

The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

Cast~A~Net

September 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



Saturday, September 12th, join others like you who are interested in becoming a member of UMC of AG. This new members class, led by Rev. J. Harold Headrick, will be held in the Library at **10 AM**. New members will be received into membership Sunday, **September 13th**. Please contact the church office if you have any questions. We hope that you will prayerfully consider attending.

Come and join us **Sunday, September 6, 2009** in Criswell Hall between services for a time to get involved! We will have tables set-up with information about our many ministries which will give you the opportunity to see what the various groups are all about and how you can get involved. Check out information on the *Grande Ringers* (our Handbell group), the Chancel Choir, The Lord's Crew (our praise team), the UMC Youth Group, our Umbrellas, the ladies Circles, our United Methodist Men and Retired United Methodist People (RUMP) all of which are eager for your participation this year. Be sure to check them out and see how the Lord can use you in the work of His church. This is your chance to get involved and be a partners in ministry with your fellow UMC of AGers.

Be sure to stay for the UMW Salad Bar luncheon (details inside).



Church Homecoming

125th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

Just under 30 spaces left! Please be sure to reserve your space at the table and add you and your family to our celebration. Many special people are hard at work planning this FREE steak dinner at the South County Regional Center in Arroyo Grande for **September 19th** which will be a special time of fellowship with new people and reuniting with old friends.

Charter Sunday— September 20th, 2009

Join us as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. We are pleased to welcome special guest Bishop Mary Ann Swenson who will deliver a special message at our combined 10:30 AM worship service that day. We hope to see you there!

See the Homecoming Herald for more anniversary event info.

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Inserts

Homecoming Herald
Children's Center Chronicle



Our 125th year long celebration has been very successful. I look forward to our anniversary dinner and combined worship service, with our Bishop, District Superintendent, former pastors, and of course you! It is good for us to celebrate where we have been and where we are today. For our future though, as people who hear Jesus say "follow me" we have both an invitation and opportunity.

Focus with me on how we will make this invitation a reality for us and the world? Think for a moment when you joined the church; wasn't that an invitation to follow Jesus? And today we have the opportunity to once again say yes, I want to follow and walk with you Jesus, as your disciple, in a life of discipleship.

Discipleship is not about "destination;" it is about the journey itself. In the Bible, Jesus makes it clear that as the Son of Man he has "nowhere" to call his permanent home. So, we too, as his disciples should be committed to, invested in, a life of MOVEMENT. There is no final "resting place" on this earth because our rest is nested on the journey, not at any final destination.

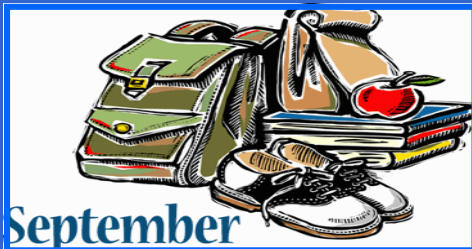
Sharks are one of the oldest, most primitive, and most successful vertebrate groups, yet for a shark to keep breathing, keep oxygenating water flowing through its gills, a shark must keep moving all the time. Sharks must invest their whole body in order to move oxygen through their system and so stay alive.

It's the same with Discipleship. Jesus calls us to a "keep walking along" think of it like your investment that has a guarantee: you will spend your life traveling fresh paths and new roads. That is our opportunity we should not take lightly as we seek "to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Journeying Together,



Pastor David M. Burgeson



September

Newsletter Team

Chair: David Beaman
Layout Editor: Sarah Barber
Proofers: Sarah Barber, David Beaman, Pastor David Burgeson and Virginia Mothes
Communications Committee: Sarah Barber, David Beaman, Reverend David Burgeson, Heidi Carpentier, Virginia Mothes, Jerry Smith & Michael Thurman.
Deadline: 10th of each month
 All 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 fumcag@sbcglobal.net



(August 2009)

2nd	162
9th	179
16th	167
23rd	163

Sunday Average = 168



(as of August 23rd, 2009)

Monthly Goal

\$ 22,220

Received to date

\$ 18,070

Difference

\$ 4,150

One week to go!!! We can do it!



UMC of AG Welcomes Bishop Mary Ann Swenson

Reverend Doctor Mary Ann Swenson was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas and raised in Jackson, Mississippi where she was active at Capitol Street Methodist Church. She majored in religion at Millsaps College in Jackson, graduating from there in 1969.

In 1968 she married Jeff Swenson of Elma, Washington, and in 1972 entered seminary at the School of Theology at Claremont in California. She was ordained deacon in 1973 and elder in 1976. In 1975 she received her Doctor of Ministry degree also from the School of Theology at Claremont. Her local pastoral ministry included Claremont UMC, California; Orchards UMC, Vancouver, Washington; and First United Methodist Church, Wenatchee, Washington. In 1983 she was appointed Superintendent of the Puget Sound District of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference.

In 1992, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson was elected to the Episcopacy at the Western Jurisdictional Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. She was assigned to the Denver Area, and served in leadership there until July of 2000, when she was assigned to the Los Angeles Area, which includes the California-Pacific Annual Conference and the Korean Mission of the Western Jurisdictional Conference. During that time, she also served as president of the General Council on Finance and Administration of the denomination. In 2008, her assignment to the Los Angeles Episcopal Area was extended to 2012, and she has taken on a new role serving as president of the church's General Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns.

With her husband Jeff, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson maintains an active lifestyle as a cyclist, and commutes locally by city bus: she has said, "John Wesley's 'the world is my parish' takes on new meaning when you ride the bus each day." She has become an outspoken leader in the denomination and in her communities, calling for a redefinition of the purpose of the church in a rapidly changing world. Bishop Mary Ann continues to lead the church with passion toward becoming a more inclusive community, filled with grace, compassion and justice, growing in more perfect love of God and neighbor.



Sunday, September 20th, 2009 our church will welcome Bishop Mary Ann Swenson as our special guest speaker for the combined worship service celebrating the charter of the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande.





- The Parsonage Fund is again making money. As of the end of June it stands at \$116,438.
- On the 8th of August a work party cleaned the kitchen stove, hood, filters, wall around the stove and the floor under and around the stove. Many thanks!
- The Arroyo Grande Glass and Door Company said the windows installed in the Bell Choir room, McMillan Room and upstairs classrooms were installed incorrectly. They will charge \$500 to do 4 windows at a time totaling \$1,500 for all 12 windows. It was suggested we intend hold the contractor for the job responsible. We are looking into this.

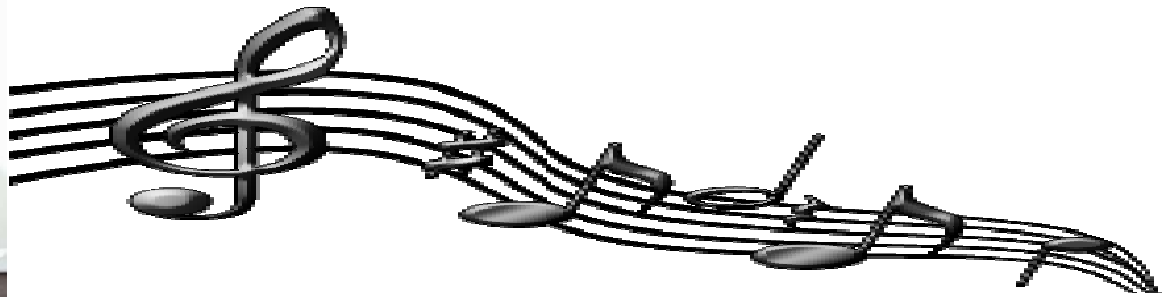


Trustees Report august 2009

From Tom Egan, *Trustee Chair*

- are still looking at lighting up the choir area.
- It appears that the bus might have an electrical short that needs to be repaired. It will also have to be painted. Yellow is reserved for school buses only. There are also 2 or 3 minor problems to be addressed.
- Carpet has been installed in the Choir Room. Thanks to a special friend.
- Yard work is ongoing. The four trees on the Bennet St. side of the Church have white flies. It will take close to a month to get rid of them. Two gophers will eat no more roots. More work to do.
- The cleaning of Criswell Hall is still on our to do list.
- Lori has found some Church pew legs that are split and need to be repaired. Four were found and fixed.
- The bell tower and the bell need to be inspected prior to our 125th celebration. Mike, Pastor David and I did so. All is in good shape and needs only a slight modification to be workable for the celebration.
- Less than 2 years ago 3-5 people were certified to use the defibulator. We need to know who they were and is the certification almost up? These names need to be put on the unit.
- Someone has donated a desk and a credenza to Pastor David. This will require a 4 to 5 person work team.
- Pastor David is hoping that the move of the Altar to the back of the Choir area will be a permanent move. This leaves more room between the pulpit and the lectern. Any size group can assemble in that area.
- The Trustees would gladly send a thank you letter to the women who cleaned and rearranged items in the kitchen and in the pantry *if only we knew who they were*. They did such a beautiful job. **Thank you, all!!**





Hello choir and potential choir members!

Wow, I can't believe how fast the summer flew by!! We are ready for our first rehearsal Wednesday, **August 26 at 7 PM.**

Thinking of joining but haven't made up your mind yet? Come get to know us for our end of summer fling **Sunday, August 30th, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.** at the home of Dick and Patti Melsheimer, at 2640 Belgian Place in Arroyo Grande. The choir is asked to bring a salad or dessert. The potluck schedule is as follows:

- If your last name begins with A-M bring a salad or side dish,
- If your last name begins with N-Z bring a dessert.

We hope to see lots of familiar faces and of course some new ones. Look for more details to follow. Meat is being provided but we need a head count so, please RSVP to Julie Walters or through the church office.

We have many great events planned. The first is Evensong, which will also be the first Sunday we are back in church: September 13th, at 3PM. It will be held at the "old church" (now the home of Harvest Church) as you come into the village of Arroyo Grande. What an extraordinary treat to get to sing in this church.

Hope to hear from you soon, *Julie Walters*, Chancel Choir Director



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



September



6 **8:30 AM** Contemporary Service
9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study (215)
10:30 AM Traditional Service

UMW Salad Bar Luncheon (CH)

13 **Grandparents Day**
8:30 AM Contemporary Service
9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study (215)
10:30 AM Traditional Service
Reception of New Members

3 PM Evensong Service - Harvest Church

20 **Charter Sunday** with special guest **Bishop Mary Ann Swenson**
10:30 AM Combined Worship Service
UMM Pancake Breakfast from 9:30 AM—10:15 AM (CH)
9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study (215)

27 **8:30 AM** Contemporary Service
9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study (215)
10:30 AM Traditional Service



7 **OFFICE CLOSED**
6 PM Debtors Anon
7 PM Men's Bible Study (215)
7 PM Women of Prayer (S)
7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)
7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)

14 **10 AM** UMW Steering Com.
6 PM Debtors Anon
7 PM Men's Bible Study (215)
7 PM Women of Prayer (S)
7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)
7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)

21 **6 PM** Debtors Anon
7 PM Men's Bible Study (215)
7 PM Women of Prayer (S)
7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)
7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)

28 **6 PM** Debtors Anon
7 PM Men's Bible Study (215)
7 PM Women of Prayer (S)
7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)
7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)

1 **8:30 AM** Senior Exercise Group (CH)
9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR)
10 AM Care-Ring Ministry (L)
5 PM Grande Ringers
7 PM Trustees (MMR)

8 **8:30 AM** Senior Exercise Group (CH)
9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR)
10 AM UMW Boutique Workshop (MMR)
10:30 AM Communications Committee (L)
5 PM Grande Ringers

15 **8:30 AM** Senior Exercise Group (CH)
9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR)
10 AM UMW Boutique Workshop (MMR)
5 PM Grande Ringers
7 PM JOY Circle

22 **8:30 AM** Senior Exercise Group (CH)
9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR)
10 AM UMW Boutique Workshop (MMR)
5 PM Grande Ringers
7 PM UMW Boutique Evening Workshop (MMR)

29 **8:30 AM** Senior Exercise Group (CH)
9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR)
10 AM UMW Boutique Workshop (MMR)
5 PM Grande Ringers

2 **8:30 AM** Senior Exercise Group (CH)
9 AM EOC Senior Health Screening
10 AM Life Line Screening (CH)
7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7 PM UM Youth Group (215)

9 **8:30 AM** Senior Exercise Group (CH)
11 AM Blue Umbrella
1 PM Alzheimer's Care-Givers Support Group (MMR)
2 PM and 6 PM Wesley Study (MMR)
7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7 PM UM Youth Group (215)

16 **8:30 AM** Senior Exercise Group (CH)
9:30 AM Mary-Martha Circle (MMR)
2 PM and 6 PM Wesley Study (MMR)
7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

23 **8:30 AM** Senior Exercise Group (CH)
2 PM and 6 PM Wesley Study (MMR)
7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7 PM UM Youth Group (215)

30 **8:30 AM** Senior Exercise Group (CH)
2 PM and 6 PM Wesley Study (MMR)
7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7 PM UM Youth Group (215)

3 **8:30 AM** Senior Exercise Group (CH)
10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group
9 AM—1:30 PM People's Kitchen
5 PM Grande Ringers
7 PM Red Umbrella (MMR)

10 **8:30 AM** Senior Exercise Group (CH)
10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group
12 PM Esther Circle (MMR)
5 PM Grande Ringers
6:30 PM AG UM CC Welcome Night
7 PM Finance Committee (MMR)

17 **8:30 AM** Senior Exercise Group (CH)
10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group
2 PM Yellow Umbrella (MMR)
4 PM Preschool Board
5 PM Grande Ringers

24 **8:30 AM** Senior Exercise Group (CH)
10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group
5 PM Grande Ringers
6:30 PM Family Fun Day Planning Meeting (MMR)

4 **8:30 AM** Bible Study (L)
4 PM AG UM Children's Center Staff Development (MMR)

11 **8:30 AM** Bible Study (L)



18 **8:30 AM** Bible Study (L)
1 PM Alzheimer's Care-Givers Support Group (MMR)

25 **8:30 AM** Bible Study (L)
UM Youth Group at the AG Harvest Festival

5 **10 AM** New member's class (L)
12 PM RUMP (MMR)
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearse (5:30 PM set-up) (S)



19 **8:30 AM** UMM Breakfast Meeting at the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach
10 AM UMW Boutique Workshop (MMR)

125th Anniversary Homecoming Dinner— 4 PM

26 **UM Youth Group at the AG Harvest Festival**
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearse (5:30 PM set-up) (S)





UNITED METHODIST
MEN

Methodist Men Set Sail for Hawaii

The magic of colored slides and first hand experience will whisk the United Methodist Men to the blue waters of the Hawaiian Islands at their upcoming meeting scheduled for Saturday, September 19th, 2009 (8:30 AM at the beautiful Mission Inn of Pismo Beach just off of 4th Street). "Sailing the Hawaiian Islands" will be presented by Del and Hilde Hollinger. The presentation will follow their adventures of sailing from the West Coast of the US to Hawaii, through the islands and back to California, all in a 30 foot sailboat. Did they find the tribe that ate Captain Cook?

You will only find the answer to this and many other questions on September 19th.

A SPECIAL REQUEST WILL BE MADE AT THE MEETING to encourage members who are going to the 125th Celebration Dinner to sign-up for clean-up crew after the dinner (to be held at 5 PM on Saturday, September 19th). If you wish to help, sign-up with Bill Paulsen. He will be available in Criswell Hall after services beginning September 6th – Rally Sunday. Sign-ups will be for setting up tables and chairs on Friday 18th, or for Clean-up on Saturday, September 19th after the dinner. The 125th Celebration Committee wishes to thank the UMM for this help in advance of what is promised to be a truly extraordinary event.

FIRST PANCAKE BREAKFAST OF THE YEAR will be held on Sunday, September 20th, 2009. Please note the change in schedule. Our church service will be a combined service at 10:30 AM. The breakfast needs to be served from (9:30 AM to 10:15 AM so the congregation will have time to enter the Sanctuary. Bud Johnson is chairman for this breakfast, please contact him if you can serve on his crew.

"All Aboard for OCTOBER'S PROGRAM" scheduled for Saturday the 10th. Our own conductor Jamie Foster will share his life-long involvement with trains; get set for a wild ride.

submitted by Val McClure, *UMM Publicity*

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un &
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Are you a member?

It's not complicated!

Begin by joining us for our monthly breakfast meetings on the 3rd Saturday at the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach at 8:30 AM.

Our next meeting will be on [September 19th, 2009.](#)



CAMP EDGE!



WOW... Did we have fun at our Vacation Bible School—Camp EDGE! (Experience and Discover God Everywhere) It was fun for all ages. These are just a few pictures of our church family during that week. For more, visit our website or contact the church office. We look forward to our next session when you can join us!!!



Cross Sunday

Many in our church family shared their special crosses on Sunday, August 16th.

We were able to view the crosses in Criswell Hall between services and after the second service. Several people included explanations regarding why their crosses were important to them. Pastor Harold's sermon was titled "Taking Up Your Cross", based on, Mark 8:31—38. Many wore their favorite cross pendant, pin, earrings, etc. to worship! What a treat! The Sunday School children and the UM Youth Group made crosses especially this special Sunday. A special brochure entitled "Crosses of the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande" was also distributed. Check out our church web site at: <http://www.worshipweekly.com/125th-crosses-of-the-church.html> and look for the "Crosses of the Church" page for interesting facts about the crosses of our church.

The following poem was shared by Susan Potts

The Cross in My Pocket

I carry a cross in my pocket



*A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be
This little cross is*

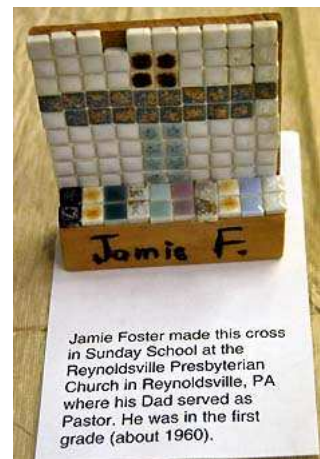
*not magic
Nor is it a good luck charm
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm*

*It's not for identification
For all the world to see
It's simply an understanding
Between my Savior and me*

*When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or a key
The cross is there to remind me
Of the Price He paid for me*

*It reminds me, too, to be thankful
For my blessings day by day
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do and say*

Kathy, of Habitat for Humanity, made one of these for each of the "builders" that went to Slidell, LA in 2006.



Jamie Foster made this cross in Sunday School at the Reynoldsville Presbyterian Church in Reynoldsville, PA where his Dad served as Pastor. He was in the first grade (about 1960).



A wedding gift to Matt and Tracy Requesal Aug. 31, 2002



these belonged to my maternal grandmother

Grandfather made

Kathleen Davis Bullock

Doug made these



By Patti Melsheimer

Add years to your life by adding life to your years!

A 2005 study that tracked 12,640 middle-aged Hungarians found that those who felt their lives had meaning had much lower rates of cancer and heart disease than did those who didn't feel this way. Another study of some of the world's most long-lived people discovered that having a sense of purpose – or “having a reason to get out of bed” – was a common trait in many of the world's centenarians.

“People who feel their life is part of a larger plan and are guided by their spiritual values have stronger immune systems, lower blood pressure, a lower risk of heart attack and cancer, and heal faster and live longer,” says Harold G. Koenig, M.D., professor of psychiatry and behavior sciences at Duke University Medical Center, who has studied the phenomenon broadly. Deepak Chopra, M.D. best selling author says, “Purpose gives you fulfillment and joy and that can bring you the experience of happiness.” Chopra and others say there's no surefire path that will lead you to that “something more” in your life but there are promising possibilities.

- **Keep your job** Robert N. Butler, M.D. founding director of the National Institute on aging says, “A job is probably the easiest way to help you feel your life has purpose, so try to stay with it as long as you can.” A European study that tracked 16,827 Greek men and women for 12 years found that those who retired early had a 51 percent higher mortality rate than those who kept working. And according to a 2005 study that followed 3,500 Shell Oil employees, those who retired at 55 were twice as likely to die during the next ten years as people the same age who continued to work.
- **Find your gifts** Making a list of what you consider your gifts, values, and passions, then identifying your top quality in each category. Together, the three can help reveal your calling—a formula described as G+V+P=C.
- **Volunteer** It's not news that lending a hand can make you feel good about yourself and your life. But research now suggests that older people who give back have better physical and mental health and a lower mortality risk.
- **Journal** This can be especially effective after a major life change that leaves you feeling lost. “When a spouse dies, you retire, or your kids leave home, you interrupt your personal story,” one authority says. If you can figure out how this episode fits into the plot of your life, you'll be one step closer to seeing its purpose—and yours.
- **Just do it!** A good way to find fulfillment is to think about what you've always wanted to do but thought you couldn't—ideally something you really care about. It could be researching your heritage, working on a community quilt, building model trains. The purposeful activity should engage your abilities and require effort.
- **Go to church!** The correlation between religious faith and health has been analyzed in more than 2,200 studies over the past few years, and some suggest that believing in a higher power can boost more than just the spirit. While scientists still don't have a dependable method for measuring faith, research shows that people who attend church, temple, or mosque at least four times a month are less likely to engage in risky behavior, be depressed, or feel chronic stress. The faithful live longer, too. People who believe in God often feel that that in itself is the reward that gives life meaning. “It's the sense that God has a purpose for humanity and for all of creation, and that each of us has a special role in that divine plan.”

(Condensed from a November, 2008 AARP article)



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."

Well, September is upon us! Our Circles will be starting back to regular meeting schedules again.

JOY Circle will meet this month on Tuesday evening September 15th, 2009 at 7 PM at the home of Nancy Gerrish. The JOY Circle is continuing its study of a book by Trevor Hudson titled, "Questions God Asks Us." Call the church office for Nancy's address.

Mary-Martha Circle meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the McMillen Room at our church. This will be September 16th at 9:30 AM. They will continue their study of the Native Americans.

Esther Circle meets at noon on the 2nd Thursday in the McMillen Room. This will be Thursday September 10th. The ladies will continue their study on the Native Americans.

We've all been working over the summer on our projects for our November 14th Fall Boutique and Luncheon.

In mid-September we will start-up in earnest on our Tuesday morning together workshops and really "pump-up the production" for items to be sold at our boutique fund raiser. From September until November 14th our focus will be on creating fall and Christmas holiday gifts and decorations to sell at our boutique. Please, we encourage all women (men are welcome also) to join in the fun and production of these items for our boutique and luncheon.

Virginia Mothes is our president. If you have any ideas, please call her or just join us on the upcoming Tuesday in September to help out.

We are looking forward to seeing you.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Williamson, *UMW Publicity*

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH MISSION

United Methodist Women Supported Health Projects

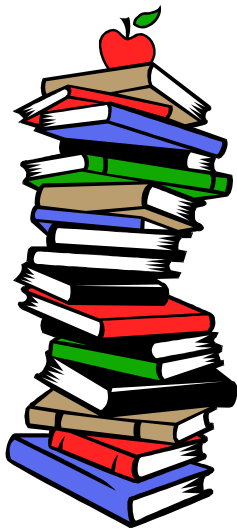
United Methodist Women's Mission Giving supports health care projects around the world that work on a grassroots level to promote health and wellness among women, children, youth and their families. Below is a brief list of some of those projects:

- **AFGHANISTAN: Afghanistan International Assistance Mission:** Funds the Maternal Health Clinic and assisting to provide basic health care for children.
- **INDIA: Crawford Memorial Hospital:** HIV/AIDS education, prevention and treatment program for women and children.
- **KENYA: GROOTS:** Organizes home-based care providers for people living with HIV/AIDS.
- **NIGERIA: Nigeria United Methodist Church:** Jalingo Day Care Center provides medical supplies and food for children.
- **HAITI: a) American Friends Service Committee Haiti:** Provides nutritional supplements to children and nutrition education to parents. b) **International Child Care:** Midwife training program.
- **RUSSIA: Holy Trinity United Methodist Church:** Provides health care in two orphan-ages.

This is just a sampling of where the UMW \$\$\$ go so you can see why we put such a high priority on our Mission Giving program.



Left, doctor with a young patient at Mission Giving-supported Okhaldurga Community Hospital in Nepal. Right, a young girl in Haiti where United Methodist Women supports several health ministries.



Library News

A new book in our library, *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin, is a must read. It's an inspiring story of one man's mission to promote peace—one school at a time. Come, have a look, and be sure to check out our church history display.



Dear Congregation,

We at Community Action Partnership (formerly EOC), along with the homeless children and parents of South San Luis Obispo County, would like to thank you for the great school supplies you provided. When children come into our office with their parents and unexpectedly receive something made just for them, the look of joy on their faces is priceless. The parents are also delighted that the children have school supplies which the family could not have afforded on their own.



We have taken some of the school supply boxes to the People's Kitchen food line and passed them out to the children there. It is like Christmas in August for them.

We particularly appreciate the efforts of Nancy Baughman and Jan Treat for obtaining the supplies and putting the boxes together.

Thank you again for caring about and brightening the life of children who are too often overlooked by our community.

Sincerely,
 Larry Feldt
 Senior Homeless Services Case Manager
 Community Action Partnership

On behalf of the Bell Choir, we thank the generous donation to Trustees to replace our dated and very worn carpeting. The new carpet is not only lovely but kind on our feet.

Many thanks again,
 Irene (and the Bell Choir)



Dear Church Family Members,

Thank you so much for the cards, plants and visits. Thanks to my dear friend Marian Middleton for the visits and for sharing the flowers from her garden. Your prayers are greatly appreciated. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. How great to be a member of this family.

~Lois Fry





BIBLE STUDIES

Join our Men's Bible Study, 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 the men as they "Learn the Bible in 24 Hours" through this book by Dr. Chuck Missler. 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, "**The Little Book of Letting Go: A revolutionary 30 day Program to Cleanse your Mind, Lift Your Spirit, and Replenish Your Soul**" by Hugh Prather. All are welcome!

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. Join us!



WANTED!

Christian Ed. Director Needed

The purpose of this position is to coordinate and oversee all education activities of our church. *A full job description and compensation information is available in our church office.* If you feel that God has blessed you with a gift in this area, we ask you to prayerfully consider this position.



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* if you have any questions with regard to his group of special ladies.



Do you have a prayer request?

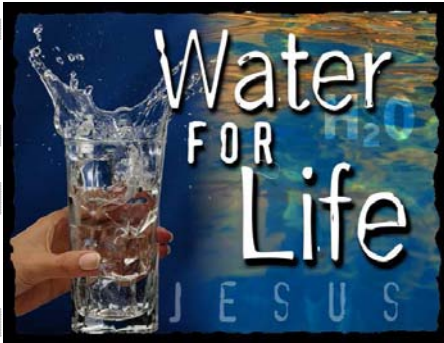
A grateful praise?

Bring it to our Prayer Chain.

Every **Thursday at 10AM** a group of dedicated prayer warriors, our **Intercessory Prayer Group**, meets in the Library to pray for members of our church family, and other requests mentioned on the prayer request cards, those mentioned in services each week, those written in the prayer book and called in via prayer chain. We invite any who would like to join and lift up these requests to the Lord. Contact the church office for more information.

Requests can remain anonymous.

UMC Youth



September 26th at the Arroyo Grande Harvest Festival our UM Youth will once again distribute **FREE** water to festival patrons.

Last year we distributed 1,800 bottles!!! The purpose is to invite those who are thirsty for the living water to know Jesus Christ. Each water given had a personal invitation to our church. Decked out in our custom "Water for Life" T-Shirts, we plan to do it again!

This event is made possible by the giving members and friends of this church. We can't spread the Word of God through this ministry without YOU! If you are at the market, keep this ministry in mind and consider purchasing a case (or two...or five) to add to our brick wall started on Youth Sunday in Criswell Hall. Let a youth group member know if you need help carrying your donated water. **Bring water anytime! Thanks again for your faithful support of our youth group!** Contact the church office or a youth group member for more information.

Look to next month's issue for more pictures and stories from our **United Methodist Youth!**

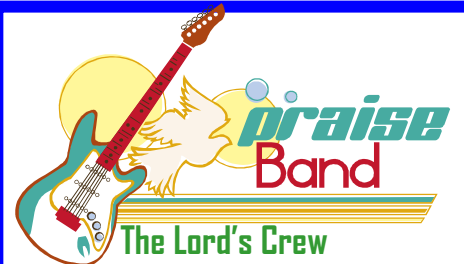
See you on Wednesdays at 7 PM in the Youth Lounge as we discover God in the life of an



The Friendly Church

A young couple sought a church in which to worship. They visited a church one Sunday and later complained to a retired pastor, "No one in the congregation welcomed us. After the service, the pastor stayed in the chancel and spoke only to those who sought him out. No one was at the door to greet us when we arrived or when we left. Of course, we won't go back there."

How friendly is our church? **It's as friendly as you make it!** Do we engage anyone who appears to be a visitor with a warm handshake, a smile and your name? If not, we should! **Find out the visitors name...make a note of it so you can greet them by name the next time you see them. Introduce the visitors to others in the congregation and guide them to any fellowship event after worship.**



The praise band is a team of worship leaders we call **The Lord's Crew**. This Group Leads our Contemporary Worship Service Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM led by Susan Coho. The Lord's Crew meet every other Saturday of each month, unless otherwise stated.

September 2009

6:30 PM REHEARSAL SCHEDULE
(EACH REHEARSAL HAS A 5:30 PM SET-UP TIME)

- 7TH LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
- 12TH REHEARSAL
- 26TH REHEARSAL



Ruth Joy	3
Hilde Hollinger	3
Marj Cawelti	5
Kay Walker	6
Carleen Minkler	8
Yvonne Holt	11
Sally Weitkamp	13
Ann Bowers	14
Bob Atwood	14
Ben Baughman	14
Bob Thronson	16
Burt Cochran	16
Jan Treat	18
Betty Ann Quintana	18
Clydean Headrick	19
Peg Gallop	21
Judy Atwood	26
Elvon Houlding	28
Lois Fry	28
Claire Jacob	29
Jeremy Burns	29



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



September 2009

Date	Scripture	Theme
6th	Mark 7: 24—37	<i>Healing</i>
12th	Mark 8: 27—38	<i>Jesus</i>
20th	Charter Sunday	Bishop Mary Ann Swenson will be our guest speaker
27th	Mark 9: 38—50	<i>Traveling</i>



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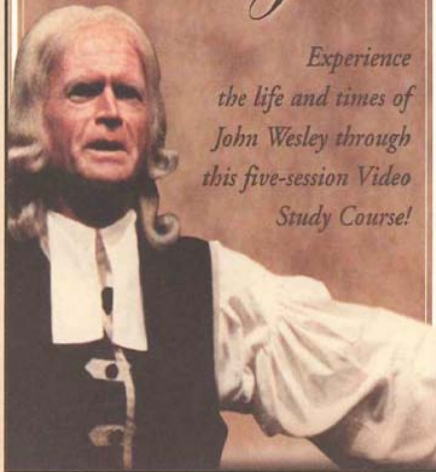
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"A tour de force!"
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Join us in the Mc Millen Room on Wednesday as Pastor David leads us thru this study of "The Man from Aldersgate", our Methodist founder John Wesley. This historical study will bring us closer to the man and his mission on Wednesdays at 2 PM or 6 PM.

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Minister of Visitation:
Rev. J. Harold Headrick

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Members & Friends

Office Admin./ Newsletter:
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Bookkeeper:
Victoria Gandy

Website Manager:
Jamie Foster

Music Director:
Julie Walters

The Lord's Crew Director:
Susan Coho

Organist:
Don McGuire

Puppet People:
Willy Ford & Mike Herber

Grande Ringers Handbell Dir.:
Leonard Lutz

UM Youth Directors:
Mike & Linda Herber

Christian Education Director:
Seeking applicants

Bishop:
Mary Ann Swenson

District Superintendent:
Rev. Cathleen Coots

**AG United Methodist
Children's Center**
(805) 481-2223

Director: Madrigal Quaglino
E-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net



6th ELT Scholarship
Committee

13th Esther Circle

20th UMM All-Church
Pancakes

27th Finance Committee

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

Thank you!