorothy "Dee" Carr back from her long "hippie" exile.

In honor of God's beauty in the natural world we sang "This is my Father's world." In addition to our usual review of pastoral care needs (People cut off from the body of the Church through some problem of mind, body or spirit) we took on the task of distributing some eight certificates to members of 50 years or older.

We added 3 to our Special Friends list (total 23) and 1 to our Watch List (total 20). We reported 17 visits in addition to Denice's plus 7 telephone calls and 3 cards/notes. We commiserated with ourselves and the families on the death of Nancy Enloe's mother and Marie Scott. Pastor Denice led us in prayer for all those in need. We planned who would visit whom in the coming month and invited all to visit us at  
Our Next Meeting  
Tuesday, Sept. 12  
1:30 pm - Same Place

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)*

### **IN OUR WORLD**

Rev. Richard A. Peacock, Troy First United Methodist Church in Troy, Michigan writes: Our partner church, Monrovia First United Methodist Church, has more than 700 people living person-to-person in its education building. They have no electricity, nor clean, running water. They collect rainwater to drink and hope that their food will hold out.

The new sanctuary roof has bullet holes that allow the rain to come down. They want peace keepers NOW.

Liberia is not Somalia. They are America's oldest African ally. There are only 25 doctors left for a population of more than 2.5 million. A higher percentage of the population has been killed in the civil war than those murdered by Saddam Hussein. As usual, it's been mostly the civilians caught in the crossfire. American ships with Marines sailed away once before. Will they do nothing again? The very least we can do is fully fund peace keepers at a price far below what we spend each month in Iraq. Please tell President Bush and Congress that they have an excellent opportunity to make peace, justice, freedom, and democracy. Stabilizing Liberia will go a long way toward stabilizing the whole region.

### **MISSION THRIFT SHOP ALERT**

Our mission thrift shop is a very important and vital mission. It provides for our connectional mission support through providing funds for our apportionments and this year for our Hmong Associate pastor. It also provides for our local community for those

who are on subsistence incomes or who are destitute through our donations from the shop to them in times of need, not to mention the shopping enjoyed by the thrifty minded—many of us! So it would be a real tragedy if we had to close it down due to lack of volunteers. Many hands make light work. If we have enough folk volunteer for a couple of hours we can continue. But the current team is unable to handle it much longer alone. So—pray about it and see if God isn't calling you to this very worth while endeavor. If you can give a two-hour period either for selling or in preparing articles for sale please call the office at 299-4615.

## 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)*

### **COFFEE HOUR NEWS-HELP!!**

It is a joy to follow worship of our Lord with time together with our brothers and sisters in Christ with our Coffee Hour Fellowship. Thanks to the faithful assistance of Tara and Ian, the fellowship time has been rolling along for several years without the need for much help from others. Now that they are living out of the area, it has become increasingly difficult for me to keep my commitment to other worship duties and be fully responsible for Coffee Hour. I've been doing the purchasing of supplies (with many lovely donations of treats, etc. from others) and brewing the first pot of coffee. I am hoping to find 8-12 individuals, families, and groups to help on rotating Sundays, as little as once a quarter. I am still happy to do the purchasing and put the coffee on if we can set up a calendar of people who will serve and clean up. Look for a sign-up on the Coffee Hour table or see Sue DeFranco if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

# Coach's Corner

## WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Because announcements are beginning to get out of hand again and intrude on worship our announcer will no longer ask if there are any other announcements. The announcer will simply ask if there are any announcements that are not printed in the bulletin. One or two highlights will be briefly made and we will then proceed with worship. Our aim is to keep announcements under three minutes. Please help by getting your announcements into the bulletin insert and newsletter. If you simply MUST make an announcement on Sunday morning, get it to Roger Grams BEFORE 10:00 a.m. so he can digest it and share it succinctly. Thanks!!



Music Notes

## 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.

## 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.

## NEEDED

The office needs a desk for our new Choir Director. If you have one, please call the office at 299-4615, or speak with Barbara or Roger Grams, Worship Coordinators.

I love the fall; it is such a lovely time of year! I also appreciate the return to routines it brings as well as fresh opportunities. Rally Sunday plans are in full swing with a great kick off to Church School for our children planned for September 7 at 9 a.m. in our social hall. In worship we will consecrate those called to the ministry of teaching and reconvening to another year of growing in Christ through faith building opportunities. This time of year in the calendar of our Christian Year is referred to as Ordinary Time. It is a time that is not governed by any particular emphasis of Jesus life and ministry. I want to invite you to submit sermon topic suggestions. I will do my best to honor them. One topic I plan to address in a sermon or series sermons is the current interest in the end times engendered by the Left Behind series.

Summer has been a fairly quiet time in the life of our church. We are looking forward to more opportunities for fellowshiping in social groups and through small groups this year. I am pleased to announce we have a new Family Life Coordinator, Michelle Hernandez. Michelle is a mom of two small children and has previous experience serving in her local church in her home conference in Texas as a Youth Pastor and on her conference Youth Council.

Look for Joy in the Morning announcements as well. We will dispense with programs and simply come together after worship for potluck once a month. The promised Care Cluster potluck will be scheduled as a Joy in the Morning event.

On the "Horizon Line" for 2003 you may remember our commitment to create a process for developing disciples for those new to Christ

and our congregation. Rev. John Niblick is currently undertaking the task of preparing and teaching a basic course in discipleship. We are blessed to have John and his wife Wendy in our midst!

Growing Our Spiritual Family will also resume this month beginning Sunday evening September 7. There will be adult education classes offered during our GOSF children's ministry time, so keep your eyes peeled! Pastor Kham Dy continues his work within the larger community with the 1.5 American-Hmong generation as we covet your continued prayers for his evangelistic work. We are happy to welcome new American-Hmong families into membership and anticipate the day we have our first Hmong language worship service.

Later this fall on Sunday Nov. 2 we will celebrate our community, give thanks for our blessings and honor God with our stewardship on our annual Consecration Sunday. This is an opportunity to sit down to supper with the entire church family following a rousing worship of up-beat preaching and great gospel music. Consecration Sunday has become and "in-gathering" for us of all who call Memorial home.

And then we have a really rare and wonderful congregational learning opportunity coming our way Saturday November 8 with our Fresno District Training Day conference with internationally recognized church consultant and UM pastor Tom Bandy on the theme "Growing Spiritual Redwoods" focusing on faithful discipline in a new century. This event will be right HERE at Memorial and will feature a catered buffet lunch. Child care is provided. Don't miss out! Space is limited! As your pastor and coach I want as many of this "team" to be present as possible! The Holy Spirit is at work to bring Tom here to share his gifts. Let's be alive, alert and enthusiastic and put our best foot forward!!

With hope and anticipation I remain  
faithfully yours in Jesus, Denice K. Leslie,  
Senior Pastor

## 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 EVENING ADULT CLASSES FOR GOSF**

Pastor Denice will be kicking off a marriage workshop class using the "When Bad Things Happen to Good Marriages" book by Leslie and Les Perott. Class meets 5:30 – 7:15 p.m. Meeting space to be determined due to other class offerings that evening. Watch for upcoming announcements for new classes forming.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

It is time to register for the Fall Sunday School. We are going to register different this year. Instead of registering during Sunday school we are going to hand out the packets and have you fill them out and turn them back in. This way we don't have to take time out of Sunday school. We are planning some really good things for Kick-Off Sunday; the children will not want to miss this Sunday. Kick-off Sunday will be the 7<sup>th</sup> of Sept with Sunday school starting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Sept. All registrations forms need to be back in to Dorrie Osback by Aug 24 so that we can start the New Year with everyone registered. Please see Dorrie for you registration packets.

### **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 week 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.

## MUMC "ALL STARS"

Our Children's Sunday School is going to continue the All Stars again this School year. The children really enjoyed the adults who came and talked with them this last year. They are looking forward to it again this year.

It's simple and easy!

We are asking you to sign up to present a special lesson during the Sunday School hour. You can share a myriad of different experiences and topics whatever suits you best! Slides or photos of your trip to the Holy Land, travel experiences, life challenges or how your faith has served you well. It's your 45 minutes of fame to impact our youth; share what is closest to your heart. Would you commit to one class a year on whatever date you are available that is offered on the schedule. We will be starting this program back up in Sept and going through June of 2004.

I want to thank those of you who helped out this past year and hope you will sign up to talk to our children again this year.

**Please contact Dorrie Osback to sign up to help out. Thank you in advance for your help.**



# Sunday School

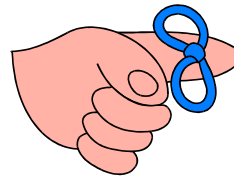
*CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:45 a.m.*  
*ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 & 11:15 a.m.*

Our Sunday School starts at 8:45 with music then we go to our classes and learn different things about the Bible.

## Youth Group News

### WHILE CONNIE'S GONE, THE FUN GOES ON!

Youth Worker Connie Alfaro will be on vacation the first two Sundays of August, but the youth group will continue to meet for summer fun. Glow Bowling and a Sunday night movie fest will help keep everyone in touch with each other during our busy summer. For more information, check out the August youth newsletter. Or you can contact Connie or Laura Williams.



### AUGUST YOUTH CALENDAR

Sunday 08/03/03 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Movie Fest  
Saturday 08/09/03 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Glow  
Bowling at Rodeo Lanes  
Sunday 08/10/03 NO MEETING  
Saturday 08/16/03 8:00 - 11:00 Poverello  
House Work Day  
Sunday 08/17/03 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting  
(Bungalow)  
Sunday 08/24/03 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting  
(Bungalow)  
Sunday 08/31/03 NO MEETING  
(Labor Day Weekend)



# The Back Pew

I need to let you know I will be taking Friday off during the week and working on Monday. This change will make it easier for our expanding ministry work areas to schedule team meetings and have me present. I want to take this space to share with you personally where I am. Taking Friday's off means for the first time in 24 years of pastoring I may have two days off when I don't have church activities or obligations on Friday evenings or Saturdays. With Kim teaching and no longer pastoring full time having Friday off will be my best opportunity to spend time with him. I find myself in a major but welcome transition. Throughout all of our ministry years Kim and I have pastored and parented using a "patchwork quilt" model of integrating both ministry and parenting together on a day to day basis in order to cover all the bases. I know from sharing over the years with other pastor-parent colleagues both male and female that the "patchwork quilt" model is pretty typical for clergy parents regardless of gender because the majority of couples are in the workforce today. Nevertheless, I am happy to be successfully through this period of my life in spite of my initial doldrums over the first child leaving home. It's time to have a life with opportunities to do other things like nurture friendships or pull weeds. For the first time I can schedule my time in such a way as to have more uniformity to my life and that is going to be wonderful! There will be time for Sabbath renewal and fun—not just paying the bills and grocery shopping! I am also relieved to have Kim through his credential program and employed. We are still in a state of shock over our good fortune in having Kim employed as a new English teacher of 11th graders at Clovis East High School. God is so good! This is not only an answer to prayer in regards

to our finances (our projected savings will just make it to the first pay day the end of this month!) but it means I am no longer a "grad widow." Having a spouse working and in school while having a child getting married and the remaining two children seniors graduating from high school all in the same 9 month period is not a scenario I want to repeat! But God is so good and so are all of you!

In spite of the mounting stress you encouraged me, prayed for me, affirmed and supported me as your pastor. I feel truly blessed. I am hoping to pick up professional agenda that has been placed on the back burner: everything from attending the Crystal Cathedral preaching academy to attending the Academy for Spiritual Formation along with the loose ends of the transitioning process here at Memorial. We are making progress but implementation of a vision is tough work. It's one thing to dream about ones future in new territory and another thing altogether to actually load up the covered wagons and make the long arduous journey. But we're no longer at the trail head -- we've begun the trek. I look forward to the journey with you all the way through thick and thin! In Christ's service with real praise and thanksgiving I remain your devoted pastor, *Denice Leslie*.