



Join us for  
Coffee

- 7th Endowment Board
- 14th Esther Circle
- 21st Communications Committee
- 28th RUMP

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!

- |                                             |                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st Staff-Parish Relations                  | 21st Blue Christmas                                    |
| 2nd Trustees                                | 22nd 5 Cities Christian Women Gift Basket Distribution |
| 3rd Board of Trustees                       | 24th Christmas Eve Services                            |
| 7th Advent Study                            | 25th Merry Christmas!!                                 |
| Green Umbrella                              | <b>Offices closed 25th—29th</b>                        |
| 9th Communications                          | 31st New Year's Family Potluck and Game Night          |
| 11th Esther Circle                          | Quiet Holy Communion                                   |
| 13th RUMP                                   |                                                        |
| 14th Advent Study                           |                                                        |
| 125th Anniversary Meeting                   |                                                        |
| 16th AG Community Chorus Concert            |                                                        |
| JOY Circle                                  |                                                        |
| 17th Mary-Martha Circle                     |                                                        |
| 18th AGUM CC Board Meeting Church Council   |                                                        |
| 19th 5 Cities Christian Women Gift Wrapping |                                                        |
| 20th UMM Breakfast Meeting                  |                                                        |



**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

**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

**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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DATED MATERIAL— PLEASE DELIVER BY DECEMBER 1, 2008

"SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS AND PLACED HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN."



LUKE 2:7, NIV



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT [WORSHIPWEEKLY.COM](http://WORSHIPWEEKLY.COM)

# The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande Cast~A~Net December 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](http://WorshipWeekly.com) Email: [FUMCAG@sbcglobal.net](mailto:FUMCAG@sbcglobal.net)



**Advent Supper and Study**  
December 3rd  
6 PM in Criswell Hall

The Green Umbrella would like to invite you to a special evening of season holiday fun to kick off the season of Advent. Join us in Criswell Hall at 6 PM here at UMC of AG as we enjoy a nice meal of chili and cornbread and homemade soups, spend time as a church family, decorating cookies with the kids, making Christmas crafts and playing advent games.

After which we will hear a special Advent Meditation by Pastor David Burgeson.

We would love to have you and your family join us! Be sure and bring friends, as this promises to be an event full of fun for people of all ages.

**Join us in Celebration on Christmas Eve**  
Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Services  
Family Worship 7 PM  
Traditional Service 8:30 PM

**Campfire, Carols and Candlelight!**

Come all Ye Faithful to the Family Christmas Eve Service in our church Sanctuary starting at 7 PM. Come let us adore Him, as the story of our Savior's birth is told. And Hark! There will be angel's singing. While away in the manger, there will be an animal or two. Familiar faces will re-tell the Christmas Story through scripture and song as our campfire crooner leads the way. Pastor Burgeson will give share a special message and we will conclude with singing Silent Night by candlelight. We hope to see you and your family there!



For those who don't know... **Blue Christmas** is a service for the many who have experienced a loss in their life. We invite you to our Sanctuary on **December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 PM** to come and spend time with us. At this time of year, the atmosphere around us tends to be happy and upbeat. Yet the reality is, people are hurting, whether the loss be by choice and/or circumstance, The biggest sigh of relief for people who are grieving comes when you name it and when you say, 'Hey, you're probably having a hard year.' This short service will help us deal with our emotions and feelings at this "joyful" time. There will be time in the service to acknowledge and name your loss. A time of fellowship will follow.

**Does this sound interesting to you ?**

Consider our New Year's Eve **Quiet Holy Communion Service** at 7—8 PM in our church Sanctuary.

More details inside on page 7.

Find Your Path This Christmas.

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church®





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**Inserts**

Children's Center Chronicle  
 December Calendar



**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](mailto:fumcag@sbcglobal.net)



Pastor David Burgeson



**Church Family and Friends,**

By the time you receive this issue of Cast-A-Net, Advent will have started. Advent is a time in our church year when we prepare for the coming of the Lord. How do we in the midst of an ever changing world prepare?

We decorate our sanctuary and Criswell Hall with Advent and Christmas decorations. Our worship space has trees which we decorate with strings of pretty lights, garland, bows, wreaths to hang, and Poinsettias to place in our sanctuary space. These help us to visually prepare ourselves. Yet how in the world do we prepare our hearts?

One way to prepare ourselves each week is by attending church on Sunday mornings. Through our time of singing hymns, praying, hearing the scriptures and a sermon, lighting advent candles, listening to our chancel choir and hand bell choirs, I believe we will come closer to preparing ourselves for the coming of the Lord. Yes, our fellowship also helps us prepare.

Yet how can we prepare other than Sunday mornings? You will see enclosed opportunities on the calendar and pages of the Cast-A-Net for you to participate in study and activities. Let me encourage you to write down on your at home calendar the ways you can join with your church family as together we prepare for the coming of the Lord. Maybe even invite and bring someone new to church with you.

I am looking forward to preparing for the coming of the Lord together! Come thou Long Expected Jesus born to set your people free.

With high expectation and anticipation!

*David*

## ATTENDANCE *Is Your Pledge Up To Date?*

As of September 30, 2008

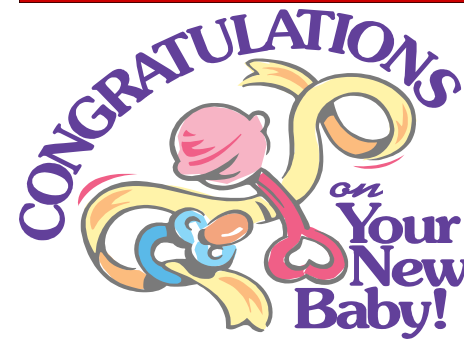
October 2008	Received To Date
5th 155	\$ 204,566
12th 164	<b>Pledged Budget</b>
19th 183	\$ 224,108
26th 180	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Sunday Average 171</b>	\$ - 19,542

As of September 30, 2008  
**Received To Date**  
 \$ 204,566  
**Pledged Budget**  
 \$ 224,108  
**Difference**  
 \$ - 19,542



**"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.



**Kailani Rai Johnson** was born November 3, 2008 weighing in at **8 pounds 10 ounces** and **21 1/2 inches** at **7:47 AM**.



She is the great-granddaughter to Pauline Castillo. Born to Pauline's grandson and his wife, little Kailani's name means "Heavenly Sea" in Hawaiian.  
**Welcome, sweet little girl!**



Thank you for all of the cards, hugs, phone calls, visits, and meals, etc. You have all been do wonderful and caring as our family goes through

this difficult time in loosing our sister/mother/grandmother/great-grandmother.

My mother, daughter and I have grown to love you all in our 6 years as your "church office". You have all kept a special place in our hearts and we are blessed to have such a wonderful extended family in Christ.

With love and gratitude, your sisters,

*Sarah and Sadie Barber, Victoria Gandy (and family)*



Valentina Ogden 1919-2008  
 Helen Setser 1910-2008

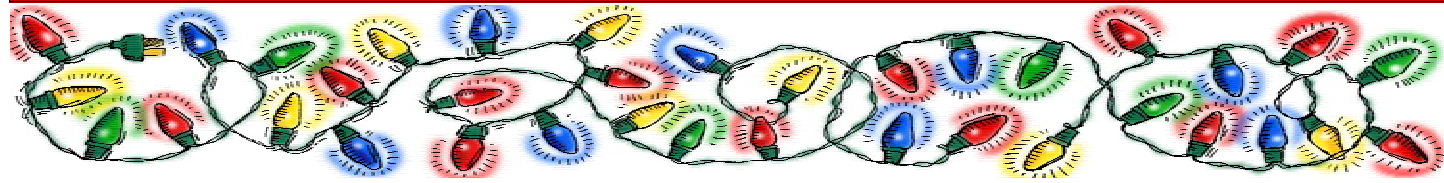
*We will miss these special people and look forward to seeing them as we stand in the presence of our Lord together.*



David Beaman	12/3
Dell McCracken	12/4
Mary Whitefield	12/4
Michael Balster	12/7
Samuel Waterman	12/7
Danica Leonard	12/8
Isabella Sloan	12/8
Adeline Bottorff	12/8
Kathleen Ballagh	12/9
Eva McClure	12/9
Jamie Foster	12/9
Mike Coho	12/9
Stan Lundahl	12/12
Richard Duffin	12/13
Wendell Curry	12/13
Susan Thronson	12/13
Ken Leonard	12/14
Julie Walters, Jr.	12/16
Marvin Truman	12/19
John McCracken	12/20
Kent Unsworth	12/20
Doug Ballagh	12/21
Harold Bailey	12/21
Duncan Leonard	12/22
Mary Johnson	12/23
Cyndee Rohla	12/24
Tom Gilliland	12/24
Eric Duffin	12/26
Jed Moore	12/27
Nicole Baughman	12/27
Roy Ferrari	12/28
Mike Jacob	12/28
Elizabeth Alquist	12/29
Ray Collins	12/30
Josiah Paredes	12/31

**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!!*





U  
M

A fun time was had by all at the All-Church Picnic and Harvest Party. It was fun to do something different this year for the annual harvest party for the youth of the church and it was really nice to involve the whole church congregation. Hopefully everyone enjoyed all the pictures that were included in last months Cast-A-Net. Thanks to all the youth and their parents who helped make this event successful.

The youth (and their parents) also helped the day before the Harvest party at the Women's Center bingo party. We helped by serving lunch and dessert. We very much appreciate the opportunity it allows us to get out in the community and also are appreciative of the funds that are donated to our group for our help. Thanks to Eva McClure for keeping us in mind for your Woman's Center events. Thanks to those in our church youth and their parents who helped with the event. You all helped to make it special.

The youth will be participating in the Advent dinner and workshop on 12/03/08 beginning at 5:45. After this event, we will adjourn to the kitchen to make December meal for Peoples Kitchen, which is always a fun and rewarding experience. We are also starting on plans and practice for our part in the family Christmas Eve service.

We continue in our *Jesus Did It* series for our Wednesday lessons. We talked about Jesus encounter with Satan as told in Matthew 4:1-11. As part of the object lesson, we used silly putty in various activities. One youth found out that silly putty can only be handled so much before it just melts in your hands! Hmm, many found it tempting to have *Silly Putty* at their disposal. The next weeks lesson was Jesus encountering a soldier. We all randomly chose chess pieces and learned about each piece and how they move about on the chess board. We then used this information as we further discussed Jesus and his encounter with the Centurion as discussed in Matthew 8:5-13.

We welcome all junior and senior high aged young people to join us on Wednesdays and Sunday mornings and encourage you to bring a friend!

We continue to ask for your support in our Community Partners program through Albertsons. Years ago, the youth group signed up and we passed out cards to our church members. The program in turn sends money to our youth group on a percentage basis according to the amount of groceries purchased by our church members using the youth group name. When we first started the program, at the check out stand, you would show your community partners card. In recent years, they have linked up your community partners cards with your key savings cards. Please see Mike or Linda if you don't have a card and would like to link your grocery shopping at Albertson's to helping the youth group. Not sure if your card is linked up, please check with Albertson's. All of your support is greatly appreciated. Every bit helps to fund our various activities throughout the year—over and above what our budget allows.

In Christ's Service ~ Mike and Linda

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# The Healthy Corner

By Patti Melsheimer

## KEEPING HEALTHY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Did you know that the week of December 4 - 10 is "National Hand Washing Awareness Week?" This doesn't seem like a very appropriate health article for December does it? And yet, we all want to make sure to keep healthy so that we can enjoy the holidays with family and friends. According to the Centers for Disease Control, "the most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick is to wash your hands." Judicious hand washing can prevent not only common diseases like colds, but also more serious diseases like hepatitis A, meningitis, and infectious diarrhea.

Here are six main rules of hand washing:

- Always wash your hands after using the bathroom, changing diapers, cleaning up after your pets, or handling money.
- Wash your hands when they're dirty.
- Always wash your hands before eating.
- Don't cough or sneeze into your hands.
- Refrain from putting your fingers in your eyes, nose, or mouth. Avoid touching people and surfaces with unclean hands.

In order to correctly wash your hands, make sure you:

1. Wet hands with warm water (not hot) and use soap.
2. Rub your hands together, making sure to scrub all areas.
3. Rub for a minimum of 15 seconds or sing "Happy Birthday." (All the way through!)
4. Rinse thoroughly, then dry hands on a clean towel.
5. Turn faucet off with the towel, not hands, to keep away from recontamination.

By frequently washing your hands, you wash away germs that you have picked up from other people, or from contaminated surfaces, or from animals and animal waste. The simple act of consistently performing this basic task properly will make a big difference in your own household as well as in work, school and public settings.

**Have a wonderful, healthy, and happy Christmas!**



Wherever two or more are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst ~Matthew 18:20



Do you have a special prayer request? Do you have a praise to share? Simply bring it to our Prayer Chain by contacting **Betty Ann Quintana at 773-2896** and she will begin the process. The Prayer Chain is available to any and all who are in need of prayer for themselves or for others.

**REQUESTS CAN REMAIN ANONYMOUS.**

Every **Thursday Morning at 10 AM** a group of dedicated prayer warriors, known as the **Intercessory Prayer Group**, meet in the Library to prayer for our church family and the requests mentioned over the week both in services, in the prayer book and via prayer chain. We invite any who would like to serve and join these people as they lift up these requests to the Lord. Please contact the church office for more information.



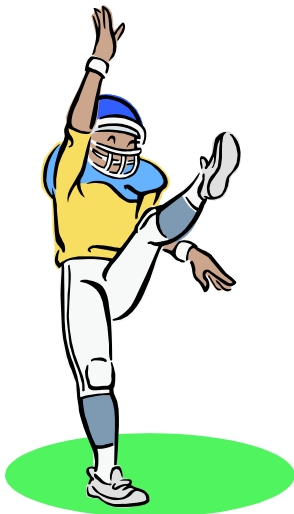
The **Women of Prayer** is a non-denominational women's group that meet **at 7 PM on Mondays** in the UMC of AG sanctuary to pray for this church and others in the community; asking God to pour out His Spirit of redemption, deliverance, healing and salvation. Please contact **Susan Coho**.



**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.



## It's coming – Mark your calendars!

**Sunday, January 11, 2009 is "Kick-Off Sunday" for the year-long celebration of our church's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

This "Kick-Off" event will include a very special worship service, followed by a pot luck dinner. This will be a day to focus on the earliest days of our church with a special spotlight on those who attended the "old church" in Arroyo Grande Village. This promises to be an exciting occasion with oodles of pictures, videos, scrapbooks, and displays that will showcase various aspects of our church history. Our church historian, Jean Hubbard has done a wonderful job of recording our past. We hope this event will serve to refresh your memory and start you thinking of all the important ways in which this church has made a difference in your life.

Be watching and listening for further announcements regarding the particulars for the potluck. If you have pictures or memories that you would like to add to the displays, contact Sean Lehman, Jamie Foster or Sarah in the church office.

Be sure to notify any one you know who has ever been a part of Arroyo Grande First United Methodist Church about our "Kick-Off Sunday". (And turn in their addresses to the church office so we can send invitations to them for our "homecoming weekend".) We want to include as many people as possible in this wonderful celebration.

## Let Us Continue With Our Community Service—A little goes a long way!

Please remember to turn in your manufacturers grocery coupons, a lot are in each Sunday newspapers. I send them weekly to our covenant missionary, Judy Atwood, in Manhattan, Kansas.

Labels and Box Tops for Education labels and UPC bar codes are mailed to the Red Bird Mission, Henderson Settlement, in the Appalachians to purchase many needed items, including: transportation vehicles to take people to and from medical appointments, to build clinics and schools along with various other community projects to help those in need. There is a NEW (as of November 2008), complete list of what to save available in the church library. If you are interested in participating, pick-up a copy.

The Five Cities Christian Women's Food Bank is ALWAYS in need of perishable food items to help fill up the reserve in the "bank" for our local citizens. See what you would be able to spend - \$5, \$7, each week and try to bring any items into the Narthex on Sunday. There is a food basket there to collect these items.

Don't forget about the greeting cards. These are sent to at least 3-4 locations. They are used by women who make "books" for children in the hospital and by adults in care facilities so that the residents make their own things for themselves or give to family members.

Aluminum pull tops are saved and turned into Ronald McDonald House in Pasadena, CA. This is in close proximity to Huntington Memorial Hospital and provides housing for families when their child has a medical problem and needs treatment.

Please remember that the few moments that it takes to collect any of these items will benefit a great many people. We appreciate any effort that you can make to help in these small ways.



You may turn in any of the above items to the library at any time for pick up to send them on their way to do their "work".

Thanking you with God's blessing!  
~ CJ Cochran



**Which of the four Gospels begins with the following words:**

"The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John

*(See Mark 1:1, NRSV)*  
**Answer: B**



## 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.





# DECEMBER

## Special Dates

- Second Sunday of Advent, December 7
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 14
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21
- First day of winter, December 21
- Christmas Eve, December 24
- Christmas Day, December 25
- New Year's Eve, December 31



**December 24th — 26th**  
**For the Christmas Holiday**  
 Regular office hours will resume on Monday, December 29th at 9 AM.  
*Happy Holidays!!*



**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.

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

- 6TH REHEARSAL
- 19TH FRIDAY REHEARSAL
- 25TH MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

### 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.

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? Please call the FCCW at 489-6706. Happy Holidays!

# MEN'S UNITED METHODIST MEN



## Current News

Saturday, November 2nd, the men met at the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach for their monthly breakfast meeting for food and fellowship.

Pastor David opened Saturday's meeting in prayer before introducing our guest speaker, Bill Weitkamp. Bill educated and entertained us with his story on the Modoc Indian War. Bill opened up and expanded upon a little publicized incident in our country's post Civil War history. Thank you so much Bill for your time and sharing with us.

November 16th, the men prepared and served an All Church pancake breakfast in Criswell Hall. This was one of the UMM's few fundraisers this year. As usual it was well attended. (Thanks to Val McClure, UMM publicity.)



Toby Riddle standing between her husband Frank (at her left) and an Indian agent with other Modoc women in 1873.

## Coming in December

We will meet again in December on Saturday the 20th at 8:30 AM. No program is planned as of yet. Watch the bulletins for details. All interested men are welcome to attend. We hope that you and your family have a joyous time sharing in the celebration of the birth of our Lord.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! ~DICK GAINER, UMM PRESIDENT



## UMM SHIRTS AVAILABLE

United Methodist Men will be taking orders for Polo shirts with the unique UMM logo. Sizes available are S, M, L, XL, AND XXL at



## R U M 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, December 13th

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.**





# 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."*



The Holiday Season rushes in with one special occasion after another but, hopefully, each of us will find time to give prayers of thanksgiving to our Lord and for our church.

The UMW Harvest Tea was a great success. Held on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, with its theme of "Aprons, Bonnets, and Hats," this launched the winter calendar of events for women of the church. Especially entertaining were the two young people who provided the musical program. Anna Prestemon, a thirteen year old who sang a lovely trio of songs, and David Anderson, twelve years old, playing the dulcimer. Colorful hats and aprons were worn or on display on antique hat racks. Interesting stories were told by their owners. Pastor David was the only gentleman invited to the Tea!

We give thanks to all the supportive persons who helped in the setting up and taking down for this occasion. We thank Vel Lowry for her excellent work on the invitations. Grateful thanks to Sean for his ready willingness to provide the special audio equipment. To Betty David who coordinated the delicious tea and refreshments. To Hillary Henderson and Rosemary MacKeen for their Fall decorations in Criswell Hall and for their amazing and fun prizes given to the lucky winners. For all the colorful teapots placed on each tea table. To Virginia Mothes who expertly handled all the money donations, To each woman for her contribution of attractive, delicious sandwiches, desserts, and tea. To the busy kitchen duty crew who always deserve special recognition. Thank you, thank you.

At this time of the year the UMW Steering Committee selects a new leadership team. Congratulations to the 2009 UMW leaders: Virginia Mothes, *Chairperson*, Betty David, *Co-Chairperson*, Carleen Minckler, *Secretary*, Rosemary MacKeen, *Treasurer*, Susan Potts, *Devotions*, and Ann Williamson, *Publicity*. Each Circle will send a representative to all Committee meetings. The Steering Committee in turn will coordinate the activities of all the Circles.

The three Circles who make-up the UMW membership will select their officers this month. The completed roster will be published in the next edition of UMW NEWS.

Happy Holidays! ~Carleen Minckler, *UMW President*

**IT'S UMW CIRCLE CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME!**  
**THE PERFECT TIME TO JOIN US!**

For the month of December, the Circles are making plans for their various Christmas parties. Sally Weitkamp has invited Mary-Martha Circle to her home for brunch on December 17th at 9:30 AM. Esther Circle has been invited to Carleen Minckler's home for a potluck luncheon on December 11 at 12 noon. JOY Circle will be visiting at Ann Williamson's home for their party and goodies on December 16 at 7 PM.

All of the Circles will have a gift exchange. The women of the church who do not regularly attend UMW or any of the circles, are cordially invited to attend any of the listed parties. There will be lots of good food, fun and fellowship. For details and directions call the Circles perspective hostess. Contact information can be obtained through our church office.

**Continued, next page**



## Choir Prepares for Advent and Christmas Eve

The Chancel Choir has been working on music for the Advent Season. December anthems include "The Shepherds Pipe Carol" and a new Bonner anthem "Glorious Impossible". The Choir will also be singing several anthems for the 8:30 PM Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve.

We are pleased to announce several new additions to our Chancel Choir. Welcome to Soprano—Heidi Carpenter, Alto—Bee Frantz, and Alto—Carol (sorry, I don't know your last name).

It isn't too late to join us for the Advent Season. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7 PM in the sanctuary.

See you there! Kent Unsworth, *Choir Publicity*

## New Year's Eve Family Fun and Game Night

Join us **Wednesday on the Eve of the New Year (12/31)** at **6:30 PM** in **Criswell Hall** as we prepare our selves for 2009 and the many blessings that are sure to accompany it.

Watch for more information in your bulletin about this evening planned for fun and games for the entire family.

Be sure to stay for the **Quiet Holy Communion** scheduled at 7 PM in the Sanctuary.  
*see page 7 for details*



## The Yellow Umbrella In Mission With Christ

The Yellow Umbrella is responsible for programs and leadership in the area of Missions, Church and Society and local Outreach. It makes decisions regarding mission. i.e., The People's Kitchen, Five Cities Christian Women's Food Bank, Harvest Bag, and other crisis and transient response.

We have a "Covenant Relationship for a Better World" and currently sponsor Judy Atwood our covenant missionary. In the past, we have supported up to 6 missionaries in covenant. This pays the missionaries salary.

The Yellow Umbrella also raises money, has a budget and receive funds from the Sanborn Fund to disperse to Mission; John Elmore, Andean Youth Project in Chile; Grace Hospice in Mongolia; Rev. Kayij in Tunisia; Rev. Henderson in Mexico-Give Ye Them to Eat; Five Cities Christian Food Bank; People's Kitchen and our youth Camp Colby. We raised funds for Smile Train, Doctors Without Borders and Habitat for Humanity through Alternative Christmas. In fact, on Mother's Day of this year we raised money for the Alaska Mission church where former member Sue McClure now attends.

**People's Kitchen**—our church members prepare and serve a hot lunch for the first Thursday of each month to women, children and men in need. Sign-up to prepare and help.

**Five Cities Christian Women's Food Bank**— Men and women help with collecting boxes of food from local Farmers' Markets on Wednesday and Saturday. Several grocery stores, donate to the Food bank in Grover Beach every week. They can use help going through the produce and cleaning or discarding some of it. They need volunteers to collect and distribute the food to qualifying families in South County. Part time help is always needed and will be a blessing to these dedicated workers.

Come join the Yellow Umbrella. We meet at 2 PM for one hour on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Want to help or need more information...Call Gladys Paulsen, Adeline Bottorff or our church office.





### TRUSTEES REPORT

NOVEMBER 2008

From Tom Egan, *Trustee Chair*



\* Morrie Gregory was invited to discuss Staff-Parish Committee' opposition to purchasing a parsonage. After consideration, the Board will pursue this task. With the losses in the money market, we too were hit and now have to re-evaluate our financial status and reconsider an acceptable price for our parsonage. Thank you for your time, Morrie!

\* The heater in nursery and all Children's Center rooms died. After rejecting the quote of \$500 cost for parts and labor, we installed it ourselves—Cost: \$250. There is still more work to do-but it works.

An estimate for a roof mounted system was submitted at \$38,000. The Board decided to fix existing heater, as we do not have the money at this time for the purchase of a new one.

- \* **Lights are still being left on and doors either unlocked or locked but not latched.** This means money is going down the drain and security is still an issue.
- \* The Sanctuary roof does indeed have spots of mildew, but a good rain will help wash that off. No plans to do anything at this time.
- \* The Trustees are still being frugal and are within budget. Due to our financial status in the Church, our 2009 budget will look a lot like 2008's budget.
- \* Termites have been spotted and a company will be called out.
- \* Our last little bit of rain left puddles at both entrances to the Narthex. The gutters have been cleaned. If this is not the single cause we have other ideas and will investigate.
- \* Rich Walters asked the Board to consider buying a pneumatic lift (cost near \$7,000) that can be used to change lights in the Sanctuary and on the grounds. Last time lights were changed, OSHA would have walked out...major safety issues. No money at this time.
- \* Mr. Walters also stated that it will be easy to add small lights to the new church sign out front to light up the end pieces with flame and the cross and "open hearts, open minds, and open doors". The Board approved and this will be done.
- \* A shopping list has been created for the purpose of changing the lighting in Pastor David's office and in Sarah's office. This will commence on November 20 & 21.



### Christmas Differing

Our *Christmas Letter* will be arriving soon. As we celebrate the blessed holiday season, we hope you will prayerfully look to the future and consider how you can help with our many Special Projects and Ministry Programs in our budget for this special anniversary year -2009!

### Gentle Reminder

We have ordered our beautiful Christmas Poinsettias once again which we include every year in decorating our Sanctuary for the holidays—orders are still available.

A gentle reminder to those who have turned in a form and that have not paid, please remember that the cost is \$12 each this year. Be sure to note on your payment—*poinsettias*—to ensure that you are credited your payment. Thank you!!



Poinsettias

# Women's Circles

All ladies are welcome!

We hope that you will join us for food, fun and fellowship as we serve the Lord in the missions of the church and our community.



**Esther Circle** meets on the second Thursday of each month at noon in the McMillen Room. However this month, the ladies will meet on **12/11 at the home of Carleen Minckler** for their Christmas party.

**JOY Circle** normally meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. However, this month the ladies will meet on **12/16 at the home of Ann Williamson** for their Christmas party.

**Mary-Martha Circle** normally meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the McMillen Room. However, this month the ladies will meet on **12/ 17 at the home of Sally Weikamp** for their Christmas party.



### LIBRARY CORNER

How about a good book to get you in the spirit of the real meaning of Christmas? *Christmas From the Backside* by J. Ellinsworth Kalas is a 7 chapters book based on various popular scripture. Kalas has a "backside" approach which can both clarify and introduce new possibilities to the scriptures. Also recommended is the *Purpose of Christmas* by Rick Warren, author of the popular book *The Purpose Driven Life*.

We have several other books including, but not limited to, *First Christmas* by Paul Maier, and *Christmas Stories from Around the World, the Drama of Christmas* by Morton Kelsey. For some warmth and a bit of humor, pick up *The Christmas Guest* by Andy Griffith or *Christmas At Grinder's Switch* by Minnie Pearl.

Come in anytime and check out our collections. Self check is permitted. Please leave the filled our book card in the appropriate basket. Happy Holidays!

### The Library is Open

Sundays Mornings  
9:30 AM to 10:25 AM & 11:30 to Noon



Continued from previous page

As we approach the Christmas Season and the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the women of the UMW feel grateful to belong to such a worthy organization. Our involvement is spread around the world in places where we are present through our Missions in Giving. In each of these places the United Methodist Women are shining the face of Jesus to the world as we are in mission with women, children and youth.

Mary Kelleher, *UMM Publicity*

**We want to wish all of you a very blessed and Merry Christmas!**

*From the ladies of the UMW*



## New Year's Eve Quiet Communion Service

7 - 8 PM

in the Sanctuary

*This will not be a formal service so feel free to come at anytime during this hour. You will find a self-directed guide for you to reflect on the past year and look forward to the New Year. There will also be an opportunity for you to take communion.*



The exceedingly popular and equally as lovely Christmas hymn, "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" was written in 1849 by Edmund Hamilton Sears, a Unitarian parish minister and author, to be used in a Sunday School Christmas Play.

Understood to be a conservative in his day, Sears wrote many theological works that were influential among liberal Protestants and both inside and outside the Unitarian church.

An American poem by right, Sears based his writing on the Gospel of Luke's account of Jesus' birth and the announcement to the field of shepherds that clear night when the angels declared 'peace on earth, good will toward men.'

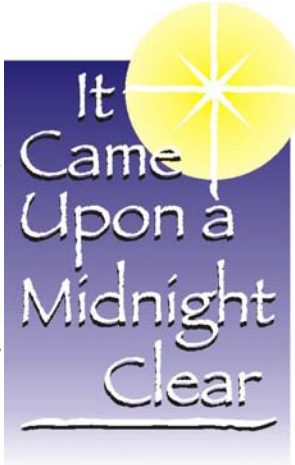
Growing up, the youngest of three sons, Edmund Sears loved to roam the hilltops of his family farm and took a fancy to the rise up near heaven, where, "bright-robed messengers alighted and rested, as they came and went on their errands of love." Perhaps this is part of the inspiration and vision of leading to this beautiful piece.

The piece has been criticized in some circles, for its unscriptural references to 'prophet-bards' and 'age of gold' and for having no mention of the Christ-child. A British hymn scholar named Erik Routley was quoted over a century after the hymn was written to have said about the hymn that "in its original form, the hymn is little more than an ethical song, extolling the worth and splendor of peace among men."

However, Sears believed fully in the human Christ as a divine Christ. That Jesus was the incarnation of the "Divine World" and the mediator who alone would bridge "the awful gulf between God and man." Sears was heard by his congregation stating, "the word God may be uttered without emotion, while the word Jesus opens the heart, and touches the place of tears."

Whatever the heart of the author, this hymn song has become one of the most popular Christmas carols sung today and is now very popular among churches and is used extensively in Christmas pageants around the world. Sing these words with your whole heart and see what you think.

# Holiday Hymns History



*It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
From Heaven's all gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.  
Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever over its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.  
Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring;  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife  
And hear the angels sing.  
And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing!  
For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet-bards foretold,  
When with the ever circling years  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world send back the song  
Which now the angels sing.*



# Kid's Page

For kid-hearted people, too!



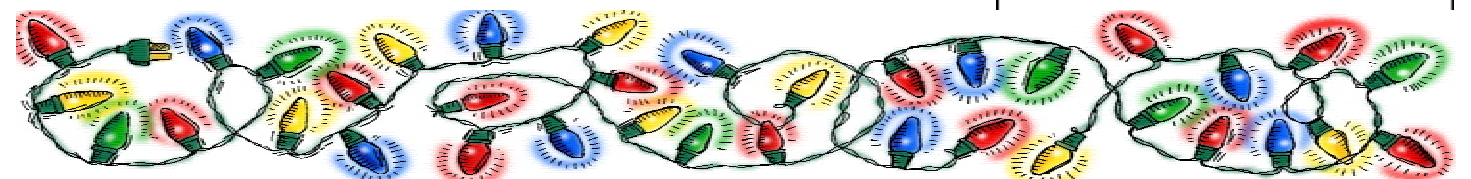
## The Story of Jesus' Birth

Jesus' birth is recorded in three New Testament chapters: Matthew 1 and 2, and Luke 2. Follow some important words about our Savior's birth by starting at a word beginning with the letter A and finishing with a word starting with the letter Z.



angels	Bethlehem	car	dance	easel	
cat	bear	child	donkey	egg	fast
holy	glory	flocks	Earth	feathers	gap
inn	jacket	grapes	peace	quiet	hat
Joseph	king	Lord	only	righteous	shepherds
kelp	loop	Mary	night	unique	tidings
last	maze	paper	wise men	virgin	water
open	nest	word	excitement	young	zillions saved by this baby called Jesus

Answer: angels, Bethlehem, child, donkey, Earth, flocks, glory, holy, inn, Joseph, king, Lord, Mary, night, only, peace, quiet, righteous, shepherds, tidings, unique, virgin, wise men, excitement, young, zillions (saved by this baby called Jesus)



# Yuletide GAMES

Enjoy the Christmas season with these games, centered around the theme of Jesus, our greatest gift.

## JESUS' BIRTH FROM A-Z

What you need:

- Paper
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (optional)



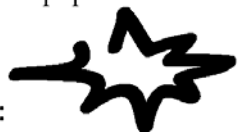
What you do:

Instruct players to think of as many Christmas-related words as they can that start with each letter of the alphabet. Start with A and give everyone a minute to brainstorm words for each letter. For example, M words include manger, Mary and miracle. If you get stuck, look at the Nativity accounts in Matthew 1 and 2, and also Luke 2. Players get a point for each word not repeated by others.

## PIN THE STAR ON THE MANGER

What you need:

- Butcher paper, poster board or plain wrapping paper
- Markers, paint or crayons
- Construction paper stars
- Tape
- Blindfold



What you do:

On large paper, draw a picture of a stable. Give each player a star cutout. Put a small + above the manger where the star led the shepherds and wise men to baby Jesus. Like in Pin the Tail on the Donkey, the blindfolded person who puts his or her star closest to the + wins.