

275 NORTH HALCYON ROAD
ARROYO GRANDE, CA 93420

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL-PLEASE DELIVER BY NOVEMBER 30

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

“...they will call him
Immanuel”
— which means,
“God with us.”



Matthew 1:23



*Our hearts, our minds and
our doors are always open.*



The people of The United Methodist Church.®

Visit us our website at worshipweekly.com



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 Quagliano



6th **Open**
13th **Esther Circle**
20th **Communications
Committee**
27th **Open**

Coffee Hour responsibilities
include set-up and clean-up as
well as, providing refreshments
for our church family at the
9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
Coffee Hour fellowship time
in Criswell Hall.
Thank you all!

The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande Cast~A~Net

DECEMBER 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

Weekly Wednesday Advent Study

Wednesdays beginning **December 2nd**, join us for an Advent Study Kick-Off Supper at 5:30 PM followed by a study led by Pastor David at 6 PM. The following three Wednesdays (through December 23rd) offer two times to attend this study, 2 PM and 6 PM.

AG UM Children's Center Holiday Program

December 17th at 6:30 PM—Join these children along with their families to celebrate the season with festive holiday songs sung by the kids of AG UM CC—ages 1 1/2 to 5 years old. A social in our fellowship hall following the program. Please see the Children's Center Chronicle insert for more information.

"A Service of Hope" Blue Christmas

December 20th at 3 PM—Not in the "holiday spirit" this year due to a loss or a change circumstance. Meet us in the sanctuary for a time of reflection & prayer followed by a time of fellowship.

"The Holy Family" Live Nativity

December 22nd & 23rd from 5:30 to 7 PM—Drive-thru our church parking-lot and get a peek into that small stable in Bethlehem on the historic night that our Lord Jesus was born.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

'Come all Ye Faithful' for a Family Candlelight Service at 6 PM or join us at our more Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 PM in our church sanctuary.

New Year's Eve Potluck and Game Night

Join us at 5:30 PM in our fellowship hall where we will spend time playing our favorite games and sharing our favorite potluck dishes! Bring the whole family and friends!!

New Year's Eve Service of Quiet Holy Communion

We welcome you to join us at anytime on this evening between 7—7:30 PM in our church's sanctuary for a free-flowing and self-led service of Quiet Holy Communion.

More information on these events on page 11



In This Issue...

Shepherd's Notes2
 Healthy Corner3
 Trustees /Finance Info.4
 Meet Our New Members5
 UM Men's News6
 News & Notes of the UMW....7
 Music News8
 Miscellaneous.....9
 Together We Can!.....10
 Advent Schedule11
 Christmas Ministries12
 Calendar.....13
 Small Group News14
 Birthdays/UMW Pictures...15

Insert

Children's Center Chronicle

Our Team

Chair: David Beaman
Layout Editor: Sarah Barber
Proofers: Sarah Barber, David Beaman, Pastor David Burgeson & Virginia Mothes
Our Committee: Sarah Barber, David Beaman, Reverend David Burgeson, Heidi Carpentier, Virginia Mothes, Jerry Smith & Michael Thurman.

Deadline: 10th of each month
 Articles must be submitted by this date for consideration.

Address Updates: Do you want to be removed from our mailing list? Need to update information or add a friend?
Contact our church office at (805) 481-2692 or e-mail us at fumcag@sbcglobal.net



Pastor David M. Burgeson

Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming." The first season in the Christian Church, the period of Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christ. Carols and hymns have been written over the centuries, many of which we enjoy hearing and singing during this time of waiting.

A favorite of mine is one by the famed Charles Wesley, "*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus.*" It reminds us that for centuries God promised to send His anointed one to rescue Israel. The Holy Scriptures prophesied His coming kingdom and several people had grown weary of the silence for almost 400 years. Yet there were others who remained hopeful; wondering and waiting, as the years slipped by.

In this hymn, Charles Wesley captures for us the deep yearning the Israelites must have felt as they waited the coming of the Messiah. As we look back, it is hard to fully appreciate their sense of anticipation. But, we find ourselves in a similar situation, don't we?

When Jesus left this earth and ascended to heaven, he promised to return. Still, after more than 2000 years, we wait for his return. Oh, what a joyous time that will be for all Christians! Even as we celebrate Christ's birth, we too, lift our voices to sing, "*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus.*"

I hope you will make your plans to join with others in our church family and participating in the many ways we prepare for and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

One idea - think of someone you know who doesn't have a church home and bring them with you to your church home!

In this season of preparation and waiting,

David

Your Pastor and Fellow Sojourner.

December 2009 Sermon Themes

DATE	SCRIPTURE	THEME
6th	Luke 1: 68—79	Peace
13th	Luke 3: 7—18	Getting Close
20th	Luke 1: 39—45	Looking
24th	Luke 2: 1—7	Celebration of Love
27th	Luke 2: 41—52	Proclamation

December

- David Beaman 12/3
- Arletta Capps 12/4
- Dell McCracken 12/4
- Mary Whitefield 12/4
- Michael Balster 12/7
- Samuel Waterman 12/7
- Danica Leonard 12/8
- Isabella Sloan 12/8
- Adeline Bottorff 12/8
- Kathleen Ballagh 12/9
- Eva McClure 12/9
- Jamie Foster 12/9
- Mike Coho 12/9
- Ben Davis 12/11
- Rita-Ly Hughes 12/12
- Stan Lundahl 12/12
- Richard Duffin 12/13
- Wendell Curry 12/13
- Susan Thronson 12/13
- Sandra Sawyer 12/13
- Ken Leonard 12/14
- Chelsea Bailey 12/14
- Julie Walters, Jr. 12/16
- Mary Green 12/17
- Marvin Truman 12/19
- Kent Unsworth 12/20
- Tierra Tomlin 12/20
- Doug Ballagh 12/21
- Harold Bailey 12/21
- Duncan Leonard 12/22
- Mary Johnson 12/23
- Cyndee Rohla 12/24
- Tom Gilliland 12/24
- Eric Duffin 12/26
- Jed Moore 12/27
- Nicole Baughman 12/27
- Roy Ferrari 12/28
- Mike Jacob 12/28
- Harry Egan 12/30
- Elizabeth Alquist 12/29
- Josiah Paredes 12/31



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

UMW Holiday Boutique Another Success!!



UMW's future -MacKenzie Gandy & Sadie Barber



Mary Thronson & Pat Wiemers



Who is this guy?



Linda & Caitlyn Herber



Becky ___??_ & Barbara Reineke



Rosemary MacKeen & Margaret Coombs



Sally Weitkamp—What a tasty breakfast!



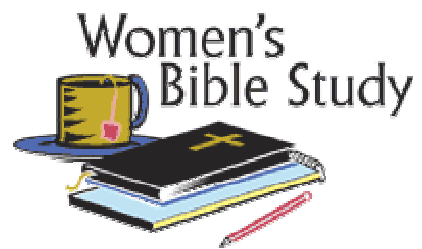
Sandra Sawyer, Rosemary MacKeen & Carleen Minckler

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
 Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year

Small-Group News



Join our Weekly Wednesday Bible Study for Advent
see page 11 for information

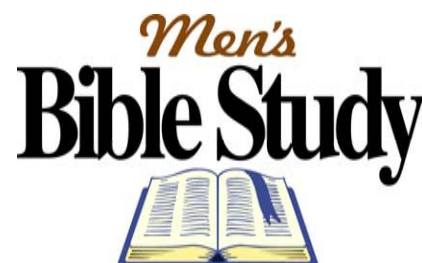


Every **Sunday morning** in the **McMillen Room** join the ladies of our church in search of strengthening their daily walk with Christ. This study is at **9:45 AM** and is open to all women who love the Lord and want to serve Him. The new book we will start is titled, "The Little Book of Letting Go: A Revolutionary 30 Day Program to Cleanse Your Mind, Lift Your Spirit, and Replenish Your Soul" by Hugh Prather.

All are welcome 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 a **new book for the season of Advent** called, *While We Wait*, by Mary Lou Redding. We look forward to having 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 this 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.



By Patti Melsheimer

DEALING WITH BACK PAIN DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Most of us who live on the Central Coast, do not have to worry much about straining our backs by shoveling snow but nevertheless we must be especially careful of our back during the holidays – lifting gifts that are too heavy, or carrying too many sacks of heavy groceries can easily strain one's back. Becoming stressed or depressed can also lead to back pain. If you have lower back pain, you are not alone. Back pain is the second most common neurological ailment in the United States — only headache is more common. Fortunately, most occurrences of low back pain go away within a few days. But some can take much longer to resolve or lead to more serious conditions.

Acute or *short-term* low back pain generally lasts from a few days to a few weeks. Most acute back pain is mechanical in nature — the result of trauma to the lower back or a disorder such as arthritis. Symptoms may range from muscle ache to shooting or stabbing pain, limited flexibility and/or range of motion, or an inability to stand straight. *Chronic* back pain is measured by duration — pain that persists for more than 3 months is considered chronic. It is often progressive and the cause can be difficult to determine.

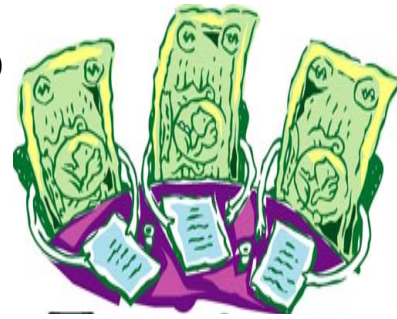
Conditions that may cause low back pain and require treatment by a physician or other health specialist include: *Bulging disc* (also called *protruding, herniated, or ruptured disc*) when inter-vertebral discs are under constant pressure and as discs degenerate and weaken, cartilage can bulge or be pushed into the space containing the spinal cord or a nerve root, causing pain; *Sciatica* is a condition in which a herniated or ruptured disc presses on the sciatic nerve, the large nerve that extends down the spinal column to its exit point in the pelvis and carries nerve fibers to the leg. This compression causes shock-like or burning low back pain combined with pain through the buttocks and down one leg to below the knee; *Spinal degeneration* from disc wear and tear can lead to a narrowing of the spinal canal. A person with spinal degeneration may experience stiffness in the back upon awakening or may feel pain after walking or standing for a long time. *Osteoporosis* is a metabolic bone disease marked by progressive decrease in bone density and strength.

The best way to prevent back pain is to keep your back muscles strong. Exercise! Activities such as walking, swimming or biking can increase lower back muscle strength and endurance. Protect your back by sitting and standing up straight. Avoid heavy lifting. If you do lift something heavy, bend your legs and keep your back straight. If you are overweight, losing weight can put less strain on your back. Lift things with your legs, not your back. Keep your back straight and bend at the knees or at the hips. Get help if the load is too heavy for you to lift alone.

Here are some things you can do at home if you experience back pain: Keep moving. Ease back into your daily activities. Avoid activities that cause back pain. Apply cold, then heat to soothe sore and inflamed muscles. Use over-the-counter pain relievers help control pain. Most back pain disappears with home treatment and self-care. In rare cases, back pain can signal a serious medical problem and you should consult your doctor.



- Trustees budget is not yet final due to line increases from 2009. It will be in the \$46,000 area. The Parsonage Fund went up only \$200 this past month but that is still in the positive direction.
- Thanks to a beautiful crew of ten men and women, the porticos are stained on both sides of the church.
- Most of the outside doors have been stained, some with 5 coats of stain. A couple of the inside doors will need one coat.
- One of the exit doors from Criswell Hall will need some professional work next April or May.
- Just recently, Norm did some cement work in the patio area. There were some uneven spots that was causing people to trip.
- Ted Sloan Jr. replaced some burnt out lights in the parking lot. He had to use a lift to do so. The Trustees are looking at renting or buying a used lift to replace the 40 foot extension ladder which the Trustees claimed to be unsafe at such a height. The lights in Criswell Hall and the Sanctuary are 25 to 40 feet up. Trees need to be trimmed and lights in the parking lot need to be changed from time to time. We could put a lift to work.
- The metal shed in the back has been sprayed once for spiders and will be sprayed again. After that it should be usable as a storage shed.
- The Ben Dohi family has been very generous and donated \$500 to the Memorial Fund.
- Betty Lorenz is still trying to line up a defibrillator class for a Saturday but that is not easy.
- It was mentioned that a French drain is still needed in the patio area.
- The 125th committee is looking for a 4 drawer filing cabinet to store archives. This will be placed in the McMillan Room.
- The Trustees have agreed to provide luminaries to light up the travel lanes for our upcoming Nativity Scene. This will take place on December 22 and 23 from 5:30 PM to 7 PM.
- It was also noted that some more research has to be done concerning the wall heater in one of the Children's Center's classroom. The wall heater can get hot to the touch.
- Monies from the Roy Collins Memorial Fund and the Murl Sloan Memorial Fund made the staining of the porticos possible. Money from the Bill Ford Memorial Fund made it possible to stain the doors.



TRUSTEES REPORT
November '09

May God Bless. ~Tom Egan, Trustees Chair



ATTENDANCE FINANCES

(Thru 11/22/09)

1st	161
8th	174
15th	182
22nd	163

Monthly Goal

\$ 22,220

Received to date

\$ 19,902

Difference

\$ - 2,318



It's not too late to make YOUR pledge!

Sunday Average = 170

One week to go—We can do it!!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6</p> <p>Coffee Hour—open 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service 11:45 AM Green Umbrella (MMR) Special Music Concert 3 PM Central Coast Celebration Chorus - "Sweet Adelines" (S)</p> <p>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM SPRC (MMR) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10:30 AM Communications (L) 2 PM Endowment (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers (115) 6 PM MS Support Group (MMR)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 1 PM Alzheimer's Care-Givers Support Group (MMR) 2 PM & 6 PM Advent Study (MMR) 7 PM Choir Rehearsal (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 12 PM Esther Circle (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers (115) 6:30 PM Budget Meeting (MMR)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30 AM Bible Study (L) AG UM CC Book Faire set-up (CH)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:30 AM UMM Breakfast Meeting at the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Coffee Hour—Esther Circle AG UM Children's Center Book Faire (CH) 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> <p>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>	<p>14</p> <p>AG UM CC Book Faire (CH) 10:30 AM AG UM CC Holiday Program Practice 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 AlaTeen (211)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>AG UM CC Book Faire (CH) 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10:30 AM AG UM CC Holiday Program Practice (S) 3 PM AGUMCC Board- closed (MMR) 4 PM AGUMCC - open (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers (115) 7 PM JOY Circle</p>	<p>16</p> <p>AG UM CC Book Faire (CH) 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9:30 AM Mary-Martha Circle (MMR) 10:30 AM AG UM CC Holiday Program Practice (S) 5 PM Grande Ringers (115) 2 PM & 6 PM Advent Study (MMR) 7 PM Choir Rehearsal (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>AG UM CC Book Faire (CH) 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 10:30 AM AG UM CC Holiday Program Practice (S) 5 PM Grande Ringers (115) 6:30 PM AG UM CC Holiday Program & Social</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Five Cities Christian Women set-up to gift wrap (CH) 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 1 PM Alzheimer's Care-Givers Support Group (MMR) 6:30 PM Praise Team Friday Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8 AM Five Cities Christian Women gift wrap (CH)</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Coffee Hour Communications Committee Handbell Sunday 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service 1 PM Five Cities Christian Women set-up to Distribute (CH) 3 PM Blue Christmas (S/MMR)</p> <p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6 AM Five Cities Christian Women Distribute (CH) 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 AlaTeen (211)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>12:30 PM Chess Camp (211) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers (115)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>2 PM & 6 PM Advent Study (MMR) 7 PM Choir Rehearsal (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6 PM Family Candlelight Service (S) 7:30 PM Traditional Candlelight Svc. (S)</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Coffee Hour—Open (need volunteer) 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>28</p> <p>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 AlaTeen (211)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 12:30 PM Chess Camp (211) 5 PM Grande Ringers (115)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 5:30 PM New Year's Potluck and Game Night (CH) 7 PM Quiet Holy Communion (S)</p>	<p>Welcome 2010!</p>	
<p>5:30-7 PM "The Holy Family" Live Nativity</p> <p><-Closed for Christmas-></p>						

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Giving Tree will be set up just as we do every year in Criswell Hall during the "Hanging of the Green" celebration. **This year the tree will stand beginning November 29th until December 21st.** The Giving Tree benefits children in the Child Welfare System with the Department of Social Services. Many families cannot afford to give their children the gifts they want, and the DPSS offers this as a resource for these families.

Here is how it works. The tree is decorated with colorful tags in duplicate. Each tag indicates what the child wishes for or what the child's parent wishes to give as a gift. First, choose a tag. Please take the colorfully decorated original tag for you to put on the UN-WRAPPED gift. Second, write your name on the duplicate tag and leave it on the Christmas tree. We do this to ensure that any misplaced tags are recovered and no child is left wanting. Lastly, bring your unwrapped toy to the church office for Jan Treat to pick up and deliver to the DPSS.

Christmas is a time of giving—a time to share the blessings of God's abundance with a joyful heart. Visit "The Giving Tree" and make a child's wish come true. We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity this year as in years past. Please contact Jan Treat or Child Welfare with any questions.



NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

Food Baskets



Five Cities Christian Women Emergency Food Bank

December 21, these faithful ladies will be giving out 60 baskets with donated food from our giving community. Food donations are always welcome. They are coming in *very slowly*—monetary donations are in desperate need for fresh vegetables, etc.

This is a list of necessary items: frozen turkeys; canned cranberries, canned yams (large), canned fruit (large), and canned vegetables, canned olives, canned milk, and canned pumpkin (large); boxes of dressing (large); cake mix and frosting; Jell-O (large); chicken broth; and boxed mashed potatoes. Monies can be mailed to PO Box 756, Grover Beach 93483; call Fern 481-2877 regarding all food donations. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

Thank You

From the Ponce Family~
Amanda, Faustino,
Samantha, Joseph, Sarah
and soon to be born,
baby Timmothy.

God Bless! You are a blessing -Thank you!
Thank you!!



A Visit With Alice Addison by Michael Thurman

I first met Alice in August when she was invited by Barbara Reineke to join our church choir; we again got acquainted at Tom Egan's "portico painting" Saturday in October; and then I got drafted to interview her. What a "Forest Gump-ish" life she has had!

The newest member of the UMC of AG gravitated to Arroyo Grande from Washington, D.C. via Santa Barbara. The family in which Alice grew and flourished, provided leadership and encouragement, as well as the opportunity to travel. We note here that her mother, a Pulitzer—Prize traveling scholar in journalism, was writing in Rio de Janerio where she met her future husband, John Adams. Alice's father became the CBS White House correspondent who predicted President Thurman's defeat of Dewey! Later with her journalist parents, covering the Berlin situation, Alice and family were in Berlin when the Berlin Wall went up on August 15, 1961.

As a high school student, Alice enjoyed the music of her church choir, the glee club, and folk singing club—and even got tickets to the first Beatles concert in D.C., "Ya, Ya, Ya!"

She was on the yearbook staff and carried on the family's journalistic traditions at the University of Santa Barbara editing for the yearbook committee, while studying Spanish and French. Later, received her bachelor's degree in history. She herself a master's from Pepperdine, and went on to graduate with honors in doctoral studies in Linguistics from Georgetown University.

Alice began her teaching career in Santa Barbara and continued on to Santa Maria High School, recently completing 31 years on the foreign language faculty. Her life has been enhanced by the following:

1. a fortunate marriage partner;
2. writing opportunities in D.C., working on the staff for a U.S. Senator, a magazine, and later editing and writing numerous articles for language journals, especially when serving as President of *Latesol*, the state English as a second language teacher's organization;
3. continual "living and learning" abroad, whereupon she mastered the language and culture of Mexico, Spain and France. Yes, Alice is tri-lingual.
4. local volunteerism with *Altrusa* (she is the former president) AAUW (also former president) and the South County Historical Society.
5. a wonderful teaching profession, receiving numerous awards, including teacher of the year honors, and grants.

In May 2009, Alice's husband of 36 years, Tony Addison, passed away. This might have extinguished the *joie de vivre* of most, but not so for Alice. She is emerging from the loss, revitalized and attuned again to God's miracles, ready to work and sing. She now has returned home to the music of the church she attended with her family when she was young.

Thank you, Alice, for your service, your gifts, and your presence here at the UMC of AG.



★ EXTRA! EXTRA! ★

Men's News



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

Our UMM generally meet on the third Saturday of each month at the **Mission Inn of Pismo Beach** at **8:30 AM** for prayer, breakfast, and discussion of various topics pertinent to our community and the world. Check your bulletins or monthly newsletter for scheduled events and/or changes.

Melinda's November Visit -What A Lovely Young Lady!

During an outstanding meeting on November 21st, a large attendance of both men and women listened to the uplifting message of Melinda Marchiano (grand-daughter to Bud and Betty Johnson) and her experience with battling cancer at the young age of 15. The presentation was definitely a high point of the programs scheduled in 2009.

Methodist Men Will Tend To Business December 12th

The December meeting scheduled for the 12th, will be a roundtable discussion of the programs and business of the United Methodist Men for the coming 2010 calendar year. **The meeting has been scheduled earlier in the month to avoid any conflict with the Christmas holiday plans.**

The yearly business meeting is also a time of fellowship as well as an exchange of ideas for what the men want in the programs for the following year. Meeting time is 8:30 AM as usual. The fabulous Breakfast Buffet cost \$13 per person. See you there!

Oh...so sorry! There will be NO Pancake Breakfast served on December 13th.

For information on UMM and their activities, please contact one of the Co-Presidents - Tom Egan or Bill Weitkamp whose contact information is available in the church office. ~Val McClure, UMM Publicity

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR



Remember Those in the Military

SPECIAL DATES

- 2nd Sunday of Advent, December 6
- 3rd Sunday of Advent, December 13
- 4th Sunday of Advent, December 20
- First day of winter, December 21
- Christmas Eve, December 24
- Christmas Day, December 25
- New Year's Eve, December 31



Christmas
December 24 - 28
New Years Day
January 1
Regular office
hours will re-
sume Monday
1/4/2010 at 9 AM.



You are invited to a special evening of holiday fun with an **Advent Study Kick-Off Supper** in Criswell Hall at **5:30 PM** on **December 2nd**. We will enjoy a nice meal of chili and cornbread and homemade soups as a church family. (Thank you to the Green Umbrella for the "good eats"). Come and spend time as a church family, decorating cookies with the kids, making Christmas crafts and playing advent games.

After which we will begin the first of the **Weekly Wednesday Bible Study for the Advent Season** led by Pastor David Burgeson.

As with previous studies, there will be two times in which to participate. **Beginning December 9th**, you can choose to attend the **2 PM** or **6 PM** study **each Wednesday** throughout the Advent season, ending December 23rd.

An Advent Blessing

May you have the Spirit of Christmas, which is Peace,
The Gladness of Christmas, which is Hope,
The Heart of Christmas, which is Love,
The Gift of Christmas, which is Christ.
—Ada Hendricks

The atmosphere at this time of year tends to be happy and upbeat. Boy, is that annoying when you are feeling like a "Bah! Humbug!" and just aren't in a festive mood, especially if you are suffering difficult circumstances. The reality is, people are hurting, grieving a loss, whether the loss be by choice and/or circumstance. The biggest sigh of relief for people who are grieving comes when you name it ; when you say, 'Hey, I am having a hard year.'

This **Blue Christmas** service is just for this purpose! We invite you on **December 20th at 3 PM** to come and spend time with us in our church sanctuary.

This short service will help us deal with our emotions and feelings at this "joyful" time. There will be time during the service to acknowledge and name your loss. A special coffee time of fellowship will follow.

Candlelight Christmas

Eve Services

'Come All Ye Faithful' and join with the angels in announcing the birth of our Lord and Savior in a **Family Candlelight Service** at **6 PM** or for a more **Traditional Candlelight Service** at **7:30 PM**



in our sanctuary. This is a beautiful tradition for churches everywhere. *Come be a part of ours.*



New Year's Eve Family Fun and Game Night

Join us on the **Eve of the New Year (12/31)** at **5:30 PM** in **Criswell Hall**. *Bring your favorite game and tasty potluck dish to share with your church family.* This is a perfect time to share the blessings of 2009 and get ready for what God has in store for 2010!

You don't want to miss this!

New Year's Eve Quiet Holy Communion

Join us at any time between **7 and 7:30 PM** in our sanctuary for an *informal* self-directed service. A guide will be available to assist you in reflection of the past year and anticipate the New Year. Holy Communion will be available for those who wish to participate.



"Together We Can!" compiled by Jerry Smith

Recently, I was handed a new UMC handbook titled: *The United Methodist Church - Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World—Together we can!*

After sorting through its 46 pages, I discovered it to be a resourceful full-colored booklet with many explicit photos and a spiritual storyline depicting an inspiring review of Methodists. It illustrated the church uniting on a mission to follow Jesus Christ and transform the world. I would like to share with you a few excerpts from this multipurpose publication developed as a communications tool to strengthen our ministry.

The greatest expression of Jesus Christ is to follow Him wherever He wants us to go. That is how we discover hope. We lay down priorities of the day; see through the distractions of this world and follow. (Jesus taught that lesson in John 21: 15-19. He asked his loyal disciple, Simon, son of John, "do you know me?" When Simon Peter assured Jesus the answer was "yes," Jesus instructed him, "Follow me." -John 21:19b NRSV)

In the defining words of UMC Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, President, and Council of Bishops – "our church has taken bold steps to help us all align around our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." We strive to make a difference as we: A) develop principled Christian leaders for the church and the world, B) create new places for new people and renew existing congregations, C) engage in ministry with the poor, and D) stamp out the killer diseases of poverty by improving health globally.

Bishop Palmer is confident that if we robustly engage in these four areas of focus, we will renew the church in gospel faithfulness, deepen our sense of connection, and join God in transforming this world.

Stamping Out the Killer Diseases of Poverty by Improving Health Globally

When people regain health, lives change. This focus area calls United Methodists to reverse the greatest damage caused by poverty, **disease**. It urges us to ease the pain and suffering of the world's poor and those without access to affordable health care as a powerful, tangible method of witnessing to God's desire that all should experience life abundantly and flourish. This allows us to create a sense of uniting purpose for United Methodists the world over.

Methodist founder John Wesley felt passionately about the value of ministry to the poor. He taught in his 1741 Primitive Physic, among other teachings, that health and wholeness are matters of spiritual concern.

Our People

United Methodists are, by design, a people dedicated to a life of Christian purpose – **Do No Harm – Do Good – Stay In Love With God**. We are to live a life of participation and personal responsibility of generosity, sacrifice and self-restraint, in response to the call of Jesus Christ. We open our hearts, our minds and our doors in answer to the call of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We believe that the church is the body of Christ; an extension of Christ's life and ministry in the world today. Methodists believe the church is communion with saints, a community made up of past, present and future disciples of Christ. We believe that the church is called to worship God and to support those who participate in life as they grow in faith.

It's good to be a Methodist!

SOURCE: *The UMC Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World - 2009.*



NEWS & Notes



Esther Circle meets on the 2nd Thursday at noon in the McMillen Room here at UMC of AG. This month's meeting is scheduled for the **10th**. We will share a potluck lunch and exchange "white elephant" gifts. The ladies continue to study the Native Americans. Information contact—Peggy Gainer.

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 **16th**. The ladies continue to study Trevor Hudson's book, "Questions God Asks Us." Information contact—Rosemary MacKeen.

Mary-Martha Circle meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the McMillen Room here at UMC of AG at 9:30 AM. This month's meeting is scheduled for the **15th**. Information contact—Bee Frantz.

The United Methodist Women wish to thank everyone for their contributions to the tremendous success of the Holiday Boutique and Brunch on November 14th.

Dedicated and talented participants worked long and hard at quilting, sewing, baking, creating holiday decorations, cultivating plants and so on. In the end, they all created the lovely collection of items which made the event such a success.

A special word of thanks to:

- all of you who came to look and stayed to eat and purchase, purchase, purchase.
- all the strong arms and backs that helped with the physical set-up of the Hall for our event.
- the many talented chefs and servers who made the brunch such a delight. We have heard nothing but compliments on the food and service!
- the Sew 'n' Sews who produced such a lovely quilt. "Here Kitty Kitty" produced \$800 in opportunity tickets. Many hours of time and talent went into the making of that spectacular quilt.
- finally, to Vard Ikeda for providing the wonderful fresh veggies. They were spectacular.

I hope that we didn't overlook anyone in our appreciation. All who participated were truly a blessing and to each we are extremely grateful.

We do not have a dollar figure on the event's earnings as of this article date. But all of the proceeds from this special day will be used to help organizations which provide assistance to needy women and families both locally and through the mission outreach of the United Methodist Church.

If there is any woman interested in becoming a part of this creative and supportive fellowship, our door is open!

Thanks again everyone!! ~ Eva McClure



United Methodist Women

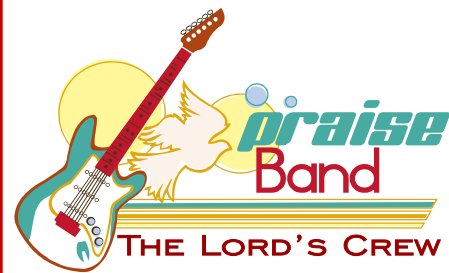
"The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."



Choir Notes Choir Prepares for Advent & Christmas

The Chancel Choir has begun rehearsing special music for Advent. In addition to the four Sundays of Advent, the Choir will also perform two anthems on Christmas Eve at the Candlelight Service. The Choir will perform a mix of both new and old anthems during the Advent season. Come and join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. New members are welcome. Rehearsals are from 7:00 to 8:30 PM on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary. See you there!

~ Kent Unsworth, *Choir Publicity*



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

12/5

12/18

*MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU
IN THE NEW YEAR!*

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

Can You Give of Your Time This Season?

We have ordered our beautiful Christmas Poinsettias once again which we include every year in decorating our Sanctuary for the holidays!

This year our Blue Umbrella has decided to do things a little differently. We will be delivering these festive flowers no our shut-in members earlier than usual to allow them to enjoy the visit and the decoration through the week of Christmas. If you can help us deliver, please be sure to let Cyndee Rohla and the Blue Umbrella know or check the "I can deliver" box on your order form that will be in bulletins throughout the month of December.

Be sure to clearly mark your dedication on the form. All payments must note — *poinsettias*—to ensure that you are credited your payment. Thank you!! Happy Holidays!!!



A Special Grocery List

A poorly dressed lady walked into a grocery store, with defeat clearly on her face.

She humbly approached the owner of the store and asked him to allow her to charge a few groceries.

Softly she explained that her husband was very ill and unable to work. The family had seven children and needed food.

The grocer, scoffed at her and requested that she leave his store at once.

Recognizing the urgent needs of her family, she said earnestly, 'Please, sir, I will bring you the money just as soon as I can.'

The grocer told her he could not give her credit because she did not have a charge account at the store.

Standing beside the counter was a customer who overheard this conversation. He walked forward toward the grocer and said that he would stand good for whatever she needed. The grocer reluctantly said, 'Do you have a grocery list?'

'Yes sir,' the lady replied. With a hint of mocking sarcasm, the grocer then said, 'OK, put your grocery list on the scales. Whatever your grocery list weighs, I will match it in groceries.'

The lady hesitated a moment with a bowed head knowing the grocer had no intention of helping her family. She obediently

reached into her purse and slowly took out a piece of paper. On it she scribbled something. With her head still bowed, she laid the piece of paper on the scale.

The grocer and the customer couldn't hide their amazement as the store scales went down and *stayed down*.

The grocer stood there staring, his expression validating his words 'I can't believe it!'

The customer smiled gratefully when the grocer finally started placing the groceries one by one on the other side of the scale. The scale did not balance right away. So the grocer continued to put more and more groceries on them until they could hold no more.

Finally the grocer grabbed the piece of paper from the scales and looked at it with even greater amazement.

It was not a grocery list at all! On it he read these words: '*Dear Lord, you know my needs and I am leaving this in your hands.*'

The grocer gave her what he had gathered and continued to stand in stunned silence.

The lady thanked him and left. The customer handed the grocer some money and said; 'It was worth every penny of it. Only God knows how much a prayer weighs.'

*"...your Father in heaven
knows your every need."*
Matthew 6:32b



We are in the Advent Season now and the library has a special section with books and videos designated to this topic. The videos are of programs presented here in the church in the 80's and 90's.

There are many children's books that explain the true meaning of Christmas on their level. There are many books on the meaning of advent and how to celebrate it. *Christmas from the Back Side* by J. Ellsworth Kalas, gives us a new look at some of the old familiar stories. Another good book is *First Christmas* by Paul L. Maier.

We also have books on decoration and crafts. Come check out the library.

A Child Is Born

*A Haiku by Sadie Kyle Barber
(9 years old)*

A sleeping baby.
He does not look like a king.
Cow are lowing;
He is our Savior.
The animals wake Him up;
He will die for us.

