



Join us for Coffee

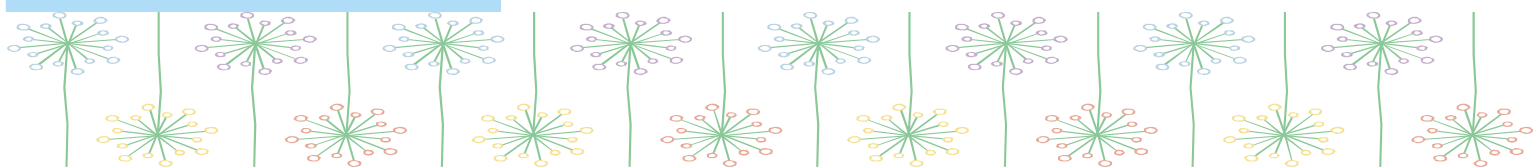
- 3rd Endowment Board
- 10th Mary-Martha Circle
- 17th UMM Pancakes
- 24th Finance Committee
- 31st Service @ Camp AG Tabernacle

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!

MAY Events of UMC of AG

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3rd Green Umbrella | 16th UMW Workshop |
| Choir Cluster Festival | 17th UMM Pancake Breakfast |
| 5th Care-Ring Ministry | 125th Anniversary Meeting |
| UMW 10 AM Workshop | 19th JOY Circle |
| Board of Trustees | UMW 10 AM Workshop |
| 6th EOC Sr. Health Screening | 20th Mary-Martha Circle |
| People's Kitchen | 21st Yellow Umbrella |
| Dr. Chess Tournament | Preschool Board |
| 7th National Day of Prayer | Finance Committee |
| 9th UMM Camp Work Day | 22nd Picture Make-Up Day |
| Praise Team Rehearsal | 25th Memorial Day |
| 10th Mother's Day | Office Closed |
| 11th UMW Steering Committee | 26th UMW 10 AM |
| Communications Com. | and 7 PM Workshop |
| 12th UMW 10 AM Workshop | 27th Lifeline Screening |
| 13th Alzheimer's Support Grp | 31st Pentecost |
| 14th Esther Circle | Service @ Camp AG Tabernacle |



Bishop: Mary Ann Swenson
Superintendent: Rev. Cathleen Coots
Pastor: Rev. David M. 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
Organist: Don McGuire
Puppet People: Willy Ford-Raetz & Mike Herber
Grande Ringers Director: Leonard Lutz
Youth Directors: Mike & Linda Herber

Christian Education Director: Hilary Henderson
United Methodist Children's Center AG UM Children's Center Director: Madrigal (Maddy) Quaglino
 e-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net (805) 481-2223

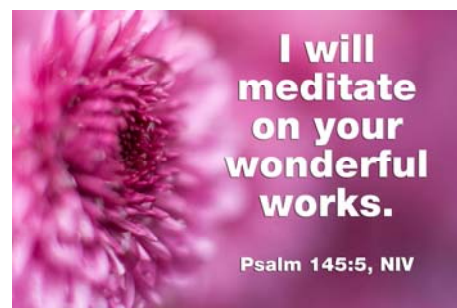
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275 North Halcyon Road in Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT WORSHIPWEEKLY.COM

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 PLEASE DELIVER BY APRIL 30-DATED MATERIAL



The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

Cast~A~Net

May 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



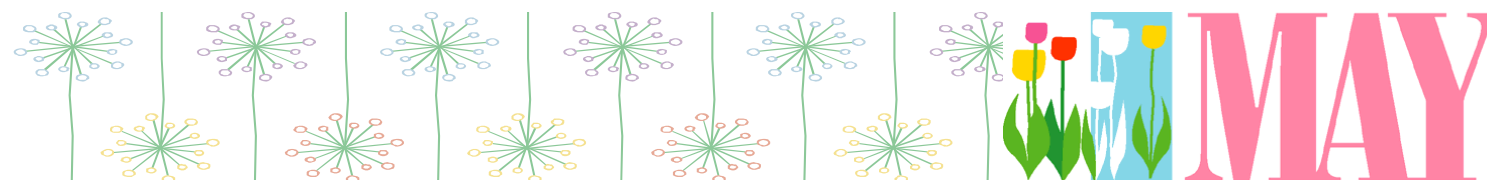
On **Sunday, May 31st**, an extraordinary church service will be held in the Tabernacle of Camp Arroyo Grande as part of the ongoing celebration of the **125th year anniversary of our church**. This service will take us back to the 1800's when Arroyo Grande was becoming a city and our church, First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande, was known as the Episcopal Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande.

No one will want to miss this very special event which will be one of the highlights of our church's **125th year** celebration. **A very special surprise guest will be making an appearance.** (Check your church bulletin for hints!) Children are urged to attend this church service with their parents. **There will be no nursery care.** We will meet at the campgrounds at **10:45 AM**. "Traditional" services will be combined for this event. There will be no service at the church on Halcyon. This is an opportunity for the entire congregation to relive the early days of our church.

You are invited to wear clothes that you feel would be fitting for the 1800's era. Bonnets and top hats will be welcome as well as long dresses, western wear, boots and "best overalls." Prizes will be awarded for "Best Costume," "Worst Costume," and "Costume with the Most Imagination". If you choose not to participate in the costume event, do wear "camp" clothes and comfortable shoes for walking around the camp. (Just think, one Sunday when you don't have to dress up!) There will be time for admiring each others costumes and the campgrounds after the service. **Box lunches and drinks will be available for a nominal price.** You may sign up in Criswell Hall on May 10, 17, or 24 to reserve your box lunch.

Although there is some parking available within the campground it is very limited. Those not wishing to drive to camp and park may take advantage of **shuttle bus service**. The bus will leave and return to our church parking lot every 20 minutes. **Departure times are: 9:30am, 9:50am 10:10am and 10:30am. Return times are: 1:30pm, 1:50pm, 2:10pm and 2:30pm.** There is no charge for the transportation services.

A great deal of planning has gone into this very special event. We hope you will make plans to attend and bring your family and friends. Be sure to check your church bulletin and your email for further information regarding reservations for the box lunches.





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Inserts

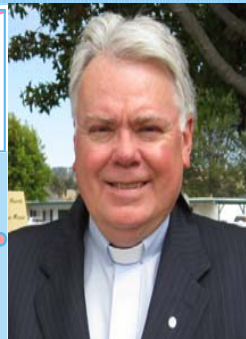
- Homecoming Herald
- Children's Center Chronicle



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 your information or add a friend? Contact our church office at (805) 481-2692 or e-mail us at fumcaq@sbcglobal.net



Pastor David M. Burgeson



Dear Church Family:

I want to thank you for your participation in our many Lenten activities as we journeyed to the cross and had a wonderful Easter celebration with a total of 321 in both services. It was awesome to see the church packed at our second service! Now we are in the season of Easter also known as The Great Fifty Days. It is one of the most joyous and celebrative seasons of the Christian year. It focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the giving of the Holy Spirit on the first Easter and the Day of Pentecost. The church colors during this season are white and gold and on the Day of Pentecost the color of red is used. This year Pentecost is on Sunday May 31st.

Pentecost Sunday is a very special Sunday as we will have a worship service in the tabernacle at Camp Arroyo Grande at 10:45 am. More information is to follow in bulletins on Sunday's, but I wanted to give you a heads up. There will be a special guest with us that day- JOHN WESLEY played by Roger Nelson. I understand he has been here in the past and was very well received. So plan on attending and help us spread the word and invite others to this special service.

One last thought with which I need your help and that is with the many activities we have each month; how is it that we might consider on being intentional about inviting others to our activities. There are many activities...just look at our calendar. And I say this because lately I have been reading that people will come to church when invited by a member. If that member brings that person to the activity there is a high probability the person will come back. Pray with me on this, and let's see what the Holy Spirit will do in our midst.

Your Partner in Christ's Ministry,

David

ATTENDANCE
 (as of 4/26)

5th	196
12th	321
19th	311
26th	183
Sunday Average =	253

FINANCES
 (as of 4/26)

Monthly Goal	\$ 22,220.
Received to date	\$21,178.
Difference	\$ 1,042.

Figures rounded to the nearest dollar

May

- Hilary Henderson 5/2
- Susan Coho 5/3
- Wil Cawelti 5/8
- Glen Hughes 5/9
- Richard Walters 5/10
- Miriam Balster 5/11
- Matt Regusci 5/12
- Doris Douglas 5/16
- Mara Spalding 5/17
- Charlie Sloan 5/18
- Vincent Paredes 5/18
- Mike Herber 5/20
- William Awalt 5/21
- Lesley Riley 5/23
- Ann Williamson 5/22
- Mary Patterson 5/27
- Jim Babb 5/28
- Jennifer Beckman 5/29
- Vel Lowry 5/29



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

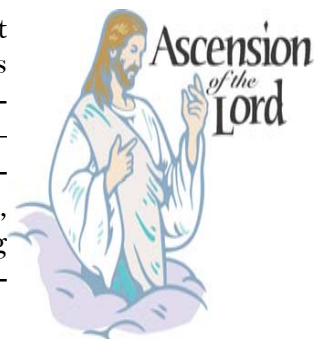
Sermon Titles for May 2009

May 3	John 10: 11—18	The Good Shepherd
May 10	John 15: 1—8	Staying Connected
May 17	John 15: 9—17	Grace-Based Communities
May 24	Luke 24: 44—53	Here's Your Sign—Part 2
May 31	Special service at	Camp AG Tabernacle

Many Christian churches will celebrate **Ascension Day** on (or near) **May 21**, which is 40 days after Easter. Theologian Friedemann Hebart explained Christ's Ascension this way:

"When Jesus' work on Earth was done, he took leave of his disciples and went to be with his Father. A time for sad farewells, one might think. Yet the church celebrates the Ascension with special joy. What is the reason for joy when Jesus leaves his people?"

"The Ascension is not the end of Jesus' work, but a new beginning! How could Jesus ever leave us alone? Because he has gone to be Lord of the universe, he can continue his work of life and love — among us, too. His work was not just a short episode in Galilee. In the person of the Holy Spirit, the same Lord is present among us, still revealing the Father's loving heart, so that we, too, can believe — and sing songs of joy."



On May 31, Christians around the world will celebrate the **Day of Pentecost**. It's often remembered as the church's birthday. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon those who believed in his resurrection.

Three thousand people were gathered in Jerusalem when the Spirit came upon them. They were so touched by the Holy Spirit that they began to worship regularly, especially on Sundays, the day of Christ's resurrection.

To symbolize the "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3, *NRSV*) that came upon the people present at Pentecost, liturgical churches display the color red in their worship services on Pentecost Sunday. Many people attending worship wear red on that day.



These are thank you notes to our church in appreciation. Notes have been edited to maintain privacy.

Many thanks!

Thanks to all who prayed for my daughter-in-law, Janell Stover, who has a brain tumor. Praise the Lord, the tumor is benign! My family and I really appreciated all those who asked about Janell and continued to pray for her.

-Sally Anne Lunch

The Grande Ringers... AWESOME!! Thank you!

You and the ringers were absolutely wonderful...and, the sound of the bells resounding in the "bell tower" was like a sunlight shimmering on the ocean.

I can't think of any other way to say how much I appreciate you and the ringers for coming and "christening" our new sanctuary with your gorgeous sounds...except to say that I HAD NO TAKERS on my offer to buy a Starbucks mocha latte grande for anyone who could not say after hearing you, that the Grande Ringers are one of the finest and most unique bell choir they've ever heard. One lady even came up to me after the concert to say, 'Well, I don't think you'll be buying any Starbucks for anyone! This was wonderful, much more than I expected.'

Please convey my thanks and appreciation to the ringers.



Special Dates to Remember May 2009

- ☞ Christian Family Week May 4-10
- ☞ National Day of Prayer May 7
- ☞ Mother's Day May 10
- ☞ Armed Forces Day May 16
- ☞ Victoria Day (Canada) May 18
- ☞ Ascension of the Lord May 21
- ☞ Memorial Day May 25
- ☞ Pentecost May 31

"All mothers are physically handicapped. They have only two hands."
~anonymus
May 10th, 2009



New on our Reference shelves is the 2008 edition of the Methodist Discipline. This book is not for circulation but for use in the library. Our thanks to Richard Gainer the donation.



Christian Education

I would like to thank everyone for all of your prayers, words of encouragement and help. You are all wonderful and a true blessing.

I am beginning plans for Vacation Bible School (no dates or theme as of yet). So you will be hearing more about that soon!

Serving HIM! ~ Hilary



After Judas took his own life, the remaining apostles decided someone should take his place. Two men were suggested as possibilities: Justus and Matthias. The disciples placed two stones in a small box, one representing each man. Someone, probably Peter, shook the box until one stone popped out.

Which person became one of the Twelve?

- A. Matthias
- B. Justus

ANSWER: A (See Acts 1:15-26)

All Aboard!

"Chapel Cars" once ran on the rails of the old west, bringing spirituality and morality "to an untamed world". This **June 6th** event will be a unique opportunity to learn about and experience this piece of church history from the late 1800s and early 1900s. Sunday services, Sunday Schools, weddings, funerals, and everything in between were held on chapel cars as they moved on the railroad from town to town. We'll meet at 9 AM at the headquarters of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad (at the site of the old sugar mill in Betteravia) for a continental breakfast and slide show presentation by Jamie Foster called "This Train Is Bound for Glory". Following the presentation, we'll board the *La Condesa*, a vintage Pullman observation car, for a train ride along the SMVRR, including an en-route service led by Pastor David Burgeson and Revered Bill Foster.



The Facts:

Saturday, June 6, 2009

- 9 AM - 10 AM
Headquarters of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad
- Continental breakfast will be available
Chapel car slide show and talk by Jamie Foster.
- 10:15 AM - 12:30 PM
Begins our Train Excursion aboard the *La Condesa* (a 1926 Pullman observation car) along the SMVRR including an on-board worship service led by Pastor David Burgeson and Rev. Bill Foster.

Tickets: \$45/person

Contact Jamie Foster. Limited seating!
Only 24 seats are available.

Checks should be made payable to "The SMVRR".

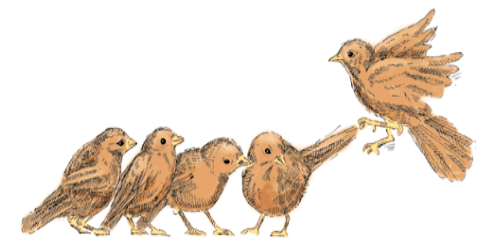
Note: The ticket monies go to the SMVRR for covering the direct expenses of operating the train. This is not a fundraiser for the church. Also, the *La Condesa* is not handicap accessible.

We want to welcome Jon and Sandra Hergert and Jackie Jackson to our church family. They were received into membership on April 19th, 2009.

Jackie come to us for Orcutt Presbyterian in Santa Maria. She has been worshipping with us since last year. Jackie also volunteers her time in our Children's Center Office.

Jon and Sandra come to us by way of reaffirmation of faith.

Please join us in making these new family members feel at home,



OUR CHURCH WELCOMES



HAPPY 125TH UMC OF AG



Looking Back (March 21st)

Thanks again to Steve Tanaka for his topical and informative program "Our Water Our Future."

Information printed in the April Cast~A~Net needs correction.

The elected officers for 2009/2010 are:

- Tom Egan and Bill Weitkamp, Co-president
- Wayne Huggins, Treasurer
- Dick Gainer, president for 2008/2009

In Current News

Our guest presenters were Helen and Don Gugeler, who have been married and making beautiful music together for 60 years. They had a great slide show presentation with a narrative covering the musical tour of South Korea with the San Luis Obispo Wind Orchestra for their ten day trip for the South Korea Music Festival. While on the island of JeJu, the Gugelers shared that the orchestra played four concerts at four different locations. They helped the South Koreans celebrate their independence day by marching in a parade (in the rain.) The Band then capped the tour off when they flew to Seoul and played a concert in the Target Church in Seoul.



Arroyo Grande United Methodist Men

Present

Carl Kliesch Memorial Golf Tournament

Saturday—2 May 2009—8:00 AM shotgun start



- Proceeds go to support Youth Summer Camp Scholarship
- **Nine Hole Scramble Format** at the Pismo State Beach Golf Course
- Entry Fee: \$36 per person includes golf, lunch (at Finn's Restaurant) and contest prizes.
- Tournament is **open to all** to complete a scramble type format with 4 or 5 person teams.
- For reservations contact Tournament Director, Bud Johnson.

Don gave a demo at his virtuosity by playing a couple of his instruments. He plays alto, soprano and baritone saxophone. Also the alto, soprano and bass clarinet.

Interesting after thought— Don and Helen met through music. They were in choirs/chorus while attending Iowa State University together. The choir was set-up with men facing the women - eye contact can be deadly.

Thanks to you both for blessing us with your time and talent. God bless you and keep you safe on your journey in life and music.

Pressing Onward

(no more programs for the 2008/2009 year)

- **May 9th Camp Arroyo Grande Work Day.** Val McClure will coordinate start time and his list of chores.
- **May 17th Pancake Breakfast** - You can to volunteer to help please sign up with Bud Johnson.
- **May 30th Please sign up to volunteer!** Sunday will be an opportunity to set-up or take-down chairs at the Tabernacle. Contact Val McClure.
- **June 20th UMM Year-End BBQ** at Dick & Patti Melsheimers. Thank you Patti and Dick! Look for further details.)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>Coffee Hour Endowment Board</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Service 11:30 AM Green Umbrella 4:00 PM Choir Cluster Festival</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6 PM Debtors Anon 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10 AM Care-Ring Ministry (L) 10 AM UMW Boutique Workshop (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 7 PM Trustees</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9 AM EOC Senior Health Screening 12:30 PM Dr. Chess Tournament (211) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>7 National Day of Prayer</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group 11:45 AM People's Kitchen 5:00 PM Grande Ringers</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8 AM UMM Carl Kliesch Memorial Golf Tournament</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Coffee Hour Mary Martha Circle</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10 AM UMW Steering Committee 6 PM Debtors Anon 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10 AM UMW Boutique Workshop (MMR) 10:30 AM Communications Committee 5 PM Grande Ringers</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1 PM Alzheimer's Care Giver Support (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group 12 PM Esther Circle (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10 AM UMW Boutique Workshop (MMR)</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Coffee Hour UMM All-Church Pancake Breakfast</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:30 AM UMM Pancakes 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6 PM Debtors Anon 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10 AM UMW Boutique Workshop (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 7 PM JOY Circle</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 AM Mary-Martha Circle (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group 2 PM Yellow Umbrella 4 PM Preschool Board 5 PM Grande Ringers 7 PM Finance Committee</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 9 AM Olan Mills Picture Make-up Day</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal (5:30 PM set-up) (S)</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Coffee Hour Finance Committee</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>25 Memorial Day</p> <p>6 PM Debtors Anon 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10 AM UMW Boutique Workshop (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 7 PM UMW Boutique Evening Workshop (MMR)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10 AM Lifeline Screening (CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group 5 PM Grande Ringers</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Service at Camp AG Tabernacle 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>Pentecost</p>					



A legacy of faith

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy was influenced by his grandmother and mother.

Complete 2 Timothy 1:5 (NIV) below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowel.

VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

"_ h _ v _ b _ _ n r _ m _ nd _ d _ f
 3 1 2 2 2 3 2 4
 y _ _ r s _ nc _ r _ f _ _ th, wh _ ch
 4 5 3 2 2 1 3 3
 f _ rst l _ v _ d _ n y _ _ r gr _ ndm _ th _ r
 3 3 2 3 4 5 1 4 2
 L _ _ s _ nd _ n y _ _ r m _ th _ r
 4 3 1 3 4 5 4 2
 _ _ n _ c _ _ nd, _ _ m p _ rs _ _ d _ d,
 2 5 3 2 1 3 1 2 5 1 2
 n _ w l _ v _ s _ n y _ _ _ ls _."
 4 3 2 3 4 5 1 4

2 TIMOTHY 1:5 (NIV)

Answer: "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."



Thanks FOR YOUR EXAMPLE

Mother's Day is a great opportunity to thank your mother, grandmother or any other woman who has been a wonderful example in your life. Make and give this craft to show how much you appreciate these special women.

What you need:

- An empty, glass, wide-mouthed jar (no lid needed)
- Acrylic craft paints (several different spring colors)
- Votive candle (optional)
- Flowers (optional)
- Small candies (optional)

What you do:

1. Make sure your glass jar is clean and dry.
2. Dip your pointer finger into one of the paint colors.
3. Using your finger as a stamp, make about five prints in a circle on the outside of your jar. These will be your flower petals. (Hint: Hold your jar by placing your hand inside it. Then you can turn the jar easily without messing up the wet paint.)
4. Dip your finger into another color and make a fingerprint in the center of your petals.
5. Make as many flowers as you want, using different fingers or your thumb to make different-sized petals.
6. Present this beautiful gift to a special woman this Mother's Day. There are many ways to use it:
 - Place a votive candle inside to make a candleholder.
 - Fill it with water and place flowers inside to make a vase.
 - Fill it with small candies to make a candy jar.



TRUSTEES REPORT

April 2009

From Tom Egan, *Trustee Chair*

- In order to discourage little ones from climbing the two end pieces of the gate from the parking that leads to the courtyard, those two pieces will be covered with solid material.
- The Boy Scouts will start their Eagle Scout project on April 16.
- Tom made a list of things to be done: sign a contract for ant control; replace old time clock that lights up the parking lot; try to remove the gas line near the Eagle project; more landscaping; need electricity in two bathrooms so a hot water heater can be installed; replace water pump in front of the parking lot; check all exit lights; replace fluorescent lights in Criswell Hall; create a French drain on patio so as to drain rain water properly.
- Larry and Pat Wiemers donated a bus to the Church. Trustees voted unanimously to accept the gift. We now need to get it registered; put on new plates; and get 3 to 5 B class drivers.
- A question was raised as to installing spotlights which will shine on the podium and the lectern. The question was put on hold until more discussion can be had.
- We need a sign for outside the Church Office that lists hours of operation.

Everett Lee Taylor Scholarships Available

The **Everett Lee Taylor Memorial Scholarship Fund** was established in 1990 to help defray the cost of college education for deserving members of our church family. Over the course of the last eighteen years, thirty-five church members have received financial assistance in excess of \$28,500.

Scholarship applications for the 2009-10 academic year are currently available from the church office, Monday—Friday between the hours of 9 AM and 1 PM. First time applicants need to submit completed applications, including two (2) letters of reference and a letter of the student's educational goals. Former recipients applying need to submit a new application and a letter describing college or university experiences and future goals, as well as a current college transcript to show they are in good standing. Please return these materials to the church office no later than May 15th. Recipients will be honored on Youth Sunday in June.

If you or someone you know at the church could use some academic financial aid, please encourage them to apply. The applicant must be a full-time student at a university or technical school and must be an active member of our church.

You may also donate to the **Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship Fund** at any time. Without continued donations, eventually we will not be able to continue our support of our deserving church members.



In recognition and grateful appreciation for the very generous gifts to the Endowment Fund and ELT Scholarship Fund from the Loran and Jean Ballagh Trust, a foundation stone has been mounted under the Tree of Life in the UMC of AG Narthex. These gifts were an expression of their love for this church and the Youth/Scholarship Programs.



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 United Methodist Women's Mission \$\$\$ Where Do They Come From?? Where Do They Go??

UMW mission giving funds come from pledges, donations and fundraising events. Each person, upon becoming a member of a Circle group, is given the opportunity to help support the mission outreach of UMW by making a "pledge" to make contributions of money to the group as they are led by their own circumstances and desires. Giving is an individual and personal matter and no gift is too small. The Sew 'n' Sews (our sewing group) pledges all money made from quilting projects. Giving is a way to expressing of our faith.

Fundraising is just one for several opportunities for participation and giving (especially of time and talent) that are in the planning stages at this time. The all-out **Holiday Boutique** is planned for **November 14th** and will be a major event for this year. Everyone can participate. We plan to make it the best ever. The UMW has such extraordinary degree of talent among its women.

Donations are those unexpected gifts which come to us from time to time from friends who support our cause.

Where the mission \$\$\$ goes can be seen on the insert map with each dot representing a project that is being funded by the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries of the Methodist Church.

Add to that the local projects being supported such as Women's Shelter. Food Banks, local school clothing funds, etc., etc. The map we pray will soon be completely covered with dots. Forty percent of our annual income will stay locally to fund such programs and sixty percent is undesignated and will be sent thru channels to the Women's Division to be distributed to national and international projects that "help to relieve suffering and improve the quality of life for women, children and youth."

The following is a story of our mission \$\$\$s at work:

Mr. Juan Olivaria, Principal of Grover Beach Elementary School, spoke to our group in March with the intent to give us an update on the "clothing fund" for which the UMW had provided seed money to get started in the school last year.

Mr. 'O', as he is affectionately referred to by students and teachers, is a 33 year veteran of Lucia Mar School District. He impressed us all with his concern and compassion for students under his care. He describes his school and student body as "great kids with great needs" both economically and academically and a staff that is trying very hard to meet the needs of each child. They are trying to make sure that their school experience is a positive one.

Mr. 'O' outlined the methods by which the "clothing fund" is being disbursed. Wal-Mart gift certificates are given to children in need of clothing and parents are responsible for returning the receipt to the school for verification that the money is being spent as designated. Our UMW group was satisfied that this project would be worthy of further funding.



The Healthy Corner

By Patti Melsheimer

Health Care and A Healthy Life

I have written this column for approximately one year now. I have tried to provide information about various diseases and chronic illnesses and include suggestions on how to care for ourselves in order to have a more healthy life. But it has become clear that we can only have a more healthy life if we all have access to health care. There are now many of us who are not covered by an employer's health plan and we cannot afford to pay for health insurance ourselves. Others may have some coverage but it is very minimal and co-pays may be very high. At the 2008 Quadrennial, The United Methodist Church decided to make health care a priority for the 2008-2012 quadrennium. This is their declaration:

"The United Methodist Church is committed to health care for all in the United States and therefore advocates for a comprehensive health care delivery system that includes access for all, quality care and effective management of costs." *The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2008, No.3201, "Health Care for All in the United States"*

Health care is now also a central goal of the mission work of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. At their fall, 2008 meeting, the Women's Division Board of Directors also took action to address the health care crisis in the United States by voting to partner with **Healthcare – NOW!**, supporting a campaign that promotes national dialogs to advocate and educate on behalf of a universal single-payer health plan in the United States. United Methodist Women are encouraged to engage their communities and legislators in promoting access to quality, affordable health care for all.

Their concern is fueled by many things. In 2007 approximately 47 million people in the United States lacked health insurance. Many bankruptcies in the U.S. are linked to medical expenses. As compared to other industrialized countries with universal health care systems, people living in the United States receive less health care services, pay more per capita and experience less favorable health outcomes. And now a slowing economy, the escalating costs of health insurance, the growing number of employers who are either reducing coverage or not providing health plans because of the rise in costs and the dramatically increasing expense of co-payments have increased and broadened these concerns. Health insurance premiums have increased at four times the rate of inflation, causing more and more working people to lose coverage as employers reduce or drop coverage, or as workers can no longer afford the additional cost they must bear. This lack of insurance or under-insurance impacts people from all ages, income levels, races and ethnicities. Not having adequate health insurance affects people's overall health and undermines their financial security.

In both the California legislature and in Congress bills are being presented that address this issue. In Congress, The United States National Health Care Act, H.R. 676 has been introduced by [Rep. John Conyers](#). Senator Mark Leno introduced the new single payer bill, SB 810, titled The California Universal Healthcare Act. Both these bills incorporate the idea of single payer. Other proposals are in the works. I urge you to listen and read as much as you can about these proposals. Become informed! Your health may depend on it!

UM Youth News

Hello to all,

April was a busy month for the youth. **We helped to stuff all 600 eggs** with candy, crosses, stickers, peeps, and prizes, that were hidden (or slightly hidden) for the egg hunt on Easter Sunday. Good thing we had enough for the 42 children and youth in church on Easter Sunday. Thank you to all who donated candy and to the youth and parents who helped to stuff the eggs. The youth hosted the Holy Saturday breakfast and meditation service. We thank all of those who attended and helped us raise over \$300 for camp.

Pat and Larry Wiemers hosted the youth and parents at their ranch on 04/22/09 (see pictures at right). We enjoyed hamburgers, chips, soda, and fellowship prior to getting the grand tour. The highlight, of course, were the pigs. Thanks to the Wiemers for their hospitality. Word is that everyone is excited to return in May for the new litter (is that what they call a bunch of baby pigs).

Next on our horizon is **Youth Sunday on June 14** both first and second service. We hope everyone can attend and ask that you contact either Mike and Linda or the church office and let them know of any junior high, high school, or college graduates, that we can recognize during the service. As always, save up your sweet tooth for the annual bake sale.

Camp Colby will be here before we know it. We greatly appreciate all of the church members who help us every year to reach our goal of getting the youth to camp. **Thanks to the United Methodist Men for the first annual Carl Kliesch Memorial Golf Tournament and their efforts in raising funds for the youth.** For all those youth wanting to attend but who have not turned in a form, please see Mike and Linda ASAP. Junior high camp is 07/12/-18/09 and is for those entering 6th grade through those leaving 8th grade. High school camp is 07/26/09-08/01/09 and for those entering 9th grade through those leaving 12th grade. Mike will be a counselor again this year at junior high camp.

In Christ 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.



Mission Map

United Methodist Women Mission Projects



2009 United Methodist Women/ Women's Division
Visit the UMW Women's Division website at www.umwmission.org



Join us at any of our three friendly UMW Circles here at our church. We welcome all ladies with open arms to the following groups who meet each month.

Esther Circle meets the second Thursday of each month at noon in the McMillen Room at our church. This month we meet on May 14th. In addition to good Christian fellowship, we will continue to study—*The Native Americans*.

JOY Circle meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at a member's home. Our May meeting will be on the 19th at the home of **Nancy Burns**. Please contact the church office for the address. The JOY Circle is studying a book by Trevor Hudson titled, "Questions God Asks Us."

Mary-Martha Circle meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the McMillen Room at our church. This month we meet on May 20th at 9:30 AM. We will continue our study about the Native Americans.

Join us for study, loving fellowship and outreach.

Respectfully submitted by~
Eva McClure
Ann Williamson, UMW Publicity

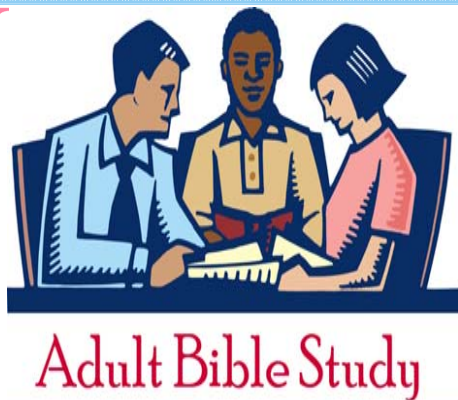
UMW Holiday Boutique Saturday, 14 November 2009

This special sale will include both seasonal and general craft and gift items. We will need all of your help to create the numerous items needed to make this boutique sale successful. If you would like to contribute any fruits of your labor and talents, start creating now!

We hope that many will participate and donate time and energy to the sale. Please contact Virginia Mothes with ideas or for more information.

All interested crafters are welcome to join us in making various projects to sell and auction at the **UMW Holiday Arts and Crafts Boutique in the McMillen Room.**

- Tuesdays at 10 AM
- 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 PM
- 3rd Saturday of each month at 10 AM
(Saturday session will begin May 16th)



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 Sunday morning under the direction of Susan Coho.

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

9TH REHEARSAL
23RD REHEARSAL

Adult Bible Study

All are welcome to meet with us on **Fridays at 8:30 AM** in the library and get to know our church members in this small group setting. This is the perfect time to join us as we are starting our new book. *Keep a look out in our church bulletins for the new book title.* Join us!

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 as we reset our focus on Christ. All are welcome!

A Women's Bible Study is held every Sunday morning in **room 215** for the ladies of our church in search of strengthening their daily walk with Christ. This study is at **9:45 AM** and is open to all women who love the Lord and want to serve Him. The new book we will start is titled, *"Walking With God"* by John Eldredge. We hope you will join us.

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**, meets in the Library to pray 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.

RUMP

Retired United Methodist Persons

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

There is no RUMP until further notice.

Contact the church office or **Bob and Vel Lowry or Dick and Peggy Gainer** for information on future RUMP events.



Being a Friend! Compiled By Jerry Smith



We all respect how important it is to have family and friends we can depend on during moments of adversity and periods of achievement as well. My wife tells me to "have good friends in your life" you have to be one. I ran across an article on the Internet titled "Being a friend" by Preacher Larry Stephens of Livonia, Michigan. I am taking the liberty of sharing with you some quotes that struck a spiritual note/cord with me. Larry is addressing the lack of friends as a dysfunction in our society and my question how does that apply or play out in the Churches of America?

I remind my readers I'm not here to criticize but my role is that of a messenger to raise awareness about the seriousness of a social situation and what can we do about it if it exists in our Church? From here forward, I submit to you the personal thoughts of a Livonia Michigan Preacher Larry Stephens...

Loneliness

"The reason our home groups are important is evident in the increasing loneliness that is plaguing our society. Recently studies have shown a decline in close friends for both men and women in the last ten years. One fourth of our nation's households consist of just one person. Ten years ago 10% said they had no close friend or confidante. Today 25% said they had no close confidante. Another 19% said they had only one close friend they could confide in. These are amazing statistics and point to an underlying problem in our society."

"There are many reasons given for this but I want to focus on a couple that I think are overlooked. Sometimes people make choices that isolate themselves. A friend of mine in California works with people struggling with drug problems. One woman came to him for help and he talked with her for a short period of time. Several weeks later the police called him. She had been arrested and needed someone to take her child and he was the only person she could think of. Her drug habit had cut her off from family and friends to the point where Jon, almost a complete stranger who had shown her kindness, was the only person she could think to turn to. Sin does that to people. Addictive behavior isolates people. Other types of sin isolate people also. Pride can do it to the point where people will

not ask for help or reach out to others. Fear is another isolating factor."

"However, one factor that I don't see mentioned is our desire for privacy. It has become so mandated by government we hesitate to put details of why a person is on the prayer list in the bulletin. In a sense this is a western idol related to the idol of individualism. It is what causes a person to keep others at a distance and keeps a person alone and often lonely. It is a barrier to committing to a community because commitment requires us to lower some of our barriers and our masks and allow others to know us."

A Church of Friends

"That is the setting for our church today. We have people who come to our church looking for something and they are not sure what it is. I believe they are looking for a connection to other people and even more a connection to God."

"I know that we as a church view ourselves as 'friendly' and we are. We work hard at greeting guests who walk through our doors and try to make them feel welcome. Yet friendliness is not enough. People can get a friendly greeting at Walmart. We are not inviting people into our fellowship to sell a product but to meet our savior, Jesus Christ. We don't just want to be friendly but to offer friendship. How can we do that?"

"The first step on our part is to be open to new relationships and new people. It is wonderful that we have such great relationships with people in our congregation. There is a lot of joy in seeing a friend we have not seen in a few days. But it is very easy to see a friend and ignore the person who is not. We may feel like we have enough friends and therefore do not need to reach out to someone new. Sometimes we may feel like it isn't worth the effort to get to know a new person. All of these attitudes keep us closed to new people in our midst. I want to encourage you to meet new people who come through our doors. This doesn't mean they will become a close friend but then again they might. This does not mean we won't be disappointed or even hurt by others we offer friendship to. But the Christian life is not about avoiding pain but in risking our selves for others."