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Music Director: Julie Walters Praise Team Leader: Susan Coho Organist: Don McGuire **Puppet People:** Willy Ford-Raetz & Mike Herber Grande Ringers Director: Leonard Lutz Youth Directors: Mike & Linda Herber

DATED MATERIAL

Christian Education Director: Hilary Henderson

United Methodist Children's Center AG UM Children's Center Director:

Madrigal (Maddy) Quaglino e-mail address: agumcc@sbcglobal.net (805) 481-2223

> Non-Profit Organization **US** Postage Permit #27 Arrovo Grande CA 93420



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT WORSHIPWEEKLY.COM

1st 8th 15th 22nd

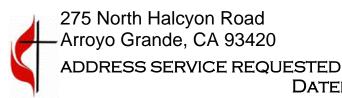
Lenten Study 2009 "Come To The Cross"

Wednesday Evenings of March from 6:01 PM to 6:46 PM Join us in Criswell Hall!

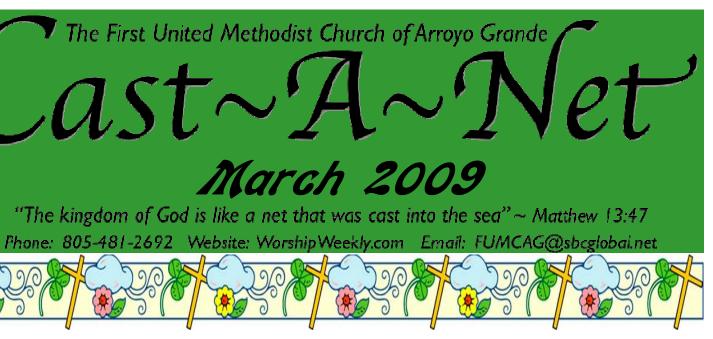
4th	"Following The Cross"
11th	"Community Marks"
18th	"Life Gifts"
25th	"Promised Hope"

"Come to the Cross offers an opportunity and challenge to journey toward Jerusalem and the cross by exploring the Revised Common Lectionary readings designated for the Lenten season, It is tempting to bypass the somber notes of the Lenten season and rush straight from Ash Wednesday to Easter morning."





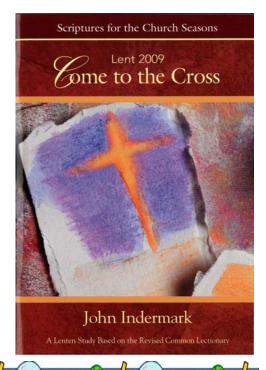
"Truly this man was the Son Mark 15:39



"Traveling Through Lent to the Cross" **Scripture & Sermon Titles**

Sunday Mornings of March 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services

- Mark 1:9-15 Mark 8: 31-38 John 2: 13-22 John 3: 14-16 John 12: 20-33
- "Temptations" "Being Focused" "Things that Make Jesus Anary" "Goina Deeper" "Praver"



Cast~A~Net UMC of AG

In this issue...

Shepherd's Notes	2
A Visit with Jean Hubbard	3
UMM News	4
Trustees Report /St. Patrick	5
UMW News	6
Choir Notes/Praise Team	7
RUMP / Miscellaneous	8
Homecoming Herald9	-10
AG UM CC Chronicle11	-12
Article by Jerry Smith	9
UM Youth News	.10
Healthy Corner	11
Calendar March 2009	12
Hymn History	.13
Miscellaneous info	14
Birthdays and UMM Pictures	15
Events / Coffee Hour	16
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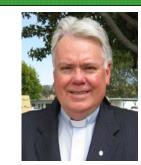
AG UM Love and Logic Seminar



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



Shepherd's Kotes

page #

March 2009

It is my pleasure to announce a new member of our church staff, Hilary

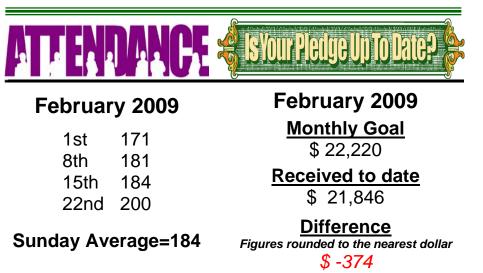
Henderson. She will be serving as Director of Christian Education. She will oversee the department of Christian Education for all age groups. If you have any suggestions and/or would like to help with our children, youth and adults, Hilary will be happy to meet with you.

She has been very involved with our church, chairing and serving on several committees. Currently she chairs the entertainment committee for the 125th Anniversary Celebration. She is a member of the Green Umbrella (Christian Education) and plays in our Handbell Choir's Grande Ringers.

Please welcome Hilary when you see her and hold her in prayer as she takes this next step on her journey of faith.

will be leaving on Saturday, March 14th, for a Community Rebuild Mission Project in Gulfport, Mississippi. I will be going as a member of our Santa Barbara District's Work Team, along with members of the Santa Ana District. I will return on Saturday, March 21st. Please keep us all in your prayers.

Following Jesus, and in partnership with you "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world": what an opportunity and privilege!



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Gary Bailev 3/2 Carina Avila 3/2 3/3 Tom Egan 3/4 Lillian Taylor Jay Campbell 3/6 Lucy Jacob 3/7 Marjorie Stinson 3/7 Joe St. Laurent 3/7 Ethel Gilliand 3/8 Sue David 3/8 3/13 Pat Weimers Shelia Riley 3/14 3/18 Arthur Lowe Joe Underwood 3/19 Shirley Noll 3/20 Toni Harvey 3/20 3/20 JoAnn Wiseman Marian Middleton 3/23 Arletta Truesdale 3/28 Ariel Waterman 3/28 Chuck Ashton 3/30



Did we miss *your birthday?* Would you like to have you or a family member recognized? Let us know!







Valentines Day to all of our Sweethearts!!

Jast~A~Net UMC of AG

Church Photo



We are excited to **pirectory** announce that we are going to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. The directory will help us connect names with faces. It will be an ideal out-

reach tool and will capture the history of our church congregation-perfect for our 125th anniversary celebration!!

For those in our church family who are unable to make an appointment for whatever reason, we still want all of you to participate. Don't worry you can't make it. We are accepting family photographs from our shut-in and family out of the area.

For the next few weeks, we will be making appointments after church services in Criswell Hall and in the church office during the week. Many dates are available. Sign up as soon as possible to get your best appointment.

- \checkmark Every participating family/ household what select a pose for the directory will receive a free directory and a complimentary 8 x 10 custom natural portrait for our photographer.
- \checkmark You will come to the church only once for a photo sitting and viewing.
- \checkmark The program is available at no cost to the church budget.
- ✓ You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time.
- \checkmark If you wish to purchase extras, the portraits come with a 100% guarantee.
- ✓ Whether you decide to dress formally or casually is up to you. Make the most of this opportunity for you and your family.

The schedule dates for viewing are March 25th-28th. Please contact Nancy St. Laurent or our church office for details.

SPECIAL INVITATION From FLUTE FUN

Dear Church Friends,

You haven't heard much from our Flute Fun group this year because two of our members moved and we no longer meet regularly on Monday nights so it was not possible to perform for you last summer or at Christmas time. But we have BIG NEWS! We are honored to be hosting ROBERT STALLMAN, an Internationally acclaimed flutist who will be HERE at our church April 4-5. You are invited to come 🗸 on Saturday, April 4 from 11:30AM to 1PM to ,hear a Discussion/Mini Performance and on $^{\diamondsuit}$ Palm Sunday from 1-5 PM to observe Mr. Stallman coach the Flute Choir. Church members are welcome to observe either of these events for FREE. We would love to have you.

March 2009

page #

Mr. Stallman will be presenting a Recital on Friday, April 3 at Grace Church in San Luis Obispo. His quest artist for the Friday Recital and the Saturday Discussion/Mini-Performance will be French flutist, Isabelle Chapuis.

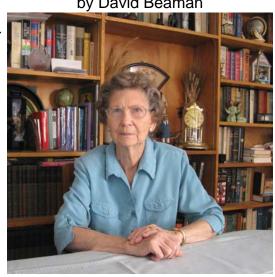
Helpers are needed. If you would like to help by making a donation, provide housing for visiting musicians, help set up for the Flute Choir after church, April 5, or serve a snack & beverage to the Flute Choir participants 2:30 – 3:30 on April ⁵ please contact Polly Monson 773-3764. Flute Fun has established a non-profit organization in order to accomplish this exciting series of events. This is a "World Class" very special and unique opportunity to see and hear ,what is usually only presented in major metro- $^{\diamondsuit}$ politan cities or at Music Conservatories.

Please visit our web-site www.flutefun.org

Cast~A~Net UMC of AG

History is "Her-Story" An Interview With Jean Hubbard, Church Historian by David Beaman

Our church, and the congregation, appreciate a unique advantage and benefit from having Jean as a member. She has a lifelong fascination with learning and compiling her own historical records of the areas where she has lived, and of the events she has witnessed. Now that we are celebrating the 125 Year Anniversary of the founding of our church, we can anticipate upcoming articles that are being



prepared so everyone can become more familiar with our rich heritage.

Jean's love of history began during her youth while growing up in Colorado. Her mother made every outing a teaching experience, always careful to point out places or things of historic nature that continued to impress Jean much later into her life. The area is rich with Spanish, Native American and Mexican heritage, including the beauty of the Southwest terrain, all of which attracted her interests.

She lived for 12 years in Compton, California, from the files of articles and newspaper photos and during that time attended Compton College she has accumulated and saved over the years. as an English major, all the while raising her chil-Jean thinks of herself as a "privileged observer" dren Jim and Casey. Her husband, W. A. who appreciates the colorful history of our area. "Shorty" Hubbard, worked at the Los Angeles Ex- She has concluded, and with many others who aminer as a linotype operator, and had always agree, that the Arroyo Grande United Methodist wanted to operate his own business. They found Church has always been a very important part of an available opportunity in our local Five Cities our village and our history. area and relocated to the central coast in 1967. So, if you are a longtime resident, or AGUMC Hubbard Printing Shop was one of the first print member, WHOSE NAME immediately comes to shops here, and Jean worked at many jobs within mind when factual information or details about the business. Years later, theirs was the first our 125 year history is needed? Jean Hubbard is company in the area to obtain a modern Xerox probably the person who has the file, the record 7400 copier, and attracted local business from and the personal insight available to fulfill a need churches, organizations, and especially individuor answer a question. als compiling family records. The content of those



March 2009

records delivered much of the local history right to her.

Jean shared her interests in local history by writing a weekly column for 12 years in the Five Cities Times-Press Recorder titled "ECHOES", until the newspaper was sold and relocated out of the county. She was one of the founders of the South County Historical Society in 1976, and remains an active member to this day. Jean takes pride in

- the membership growth of the society, and the expansion now includes five museums plus a library, all very popular with locals and visitors to our area.
- Jean's first visit to our church was on May 30, 1968, the very day that our current building at 275 North Halcyon Road was consecrated. She has often responded to requests for specific historical documentation for our church, and the United Methodist Conference Camp. She is usually able to produce information that is required

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March 2009

UNITED METHODIST MEN ANN 125th FUNCE

Looking Back

Thanks again to Dr. Del Dingus for his stimulating presentation on "World Hunger and the Food Supply." He presented the problem. The solutions are varied and it is up to us to support those which we believe in. We have invited Dr. Dingus to our March meeting when our special speaker will discuss on "the Water Desalination Project."

Current Events

Our gala, the Annual Sweetheart Breakfast held on February 14th, was a huge success. It truly was a day for fun and fellowship. All was made possible by a lovely sit-down meal, and special music was provided by the "Mudskippers" for our dancing and listening pleasure. They were joined by our own Don Gugeler for a number or two (Don always has his "axe", his clarinet, with him for just such an emergency.) Thanks Don!

The center or our celebration was our sweetheart of the day, Irene Kliesch. Irene, along with Rosemary MacKeen and DeAnna Shrefler, took great care in the decorations for our tables. What a lovely time in such a lovely setting. Thank you so much ladies — you are true more information **AVAILABLE** sweethearts!

Lastly, we were sold out!! Thanks so much to each and every one who attended. We welcome and appreciate any and all comments and feedback on this event.

Looking Ahead

Our next meeting will be held on March 21st. The program, as earlier stated, will be "The Desalination Project — Our Water-Our Future" with special guest Steve Tanaka of Wallace Group. Steve is the Director of Water Resources. He has over 24 years of experience in water resources and in the waste water engineering industry.

Mr. Tanaka will lead this discussion which will include water recycling, desalination and current regulations, policies and funding opportunities.

We invite all retired UM men to attend. Our 8:30 AM breakfast meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach. Join us, won't you!

Dick Gainer, UMM Interim President



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!*



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Horatio G. Spafford was a prominent Chicago lawyer. He and his wife, Anna were well-known in 1860's Chicago, not just because of his legal career and business endeavors, but also due to the close relationship with D.L. Moody, the famous preacher. This up and coming social family was soon to face unbearable loss. The Lord had another plan.

Jymn

The Spaffords' only son was killed by scarlet fever at the age of four. A History year later, it was fire rather than fever that struck the family's fate. Horatio had invested heavily in real estate on the shores of Lake Michigan. In 1871, every one of these holdings was wiped out by the great Chicago Fire.

Aware of the toll that these disasters had taken on the family, Horatio decided to take Anna and his four daughters on a holiday to England. Not only did they need the rest -- but D.L. Moody needed the help. He was traveling around Britain on one of his great evangelistic campaigns. Horatio and Anna planned to join Moody in late 1873. The story goes that the Spaffords traveled to New York in November. From there they were to catch the French steamer 'Ville de Havre' to travel across the Atlantic. A last-minute business development forced Horatio to delay his plans just before they set sail. Not wanting to ruin the family holiday he had promised, Spafford persuaded them to go on as planned, and he would follow on later. Anna and her four daughters agreed and sailed East to Europe while Spafford returned West to Chicago. Just nine days later, Spafford received a telegram from his wife in Wales. It read: "Saved alone."

On November 2nd, 1873, the 'Ville de Havre' collided with 'The Lochearn', an English vessel. It sank at frightening speed—only 12 minutes, claiming the lives of 226 people. Anna Spafford stood bravely on deck with her daughters Annie, Maggie, Bessie and Tanetta, clinging desperately to her in an effort to keep them from being washed into the rushing waters. Anna's last memory was of her baby being torn violently from her arms by the force of the raging waters. Anna overcame the fate of her daughters by clinging to a plank which floated beneath her, thus propping her unconscious body up. When the survivors were rescued, Anna's first reaction was one of complete despair. "You were spared for a purpose," she heard a voice speak to her. "It's easy to be grateful and good when you have so much, but take care that you are not a fair-weather friend to God."

Upon hearing this unspeakable horror, Horatio Spafford boarded the next ship out of New York to join his bereaved wife. During the voyage, the captain called Horatio to the bridge. "A careful reckoning has been made," he said, "and I believe we are now passing the place where the *de Havre* sank. The water is three miles deep." These words resonated deeply with Horatio. He later returned to his cabin and penned the lyrics of this spectacular and historic hymn.

Spafford's words that day are taken from a No matter what circumstances overtake us, may we story in 2 Kings 4:26. They echo the response be able to stand with Horatio Spafford and say ... of the Shunammite woman's reaction to the sudden death of her only child. Though we are When peace like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll; told "her soul is vexed within her", she still Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, maintains that 'It is well." This hymn reveals a It is well, it is well with my soul. man whose trust in the Lord is as unwavering as hers.

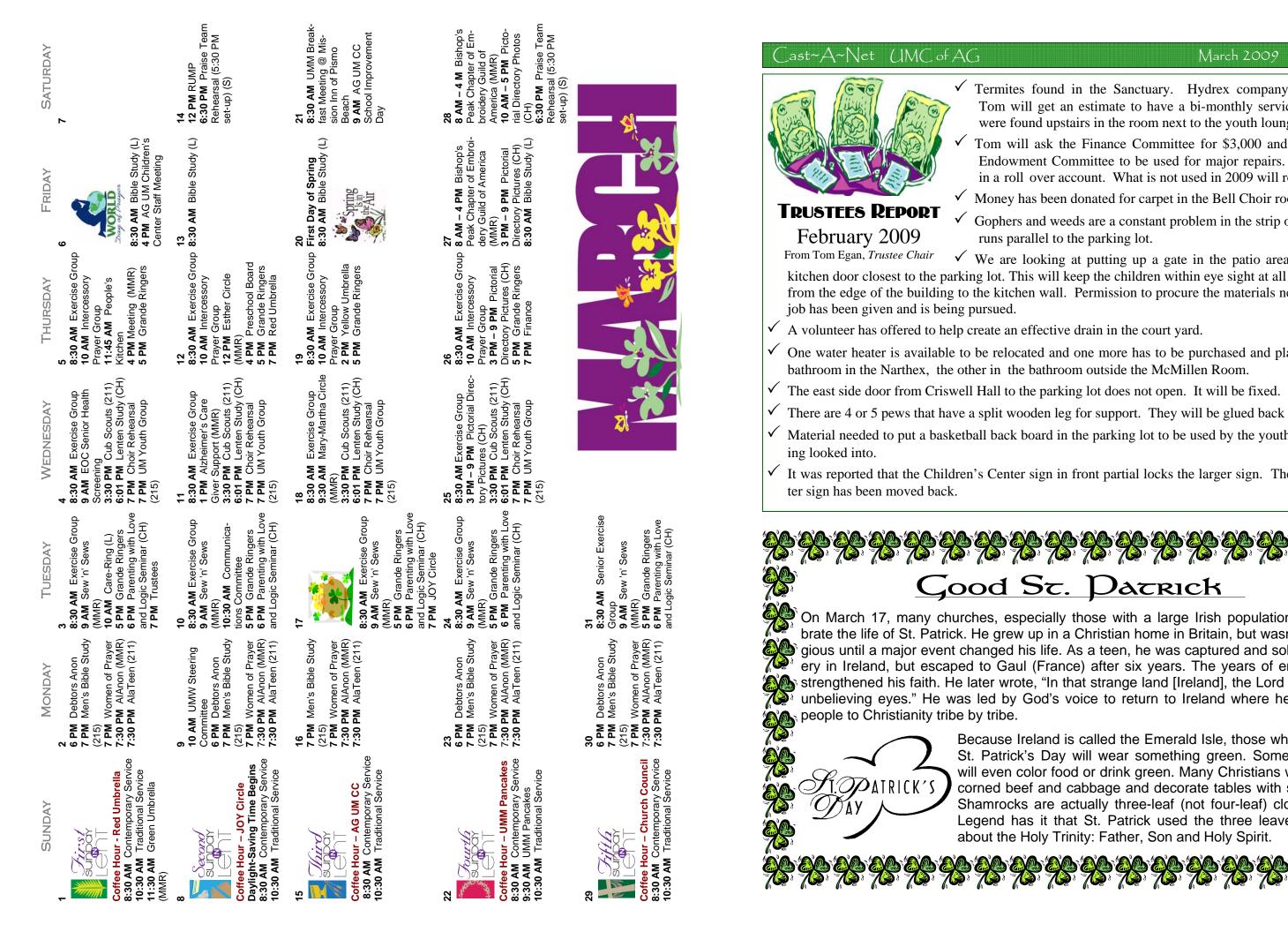
None of us can predict in the midst of these same circumstances. However, we know that God is good...ALL THE TIME! The God who sustained Horatio Spafford will also sustain you.

Source: Biblecharts.com

March 2009

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control, That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul!

> It is well ... with my soul! It is well, it is well, with my soul.



March 2009

- \checkmark Termites found in the Sanctuary. Hydrex company will treat them. Tom will get an estimate to have a bi-monthly service for ants. Ants were found upstairs in the room next to the youth lounge.
 - Tom will ask the Finance Committee for \$3,000 and \$5,000 from the Endowment Committee to be used for major repairs. This will be put in a roll over account. What is not used in 2009 will roll over to 2010.
- \checkmark Money has been donated for carpet in the Bell Choir room.
- \checkmark Gophers and weeds are a constant problem in the strip of land that runs parallel to the parking lot.
- \checkmark We are looking at putting up a gate in the patio area, just outside the kitchen door closest to the parking lot. This will keep the children within eye sight at all times. It will run from the edge of the building to the kitchen wall. Permission to procure the materials necessary to do the
- \checkmark One water heater is available to be relocated and one more has to be purchased and placed in the men's

 - There are 4 or 5 pews that have a split wooden leg for support. They will be glued back together and
- \checkmark Material needed to put a basketball back board in the parking lot to be used by the youth of all ages is be-

 \checkmark It was reported that the Children's Center sign in front partial locks the larger sign. The Children's Cen-



On March 17, many churches, especially those with a large Irish population, will celebrate the life of St. Patrick. He grew up in a Christian home in Britain, but wasn't very religious until a major event changed his life. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, but escaped to Gaul (France) after six years. The years of enslavement strengthened his faith. He later wrote, "In that strange land [Ireland], the Lord opened my unbelieving eyes." He was led by God's voice to return to Ireland where he converted w

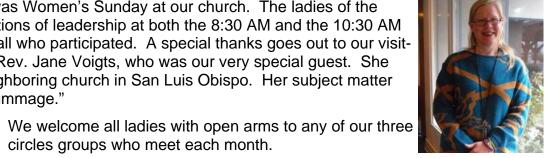
> Because Ireland is called the Emerald Isle, those who celebrate St. Patrick's Day will wear something green. Some Christians will even color food or drink green. Many Christians will also eat 🌠 corned beef and cabbage and decorate tables with shamrocks. Shamrocks are actually three-leaf (not four-leaf) clover plants. Legend has it that St. Patrick used the three leaves to teach about the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

ast~A~Net UMC of AG

March 2009 page



Sunday, February 8th, was Women's Sunday at our church. The ladies of the UMW served in the positions of leadership at both the 8:30 AM and the 10:30 AM services. Thank you to all who participated. A special thanks goes out to our visiting pastor for that day, Rev. Jane Voigts, who was our very special guest. She came to us from our neighboring church in San Luis Obispo. Her subject matter was titled, "Fun With Rummage."



Women's All ladies are welcome!

circles groups who meet each month. **Circles** Esther Circle meets the second Thursday of each month at noon in the McMillen Room. In addition to good Christian fellowship this circle has

chosen for the subject of their study—The Native Americans. This month, the ladies will meet on the **12th** in the McMillen Room.

JOY Circle meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at a members home. In February, we met at Pam Motley's house on Tuesday, February 17th. In March the JOY Circle will meet at the home of Clydean Headrick on Tuesday, March 17th at 7 PM. Please contact the church office of the circle member for directions. The JOY Circle will begin a study of a book by Trevor Hudson titled, "Questions God Asks Us."

Mary-Martha Circle meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the McMillen Room. This circle, like the ladies of Esther Circle, will be studying about the Native Americans. Our next meeting in on March 18th.

The UMW, through their time, work and gifts, serve locally, giving to Mission support for National Mission Institutions and to the General Board of Global Ministries. Many of these institutions are located across the US, and they include community centers, colleges, health care facilities and women's residences.

Betty K. Ewing, is a retired Methodist deacon, living at the UMW supported Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville, North Carolina. Betty received one of the prayer shawls that are made by UMW members across the nation. Below is an excerpt from Betty Ewing's thank you letter:

"A few days ago, the US Postal Service delivered to me a most interesting package from "the Women's Division, Room 1504." Upon opening it, I was somewhat overcome when I read the enclosed card and the message it conveyed.

I laid aside my question, "Why me?" and gave thanks for the witness of United Methodist Women, the organization that has given direction and support to the path I have traveled since belonging to the girls circle of the Women's Missionary Society in the church in which I grew up in Louisville, KY.

The words 'wrapped in love and in prayer' have and do continue to describe the influence, opportunities, support and impact upon my life provided by the women whose purpose has been and is mission. Love and peace, Betty K. Ewing"

It is indeed a privilege and pleasure to be a member of the United Methodist Women. Sincerely, Ann Williamson, UMW Publicity



Most of us-some surveys say 80 percent-will receive bad health news at some point in our lives. Whether it is about ourselves, our parents, our kids, our friends or our relatives, it is hard to cope.

"Like plunging off a cliff". "Unable to breathe". "Total shock". These are common terms among those who have been given a bad health diagnosis when describing that numbing moment when they first hear the news. And that is absolutely normal, says Gail Murdock, Ph.D., who oversees the COPES (Center of Psychosocial Excellence) Program and patient counseling for the Department of Neurology at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California.

Murdock says that how a person reacts after the initial shock can make a big difference in how the disease is managed. "Immediately someone's thoughts go to worst case scenarios: I'm going to die. What do I do about my life, career, kids? Why did I get this? That's exactly when we want to see them in the clinic, because that's the hardest point. They can start losing hope right away."

The danger is that people can become isolated, depressed; they can feel unmotivated to do what is necessary, to try to help themselves, she says. "A lot of people shut down." That can also be hard on family members, she notes. "The family finds they're responding not only to an illness, but also to the individual's depression and distress in response to the diagnosis. That's a big load."

Murdock works to help patients and their families accept the diagnosis and readjust their perspectives. Here is what Murdock recommends you can do to thrive after a shocking diagnosis:

- equanimity."
- network and people to talk with who care about them."
- developing good coping skills.

You may also want to share your concerns with your pastor and others within your church family. Here you will find support and others who have experienced similar feelings. Most importantly, do not try to "go it alone" or keep your feelings hidden.

Summarized from an article by Monika Guttman in USC Heath Now, 3/12/07



Survival Skills

• Take care of yourself. "If you're diagnosed with any disease, you do best if you get enough sleep, eat right, continue to exercise (consult your doctor about what's appropriate), and practice stress reduction."

Avoid too much information at first. "We find that when first diagnosed, people who visit a disease Website or attend a support group right away will likely get scared because they see people with, or information about, advanced disease. It's better to get one-on-one support until you realize you're still the same person you were before the diagnosis, and you can approach these opportunities to learn and share with some

Call on your social network. "We know for a fact people do better when they have a good social support

• Get connected to people with the same illness, because there is a sense of shared experience that helps in

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First of all, thanks to everyone for their help with our annual Soup-er Bowl Sunday canned food drive. With everyone's help in bringing canned food since January 1, we were able to culminate our drive on February 1, Super Bowl Sunday (Go Dodgers!), by collecting 289 cans and boxes

of food. Many thanks to Bill Paulsen for his delivery of all the food to the Five Cities Christian Women. At the same time, for those who forgot to bring food but still wanted to participate, we sold cans of food to go in the barrel. We raised \$91.00 to be put in the Youth Mission Fund which supports Blandy, our Compassion International child living in Guatemala. This year we also registered our information with the "Soup"-er Bowl of Caring (thanks for the info on this, Pastor David). This website lets groups register and be part of the "Soup"-er Bowl drive on a larger scale. They then report the figures of how much was raised by the groups as a total. Check out the site at www.souperbowl.org. They have a lot of information on how to get involved and help others.

The youth were honored by a visit from Wendell Curry to youth group meeting on February 4th. It was fun to have Wendell come and participate and we all enjoyed the time he spent with us. We got to hear some great stories and share some of our stories too. Thanks for the yummy treats, Wendell, and also your generous heart!

By the time you all read this, the 'Spud'tacular will be "mashed" into our memories. Hopefully we weren't half-baked, and everyone left "stuffed"! Can't wait until next year. Any suggestions for toppings?

Camp Colby is coming! Hard to believe camp is upon us. We continue to collect recycling to help offset the cost. Next month I will report on the proceeds from the 'Spud'tacular. Save the dates of July 12-18 for Junior High camp and Jul 26 - Aug 1 for Senior High camp. More information will be coming in the upcoming months to all parents and their "campers". We should have another large group of youth attending, with the bulk of the youth going to senior high camp this year. If you have any questions, please contact us and we will try to answer them.

Plans are underway for Youth Sunday, with the 125th birthday celebration being worked into our theme. Hope to see you all there on June 14th. In Christ's service, Mike and Linda

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM in our Youth Lounge as we discover God in the life of an American teen.

March 2009



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

ALL CHAILER CH

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, meets 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. 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.

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Be sure to reserve the date. Lunch will be served, and the sale will include both seasonal and general craft and gift items. We will need numerous items for the boutique sale. If you would like to contribute the products of your talents, start creating now! If you would like to participate in craft days with others please contact Virginia Mothes with the days you are available and ideas you may have.





Choir Prepares for Lent and Welcomes **New Member**

The Chancel Choir has returned to the pews. During February they have performed a variety of music including "In Remembrance" for Communion Sunday, and an old favorite "The King of Love My Shepherd Is", featuring a great duet by Chuck Burns and Heidi Carpentear. The Choir is now beginning to prepare music for the Lenten Season.

We also have welcomed a new bass, Richard DeBruvn, to the choir. Come and join us in our Lenten music journey. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7 PM to 8:30 PM. See vou there!



March 2009

United Methodist Women Holiday Boutique Saturday, November 14th, 2009

Band

The Lord's Crew is a praise band of worship leaders who leads our congregation during our Contemporary Worship Service at 8:30 AM every Sun-The Lord's Crew day morning under the direction of Susan Coho.

MARCH 2009

REHEARSAL DATES

(REHEARSALS BEGIN AT 6:30PM AND SET-UP AT 5:30 PM) 14TH REHEARSAL 28th Rehearsal

REMEMBER DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME MARCH 8TH

HUSH...HUSH!!

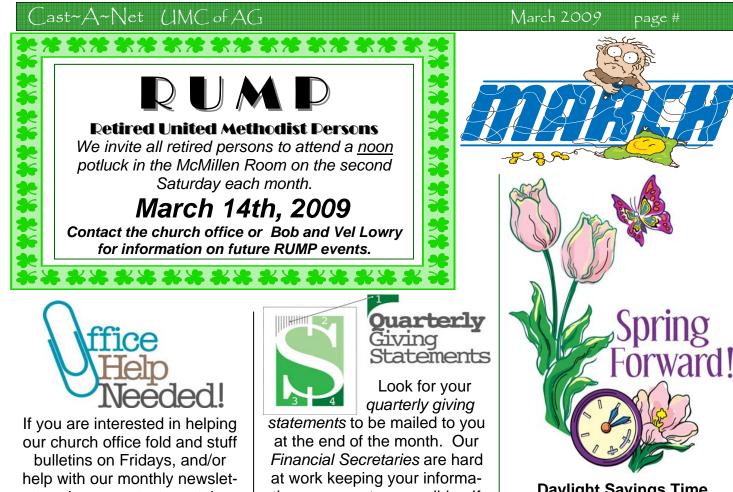
Kathy, being a bossy "older" sister, tried to quiet her brother during church one morning. "Hush...hush," she warned sternly. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church!" Her 7 year old face looking as cross as it could.

"Why? Who's going to stop me," the little brother wondered

Pointing to the rear of the sanctuary Kathy said, "See those people standing back there? Well, those are the 'hushers'!'



Many thanks those who volunteer in our team of "hushers," (or ushers/greeters as we call them). This special dedicated group welcomes visitors as well as greet our seasoned members with the warmth and love of Christ each week.



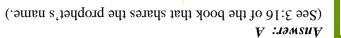
ter, please contact us at the church office. We appreciate all who give so willingly the gift of their time and talents!

tion as current as possible. If there are any problems with your statements, please contact Tom Egan and Virginia Mothes thru the church office.

Daylight Savings Time begins on March 8th. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead before you go to bed. We want to see those pews filled with our church family!

In the 8th century B.C., a prophet of God condemned many of Jerusalem's citizens for their sinfulness. On behalf of God, he chastised anyone who abused power, was unjust toward the poor, used bribes and position to gain money and/or status. He even condemned prideful women who walked "with outstretched necks, glancing wantonly with their eyes, mincing along as they go, tinkling with their feet." (He was referring to little bells attached to women's ankles.) that Who was prophet?

- A. Isaiah
- B. Amos
- C. Hosea
- D. Jeremiah





March 15

March 20

March 22

March 29

- Third Sunday in Lent.
- First Day of Spring,
- Fourth Sunday in Lent,
- Fifth Sunday in Lent,



compiled by Jerry Smith

Remember the very first time you visited a church and how awkward you felt in not knowing anyone there? This may be one reason that some folks stop coming to church or they

keep shopping for one that makes them feel welcome. I can't think of anything more harmful to a church by "neglecting to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that, some have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13: 1-2)

How should we express God's love to strangers who enter through the open doors of our church? For many, it becomes a special responsibility, a spiritual calling during Sunday services. You sharpen that smile and make ready to reach-out and greet first-time visitors and members you recognize, and to those you don't know very well.

Keep in mind the "10 foot rule" as you approach a visitor - that distance from each other should trigger a warm smile and in return, a complete stranger may reciprocate with kindness and thoughtful conversation. First impressions are important, and remember you only get one chance to make that first impression. It's essential that church members convey a message that the UMC is where newcomers will find a warm reception.

"In the average church, 8% of first time visitors eventually join the church they visit, and only 22% of second-time visitors become active. If you can increase the number of first-time visitors who come back you nearly triple the chance that they will stay. Throughout their visit to your church, newcomers are asking the following questions: "Are the people friendly?" "Are the programs interesting?" "Would my children like it here?" "Was the service uplifting?" "Would I come back again?" However, your visitors may only discuss their experiences in the car driving home. You will probably never know how they feel. (SOURCE: Church Growth Inc.)

Most of us will admit we're not that good at remembering the names of people days after we meet them for the first time. I do notice some churchgoers in the narthex wearing UMC nametags and that helps you to introduce yourself as a member and reinforce the moment. Know the names of strangers and visitors and they yours - it helps to create a more relaxed atmosphere for conversation inside the church.

With some 300 church members how do you remember everyone? It's important. Our given names at birth are very personal and identify who we are to others. I can hardly wait until the UMCAG Photo Directory becomes a reality later this year. It will help us to put a name to a face!

Lastly, our mission on the church website reads, and I quote, "We are involved, diverse, open and committed to winning people over to Christ. Our concern reaches out beyond the local church to people around the world. As Christian disciples we try to be accepting, caring, hospitable and inclusive. We love music, fellowship events and opportunities to share a meal together. As we grow in the knowledge of God, we like to tell the story of God's redeeming grace. We are the people of the Arroyo Grande First United Methodist Church." (UMCAG - 2009)





SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Are you available Monday, April 13-Sunday, April 19, 2009??? We are looking for volunteers to help out with Book Fair.

Please contact Gen Yamada at 431-4521 to volunteer and earn \$10 in free books.



Ms. Katelynn and Ms. Maddy's Pre-K Class Thank you to all the families who helped to make February a very special month. The children enjoyed meeting all of the community helpers. The Rain Gutter Regatta was really fun too! This month we will begin to explore the magic of spring time by discovering how plants grow. The letters we will be learning about are "S", "T", "U", and "V". Also, we will spend more time finding shapes in out environments, extending patterns, and using standard units of length. At the end of March the teachers will be attending the CAEYC conference in Sacramento to learn new and exciting ways to better educate the children of AGUMCC! Thanks again! -Ms. Katelynn

Ms. Nichole and Mr. Paul's Preschool Class The children had a great time, last month, visiting with the different community helpers. The children were able to mail home letters, squirt a fire hose, and look inside a new police car. We also talked about how to take care of our teeth. The children had the opportunity to paint with toothbrushes and floss. Special Thanks to all the parents that helped make our Friendship Day party a success. In March we will continue to look at numbers and patterns. We will be adding new plants to our garden and will be looking at how different plants grow. The children will also be learning about different animals we see on a farm and how they live. -Ms. Nichol

<u>Cindy Bo and Ms. Tierra's Toddlers</u> The toddlers were so excited and enthusiastic about meeting the special visitors who came to share about the special part they play in serving our community. What a thrill it was for them to be able to climb up in the big fire truck and to spray the powerful fire hose into a field! Thank you to all our families who were able to join us for our Friendship Breakfast. We really enjoyed that time with you! This month we will be exploring farm life. In addition to learning a few new things about farm animals, our toddlers will be able to show off their knowledge of the animal sounds that many of them are so proud to know. In keeping with the theme, we'll also be planting seeds which will transition nicely with our April celebration of Easter and new life. - Cindy Bo

<u>Ms. Lori's Young Toddlers</u>

We had a wonderful time, last month, with all of the community helpers. Thanks to the parents and local agencies, who donated their time and resources, from all of us in Room 2. It is the first month of spring, a time of renewal and rebirth, so you can look forward to Love and Logic classes, every Tuesday night, which can bring this about in your parenting skills. The theme this month is "How Things Grow and Exploring Farm Life". The children will start working on the garden in March. Any parents, who want to help, please let me know. Last month was so busy we didn't get the chance to start the egg hatching. We are optimistic, this month, it will all come together and we will have baby chicks for spring. -Ms. Lori

> **REMINDER:** It is required to give a 30 day notice to change your child's monthly schedule. If you need to pick up a "**Change of Schedule**" or have any question, see Maddy *Changing your schedule without written notice can result in a \$25 fee.*



Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center



On Sunday, February 15, *Miss Piggy* made her "debut". It might be said that the performance by Larry Wiemers and Pastor David was a bit of hogwash, but the point was made. We really need to roll the coins we feed the big pig in order to avoid a surcharge at the bank and/or to get receipts for our contributions. Those of you who are familiar with the farm may recall the terminology—slop the hogs. We are hoping for a more orderly, neat process in getting our savings from our little piggy banks into the fund for the 125th anniversary. There was an instruction sheet in the bulletin explaining the options for her first feeding experience, and coin wrappers were made available.

Your piggy options are as follows:

- 1. Roll your coins and feed the rolled coins to *Piggy* on Feed the Big Pig Sundays (and ceive a receipt for your contribution).
- Write a check to the First United Mether Church of Arroyo Grande and mark it for 125th Anniversary Celebration and place it the "pig basket" beside Miss Piggy. It wi notated on your record of giving statement.
- 3. Dump in the change you have if you have enough to roll, and start over. (No reduce to time constraints.)
- OR—just keep on feeding your little pig unt next FEED THE BIG PIG SUNDAY.

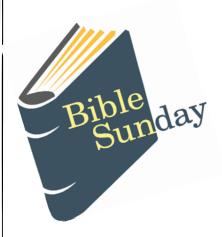
This time *FEED THE BIG PIG SUNDAY* happed to coincide with the Youth Spudtacular on Febr 22nd. It may be a real contest to determine truly is the Big Greedy Pig of the day. Watch Cast-a-Net next month for the results.



Calendar of Events

April

hog-	12th	Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt	
ed to	19th	AG UM Children's Center Sun-	
oid a	day		
r our		and Spring BBQ	
with the	Μ	lusic For A Sunday Afternoon—	
oroc-		3 PM SLO County Band	
biggy	22nd	UMM Pancake Breakfast	
sary.	26th	Family Fun Day and BBQ at the	
n ex-		Wiemers' Ranch	
ence,	May		
	3rd	Cluster Choir Festival	
	17th	UMM Pancake Breakfast	
<i>Miss</i> d re-	31st	Special Worship Service and	
	pi	cnic at Camp AG Tabernacle	
odist	June)	
r the	7th	Music Sunday	
in	14th	Youth Sunday	
ll be	July		
don't	12th	Ice Cream Social	
ceipt	September		
	13th	ELT Scholarship Sunday	
il the	19th	"Homecoming Dinner at the	
		Regional Center"	
ened	20th	Charter Sunday with guest	
uary	Bishop Mary Ann Swenson		
who	U	MM Pancake Breakfast	
n the	October		
	25th	Harvest Festival and Potluck	



March 29, 2009, You are invited to your share special Bible and/or Bibles! Bring your Bibles to Criswell Hall between 8 AM and 9:30 AM on Sunday morning the 29th of March.

We' will have tables available to put your Bible on display. This display of Bibles will then be available for viewing between services, 9:30am to 10:30am, on that same day. You may leave your Bible out for display after the second service as well if you wish. Take your Bible with you when you go home.

If you can, provide a little write-up to sit next to your Bible describing what makes it special to you, its history, what's notable, etc. It will be helpful if the write-ups are brief. Using large print also helps. And, bring an extra favorite Bible to have with you during the worship service!

We'll be honoring Bibles in the following categories: Oldest, Newest, Most Used, Most Unusual Language(s), Most Unusual English version, and Best Illuminated or Illustrated.



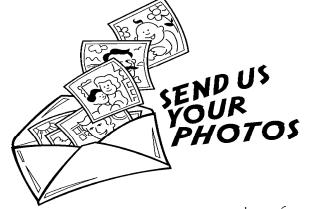
Miss Piggy enjoyed a spectacular meal while the rest of us scarffed on the UM Youth's "spud"-tacular. She managed to take in \$833.33 for the 125th Anniversary Celebration while we took in an incredible amount of calories. It was a win-win situation!!! Miss Piggy is looking forward to her next feeding. We hope you will not disappoint our sweet swine.



At the February 8th meeting of the 125th Anniversary Committee we discussed how to contact former members who have left the area. We are asking members of the congregation who are still in contact with these folks to bring their names and current addresses to church this month and leave them in the "piggy basket" in the narthex. Pauline Castillo and her committee have been working on a contact list for members still on the roll. Heather Jensen has agreed to help compile this additional list so we can reach out to our former members and affiliates.

We also decided to have Bible Sunday to display and share our special Bibles. Jamie Foster is chairing this event which will be held in Criswell Hall between services on March 29.

Our next meeting will be on March 8th at 11:45 AM in McMillen Room. We encourage everyone to come. Your input is really important in this year of celebration.



We want to put a CD together of our church family for our anniversary celebration. Please send us photos (on disc preferably) from this past year. We will be sue to get any back to you.



Arrovo Grande United Methodist Children's Center

Maddy's

Message

the staff and parents who volunteered their time to help one.

and enjoy watching them mation.

grow. We will also plant a new crop of vegetables in the backyard garden. The children will learn to appreciate The Family Fun Night was a and care for the wonders of great success! We had 60 life and the delicate balance people attended the dinner of nature. This is also an opand 30 boat racers. Check portunity to introduce the sciout the pictures at <u>worship-</u> entific aspect of nature with weekly.com at our Children's the budding of foliage, the Center link. Many thanks to buzzing of insects, and the blossoming of flowers.

"Love and Logic" is make the event fun for every- back!!!! This five week course for parents and care-This month's theme is "How givers teaches positive guid-Things Grow and Exploring ance techniques including Farm Life". The gardens are giving you child choices, setan important part of learning ting limits, and logical conseexperience here at AGUMCC. quences. Meet us in Criswell With spring time coming, Hall 6—8:00 PM every Tueswhat better time to renew our day in March. Registration is gardens. The children will be \$50 per person (\$95 per couvery involved in this process ple.) Childcare is available as they cultivate the ground, for \$5 per child. Visit lovebring plants for planting, care logic.com or see the insert in for what they have planted, this newsletter for more infor-

eScript \$\$\$\$\$!

We are now registered with Vons to receive eScript. Our school # is **500020780.** Please return your Vons Registration Form to the folder on the Parent Information Board so you can start supporting the school with every purchase you make. If you have any questions or need a new VONS card, come to the Morning Social on March 12th. You can find out other participating script merchants at www.escrip.com.

March 2009

Theme for The Month "How Things Grow and Exploring Farm Life" We invite you to bring a plant for one of our gardens. Any non-toxic flower or vegetable you would like to bring will be a great addition to our play yards. Please bring your

Fruit of the Spirit Gentleness

Children are often reminded of the importance of being gentle with things and each other. With gentleness as our focus this month, we will care for plants and discuss farm animals. Philippians 4:5 encourages us to "Let your gentleness be known to all men."

the the the the the the the Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesdays, Starting March 3rd - LOVE AND LOGIC PARENT AND CAREGIVER EDUCATION - (see Maddy's Message and the insert for more details)

March 12 — 8 PM MORNING SOCIAL AT STARBUCKS March 19 — 6:30 -7:30 PM PLANNING MEETING for Children Center Sunday BBQ,

March 21-9 AM-noon WORK DAY

March 26 & 27 --- STAFF DEVELOPMENT School closes at noon Thursday and is closed all day Friday. (Staff will attend the CAEYC conference in Sacramento)

April 7 - OPEN HOUSE --- SUMMER AND FALL ENROLLMENT April 19-11:30 AM - 2 PM CHILDREN'S CENTER SUNDAY SPRING BBQ & BOOK FAIR