



4th Blue Umbrella
 11th Esther Circle
 18th UMM Pancake Breakfast
 25th AG UM Children's Center

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!

Happy New Year • Happy New Year • Happy New Year

1st	New Year's Day	17th	Finance Committee
	People's Kitchen		UMM Breakfast
3rd	Un-hanging of the Green	18th	Praise Team Rehearsal
	Praise Team Rehearsal		UMM Pancakes
4th	Green Umbrella	19th	MLK, Jr. Day
	Charge Conference	20th	JOY Circle
5th	Staff-Parish Relations	21st	Mary-Martha Circle
6th	Epiphany		UM Youth Group
	Board of Trustees		Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7th	Sr. Health Screening	22nd	Red Umbrella
	UM Youth Group	27th	Care-Ring Ministry
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28th	UM Youth Group
10th	RUMP		Chancel Choir Rehearsal
12th	UMW Steering Committee	29th	AG UM Children's
13th	Communications		Center Family Fun Night and
14th	UM Youth Group		Potluck Paint Party
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	31st	Praise Team Rehearsal
15th	Esther Circle		
	Yellow Umbrella		
	Preschool Board		

January



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
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
 (805) 481-2223

Non-Profit Organization
 US Postage Permit #27
 Arroyo Grande CA 93420

275 North Halcyon Road
 Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL— PLEASE DELIVER BY JANUARY 1, 2009



"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow...."



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT WORSHIPWEEKLY.COM

The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

Cast~A~Net

January 2009

"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



CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF ARROYO GRANDE UMC
 Rock Founded, Christ Centered, Faith Sustained

2009 KICK-OFF CALENDAR

Please check your monthly Cast-a-Net for additional programs and information.

A long, long time ago, in a small village called Arroyo Grande, a group of Christians decided it was time to have a community of worship and fellowship. And so it was that they formed the Methodist Church in this small village. It grew and grew and so here we are 125 years later. Great plans have been made to commemorate this event. With so many events you will want to take out your calendars so that you won't miss a single one.

The **Kick Off Sunday, January 11, 2009** will be a special worship service followed by a potluck luncheon honoring those who attended the church in the Village. There will be displays, scrapbooks and a surprise or two showing the church history.

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE FOR THE POTLUCK that will be held immediately following the second service.

Here are some of the important events to look forward to as we continue our celebration throughout the year 2009.

January	11th	Kick Off Sunday & POTLUCK
February	8th	United Methodist Women's Sunday
	14th	United Methodist Men's Sweetheart Breakfast
	15th	Music For A Sunday Afternoon— 3 PM Barbershop Chorus
April	19th	AG UM Children's Center Sunday Music For A Sunday Afternoon— 3 PM SLO County Band
	26th	Family Fun Day and BBQ at the Wiemers' Ranch
May	3rd	Cluster Choir Festival
	31st	Special Worship Service and picnic at Camp AG Tabernacle
June	7th	Music Sunday
	14th	Youth Sunday
July	12th	Ice Cream Social (after 2nd service)
September	19th	"Homecoming Dinner at the Regional Center"
	20th	Charter Sunday - Bishop Mary Ann Swenson will be our guest.

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

In this Issue . . .

From The Pastor.....2
 Choir and Praise Team News....3
 Red Umbrella.....4
 UMM News & RUMP.....5
 UMW News6
 Trustees Report.....7
 Church Library.....8
 Prostate Cancer—Story.....9
 Focus on Pauline Castillo.....10
 UM Youth News11
 Calendar and Coffee Hour.....12

Inserts

Children's Center Chronicle
 January 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 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



Pastor David Burgeson



Coming to the end of 2008 and looking toward 2009. I want to say thank you for welcoming me as your Pastor. I join along with a very dedicated church staff in thanking you for the opportunity to be in ministry together. We are a very active church with many wonderful programs and ministries. We feel blessed to be a part of the United Methodist Church family here in Arroyo Grande.

In the beginning of our new year together we will have our annual charge conference at 1:30 PM on Sunday January 4. Rev. Catie Coots who usually is presiding will be unable to attend as she is recovering from surgery. We will be blessed by having the Rev. Brian Parcel from First United Methodist Church of Santa Maria preside. This will be a time for us to recall and celebrate the ways we were in ministry in 2008 and begin to plan ways we can continue to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for Transformation of the World." this year.

A challenge I see for our church is what needs do we see in our five cities area and how can we begin to identify and meet those needs. At times we may just wish to keep our church the way it always has been. Yet as John Wesley still challenges us today- "The World Is Our Parish," and for us to take this seriously we will need to look, think and act beyond our church walls and property.

How we take this will depend on how we respond to Jesus when he says "Follow Me." We will accomplish great things for the Lord this next year and I am excited to work and see great things the Lord will do through us.

From our United Methodist Hymnal hymn #584 verse five: "Lord you bless with words assuring: "I am with you always to the end." Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity. With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry."

Your Pastor and Partner in Ministry,

ATTENDANCE

November 2008

2nd	159
9th	172
16th	182
23rd	177
30th	161

Sunday Average 170

Is Your Pledge Up To Date?

As of November 30, 2008

Received To Date

\$ 232,303

Pledged Budget

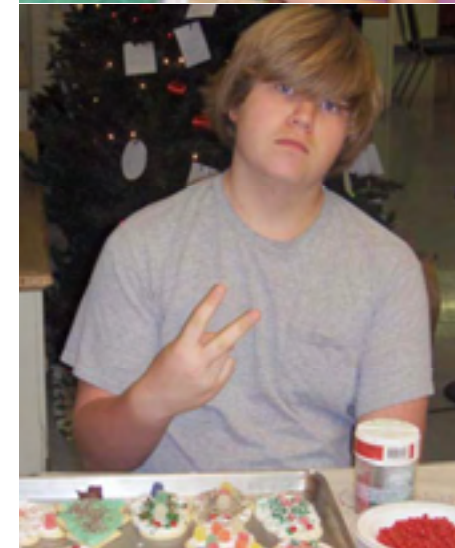
\$ 246,519

Difference

\$ - 14, 217

Figures are rounded to the dearest dollar

UM YOUTH NEWS



Happy New Year to all. Hard to believe where the time has gone. December was a busy month for the youth group. We made food for the People's Kitchen (enchiladas, Spanish rice, and frosted cookies) and attended the Advent workshop. Most of our time was spent getting ready for the family Christmas Eve service. We hope you all had the chance to attend and please look for pictures of this event in next months *Cast~A~Net* showing our talented individuals who participated. Our next big event will be our annual Souper Bowl Sunday food drive. Please look for the container in Criswall Hall starting on 1/01 of 2009. We ask that you help us in supporting our local Five Cities Christian Women's food bank by bringing not only cans of soup but other canned food items or non perishable food items. We will collect food until 02/01/09 (Super Bowl Sunday) and then deliver all the donated items to the food bank. As always thank you for your support and the youth are fortunate to be able to help those in need in our community. Don't forget those cans and plastic for our recycling for camp project (look for the box in Criswell and if you have questions about what to bring see Mike and Linda).

In Christ's Service,
 ~ Mike and Linda



Phil McKibben	1/2
Doris Rice	1/3
Francis Fink	1/3
John Neel	1/4
C. J. Cochran	1/4
Alexander Paredes	1/4
Polly Monson	1/6
Charles Lang	1/7
Norm Henderson	1/7
Christina Rohla	1/9
Jim Duffin	1/10
Lexi Raetz	1/15
Nancy Baughman	1/17
Caitlin Herber	1/17
Tracy Regusci	1/18
Russell Ewick	1/20
Jim Alquist	1/20
Judy Leonard	1/22
Madge Young	1/24
Pat Conover	1/26
Lynn Stewart	1/27
Carmonde Cochran	1/28
Mary Thronson	1/29
Jordan Henderson	1/29
Dr. Patrick Spalding	1/31

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!!



You are the salt of the earth.

Matthew 5:13

Pauline Castillo

Our True Example of a Caring Church Member

By David Beaman

Pauline Castillo was born in Dallas, Texas in June of 1924. She is the first of eight children. Born to a boot maker and cobbler, her father also owned an ice house, wood yard and barber shop. All the children had specific tasks to contribute to survive the effects of the Great Depression. The family bartered or handed out many food items and dry goods to the hungry and the destitute who passed through their town trying to exist during one of our countries most difficult times.

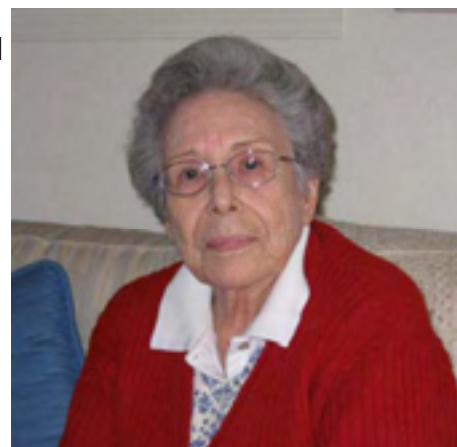
Pauline's father, who immigrated from Mexico and later became a naturalized American citizen, maintained a stern attitude to instill in the family the idea of hard work having a reward for survival and success. He always proudly displayed the American flag and emphasized to them the benefits of their birth as American citizens in the land of opportunity that was not available to him in Mexico. Although life was hard, Pauline looks back with admiration to her father's example.

When Pauline was 18 she was hired by North American Aviation at Hensley Field in Grand Prairie, Texas to work in a plant building B-24 and B-25 bomber aircraft during the WW II mobilization. She was hired as a riveter but her small size and 118 pound weight was too small for the work so she cross trained to become an expert acetylene welder with a knack for running a strong and smooth "bead" as required in airplane assemblies. She was proud of her work and of the opportunity to help prove that women could do the factory jobs and master the skills to produce sophisticated and reliable aircraft.

During her daily commute from home to work she became acquainted with Raul Castillo, a security guard / soldier from California. Her strict and protective father cautioned about "not talking to strangers or service men" but the relationship flourished even though they postponed asking the father's permission after twice obtaining marriage licenses. With the third license, Raul and her father had a man-to-man discussion, still not accepted, but her mother did agree, so they married anyway. As it turned out, Raul and Pauline shared a wonderful and loving 53 year marriage that produced their daughter Gloria and son Raul. Her husband passed away in 1996 after suffering from long term health problems and several very serious surgeries.

There was a Methodist Church in Dallas only 2 blocks from her childhood home where the family worshipped so, she has been a member her entire life. Her family has ascribed to the concept of "always giving back" for the blessings one enjoys. The committees she has served in Arroyo Grande UMC are Esther Circle, UMW Executive Board, Finance Committee, Staff-Parish, Missions, Stephen Ministries, Vine Club, Education and she has her special connection with Membership Care. Among her closest friends was Doris Awalt who regularly visited nursing homes with her to bring encouragement and a sense of belonging and care to those who become quite lonely under their circumstances. All members know it most frequently is Pauline who speaks up during the "Joys and Concerns" segment of worship service to make a comment of the condition of someone who is struggling with illness, impairment or would appreciate company or companionship.

Pauline has always been the true example for how one can be a committed, meaningful and effective church member.

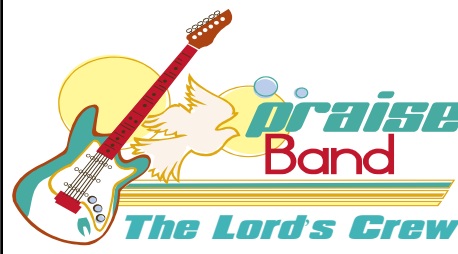


CHOIR PREPARES FOR OUR 125TH

The Chancel Choir returned to the pews on January 4. after a brief break. This year promises to be an exciting one as the Choir will be helping to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of AGFUMC. In addition to preparing for Lent and Easter, our choir will be hosting the Central Coast Cluster Choir Festival this year. Watch this column and the Bulletin for announcements of other musical events planned during the year in honor of the 125th Anniversary Celebration.

In last months column it was announced that the Chancel Choir welcomed several new members. I did not have the last name of one of them. She is alto Carol Eberhardt. Welcome to the Choir Carol. Join us as we celebrate our 125th anniversary.

Our Chancel Choir meets every Wednesday evening at 7 PM in the sanctuary. See you there! Kent Unsworth, *Choir Publicity*




The Lord's Crew is a praise band of worship leaders. This group leads our congregation during our Contemporary Worship Service at 8:30 AM on Sunday mornings under the direction of Susan Coho.

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

3RD REHEARSAL
 17TH REHEARSAL
 31ST REHEARSAL

· FLOWER CHART ·



The Flower Chart for 2009 is in the church office. Please take the time to call and find out what dates are available. Your dedications will be taken at that time. Flowers can be paid for by sending a check or placing your payment in the offering basket. Each payment needs to be clearly marked "altar flowers" with your name and the date of your dedication. Thank you all for your support and contributions.

P S A L M 1 0 3



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 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 Red Umbrella: What Do They Do?

Most of you probably know that there are four Umbrella Groups in our church: Blue, Green, Red, and Yellow. The Red Umbrella Committee is involved with worship. Many different people have roles in this committee. One person is responsible for setting up the sanctuary with Banners and Paraments for each of the Liturgical Seasons of the year. She also makes sure the Choir Robes are cleaned and repaired, if necessary. She also coordinates the decorating of the sanctuary for special occasions like Easter and Christmas. The job is currently held by Irene Kliesch.

Another important function of the committee is worship music. This includes the Chancel Choir, Handbells, and the Lords Crew. The Chancel Choir performs a weekly Introit, Anthem, and Benediction under the direction of Julie Walters. The Handbell Choir performs 2 pieces during worship each month under the direction of Leonard Lutz. The Lords Crew, under the direction of Susan Coho, performs for the first worship service each week.

Another aspect of the committee is the Puppets. They perform one Sunday a month during the Children's moment under the direction of Willy Ford-Raetz. The Puppets may also perform on other occasions such as on Christmas and on Youth Sunday.

A crucial part of the Red Umbrella is the Multi-Media person. This person coordinates all aspects of sound and other media such as power point during the worship service. This also includes recordings and video. Mike Herber is the person currently handling Multi-Media.

The Red Umbrella also includes other activities involved in worship including the Altar Guild, Greeters, and Ushers. The Altar Guild are the people responsible for setting up the altar for communion, and coordinating the acolytes for the worship service. Lorie Ford is the person currently in charge of this. The Greeter Coordinator is Del Hollinger. There are currently 3 Head Ushers: Morrie Gregory, Dick Melsheimer, and Ann Williamson.

This group of dedicated individuals meet each month under the capable leadership of Chairperson Sharon Roemer. Working together with Pastor David, this committee helps to plan and coordinate the worship services. In addition, as one of the 4 Umbrellas, the Red Umbrellas works with the other Umbrellas to help to carry out the vision of the church.



In John 8:12 (NRSV), Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will"*

Choose the phrase below that correctly completes this sentence.

- A. never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.
- B. never walk alone.
- C. be my companion always.
- D. sit at my right hand.

Answer: A
(See John 8:12, NRSV.)



Our church is responsible for feeding the needy and homeless of the Five Cities area on the first Thursday of each month. Wouldn't you like to help? Pick the month you would like to provide a casserole and sign up on Sunday in Criswell Hall during coffee time. The recipe is provided. You may make it at your leisure, bring it to the church kitchen and place in the freezer. (Be sure to label it as "People's Kitchen casserole" and include the date and



PROSTATE CANCER – A SHORT STORY

by Jerry Smith

Do you know that prostate cancer is the second most common cause of death from cancer disease for men? But fewer men are dying of prostate cancer than ever before. Still, 28,000 men a year are dying of prostate cancer according to medical statistics.

I was diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer in early September 2008. After the results of a prostate biopsy and much discussion with doctors, I made the decision to move ahead with 42 radiation treatments and hormone injection therapy? Thus began the idea of living with the associated stresses and side effects linked to the treatment of prostate cancer, and now, knowing how it touches every aspect of your life.

The term "Cancer" may be the most frightening word in medicine. For any person to be diagnosed with cancer is a testament that your life will change suddenly and profoundly as you face tremendous physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges in your plan to fight the cancer and whatever might be the future outcome. By the way, it's okay and perfectly normal to enter a personal shock phase after learning of your cancer disease.

On a personal note, my emotional experience with cancer so far has caused me to become keenly sensitive to everything around me especially those in my life that love me and I them. Possibly it's the self-realization that life and our health remains fragile at any age, and too often, we take too much for granted in our relationships with those we depend on.

Cancer patients are encouraged to keep life as normal as possible. Remember you're the same person you were before the cancer diagnosis. Staying positive is so very important. Exercise as much as you can, diet is important and participate in medical decisions. Keep good records of your treatment and the problems you encounter.

I want to thank everyone that continues to support and pray for my recovery. My faith/trust in God provides me the "spiritual strength" and the determination to go forward with a plan to live my life and fight the cancer disease together. God bless Pastor David Burgeson, the Intercessory Prayer Group and Dick Gainer for all the support they have provided me.

Had I not been under the care and guidance of an oncologist and urged to get that PSA test I would have never known that I had an aggressive cancerous tumor in my body. And possibly that would have become life threatening each day of my life if not treated in time. In the months to come I will learn more about where I stand with this dreaded disease. Your continued prayers are most welcome and God bless you all! And by the way I'm looking forward to my seventy fifth birthday on March 5, 2009 and beyond.

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. *Christmas from the Back Side* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Get yours at the church office.



**New
in the
Church
Library**

As we celebrate our 125th Anniversary we want to call your attention to our Church Library. In the early seventies, Sunday School Superintendent Jesse Wickham, spearheaded the creation of our church library. In the seventies Carmonde Cochran joined the library team and ran the library until recently. Bettie Hammond introduced the Dewey decimal system in the eighties. We've had numerous dedicated volunteers helping in the library over the years and we gratefully acknowledge their service. The library was dedicated in memory of Jessie Wickham in 1984.

Why do we have a Library?

Our purpose is to provide inspirational materials for guidance and living and to access biblical reference books for our ministers, teachers and members. The room is also available for small Bible study groups and prayer groups.

Where is the Library?

When entering from the church parking lot into the narthex the library door is the first one on the left and is open Sunday mornings. There is also an entry door from Criswell Hall.

When is the Library open?

The library is open following the first service until noon. Self check out is available if there is no attendant in the library. Simply sign the check out card and place it in the basket provided.

What reference materials are available?

Some of the reference materials are New Interpreter's Bible (12 volumes), Bible handbooks, Bible dictionaries, Bible commentaries, Concordances, large print Bibles, and Bible encyclopedias. These materials may not be checked out, but are available for use in the library.

What is available for check-out?

There are inspirational fiction and not fiction, Biographies. Books on prayer, Christian life, Methodist church, personal and group devotions, and much more.

It's your church library...Check it out!!!



Greeter's Wanted

We are presently trying to fill the greeters spots for the year of 2009. We are working on the first six months. If you like to smile, shake hands and say hello to your fellow members this is the job for you. We will have a sign up sheet after most Sunday 10:30 AM services. Thank you!

Greeter chairman, *Del Hollinger*



UNITED METHODIST MEN

IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR

Once Again Thanks to Bill Weitkamp for his enthusiastic and educational program in November!

CURRENT EVENTS

Saturday, December 13th, the men met at the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach for food, fellowship and planning. Pastor David opened the business session with prayer followed by Dick Gainer's expression of his desire to step down as President, in hopes that some merciful individual would prayerfully consider taking on the job.

Highlights from the planning session for December were as follows:

- Revisit results of October's survey.
- Confirm that Val McClure will interface and coordinate activities involving Camp Arroyo Grande (i.e., the annual work party.)
- Sweetheart Breakfast will be held at the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach on February 14th at 8:30 AM. Irene Kliesch will be our honored guest.
- Programs and activities are set through June. Patti and Dick Melsheimer have graciously consented to host our year end BBQ in June. *Thanks Dick and Patti!*

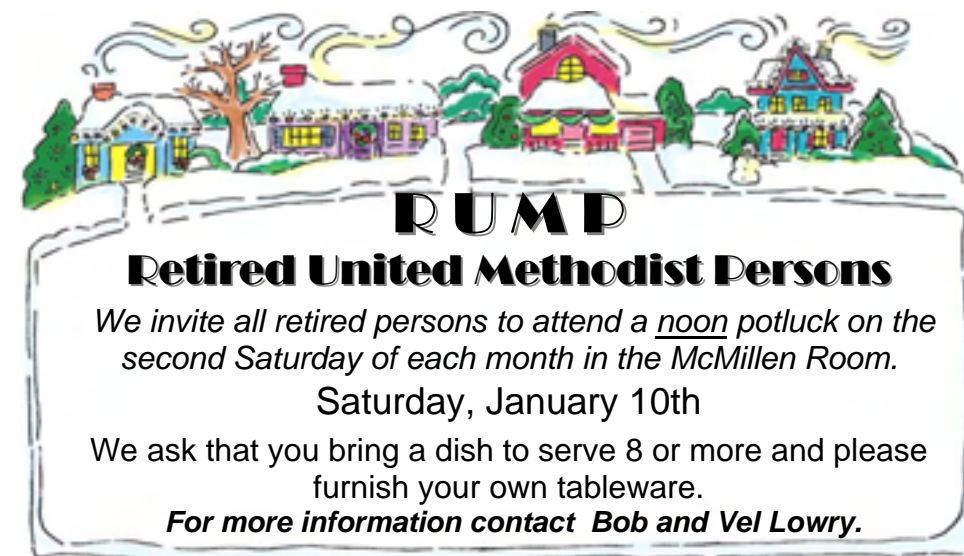
LOOKING FORWARD

January 17th, 2009 will be our monthly meeting at the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach. Our speaker will be Dr. Del Dingus, a professor of Earth Science who recently retired from CalPoly in San Luis Obispo after 32 years of service. His topic will be "World Hunger and the Food Supply." This promises to be an interesting lecture and discussion. Join us!

This is an open meeting. Ladies are welcome. We would like you to tell us if you are coming as we have a room occupancy limit. Please contact Bud Johnson, Wayne Huggins or Dick Gainer.

Make your plans for the **Sweetheart Breakfast** now! Valentine's Day is right around the corner!! Look to further publications for more information. God Bless!

Dick Gainer, *Interim* (that means temporary) *President*



more information
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 \$15—\$20 payable on delivery. Aprons are available if enough of a demand is shown. To order please find Val McClure or he'll find you!

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."



As we enter our New Year we want to congratulate Virginia Mothes and Betty David as the co-chairs of the United Methodist Women for 2009. These ladies, among others, will attend a Leadership Training Conference at the St. Andrews UMC in Santa Maria on January 24, 2009. This conference will help and inform them of their duties in the coming year. Eva McClure and Bee Frantz will be co-chairs of the Mary-Martha Circle, Rosemary MacKeen and Patti Melsheimer will chair JOY Circle with Peggy Gainer and Mary Kelleher as the co-chairs for Esther Circle.

For the study this year, Mary-Martha and Esther circles have chosen to study American Indians in the book, "Giving Our Hearts Away—Native American Survival." The ladies of JOY Circle will decide between the above book and one on different religions.

Carleen Minckler and Vel Lowry were such wonderful chair people this past year. We had such a successful year for 2008 and would like to thank them and all the other officers and women of the UMW for their dedication and hard work in making our UMW group such a great success.

Fun was had by all at the Harvest Tea. The event was so elegant, the food was wonderful and the music beautiful. Anticipation filled the air as we sat hoping and waiting to win the many prizes. We were able to raise \$821 toward missions during this spectacular event.

IN 2008, the local unit of the Arroyo Grande UMW gave \$3600 to the Santa Barbara District Conference to further our mission work throughout the world; \$1000 was also given to Grover Beach Elementary School to begin a clothing fund for needy children in their school. The fund will allow children in need to have new clothes and shoes of their choice. Statistics show that 70% of the children who attend this school live below poverty level. As a group the UMW hopes the fund will help alleviate some of that stress. \$600 was also given to the Five Cities Christian Women's Food Bank and \$250 to the SLO Women's Shelter.

Mary-Martha Circle gave money from their treasury to the Five Cities Christian Women. Joy Circle gave theirs to the EMANA, an organization in Chili, and Esther Circle donated their surplus funds to the Five Cities Christian Women's Food Bank for the toys in their annual Christmas Baskets. This year, 72 Christmas food baskets were given out to needy families in our area. And 94 wrapped toys were included in those baskets for the children of the families. We are grateful that we've been successful in our involvement in missions both locally and around the world.

I want to close this month's UMW page with some words from Harriet Jane Olsen, chief executive and deputy general secretary, she heads the administration of the UMW. Her words are taken from Response Magazine, issue dated June 2008.

"The base of all is that God is already at work in places where we can follow suit, joining forces with women and children around the world, creating a society that is more loving and just," she said. "We can do it. We've got the resources and talent, and I believe we will."

Mary Kelleher, UMW publicity



Harriet Jane Olsen



TRUSTEES REPORT

December 2008

From Tom Egan, Trustee Chair

- ☑ The board agreed that the issue of purchase of a church Parsonage should go before the Church Council.
- ☑ A work team will be assembled to sand the nursery in preparation to be painted.
- ☑ We are still within our budget!
- ☑ We do have termites. One estimate was presented and the Board asked for 2 more. This will be done.
- ☑ New lights and a fan have been installed in the Pastor office and new lights installed in church office. Church office may need more work.
- ☑ The flood lights in the Sanctuary were discussed. The existing lights draw a lot of current. There are new fluorescent lights that use less energy and give the same amount of light. The costs are being considered.
- ☑ The Martins and Oates Memorials are still in the works.
- ☑ The roof leaked once. We have had two heavier storms since. Thankfully, no leaks. We are watching it.
- ☑ A new heating system mounted on the roof will cost \$38,000. We are looking into a new system mounted where the old one is and repairing the destroyed ducting.
- ☑ Burke and Pace will be given a contract for 2009—same as last year.
- ☑ New water conserving toilets have been installed throughout the facility. Some were free and others for a cost.

I was so blessed this year to have had the privilege of working with such a fine and dedicated Board. This congregation was truly served by them. Tom Egan, Chair

How To Keep Warm in Church



- Rush to the front of the sanctuary. That will warm you up, and you'll avoid the draft in the back of the church.
- Invite your neighbors and friends, and sit 12 people to a pew.
- Seat yourself near the pulpit. Much hot air is emitted from that area.
- Wear thermal underwear (in the appropriate liturgical colors, of course).
- Wait for an unfamiliar hymn — and then watch the sparks fly!

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 **1/15 in the McMillen Room.**

JOY Circle normally meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. However, this month the ladies will meet on **1/20.**

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 **1/21.**

