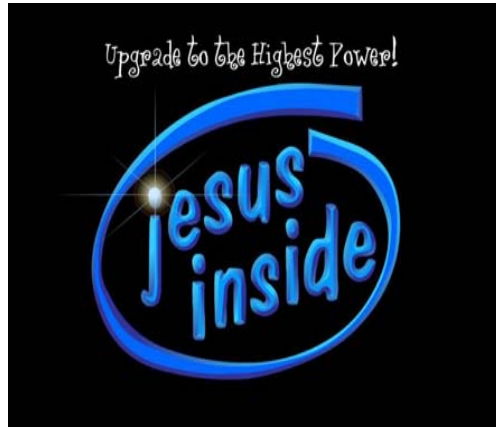


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The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

Cast~A~Net

October 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



What a Beautiful Celebration ~ Thank You All!!

125th Anniversary Homecoming Dinner

125th Anniversary Celebration Committee Chairpersons

Chairpersons: Bette Mankins
Cyndee Rohla
Food: Bette Mankins
Hospitality: Cyndee Rohla
Decorations: Bette Mankins
Arla Sloan
Program/Emcee: Jamie Foster
Set-up: Mike Herber
Clean-up: Bill Paulsen
Displays: Leona Beerup
Adeline Bottorff
Photos/video: Val McClure
Gary Hughes
Heidi Carpentier
AV Technician: Mike Coho
Reservations: Wayne Huggins
Sarah Gandy-Barber
Virginia Mothes
125th Commemorative Pictorial Directory:
Nancy St. Laurent
Pastor David Burgeson
CD Production of Choir Albums:
Mike Coho

Co-Chairs: Pat and Larry Wiemers
Historian: Jean Hubbard
Secretary: Kent Unsworth
Outreach: Pauline Castillo
Invitations: Leona Beerup
Publicity: Patti Melsheimer
Media: Heather Jensen
Bulletin Announcements & Public TV:
Heidi Carpentier
Homecoming Herald Editor:
Sarah Gandy-Barber
Photos: Val McClure
Gary Hughes
Finance: Virginia Mothes
Wayne Huggins

Book:
*First United Methodist Church Arroyo Grande,
California: Celebrating 125 Years - 1884-2009*
Jean Hubbard, author.
Assisted by: Kathleen Ballagh
Pat Wiemers
Sarah Gandy-Barber

For more acknowledgements see page 14



Senior Pastor: Rev. David M. Burgeson
Minister of Visitation: Rev. J. Harold Headrick
Ministers: Members & Friends
Office Admin./ Newsletter: Sarah Gandy-Barber
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
Adult Ministry Director: Seeking applicant
UM Youth Directors: Mike & Linda Herber
Children's' Ministry Director: Seeking applicant
Bishop: Mary Ann Swenson
District Superintendent: Rev. Cathleen Coots
AG UM Children's Center
(805) 481-2223
Director: Madrigal Quaglino



4th RUMP
11th JOY Circle
18th SPRC
25th Harvest Potluck
and Picnic

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!



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

In This Issue...

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Inserts

Children's Center Chronicle

Our Team

Chair: David Beaman
Layout Editor: Sarah Barber
Proofers: Sarah Barber, David Beaman, Pastor David Burgeson and Virginia Mothes
Writers: Our congregation
Communications Committee: Sarah Gandy-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



Last month, I began sharing about the invitation and opportunity we have, as disciples of Jesus, to keep moving. Make the Kingdom of God a reality—an investment of ourselves in a lifetime of

discipleship, wherever we are at home, work, school and play. Just as our Bishop Mary Ann challenged us to “shake it up” in her sermon on Charter Sunday, let us consider together this an opportunity as we begin our 126th year of ministry here in Arroyo Grande.

Any insurance broker will tell you, that one of the riskiest markets anyone can get into is investing in the value of “futures”—betting on how much the price of certain commodities will rise or fall. But the riskiest investment is exactly what Jesus calls disciples to do with their lives. God calls us to walk along new paths and on the most traveled roads of this world—step out and into the unknown future. A disciple always keeps eyes forward, fixed on and believing the promises of the kingdom of God.

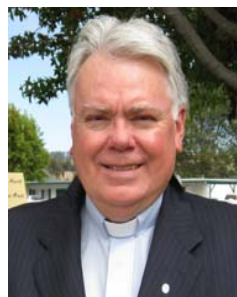
Consider this: Karl Wallenda was the greatest tightrope walker who ever lived. He was famous for walking high in the air across great distances without a net. What was equally as amazing is the older he got, the more breathtaking his walks. In 1978, while performing a tightrope walk between two buildings in San Juan, Puerto Rico, he fell to his death.

After his death, his wife was interviewed some weeks later and said, “It was very strange. For months prior to his last walk, he thought about nothing else. For the first time, he had nightmares about falling.” She talked about his hesitancy and his looking back at past successes.

Wallenda's wife also revealed that he even checked the installation and construction of the wire himself. “This was the first time,” she revealed, “Karl had never done that.” What led to Wallenda's fall? Negative mental images of his walk, hesitation and fear. These are the same things that can lead us to fail to see the opportunities as we walk in our world “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Walk along, keep moving and walk on, keep believing.

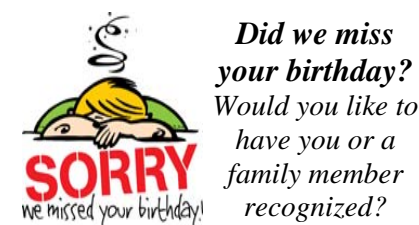
Journeying Together,



Pastor David M. Burgeson



- Bob Pierson 10/1
- Sally Ann Lynch 10/3
- Val McClure 10/4
- Betty David 10/6
- Melissa Ferrari 10/9
- Bob Roemer 10/9
- Lorie Ford 10/13
- Chuck Buckton 10/14
- Bill Taylor 10/14
- Karl Whitehead 10/14
- Diane Laughlin 10/17
- Al Harvey 10/17
- Rose Ann Steiner 10/22
- Virgil Houlding 10/23
- Jeanne Jenkins 10/28
- Lila Anderson 10/29
- T. J. Dobbs 10/29
- Diana Earley 10/30
- Mary Ann Hawkins 10/31



Date	Scripture	Theme
4th	Hebrews 1:1—4; 2:5—12	A Disciple: Growing in our Relationship with Jesus
11th	Mark 10: 17—31	A Disciple: A Learner
18th	Mark 10: 35—45	A Disciple: Sacrifice & Service
25th	Mark 10: 46-52	A Disciple: Serving Right Where You Are





I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls and visits this summer when I was recovering from my back surgeries and the death of Mike's dad in June. We are so blessed to be a part of such a loving church family. God bless you all!

~Barbara Reineke



Dear Members,

The Dohi family would like to thank you for the use of your church facilities for the Memorial Service [for Ty Dohi] A special thanks to your office staff and voluntary ushers.

Sincerely,
Ben Dohi and Sons

Sweet Treats Lead to School Treats

The Vine Club children have just completed 67 bags filled with candy for our Autumn Harvest Party. Each bag has a small card telling the children that bags were made for them by the Vine Club Children of the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. Jan Treat will see that they reach their destination, the Prado Day Center (a homeless shelter) in San Luis Obispo. Jan and I began to talk about the needs at the shelter. There must be other ways we—the Vine Club, the Green Umbrella, and the UMC of AG— can help. The 2003 school year was already in full swing, and the need seemed obvious, school supplies. I had taught sixth grade in Southern California and each student was given a box filled with school supplies each year. The box was very sturdy with an attached lid that flipped open. We have been using boxes with lids that flip open since 2008.

Sally Weitkamp and TJ Dobbs, the chairs of the Green Umbrella, at the time agreed that this was a worthy project. Linda Herber, the current chair, along with members of the Green Umbrella continue to sponsor this outreach project. They are a terrific group of bakers! Our first fundraiser in 2004 was a joint event called Share The Harvest, which was already in place. People brought donations, gave donations and the money went to 3-4 different projects.

In 2004, 25 school kits were completed and the numbers have risen steadily each year. Thanks to your generosity, this year 2009, a total of 164 kits were distributed as the need was greater than ever. We hear of the relief shown when these school boxes are given to homeless parents or caregivers—now children can go to school equipped with the supplies they need. We are grateful to all of you for: items for our fundraiser, donating your help, supplies and/or money, and especially for your prayers. I thank God for showing us this special opportunity to serve.

~Nancy Baughman



By Patti Melsheimer

INFORMATION FROM THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL ON 2009 H1N1 (SWINE FLU)

What is 2009 H1N1 (swine flu)? 2009 H1N1 (referred to as “swine flu” early on) is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. This virus is spreading from person-to-person worldwide, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread.

What are the signs and symptoms of this virus in people? The symptoms of 2009 H1N1 flu virus in people include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people who have been infected with this virus also have reported diarrhea and vomiting. Severe illness and death has occurred as a result of illness associated with this virus.

How does 2009 H1N1 flu compare to seasonal flu in terms of its severity and infection rates? The CDC has concluded that 2009 H1N1 flu has caused greater disease burden in people younger than 25 years of age than older people. At this time, there are few cases and few deaths reported in people older than 64 years old, which is unusual when compared with seasonal flu.

How long can an infected person spread this virus to others? People infected with seasonal and 2009 H1N1 flu virus may be able to infect others from 1 day before getting sick to 5 to 7 days after. This can be longer in some people, especially children and pregnant women.

What can I do to protect myself from getting sick? There is no vaccine available right now to protect against 2009 H1N1 virus. However, a 2009 H1N1 vaccine is currently in production and will be ready for the public in the fall. As always, a vaccine will be available to protect against seasonal influenza.

Take these everyday steps to protect your health: Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are effective. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way. Try to avoid close contact with sick people. If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) Keep away from others as much as possible to keep from making others sick.

All You Need to Know About 2009 H1N1 (Swine Flu)

A Health Forum presented by Christine Gagier, RN.



Ms. Gagier is the Supervising Public Health Nurse for Communicable Diseases for San Luis Obispo County located at the Grover Beach location. She will be telling us all about the H1N1 (Swine Flu) and when to expect the vaccine.

Meet us in the Criswell Hall at 7 PM on Thursday, October 29th.

Bring all your questions and concerns!



- Numbers were missing to tell us if we were within the budget.
- The parsonage fund is again making money and the question was asked if we want to maintain a dollar figure. That means a level that must be maintained before we take out any for projects. The answer was no. It was felt that if an emergency came up and we needed the money, it might not be available. We realize our responsibility to provide housing, and we will continue to do so.
- Arroyo Grande Glass will remove 4 windows and seal them properly, then properly re-install them. If this procedure keeps the rain from destroying our inner walls, we will then see if we have the \$1,500 to do the other 12 windows. Cost is \$400 per window.
- We discussed having a group of RV'ers some time in September 2010. These men and women spend a week at a time working on projects that have been identified by the Trustees. The work and projects for this group will be discussed later.
- The Multiple Sclerosis Society has asked if we could have two handicap bars installed in the bathroom across from the McMillen Room. They will pay up to \$250 to cover the expenses. The board has said yes.
- The CHP has provided us with a number to be painted on our bus. This will be done we have it repainted from the yellow.
- The Board still has some questions about different lighting in the Choir areas. Another meeting with Ted Sloan, our electrician is needed.
- The Children's Center was built before computers and microwaves, so the electrical wiring leaves a lot to be desired. We need at least 4 more circuits added. This, too, is under discussion.
- This February, those who took the first aid class/CPR and defibulator certification will need to be re-certified. Steps are being taken to set this up.
- Thanks to Norm! The two memorial plates for the modified church sign have been mounted.
- The Trustees will be required to monitor what funds have been used for the 125th dinner if they are to be reimbursed
- Pastor David needed 'a few good men' to help move a desk and credenza that was donated.



TRUSTEES REPORT
September '09

From Tom Egan, *Trustee Chair*

ATTENDANCE

(September 2009)

6th 148
13th 178
20th 247
27th 172

Sunday Average = 186

FINANCES

(as of September 27, 2009)

Monthly Goal
\$ 22,220

Received to date
\$ 20,135

Difference
\$ 2,085

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



Small-Group News



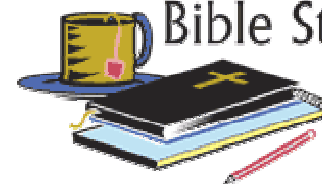
RUMP

Retired United Methodist Persons

We invite all retired persons to attend a noon potluck on the 2nd Saturday each month in UMC of AG's McMillen Room. This month is scheduled for **October 10**.

Contact Dick and Peggy Gainer or Bob and Vel Lowry for information.

Women's Bible Study

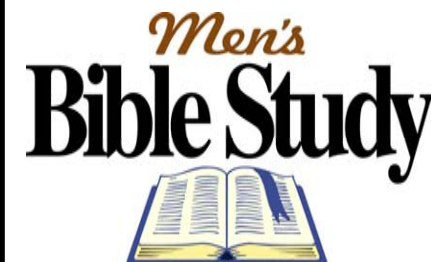


Every **Sunday morning** in **room 215** for the ladies of our church in search of strengthening their daily walk with Christ. This study is at **9:30 AM** and is open to all women who love the Lord and want to serve Him. The new book we will start is titled, "**The Little Book of Letting Go: A Revolutionary 30 Day Program to Cleanse Your Mind, Lift Your Spirit, and Replenish Your Soul**" by Hugh Prather.



All are welcome 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 called, *Beatitudes From the Backside* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. We look forward to seeing you with us.

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.



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 10 AM** 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.



4
Coffee Hour - RUMP
8:30 AM Contemporary Service
9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (MMR)
10:30 AM Traditional Service
11:45 AM Green Umbrella (MMR)

5
6 PM Debtors Anon. (MMR)
7 PM Men's Bible Study (215)
7 PM Women of Prayer (S)
7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)
7:30 PM Ala-Teen (211)

6
8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group
9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR)
10 AM UMW Wkshp (MMR)
3 PM Preschool Board (MMR)
5 PM Grande Ringers (215)
7 PM Trustees (MMR)

7
8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group
9 AM EOC Senior Health Screening
7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7 PM UM Youth Group (215)

1
9 AM People's Kitchen
10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group
5 PM Grande Ringers (215)

8
8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group
10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group
12 PM Esther Circle (MMR)
5 PM Grande Ringers (215)
7 PM Church Council (MMR)

2
8:30 AM Bible Study (L)
4 PM AG UM Children's Center Staff Development

9
8:30 AM Bible Study (L)

3
8:30 AM UMM Breakfast Meeting at the Mission Inn of PB
12 PM RUMP (MMR)
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearse (5:30 PM set-up) (S)



11
Coffee Hour - JOY Circle
8:30 AM Contemporary Service
9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (MMR)
10:30 AM Traditional Service
11:45 AM 125th Anniv. Wrap-Up Mtg (MMR)



12
6 PM Debtors Anon. (MMR)
7 PM Men's Bible Study (215)
7 PM Women of Prayer (S)
7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)
7:30 PM Ala-Teen (211)

13
8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group
9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR)
10 AM UMW Wkshp (MMR)
10:30 AM Communications Committee (L)
5 PM Grande Ringers (215)
6 PM MS Support Grp (MMR)

14
8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group
1 PM Alzheimer's Care-Givers Support Group (MMR)
7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7 PM UM Youth Group (215)

15
8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group
10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group
5 PM Grande Ringers (215)

16
8:30 AM Bible Study (L)
1 PM Alzheimer's Care-Givers Support Group (MMR)

17



18
Coffee Hour - SPRC
8:30 AM Contemporary Service
9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (MMR)
10:30 AM Traditional Service

19
6 PM Debtors Anon. (MMR)
7 PM Men's Bible Study (215)
7 PM Women of Prayer (S)
7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)
7:30 PM Ala-Teen (211)

20
8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group
9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR)
10 AM UMW Wkshp (MMR)
5 PM Grande Ringers (215)
7 PM JOY Circle

21
8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group
9:30 AM Mary-Martha Circle (MMR)
7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7 PM UM Youth Group (215)

22
8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group
10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group
5 PM Grande Ringers (215)

23
8:30 AM Bible Study (L)

24
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal (5:30 PM set-up) (S)

25
Coffee Hour - Harvest Picnic & Potluck



8:30 AM Service
9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (MMR)
10:30 AM Traditional Service

26
6 PM Debtors Anon. (MMR)
7 PM Men's Bible Study (215)
7 PM Women of Prayer (S)
7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)
7:30 PM Ala-Teen (211)

27
8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group
9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR)
10 AM UMW Wkshp (MMR)
5 PM Grande Ringers (215)

28
8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group
7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7 PM UM Youth Group (215)

29
8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group
10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group
5 PM Grande Ringers (215)

30
8:30 AM Bible Study (L)

31
Halloween



7 PM H1N1 Information Night (CH)



A Visit With Ruth Joy

by David Beaman

Ruth recently celebrated birthday #90 so when I was at her home, she was happy to share some of the numerous cards that had arrived. She was born in Waterville, Maine but at age 3, her brother, sister and parents moved the family to Long Beach, CA. In 1932, four years before her graduation from Polytechnic High School, the neighborhood was struck by an earthquake strong enough to move their home off the foundation and they lived in army tents while the damage was cleared and the house restored. Thankfully the family survived without injury.

She married Richard Joy in August, 1939 and their daughter Virginia (Mothes) arrived a year later. Soon wartime arrived and both worked in a shipyard that built Navy cargo vessels; Richard in accounting office and Ruth in assembly. Later in 1944, she answered an ad by Lang Bus Company and qualified as the first woman hired as a bus driver but, once the sailors and soldiers returned from war, she was "bumped" out of a job. She moved on as a waitress at Currie's Steak House, where movie stars, Dana Andrews and Ward Bond among others, often dined. Other jobs included Telegram deliveries, dry cleaning delivery and laboratory delivery for medical offices. Richard worked as a car salesman and in auto parts sales. In the transition from wartime to civilian, jobs were tight and times were hard. Ruth eventually worked 12 years at General Telephone Directory Company and the family moved to Huntington Beach, CA.

Richard had numerous aunts, many were school teachers, in Webster City, Iowa and the family took summer vacations there to visit. The aunts loved to travel and inspired Ruth and Richard to make "the trip of a lifetime" to Rome, Pisa, Florence, Milan, Venice, Lake Como etc. Ruth did all the driving and managed the European differences just fine! From Italy they toured Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Austria, including Vienna where they took in all the waltz music venues and museums. They especially enjoyed a live performance of "The Airs Above the Ground" by the Royal Lipizzaner Stallions at the Spanish Riding School.

Richard passed away in 1976 and Ruth then moved to Bakersfield to be near her sister Eva. She later relocated to Oregon to care for her brother Matthew. She came to live in Arroyo Grande in 1978.

She now maintains a very busy schedule serving as Trustee at Grandmothers Park, that will soon host a convention of State of California Grandparents Park Club. Also, she often volunteers 2 days per week as a "Pink Lady" at Arroyo Grande Community Hospital where her main task is to assemble Patient Packets of forms used to document all treatments, instructions, procedures and medications that a patient requires during their stay of treatment. The hospital personnel recently sent a bouquet of Birthday Flowers to her home as recognition of her devotion and appreciation for her reliable, volunteer work.

Ruth is also a regular member of our church and counts many in the congregation as her friends. She maintains the youthful attitude that staying occupied and active is very "mentally stimulating" and beneficial to living a long and useful life. We wish her many more Happy Birthdays.



★ EXTRA! EXTRA! ★

Men's News



UP-COMING ACTIVITIES

The second UMM meeting of the 2009-10 program year will be held at the Mission Inn, just off Highway 101 and Fourth Street in Pismo Beach at 8:30am on Saturday, October 10th. The meeting will be chaired by the Co- Presidents, Tom Egan and Bill Weitkamp. Those attending will enjoy a program presented by Jamie Foster who will take the group into "The World of Trains". This has been a lifelong interest to Jamie, and his presentation will be of great interest. Plans for the year will be discussed as well as special events that are coming up in the future. Tickets price for the breakfast buffet is \$13.

PROGRAMS AND SCHEDULED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements will be made through the CASTANET and Sunday Bulletins. Any questions about the organization and its programs can be directed to Tom Egan or Bill Weitkamp.

"Helping men to grow in Christ, so others can know Christ."

Our UMM generally meet on the third Saturday of each month at 8:30 AM at the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach for prayer, breakfast, and discussion of various topics pertinent to our community and the world.

We wish to thank the UMM for helping to set-up and clean-up the Celebration Dinner on September 19th.

~From Pat & Larry Wiemers

The UMM wishes to thank **Del & Hilde Hollinger** for an outstanding presentation of the "Hawaiian Adventure" at the September meeting. To have persons in our own congregation that have had such an adventure is truly remarkable.

Val McClure, UMM Publicity



Good for a Laugh

One particular four-year old prayed a prayer we all know in a rather different way: "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

God doesn't call the equipped,
He equips the called!

Time flies when you are having fun! Or least that is what I have heard. It is hard to believe that it is over a month (even longer for the junior higher) since we have been back from Camp Colby.

As many of you have heard Colby did suffer fire damage from the Station Fire. We continue to pray for those affected and await news of what happens next and what we can do to help. We are thankful that our youth were able to safely attend. All the youth enjoyed their time at Colby as always. We can't wait to see what next year will bring. **Thanks to all of you who helped to make Camp Colby possible.** Some of our youth (Carina Avila, Patrick Harvey, Jordan Henderson, Jed Moore, Anna Prestemon, and Galina Smith) attended the RUMP meeting and got to share their memories of Camp. Thanks RUMP, for the good food and great conversation.



We enjoyed making our famous enchiladas and decorated cookies for the **Peoples Kitchen** for the August meal. I have it on good authority that food and cookies were enjoyed by all.



We got the opportunity to meet other youth from around the world this summer thanks to the Prestemon family and their hosting of foreign exchange students. **We met Tony and Frederick who were from Paris, France,** when they visited with on a Sunday. They were switched to a different host family and Nina from Germany came to stay with the Prestemons. Thankfully, Nina's understanding of the English language, or at least her ability to understand Lou, was amazing. She was able to come often over a 3 week period and we enjoyed getting to meet her.

Speaking of visitor, we always enjoy them, and we especially enjoyed **Chelsea Bailey coming upstairs and hanging out** with us for a bit on a Wednesday evening. For those of you who don't know, she is the one who gave me (Linda) the nickname of Lou.

We then became **visitors to Pastor David's** office to watch a video he showed to his bible study group and then we shared with him a favorite 'You Tube' video of ours. Pastor David also came to another meeting and shared with his adventures on the seas while in the Navy. We enjoyed "piping him aboard" with his stories, albums, and uniforms, minus the dungarees!



At the time I am writing this, the **Harvest Festival** has not happened yet. But by the time you read this article it will have (if this makes sense). Thanks to all who contributed with the contributions of water for our "Water for Life" bottled water drive. Look for our report next month when we actually have updates on how much water we collected and handed out. Can't wait to see how God will work through the Festival booth. Hopefully, I will have seen all of you at our booth. *Check out pictures on page 9.*



We continue to meet on Sundays and Wednesdays and encourage all sixth through twelfth graders to join us in fellowship, learning about Christ, and just plain fun. In Christ's Service ~Mike and Linda (Lou)

UM Youth

Sweet Home Alabama

On my plane ride from San Luis Obispo to Atlanta, Georgia, I began to reread *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. I had forgotten that this story is based in Alabama and some of the main characters had a Methodist background. It was then so very fitting that I would be spending a week working in Smiths Station, Alabama as part of The United Methodist Church, California Pacific Annual Conference, Central Coast Cluster Arson Rebuild Burnt Churches Work Team.

In the book, the young character Scout and her brother Jem are discussing different types of "folks". Scout so simply states it as I had always felt growing up. "Naw, Jem, I think there's just one kind of folks. Folks." I first read this book in high school and it taught me about kindness and cruelty, love and hatred.

I was first inspired to do this type of service project one Sunday at FUMCAG. I was either as a high school student or young adult and watching a presentation from an Arson Rebuild Team. I just knew that was a way I wanted to help "folks" and now I would have the opportunity to make right what was wrong.

With the generous financial support and love of my church family and my immediate family for also taking care of Alonzo and Shadow (the dog), I was able to spread that love to the most gracious and wonderful community of the Greater Bethelpore Baptist Church. Their church was completely destroyed by arson in January of 2008. Our team had 10 members from the Methodist Churches of San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, and Salinas. We completed a variety of interior projects. One of my proudest accomplishments was assisting in the building of a staircase leading to the baptismal.

Yes, it was hot and humid (but I can do anything with sweet tea). No, I am not a master of hammering or measuring. However, it's amazing though when you are doing God's work that you can handle it. I even broke a water line and you wouldn't believe the good that brought about. Now to hear more on that and photos from our trip, I would like to invite everyone to join in celebrating the service project we accomplished at a date and time to be determined soon.

Thank you, *Melissa Ferrari*

continued from cover

125th Celebration Special Events Chairpersons

Kick-Off Sunday:

Pat and Larry Wiemers
Linda and Mike Herber
Hilary Henderson

Potluck:

Archives:

Jean Hubbard

Posters:

Adeline Bottorff

Video:

Caitlin Herber

Bible Sunday and Cross Sunday:

Jamie Foster

Family Fun Day & BBQ:

Pat and Larry Wiemers

Entertainment: Connie and Mike Clark

Sound system: Mike Coho

Tabernacle Sunday:

Val McClure

125th Anniversary Choir Cantata and Evensong:

Julie Walters
Jamie Foster

Music for a Sunday Afternoon Events:

Don Gugeler
Julie Walters
Jamie Foster

Charter Sunday: Pastor David Burgeson

Bell Ringing: Tom Egan

Reception: Fern Farmer

THANK YOU!

Our year-long celebration of the 125th anniversary of the UMC of AG has come to a close—125 years of ministry is really something to celebrate!

This year has been a real growing experience for us both in fellowship with our "church family" and in faith. We have been so impressed by the talents and the willingness of members of the congregation to work to accomplish our goals. We would like to thank the members of the committee who faithfully attended meetings and worked so hard this past year. And we want to thank those who pitched in to make our Anniversary Dinner and Charter Sunday Service such a huge success. May God's blessings be on us all,
Larry and Pat Wiemers

NEWS & Notes

NATIONAL OUTREACH MISSION PROJECTS

In the continuation of highlighting the mission outreach activities and spirit of our United Methodist Women, I would like to highlight two members of our UMW who have worked fervently to keep that spirit going since 1993. The couple I refer to are Carmonde and CJ Cochran. To this day CJ faithfully collects and mails these items: 1.) **Pull tabs** from soda cans which go to Ronald McDonald House which we are all familiar with, 2.) **Old greeting cards** as well as new blank greeting cards (especially all those unsolicited Christmas cards that come in the mail between now and Christmas) which are used for craft projects and the new ones sent to GIs in the military, 3.) **Box tops of Betty Crocker products and Campbell soup labels** to Henderson Settlement, a part of the Red Bird Mission Conference, which provides a multitude of services used to help and support low-income families in the Cumberland Mountains of Kentucky. This large mission outreach provides medical, dental, educational, and the Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker Program which was established in conjunction with Vanderbilt University Center for Health Services and now has 17 sites across 4 states. 4.) And last but not least is **'cents off' manufacturer's coupons** which are sent to Judy Atwood, our own church-supported missionary, who gives them to needy persons in her area of service to help reduce their grocery bills. There is a **wicker basket in the library** where all these items can be deposited and CJ, with the UMW providing the postage, will send them off and keep us posted on her success. Many, many thanks to Carmonde and CJ for their faithfulness to this program.

Thank You Very Much!

Eva Judy Zaretska, who serves as a docent at the Oceano State Park and is a member of our own bell choir, will be providing the program on Central Coast Chumash Indian tribal history at the October 21st meeting of Mary-Martha Circle at 9:30 AM. in McMillan Room. This will complete a years study of the book, *Giving our Hearts Away, Native American Survival*. Anyone interested in this program is invited to join us!



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."

Esther Circle meets on the 2nd Thursday at noon in the McMillen Room. This month's meeting is scheduled for **October 8th**. The ladies will continue their study on the Native Americans.

On the 3rd Tuesday of each month our **JOY Circle** meets at 7 PM at a members home. This month we are scheduled to meet **October 20th** at the home of Ann Williamson. We be studying chapter 6 of Trevor Hudson's book, "Questions God Asks Us."

Mary-Martha Circle meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the McMillen Room at our church. This month Judy Zaretska will be discussing the Chumash Indians. All are invited to attend this event scheduled for **October 21st** at 9:30 AM.

Happy October!!



14 November

We trust that many of you have been working hard on your various projects and donations for this special event. The dedication of your time and energy to the many aspects of this fundraiser is appreciated greatly. Please contact Virginia Mothes with your creative ideas.



Choir Notes

They're Baaack!!

It was nice to see all of the friendly faces at the Choir party in August. Now that rehearsals have started, it is great to see a few new faces. We are always looking for people to fill the seats in our loft as we lift our voices in worship. You can be a part, join us on **Wednesdays at 7 PM** in our church Sanctuary. All are welcome!



CELL PHONE vs. BIBLE

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

- What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- What if we flipped through it several times a day?
- What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
- What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- What if we gave it to Kids as gifts?
- What if we used it when we traveled?
- What if we used it in case of emergency?

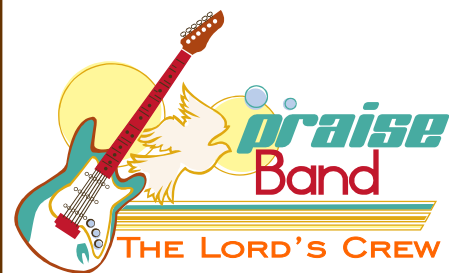
Are you thinking... "Hmm! Where *is* my Bible?"

Stop and ask yourself... "Where are *my* priorities?"

Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected. **Jesus already paid the bill!**

NO REJECTED calls!

NO FLAT BATTERY !!!! This one has Eternal Life!



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.

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

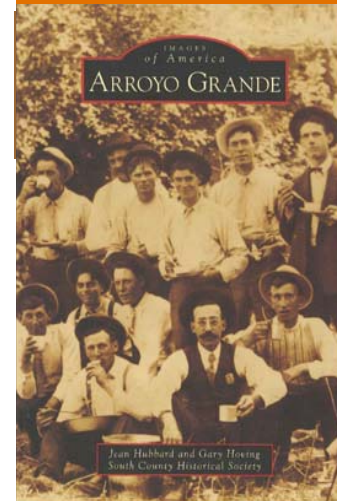
10/10
10/24





REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS NOV 1ST ~ DON'T FORGET! SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR, BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON THE 31ST OF OCTOBER SO THAT WE CAN SEE YOUR SMILING FACE IN CHURCH -ON TIME!



Images of America: Arroyo Grande

review by Michael Thurman

The new book, Images of America: Arroyo Grande, California (Arcadia Publishers 2009: \$21.99) is a noteworthy contribution to the regional history of our Golden State, and a testimonial to one of our talented parishioners, Jean Hubbard. While considered "small" in pagination, this 127-page super-mite of the Central Coast contains something of interest for everyone.

For example, there is a fact-filled outline about the Spanish Mission and the out-growth of the "Ranchos via Mexican Land grants" (1772-1848); the Zenith of Live-Stock and American Ownership (1848-1910); and "Founding of the Town" (1910-1912); and Chapter 3 "formation of the City (1912-1942).

Three final chapters, amounting to 45 pages, recall a remarkable surge in industrial/service sectors (as well as "Tourist-industry") marking the late 20th and early 21st century of Arroyo Grande.

The format of this book can be described herein: short chapter descriptions of 1 or 2 pages followed by a wealth of photographs, drawings, archival copies, and rare documents such as deeds and photo-copies leading on to a new chapter. Sadly, there is no "index" or bibliography in Hubbard's book. Nevertheless, the visual impact is so dynamic one glides effortlessly to leaders and "community organizers" as they emerge from within each chapter. My sense of appreciation for Ms. Hubbard's gifted opus was enhanced by reading of Francis Z. Branch, Newton and Louise Short, Patrick Moore, and Dr. Edwin Paulding (and school teacher Clara Edwards-Paulding) whose gifts and name-sake achievements stand in testimony of the "Village" of Arroyo Grande.

Since I only recently arrived on The Central Coast (2002), I might be classified as a newcomer, but heartily endorse Arroyo Grande for its thorough, professional, and spellbinding history. You will surely be delighted to own a copy- -and for many, among us, to bask in the tale of an Historic Village.



Be sure to dress in your "best" harvest/ western themed duds and bring a potluck dish to share.

Hope to see everyone there!

Mark Your Calendars!!!
Sunday, October 25

Join us in Criswell Hall immediately following the second service for food, fellowship, and fun.



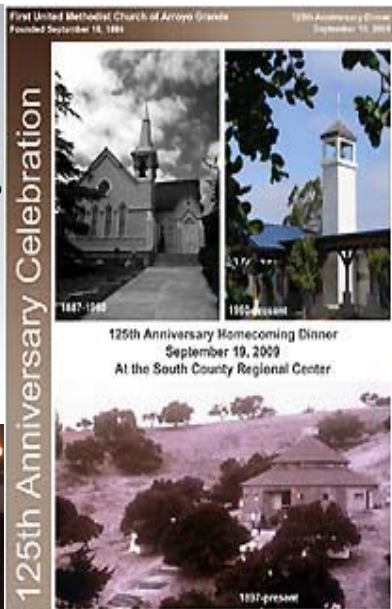


EVANGELISM



AG Harvest Festival '09

WELCOME TO THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER



W e l c o m e o u r f o r m e r p a s t o r s !



CHARTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION 'Who Rang That Bell?'
20 September 2009



Doug Ballagh was the last person to ring the bell in 1960 (pictured in black and white above) at the church's location in the Village and the first to ring it at our Charter Sunday Celebration (pictured above).



We were blessed to have two special guests with us - Bishop Mary Ann Swenson and District Superintendent Catie Coots, pictured here with our own Reverend David Burgeson.