

Join us for Coffee

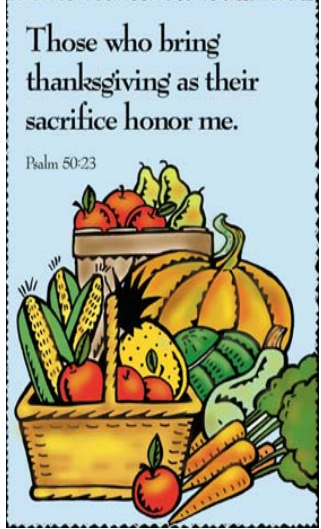
2nd Board of Trustees
9th JOY Circle
16th UMM Pancake Breakfast
23rd Church Council
30th Finance Committee

Coffee Hour responsibilities include the set-up and clean-up of the coffee pots and providing refreshments for both the 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM Coffee Hour times in Criswell Hall.

Thank you!

Bishop: Mary Ann Swenson
Superintendent: Rev. Cathleen Coots
Pastor: Rev. David Burgeson
Min. of Visitation: Rev. Harold Headrick
Secretary/ Newsletter: Sarah Barber
Bookkeeper: Victoria Gandy
Multi-Media Coordinator: Sean Lehman

275 North Halcyon Road
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL— PLEASE DELIVER BY NOVEMBER 1, 2008



- 1st Praise Team Rehearsal
- 2nd Daylight Savings Time Ends
Green Umbrella
- 3rd Staff-Parish Relations
- 4th Board of Trustees
- 6th People's Kitchen
- 8th RUMP
- 9th **Alternative Christmas**
- 10th Five Cities Christian Women's Luncheon
- 11th Veteran's Day
Communications
- 12th Alzheimer's Care-Giver Support Group
- 13th Red Umbrella
Esther Circle
- 15th Praise Team Rehearsal
- 16th **Stewardship Sunday**
UMM Breakfast
125th Anniversary Committee Meeting
- 18th JOY Circle
- 19th Mary-Martha Circle

Website Manager: Jamie Foster
Music Director: Julie Walters
Praise Team Leader: Susan Coho
Pianists: Sean Lehman
Organist: Don McGuire
Puppet People: Willy Ford-Raetz & Mike Herber

- Yellow Umbrella
- Preschool Board
- Finance Committee
- 22nd UMW Tea
Membership Class
- 23rd **Bible Sunday**
- 25th Care-Ring Ministry
- 26th **Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service**
AG UM Children's Center Giving Soup
- 27th **Thanksgiving Day**
27th/28th Office Closed
- 29th **Hanging of the Green**
- 30th **First Sunday of Advent**

November 2008

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Grande Ringers Director: Leonard Lutz
Youth Directors: Mike & Linda Herber
Children's Director: Nancy Baughman
United Methodist Children's Center AG UM Children's Center Director: Madrigal (Maddy) Quaglino
agumcc@sbcglobal.net

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Arroyo Grande
CA 93420

The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

Cast~A~Net

November 2008

"The kingdom of God is like a net that was cast into the sea" ~ Matthew 13:47
Phone: 805-481-2692 Website: WorshipWeekly.com Email: FUMCAG@sbcglobal.net



On **Thanksgiving Eve November 26th** four churches in our community would like to invite you to join together in Arroyo Grande for a **Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service**. The people of UMC of AG along with the people of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, St. John's Lutheran Church, and St. Patrick's Catholic Church would like to invite you to come as we can sing praises and give thanks to the creator as a community in life and in Christ. **The service will be at 7 PM at St. Barnabus Episcopal Church at 301 Trinity Avenue in Arroyo Grande.** Our choir will join in singing "Majesty and Glory of Your Name" and "For the Beauty of the Earth." The offering taken during this service will be redirected into our community to Habitat for Humanity Grover Beach Project and the People's Kitchen.



Everyone is welcome, young and old, to help hang the Advent & Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary on **Saturday, November 29th, beginning at 4 PM** when we will transform our sanctuary for this festive season in the "**Hanging of the Greens**". We have trees to decorate, garlands and wreaths to hang, lights to string, candles to place and bows to secure, not to mention Poinsettias to arrange. This is a spirit-filled time of fun and fellowship. When the work is done, we light the display, listen to an Advent meditation and sing a carol or two. We will then wrap it up with delicious home-made chili and cornbread. Join us as we enter into this special season of giving and honor the greatest gift of all—our Lord Jesus Christ!



November 30th is the First Sunday of Advent. On this day when the church officially begins preparation for the season of Christmas. The word Advent means "coming." Therefore, we make ready for the coming of the Lord. So where should we begin you ask?

With ourselves, of course. We should prepare our hearts for Christ to live in them fully. Get rid of that clutter within, you know, the odds and ends of foolish thoughts and familiar sins we find difficult to "let go" and let God handle. Your heart is the home for the Holy Spirit. Let's begin this Advent season with some house cleaning. Clear out that dusty heart and, call in the Holy Spirit Cleaning Service, and make room for the best Guest anyone ever had. Start now! Let the Spirit "cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today" (from "O Little Town of Bethlehem").

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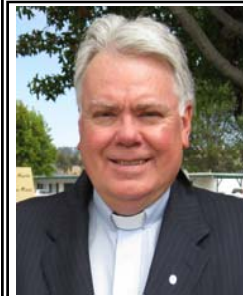
Inserts

Children's Center Chronicle

November



Chair: David Beaman
Layout Editor: Sarah Barber
Proofers: Sarah Barber, David Beaman, and Virginia Mothes
Communications Committee: Sarah Barber, David Beaman, Reverend David Burgeson, Virginia Mothes, Sandy Schwarer, Sean Lehman and Jerry Smith.
Deadline: 10th of each month
 Articles for consideration must be submitted by this date.
Address Updates: Do you want to be removed from our mailing list? Need to update to your information or add a friend? Contact our church office at (805) 481-2692 or e-mail us at fumcag@sbcglobal.net



Church Family and Friends:

As we live today, there are many moments, occasions when we can choose to be thankful. With the challenges of the last couple months it may seem difficult or challenging, to be thankful.

Let me then offer you a couple of suggestions which I use. First I turn to our owner's manual- the BIBLE- open to the middle and there is the book of Psalms. Personally when I need help here is one of my favorites- Psalm 121:

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold He who keeps Israel will neither slumber or sleep. The Lord is your keeper; The Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun will not smite you by day nor the moon by night. The Lord will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever.

Another suggestion to help me to give thanks to God, I recall the words of a favorite hymn. - "Now Thank We All Our God":
Now thank we all our God, with heart and souls and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices, who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, and keep us still in grace and guide us when perplexed and free us from all ills, in this world and the next. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given; the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven; the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

In November we celebrate Thanksgiving and the many blessings in life. You have been a blessing to me and for that I am thankful. Just to wanted share that with you.

David

ATTENDANCE

September 2008

7th	186
14th	155
21st	181
28th	163

Sunday Average 171

Is Your Pledge Up To Date?

As of September 30, 2008

Received To Date

\$ 184,272

Pledged Budget

\$ 201,697

Difference

\$ -17,425



"MALACHI MOUSE SAYS..."

Only YOU can help "feed" Malachi Mouse. Do you have some interesting news? Vacations, weddings, births, good golf scores, any announcement that's fit to print? Drop your news by the church office.



Thank you to Caitlyn Herber and the others who have so graciously volunteered to help with our nursery and the "littles" in it!
 Contact Caitlyn Herber or contact the church office to see how you can help!

Our church has been blessed with a gift of \$76,472.01 from the Loren and Jane Ballagh Family Trust.

The gift is distributed as follows:

ELT Scholarship Fund

\$39,960.47

Endowment Fund

\$36,511.54.

We graciously thank Loren and Jane Ballagh and family for their generosity.



Joy Collins	2nd
Marj Wolters	4th
Bill Cross	5th
Patrick Harvey	7th
Ian Waterman	8th
Harold Headrick	8th
Caitlin Riley	9th
Bonnie Swafford	13th
Bernice Frantz	13th
Ross Roemer	14th
Betty Bailes	15th
Jim Harvey	15th
Rosemary MacKeen	16th
Carol Ferrari	18th
Ruth Thompson	18th
Lynn Foster	21st
Helen Gugeler	21st
Anne Awalt	22nd
Nick Ballagh	23rd
Matthew Rohla	23rd
Adrian Paredes	23rd
Helen Setser	24th
Jessica Williams	25th
David Burgeson	26th
Iris Caldon	26th
Larry Wiemers	28th
Delbert Hollinger	29th

OOPS! Did we miss your birthday? Would you like to have your name or a family member recognized? Please let us know! We would love to hear from you!!



Become Part of Our Church Family

Membership Information Class

On Saturday, November 22, at 10 AM in the

McMillen Room, I will lead a membership information class for those who are interested in joining the First United Methodist Church. The subjects covered will include the doctrines and organization of the Methodist Church as well as our local church.

Those who desire to join will be received into membership on the following Sunday, November 23, at either the 8:30 AM or 10:30 AM service. We hope to see you there!

Reverend Harold Headrick, *Minister of Visitation*



Isaiah, a spokesman for God, looked for the Messiah to come from a certain family. He wrote:

"A shoot shall come out from the stump

of _____, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord" (Isaiah 11:1-3, NRSV).

From whom did Isaiah say the Messiah would come?

- A. Adam
- B. Noah
- C. Samson
- D. Jesse

Answer: D

The Healthy Corner

By Patti Melsheimer

A Few November Reminders

It's Flu season!

If you have not already done so, you should get your yearly flu vaccination as soon as possible. **This year's vaccine** protects against the three main flu strains that research indicates will cause the most illness during the flu season. This year's influenza vaccine contains three new influenza virus strains. The 2008-09 influenza vaccine can protect you from getting sick from these three viruses, or it can make your illness milder if you get a related but different strain of flu virus. Check with your personal physician, your local pharmacy or health department to see when and where you can get your vaccination.

Medicare Part D prescription drug and Medicare private health plan update!

Insurance companies who write Part D prescription drug and Medicare private health plans will be sending out letters during October and November describing the changes in benefits and premiums for 2009. Be sure to read these letters carefully to learn what changes will be occurring in your plan. Is your plan raising your premium, cutting back on drug coverage or hiking your co-payments for medical care? If you are having problems understanding the changes in your plan, contact

HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling Advocacy Program) for assistance. Call (800) 434-0222 for an appointment.

November is National Family Caregiver's Month!

National Family Caregiver's Month is organized each year by the National Family Caregivers Association and is designated as a time every year to thank, support, educate and empower family caregivers. America's family caregivers are *family, friends, partners, and neighbors*. "This year we are encouraging people to speak up during National Family Caregivers Month," said Suzanne Mintz, NFCA president and co-founder. "One of the most important attributes on being an advocate for your loved one is the willingness and the ability to speak up and keep your eye on the ultimate goal, protecting not only the health and safety of your loved ones but for yourself as well."

November is Election Time!!

Before you hit the polls (or send in your absentee ballot) do your research about the health care issue. This may be one of the most important issues that the new president of the United States will be dealing with. But most importantly, be sure to **VOTE!**



Adult Bible Study

On **Mondays at 7 PM in room 215** you can join with other men who have committed themselves to Christ and who seek spiritual leadership through Christ's word and His teachings. Join us in this special time of prayer, study, and fellowship and reset your focus on Christ!

All are welcome to meet with us **every Friday at 8:30 AM in the library** and get to know our church members in a small group setting. Now is the perfect time to join us as we are starting our new book. *Old Testament Stories From the Back Side* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Get yours at the church office.

Special Dates

- All Saints' Day, November 1
- Daylight-Saving Time Ends, November 2
- Election Day, November 4
- Veterans Day, November 11
- Bible Sunday, November 23
- National Bible Week, November 23-30
- Thanksgiving Day, November 27
- First Sunday of Advent, November 30

Office CLOSED

Thanksgiving Holiday
November 27 and 28

Regular office hours will resume on Monday at 9 AM.

RUM P

Retired United Methodist Persons

We invite all retired persons to attend a noon potluck on the second Saturday of each month in the McMillen Room.

Saturday, November 8th

We ask that you bring a dish to serve 8 or more and please furnish your own tableware.

For more information contact **Bob and Vel Lowry.**



For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

[Matthew 18:20](#)



YA...WE KNOW IT'S NOVEMBER! BUT LOOK WHAT'S AHEAD—get your calendars!

The Giving Tree will be set up just as we do every year in Criswell Hall during the “Hanging of the Green” celebration. **This year the tree will stand from November 29th until December 21st.** The Giving Tree benefits children in the Child Welfare System with the Department of Social Services. Many families cannot afford to give their children the gifts they want, and the DPSS offers this as a resource for these families.

Here is how it works. The tree is decorated with colorful tags in duplicate. Each tag indicates what the child wishes for or what the child’s parent wishes to give as a gift. First, choose a tag. Please take the colorfully decorated original tag for you to put on the UNWRAPPED gift. Second, write your name on the duplicate tag and leave it on the Christmas tree. We do this to ensure that any misplaced tags are recovered and no child is left wanting. Lastly, bring your Unwrapped toy to the church office for Jan Treat to pick up and deliver to the DPSS.

Christmas is a time of giving—a time to share the blessings of God's abundance with a joyful heart. Visit “The Giving Tree” and make a child’s wish come true. We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity this year as in years past. Please contact Jan Treat or Child Welfare with any questions.



DECORATE
the Church
November 29th, beginning at **4 PM** we will transform our sanctuary for this festive season with the traditional “**Hanging of the Greens**”. See cover for more details. We look forward to seeing you there!



Look for your Poinsettia Order Form in your bulletin this month. If you would like to donate money, purchase a potted poinsettia plant and/or volunteer to deliver these flowers to our shut-ins, please contact the church office or Cyn-dee Rohla of the Blue Umbrella. This is a special gift and we appreciate you for giving. We wish you and your family Happy and Healthy Holidays!

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS 2008

Sunday, November 9th, from **9:30 AM until 10:30 AM** and again at **11:30 AM until 12 noon** sponsored by the Yellow Umbrella. Are you trying to find that perfect gift for a family member or a friend? Consider making a donation to one of our three projects.



This year we are featuring **The Smile Train, The Habitat For Humanity Grover Beach Project and The People's Kitchen.** For more on this event contact Gladys Paulsen.



UM YOUTH NEWS

Greetings! It seems like we just started back to school and now as I sit here and write this I realize Thanksgiving and Christmas are just mere weeks away. Time flies when you are having fun! Both fun and fellowship were had by all at the **City of Arroyo Grande Annual Harvest Festival** with a parade float and youth booth.



We begin by thanking the congregation of UMC of AG for their generosity in helping to make our UM Youth Booth a success by helping us to give "the gift of water" to a thirsty neighbor. With your help, we were able to pass out **1800 bottles of water** (by Mike's calculations give or take a few) on the Friday night and Saturday of the festival. Many thanks to Linda Leonard, for her help in the label design on water bottles and to Dave Anderson of Central Coast Printing for his time and materials with printing them. Thanks to all

the youth and their parents (you know who you are) for their help in labeling, lugging and distributing the water. Thanks to Sarah Barber, our church secretary, and her help in development and design of the cool “Water for Life” T-shirts.

We had many varied reactions by the people at the festival. Many could not believe that they were being handed a bottle of water—for free—on a hot day—and that we asked for nothing in return. As Pastor David told us before hand, all we are required to do is plant a seed. Hopefully we touched somebody that day and inspired them to do some kindness in turn or maybe they might come and find out what we are about.

As if these blessings aren't enough! Our food booth did well too! Earning **\$710** for our youth account by selling our “heavenly brownies” (both at the festival and on Sunday at church) and those tasty nachos were flying out faster that we could make them. Thanks to all who helped in the booth...we couldn't have done it without you! I know for me, this a great time for us to work together and fellowship with each other in the mission and love of Christ. Praise God! - He is good!

Thanks to a special church member and their generous donation that paid for our booth supplies. Not to be forgotten, thanks to all those who participated in and on our church float: Ken Leonard for his truck and driving skills; Larry Weimers for the lending us straw bales; the Ford-Sloan families, Kent Unsworth, and Anna Prestemon for representing our church well. We can hardly wait until next year! The creativity is flowing and ideas are rolling in! This was a great way to kick off our year-long anniversary celebration. Next year we look forward to closing our celebration in the same way.

We continue to meet with the youth each Wednesday at 7 PM. This past Wednesday (10/15) our lesson from the *Jesus Did It* series was all about Mary and Martha. Two sisters, who chose to serve Jesus differently. We talked about ways we can serve Jesus and our church. We have started doing this by volunteering as ushers the last Sunday of each month. We will also video tape interviews with our church members, especially those who are home bound or nursing home bound, to learn about their church memories. We will show them in the upcoming month.

Mark your calendars for December 3!! We hope that you will plan to participate with the youth at the **Advent Soup and Chili Dinner** and program. Look for youth and keep them in prayer as we plan to participate in our **Family Christmas Eve Service** (watch for further information on this event) In Christ's Service ~ Mike & Linda





What's With The Wreath and Candles?

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Lighting its candles is a common practice on the four Sundays leading to Christmas.

Different color combinations for the candles are used depending upon the church or denomination. Some churches use four blue candles around the wreath with one white candle in the center, while some use all white candles. Many denominations light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth Sunday and a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

The wreath, the candles and the colors all have symbolic significance. Here are just a few of the many and various interpretations:

- ★ **The circular green wreath symbolizes the everlasting love of God**-it has no beginning or end. The green represents the gift of eternal life.
- ★ **The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent.** One tradition tells that each candle represents one thousand years. They total

4,000 years — the time from Adam and Eve until the birth of Christ.

- ★ **Purple represents royalty.** In ancient times, fabrics dyed purple were expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple is also symbolic of **humility and penitence.**
- ★ **Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty.** Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. **Blue also symbolizes the beginning**— a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.
- ★ **The first purple candle signifies Hope.**
- ★ **The second purple candle stands for Peace.**
- ★ **The pink candle for the third Sunday symbolizes Joy** and signifies the halfway point of Advent.
- ★ **The final purple candle is for Love.**
- ★ **The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle.** Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — *"the light of the world."*

The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people — "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not over-

Mission Opportunities in Our Community



There are many to assist the less fortunate in our community, especially during this season of giving. One can volunteer with the Five Cities Christian Women's Food Bank, collecting, sorting and distributing food to those in need. Others can prepare and/or serve a hot meal to the hungry once a month with volunteers of the People's Kitchen.

With the growing need, supplies have diminished resulting in requests for more meals and food supplies. If can help, please bring non-perishable donations of cereal, rice, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, and canned meats to the church's food basket located in the Narthex. To help contact the following— for the Food Bank contact Mary Patterson or Bee Frantz; to make a casserole and/or help serve for the People's Kitchen, contact Patti Melsheimer. Any monetary donations, and be made out to the church and note the purpose in the "memo" line.

MEN'S UNITED METHODIST MEN



Current News

On Saturday, October 18, the men met at the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach for their monthly breakfast meeting for food and fellowship.

Business opened with a Treasurer's Report and items of interest from the last meeting. Our guest speaker was welcomed from the California Department of Consumer Affairs, Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR), Richard Leonard. Before his employment with the BAR, we learned that Mr. Leonard, owned and operated an automotive repair business in Fresno for 19 years and has a Bachelor of Science Degree in business Administration from Cal State University of Fresno. He also earned his masters degree in Criminology.

Mr. Leonard has worked with the BAR for the past 18 years and has investigated fraud from Santa Maria to Paso Robles using covert operations and undercover surveillance. Many of such investigations resulted in convictions by the District Attorney's office.

We thank Richard Leonard for taking the time to spend with us and share in his expertise with our UMM.

Pressing On to November

On Saturday, November 22, we will meet again at the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach with our own Bill Weitkamp as our guest speaker.

Notice: November's meeting is on the fourth Saturday instead of our usual third. Please mark your calendars.

THE CASE OF THE DANCING BISHOP

On Saturday, September 27th, lively music was played by "Sax on the Beach" in the Dining Hall of the Arroyo Grande Methodist Camp. To the enjoyment of some 50 attendees, Paul Cogger, director of eight Methodist Camps and Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, all got up and danced. They had good reason to dance as the camp had just broken ground for a \$170,000 project to build two much needed replacement cabins and to lay the foundations for four other units to be built at a later date.

District Superintendent, Rev. Cathleen Coots, who attended the event, had some good words for the project at the brief ceremonies held outdoors near the new building sites. Our own Pastor David Burgeson was also there and give his blessing to the event.

"The camp is preparing itself for the 21st Century" according to Steve Tallant, Camp Manager, who spoke to the group about some of the difficulties encountered in the new project. Tallant concluded with hopes to begin work on the first two cabins this November.

Val McClure, Capital Fund Campaign Chairman for the project since 2006, reported that \$170,000 had been raised to date, leaving \$30,000 still needed to complete the current building plans.

Those wishing to donate to the project may write a check made out to CAL-PAC CONFERENCE with Camp Arroyo Grande noted on the "memo" line. Donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be mailed to the donors. Call Val McClure for further information.



United Methodist Women

"The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

With an air of excitement and expectation the UMW Steering Committee revealed plans for their Fall activities. This is also the time to consider nominations for this next year's leadership positions.

On **Monday, November 10th**, the UMW will host the **Five Cities Christian Women's Luncheon** in Criswell Hall at **noon**. This organization is made-up of women from many local churches. Their members are the guiding hands for community outreach at the Food Bank and other sites that help feed the homeless. Bennie Duffin is our church representative; a friendly person to contact if you would like to learn more about the 5 Cities Christian Women activities.

A potluck luncheon will be provided at this meeting but the UMW is responsible for general set-up and beverages. Vel Lowry and other volunteers will host the event. Patti Melsheimer will present a program discussing Medicare and Drug coverage. She will also offer a question and answer period following her presentation. Peggy Gainer has volunteered to decorate the tables along with helpers from the Youth group. We will introduce Pastor David to the ladies as our new minister.

A beautiful **Holiday Tea** is planned for **Saturday, November 22, 2008**. The theme for the Tea is **"Aprons, Bonnets, and Hats"**. Invitations will be sent to all women of the church. The hours will be **2pm-4pm**. Anyone who has an apron, hat, or bonnet with a story to go with it is welcome to participate in this afternoon of story telling, music, refreshments and Tea. Reservations can be made by contacting Vel Lowry or Carleen Minckler. A donation of \$7 per person will be appreciated. This will be a day for wearing your favorite hat.

The UMW has received a letter of acceptance and appreciation from **Juan Olivaria, Principal of Grover Beach Elementary School** for the UMW check sent to begin a clothing fund for needy children at that school. This fund will allow children in need to have new clothing or shoes of their choice. The statistics show that 70% of the students at this school live below the poverty level. Pauline Castillo is the UMW representative for the project.

Thank you ~ **Carleen Minckler, UMW Co-chair**

In the April issue of the Cast~A~Net, we mentioned the Church Center that stands across the Avenue from the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. It stands as a witness to Christian support for the continued efforts in international diplomacy, to advance the cause of peace, human rights, development and ecology.

In 1984, the Women's Division, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries assumed ownership and full responsibility for the Center's operations. People come from across the United States to seminars at the Church Center (pictured at right) where they are able to encounter global issues in the light of biblical and theological reflection. The seminars emphasize the UM Church's commitment to human rights, racial and global justice, as well as, world peace.



The Women's Division of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries has selected "Peace and Justice" as their subject for this year. See article at right-taken from Response Magazine, June 2008

John Wesley often preached about works of piety and mercy as inseparable. Charity is a gift, but social action helps change systems that keep people oppressed and dispossessed. As United Methodist Women, we believe that these are inseparable.

Mary Kelleher, Chair—UMW Publicity

Treasurer's REPORT

As of September, our pledge income is about \$17,000 below budget, that is approximately 9% below plan. Some major contributors have had to reduce their pledges due to poor health and/or other major life changes. We wish them well.

An estimated \$5,000 of the pledge shortfall has been offset by higher than expected income from facility use, special offerings, and a large insurance refund. This leaves the income at about 5% below budget. The Board of Trustees, our Church Office, the Umbrellas and Committees have been watching their expenses carefully. This leaves our overall expenses are running approximately 4% below budget. Leaving a \$3,000 shortfall year-to-date. Thankfully, the church has adequate resources to cover this shortfall. Doing so would leave us with less funds for next year.

To get through the remaining two months of 2008, I ask that the Umbrellas and church Committees continue to carefully monitor their expenses and request that the congregation continue its generosity in stewardship.

Remember that how much you pledged will help determine our budget and effect the planning of future programs as we start next year's pledge drive. If you are not currently pledging, please prayerfully consider a pledge for this coming year. If you have pledged in the past, we encourage you to prayerfully consider stepping up your pledge this coming year.

I realize that we are in difficult and uncertain economic times. Please consider the spiritual gifts and values in the social activities of your church during this stewardship campaign.

Joel Anderson, *Treasurer*

Giving God the First Fruits

We give to the work of Christ's church a portion of the gifts that God has already given us. We give in response to God's grace in sending his Son; in response to the love of Jesus Christ's dying for us; in response to the gifts of life which we have so abundantly received; in response to the opportunities God gives us to discover the meaning and purpose of life; in response to his presence in our lives when we need him the most.

"...she... put in everything - all she had..."

Mark 12:44



THE WIDOW'S MITE

The "Widow's Mite", also known as the Lepton, was the lowest denomination struck in ancient Judea. The story of the Widow's Mite can be found in the Bible in Mark 12:41-44. For Jesus, the widow's small offering of her only two coins was worth far more than the large contributions of the rich who gave only a small portion of what they had.

The Widow's Mite is a small, crudely made copper coin. Most display an anchor on one side and a wheel on the other. The coin was first struck during the reign of Alexander Janeaus (102-76BC), and continued to be used down through the time of Christ. Minters were paid by how many pieces they produced, not how the coins looked. Because of their small buying power, little time was devoted to making the coins pretty. As a result Widow's Mites tend to be poorly struck, irregularly shaped and are usually off center.



Widow's Mite pictured above and at left



Women of Prayer



This non-denominational women's group meet at 7 PM on Mondays in the UMC of AG sanctuary to pray for this church and others in the community; asking God to pour out His Spirit of redemption, deliverance, healing and salvation.


Contact Susan Coho for more information.

Attention football fans—and others too! Tony Dungy's biography, "Quiet Strength" is now available in our church library. Tony was the first African-American football coach to lead his team to a Super Bowl victory. This story is one of tremendous faith in Christ. It is sure to fascinate and inspire all those who read it.



November 2nd

Remember to turn your clock back before you go to bed **November 1st.** We want to see you in the pews on time Sunday morning.



THE LORD'S CREW IS A PRAISE BAND OF WORSHIP LEADERS. THIS GROUP LEADS OUR CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 8:30 AM UNDER THE DIRECTION OF SUSAN COHO.

THE LORD'S CREW MEET EVERY OTHER SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

NOVEMBER'S REHEARSAL DATES
(REHEARSALS BEGIN AT 6:30PM AND SET-UP AT 5:30 PM)

1ST REHEARSAL
15TH REHEARSAL
27TH HOLIDAY—HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Five Cities Christian Women's Food Bank



As in past years, the **Five Cities Christian Women** will be giving out **Christmas Baskets** again this year...we will need your help. FCCW gives groceries to an average of 2,500 people each month, Monday—Friday, 2-4 PM. It is a volunteer run organization serving our community since 1973.

Applications for these baskets be will for available *two days only* (11/21 from 1 PM—3 PM and 11/22 from 10 AM—1 PM) at Rockaway and 9th Streets in Grover Beach. A photo ID will be required. Contact the FCCW for more details on the date. To fill baskets, food donations of the following are needed: turkeys (10-15 lbs.), cans

of yams (large), canned cranberries, evaporated milk, canned fruit, canned vegetables, chicken broth, olives, cake mixes and frosting, canned pumpkin (large), boxes of stuffing (large) and Jell-O (large). Monetary donations are also needed for potatoes, eggs, celery, onions, bread and margarine. We also give a gift to each child or infant through 12 years of age.

You may bring donations to our Food Bank at 192B South 9th Street in Grover Beach Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:30 & 9:30 AM or 2 & 4 PM. Please indicate "Christmas Baskets" on your donation. Monetary donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 756, Grover Beach, CA, 93483. All donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be mailed upon request. Questions ?Call the FCCW at 489-6706.

CHURCH CENTER USED FOR BRIDGE TO PEACE WITH IRAN

by YVETTE MOORE

Women's Division's peacemaking work took a controversial turn in September 2007 when the division opened the chapel of its Church Center for the United Nations in New York City to a 2 1/2-hour interfaith dialog with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Initially, the Mennonite Central Committee-sponsored event was set to take place at a local church, but that changed at the 11th hour.

Women's Division Deputy General Secretary Harriett Jane Olson's opening welcome for the dialog explained the division's faith-based decision to host the event at the Church Center for the United Nations.

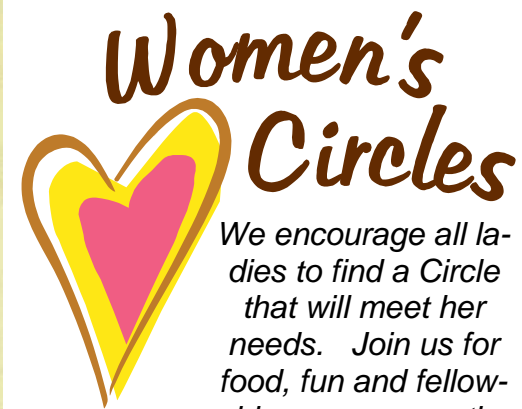
"This 'set aside' space is designed to offer both the hospitality and the testimony that is part of the Christian calling to stand for the 'things that make for peace,'" Ms. Olson said, referencing Luke 19:41.

"We know that women and children are particularly vulnerable to violence and to war, and so we stand for them. We stand with the women and children of Iraq, Israel, Palestine, the United States, and we invest ourselves in dialogs that support lasting peace — peace with justice — around the world."

Mr. Ahmadinejad cited the biblical prophets' message of justice and peace as God's desire for the world in his opening statement replete with religious language and concepts. Ecumenical leaders followed with comments and questions for Mr. Ahmadinejad about peace efforts, Iran's nuclear program, the Holocaust and the state of human rights in his country.

Ms. Olson said opening the doors of the church center for the dialog was a decision based in the Christian faith.

"The Christian Gospel calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves; to love even our enemies; and to open dialog with those with whom we are in conflict for the sake of peacemaking," Ms. Olson said.



We encourage all ladies to find a Circle that will meet her needs. Join us for food, fun and fellowship as we serve the Lord in ministry.

Esther Circle meets on the second Thursday of each month at noon in the McMillen Room. This month the ladies will meet on 11/13.

JOY Circle meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. This month the ladies will meet on 11/11.

Mary-Martha Circle meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the McMillen Room. This month the ladies will meet on 11/19.



On November 11 each year we observe Veterans Day. A day in which we honor America's veterans for their patriotism and willingness to serve and sacrifice for our nation's common good.

Christians follow the Prince of Peace, so war is a dilemma that often challenges people of faith. Some Christians are pacifists, while others believe in a "just war." Many believe that the goals of freedom, justice, equality and democracy are worth the cost.

Whatever your individual beliefs or how you feel about any given conflict, most Christians believe that men and women who strive to make this world free of tyrants are to be respected. As Winston Churchill said, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."



Thank you to the men and women who have served or are now serving our country. We honor you and your families and appreciated all of your sacrifices.

HYMN HISTORY

A Hymn's Long Journey Home

The surprising origins of "We Gather Together," a Thanksgiving standard.
by MELANIE KIRKPATRICK, —*The Wall Street Journal*; November 22, 2005

Its mention of God makes it verboten in schools today. But not too many years ago this was the season when teachers would lead their students in the great ecumenical Thanksgiving hymn, "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing." It's a singable melody, and the stirring lyrics speak directly of the Pilgrims' experience in overcoming religious persecution.

Or do they? With the exception of Native Americans, we're all the descendants of those who came to the New World from somewhere else. So too, it turns out, did "We Gather Together," whose origins are Dutch and speak of religious persecution that predates the first Thanksgiving. It's appropriate that a hymn we sing to celebrate a quintessentially American holiday is, like most of us, a transplant.

The melody can be traced back to 1597 and is probably older than that. It started out as a folk song, whose secular lyrics set a decidedly nonreligious tone. "*Wilder dan wilt, wie sal mij temmen*," the song began, or "Wilder than wild, who will tame me? "Folk melodies have a way of wanting to be sung--think "Greensleeves," which has numerous sets of lyrics associated with it--and "*Wilder dan wilt*" was no exception.

Its transformation into the hymn about overcoming religious oppression began on Jan. 24, 1597. That was the date of the Battle of Turnhout, in which Prince Maurice of Orange defeated the Spanish occupiers of a town in what is now the Netherlands. It appears likely that Dutch Protestants--who were forbidden from practicing their religion under the Catholic King Philip II of Spain--celebrated the victory by borrowing the familiar folk melody and giving it new words. Hence "Wilt heden nu treden" or, loosely translated, "We gather together"--a phrase that itself connoted a heretofore forbidden act: Dutch Protestants join-

ing together in worship. Its first appearance in print was in a 1626 collection of Dutch patriotic songs, "Nederlandsch Gedencklanck."

It's tantalizing to think that the English Pilgrims--in exile in Holland, the only place in Europe where they could worship freely--might have been familiar with "Wilt heden nu treden." There's no record that they were, but the circumstantial evidence is strong. Some of them spoke Dutch, attended Dutch churches and even became Dutch citizens. "It's possible, I'd even go so far as to say it's probable, that the Pilgrims knew the tune," says John Kemp of Plimouth Plantation, the living-history museum of 17th-century America.

But to the Pilgrim mindset, "We Gather Together" would have been a secular song. It wasn't the direct word of the Bible, which meant they would not have sung it at church. The Pilgrims, like the Dutch Calvinists, sang only Psalms in worship and then without musical accompaniment or even harmony, which they considered "man glorifying in man's art," says Mr. Kemp. They saw any song except a Psalm as a violation of the commandment against idolatry.

Continued, HYMN, page

We Gather Together

*We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to His Name; He forgets not His own.*

*Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be Thine!*

*We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our Defender will be.*

*Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!*



Trustees

Minutes from October 2008

★ Please help! Doors still left unlocked and/or open; lights are still left on!

- ★ The Board has re-addressed the Parsonage idea. We will keep you all updated.
- ★ A bid to clean and seal the sidewalk from the Narthex on the Bennet Street side was presented and accepted. Work will commence.
- ★ The Children's Center needs help! The nursery needs to be painted, which will require prior sanding. A work crew will be organized - any interested contact Tom Egan.
- ★ The Board of Trustees are within their budget, thus far. There have been charges against our account that don't belong there. An explanation of charges is necessary.
- ★ Five lights in the parking lot are out. Being less than 6 months old--this too will be investigated.
- ★ The ant problem in the kitchen is a thing of the past--hopefully! A pest control company was called and came to the rescue.
- ★ The floor in Criswell Hall needs to be re-done. A 4--5 people work party will be formed. Stay tuned!
- ★ Dark spots were noticed on the Sanctuary roof. Tom Egan will investigate and report back.

Continued, HYMN, page 8

So how did "We Gather Together" get from a 17th-century Dutch songbook to 20th-century American churches and schoolrooms?

One answer is Dutch settlers, who brought it with them to the New World, perhaps as early as the 1620s. The hymn stayed alive in the Dutch-American community throughout the centuries, says Emily Brink of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship in Grand Rapids, Mich. In 1937, when the Christian Reformed Church in North America--a denomination that began with Dutch immigrants who sang only Psalms--made the then-controversial decision to permit hymns to be sung at church, "We Gather Together" was chosen as the opening hymn in the first hymnal.

Another answer has to do with a Viennese choirmaster by the name of Eduard Kremser, whose arrangement of "We Gather Together" was published in Leipzig, Germany, in 1877. Enter Theodore Baker, an American scholar studying in Leipzig. Baker translated the hymn into English in 1894 as a "prayer of Thanksgiving" to be sung by a choir.

From there it was an easy step to congregational singing. According to the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, which maintains a database of popular hymns, "We Gather Together's" first appearance in an American hymnal was in 1903. Over the next three decades it showed up in an assortment of hymnals in the Northeast and Midwest and in school songbooks. Its "big break" came in 1935, says Carl Daw, executive director of the Hymn Society, when it was added to the national hymnal of the Methodist-Episcopal Church.

The association with Thanksgiving helped popularize the hymn, and the country's experience with war also contributed to its spread. "By World War I, we started to see ourselves in this hymn," says Michael Hawn, professor of sacred music at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology. Even more so in World War II, when "the wicked oppressing" would have resonated with a public engaged in the fight against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. "People take stock of themselves at Thanksgiving," he says. "We've all survived some turbulent times."

"We Gather Together" has all the elements that make a hymn great, says Prof. Hawn. Its melody is accessible, it has a catchy "incipit" or opening phrase, and it has a message that unfolds through the stanzas and carries the congregation with it to an uplifting conclusion: "O, Lord, make us free!"

On Thanksgiving Day, that's a sentiment that all Americans, wherever we are gathered, can share.

Ms. Kirkpatrick is the associate editor of The Wall Street Journal's editorial page.

Under the Green Umbrella



Tired, rundown, listless, needing a spiritual lift? Then the Green Umbrella is here for you. The Green Umbrella is the church group responsible for spiritual growth and Christian education within the church. Under the direction of a chairperson and in combination with pastoral guidance and member input, the Green Umbrella strives to provide opportunities for our church members to grow in their relationship with Christ and their daily walk with Him as well as encouraging our members in their fellowship with others in the church. Here are a few things "under the umbrella."

The Sunday School Programs are overseen by this group and implemented by our current Children's Ministry Director, Nancy Baughman. Nancy is currently teaching a one room school house program for the children of the church who are in pre-school through 5th grade. Monthly Vine Club meetings for the same age group further expand their knowledge of Jesus Christ through fun and fellowship, games and crafts. Family Potluck and Game Night is planned every other month as well. This is a way for our whole church family to spend time together in fellowship with each other and with Christ.

The Youth Ministry is fundamental to the growth of our church. Young people, grades six thru twelve, are invited to join Directors Mike and Linda Herber and the other 'tweens and teens of the UM Youth and meet us in the Youth Lounge (room 215), both on Sundays mornings at 10:30 AM and on Wednesday evenings at 7PM.

The education of our adults, is also vital for the health of our church and the reason why we offer a men's bible study on Monday nights, a women's bible study on Sunday mornings, and Friday morning bible study. Further Bible studies topics are already being discussed and we want your input.

Nursery care is important to our group and the reason why we offer child care for both services. We want parents who attend our church to know that their children are being well cared for while they attend services. Sometimes it is all hands on deck, we had eight children in the nursery one recent Sunday morning. Praise God! We pray He will continue to bring in the little ones.

The library is a vital part of our church and is available on Sundays for those who wish to come in and browse through our wonderful selection of books. Come one in and have a look! Check out a book for you to read alone or to share with the whole family while you're there as well.

Throughout the year, the Green Umbrella offers many opportunities for fellowship for our whole congregation through Lenten activities, annual Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt, and Potluck and Game Night, Lock-Ins, Harvest Party, and Advent Activities. Through this all, we pray that we are serving our Lord and planning activities to glorify his name. Anyone who may be interested in joining the

Green Umbrella can contact the church office and you will be pointed in the right direction.

WE NEED YOU!

We are still seeking a Christian Education Director.

We ask continued prayers with regard to this important position and the decisions that go along with it. Grant that God will guide our church in its choice of candidates and he will speak to the heart of the right individual for this job.



Kid's Page

For kid-hearted people, too!



Thanksgiving and Prayer

When Paul sent a letter to the church at Philippi, he told his friends how he felt about them. Finish this puzzle to read what Paul wrote in Philippians 1:3.

Match words in the list below to the correct word shape. Then write the letters inside each shape. In the circles, draw the faces of people you're thankful for in your life.

WORD LIST: remember time you I God
I my thank every

A word search puzzle with three rows of word shapes and three circles. The shapes are: Row 1: "I", a long horizontal shape, a circle. Row 2: a circle, a long horizontal shape, a circle. Row 3: a circle, a long horizontal shape, a circle.

Answer: "I thank my God every time I remember you."

THANKSGIVING GATHERING



When you are with family and friends this holiday, let them know how thankful you are for them with this fun craft.

What you need:

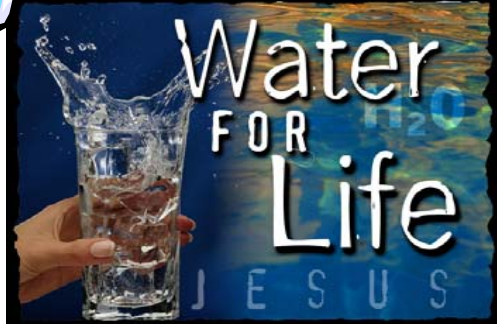
- Photos (group or individual) of each person
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Cardstock or construction paper
- Glue sticks
- Pencil
- Envelopes

What you do:

1. Collect photos of the people you'll be seeing. For group shots, make a copy for each person.
2. On the back of each picture, use a ruler and pencil to draw vertical and horizontal lines. Space the lines 1 inch apart to make a grid with 1-inch squares.
3. Starting in the top-right corner, number the squares beginning with 1. Number the top row across, then the second row and so on.
4. Cut out all the squares and put them in an envelope. Write the correct person's name on each envelope.
5. On the bottom of each piece of cardstock, write "I thank my God every time I remember you, Philippians 1:3 (NIV)." Then sign your name.
6. Give each person an envelope and a piece of cardstock. Instruct people to put the squares in order to reveal their picture. Tell them how many numbers go across and down.
7. For a special keepsake, have people glue their finished photos onto the cardstock.



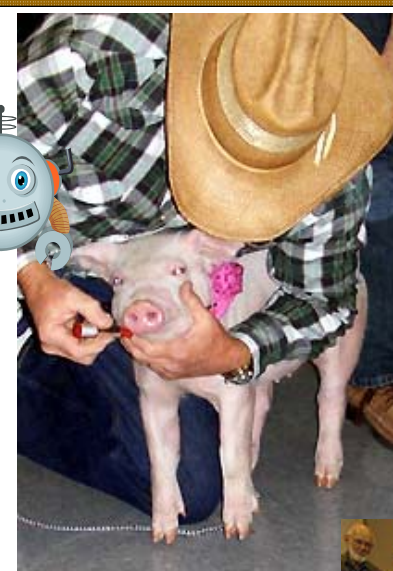
UM Youth In Action



Arroyo Grande Harvest Festival



HARVEST POTLUCK AND PIG KISS



Kiss the Pig!

And the winner is... with a total of \$175 in votes...Lorie Ford! Tom Egan came in second place with \$155.36...followed by Bill Paulsen following behind with \$82.37 and Virginia Mothes bringing up the rear with \$36 in votes. This brings our UMCOR grand total to \$448.73.



Thanks to all of you who participated!

