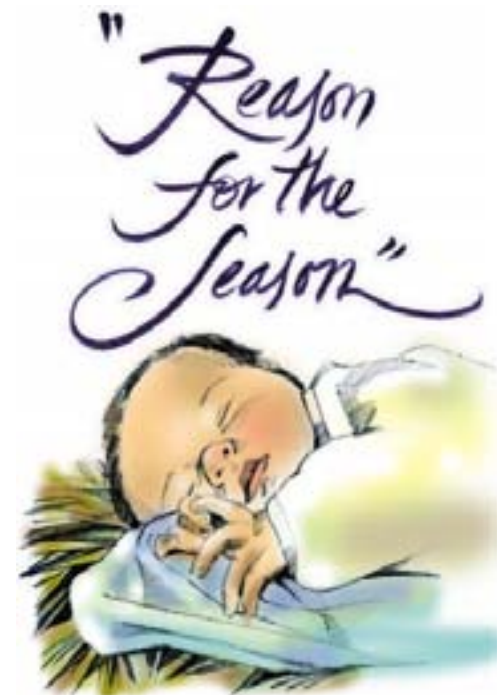


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The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande Cast~A~Net December 2010

"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

Pastor's Wednesday Advent Study

Wednesdays of Advent we invite you to look at —'Christmas: *The Good, The Bad, The Ugly*' by Richard B. Wilke which will be our guide book for Pastor David latest weekly study. Meet us in the McMillen Room at 2 PM or 6 PM. All are welcome to join the kids for a spaghetti dinner at 5:15 PM in Criswell Hall.

Kids Night Out — 'Under the Tree'

A new **Wednesday night** group will begin on December 1st to study "Under The Tree" - the Advent Story. ALL elementary kids are welcome as we begin our night in the Sanctuary to begin this special journey! Join us for **Spaghetti at 5:15 PM—our program will start at 5:45 PM.**

"A Service of Hope" Blue Christmas

Not in the "holiday spirit" this year due to a loss or a change in circumstance meet us on **December 5th at 6:30 PM** in the sanctuary for a time of reflection and prayer followed by a time of light fellowship in Criswell Hall.

AG UM Children's Center Holiday Program

December 16th at 7 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 will follow the program. Please look at the *Children's Center Chronicle* insert for more information.

Carol and Sing-a-Long at the Clark Center

December 19th at 4 PM, join our chancel choir in a community sing-a-long at the Clark Center. Enjoy music and help raise funds for music programs at local schools. Tickets are \$10 for adults and are going fast. Call the box office at 489-9444 or buy online at clarkcenter.org. See page 11 for more details.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

'O Come All Ye Faithful' to an evening Candlelight Services. 'The Nativity' will be our program for our **Family Service at 6 PM** or join us at our more **Traditional Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 PM** in our church sanctuary. We hope to see you there!

New Year's Eve 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.

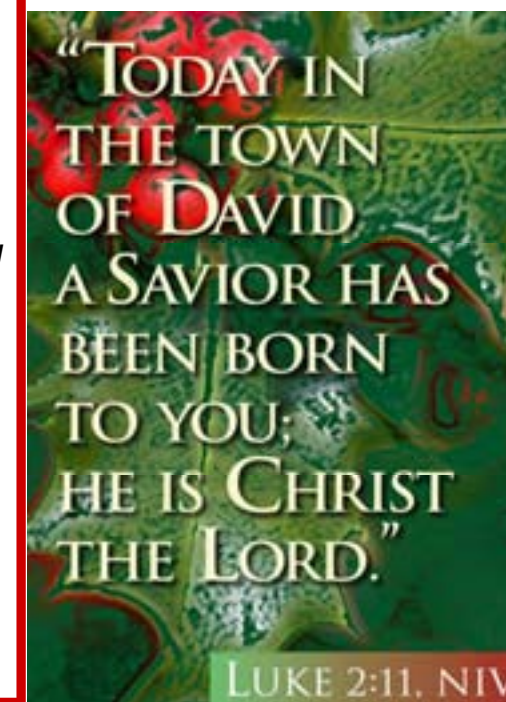
Advent

Then & Now

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

Advent in Greek is *parousia*, which was often used to talk about Jesus' second coming. So Advent is a season of waiting and preparation not only for the celebration of Jesus' earthly birth but for his promised return.

Some Christians celebrate Advent by not putting the baby Jesus into their manger scenes until Christmas morning. This adds to the anticipation that's a special part of the season.



Find Your Path This Christmas.



Visit 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
Chancel Choir Director:
Julie Walters
The Lord's Crew Director:
Susan Coho
Organist:
Don McGuire
Choral Pianist:
Dennis Eiler
Puppet People:
Mike Herber

Grande Ringers Handbell Dir.:
Leonard Lutz
Adult Ministry Director:
Sandra Sawyer
UM Youth Directors:
Mike & Linda Herber
Children's Ministry Director:
Carolyn Russell-Williams
Christian Counseling Intern:
Carol Gandy
Bishop:
Mary Ann Swenson
District Superintendent:
Rev. Cathleen Coots

AG UM Children's Center
agumcc@sbcglobal.net
(805) 481-2223

Director: Madrigal Quaglino



In This Issue

Shepherd's Notes.....2
 December Calendar.....3
 UM Men's News.....4
 News of the UMW.....5
 Trustees Report & Misc.....6
 "Feed My People".....7
 Miscellaneous.....8
 Help Our Community.....9
 UM Youth News.....10
 Choir & Praise Team Info....11
 "Overcoming...".....12
 Kids Page.....13
 Misc. Small Group Info.....14
 Evening With St. Nicholas...15

Insert

▪ AG UM CC Chronicle

Communications

Committee:

Chair: David Beaman
(in alphabetical order)

Sarah Barber, Pastor David Burgeson, Heidi Carpentier, Betty Johnson, Virginia Mothes & Jerry Smith.

Layout Editor:

Sarah Barber

Proof Readers:

David Beaman, Betty Johnson, & Virginia Mothes.

Photos by:

Gary Hughes and varied members.

Pastor David Burgeson



Dear Church Family,

The season of Advent and Christmas bring a variety of emotions: joy and anticipation; thankfulness and understanding; tiredness and

maybe a hint of loneliness. Think back on some of your previous seasons of Advent and Christmas, haven't some been better than others? My point is life is a series of high and low times blended together.

Thankfully there is one truth you and I can count on no matter the time: our God always has and will remain good. God's character does no change with the seasons, He is the same now just as on that first Christmas when he sent his son, Jesus, as a little baby so that eventually he would give his for all people, not some all! What an awesome gift, God would have sent Jesus if only one of us needed him. His life changed ours.

Tradition has been I have reflected on hymns of the Advent and season, when write my thoughts in newsletters for December. One I chose this year is "O Little Town of Bethlehem" written by Phillips Brooks in 1868. The message of the hymn *new life*. God's people waited for hundreds of years for the promised one - *the Messiah* - who would save them. One beautiful evening in a small village outside of the city of Jerusalem, eternity was changed forever. Pause and think about that in a new and fresh way - Jesus was born for you! Here I give you verse four of he special hymn.

*O HOLY CHILD OF BETHLEHEM, DESCEND TO US, WE PRAY; CAST OUT OUR SIN AND ENTER IN, BE BORN IS US TODAY.
 WE HEAR THE CHRISTMAS ANGELS THE GREAT GLAD TIDINGS TELL; O COME TO US, ABIDE WITH US, OUR LORD EMMANUEL!*

Friends, God wants some much more for your life than you can even in your wildest dreams imagine. What an incredible gift God has given us!

A portion of John 10:10 says: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. Merry Christmas!



- David Beaman 12/3
- Arletta Capps 12/4
- Kent Olsen 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
- Gage Dowd 12/9
- Ben Davis 12/11
- Mike Coho 12/9
- Rita-Ly Hughes 12/12
- Stan Lundahl 12/12
- Richard Duffin 12/13
- Susan Thronson 12/13
- Sandra Sawyer 12/13
- Ken Leonard 12/14
- Karen Brown 12/16
- Chelsea Bailey 12/14
- Julie Burns 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



An Evening with Saint Nicholas

on The Evening of *St. Nicholas Day*
December 6, 2010 at
7 PM in the UMC of AG Sanctuary

Join us this evening to hear from the venerable ol' man himself. Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, will personally share his story, from his birth and childhood in Patara, through his days as a leader of the Church. He will weave through the legends and stories that have built up around him and share some of his thoughts regarding today's amalgam we call Santa Claus.

For St. Nicholas, it's all about sharing God's love.

Bring your friends!

A freewill offering will be taken for the UMC of AG's Benevolence Fund which goes to help the needy of our church and in our community.

Saint Nicholas will be portrayed by Jamie Foster.

Childcare will be provided for Kindergarten through 3rd grade, and nursery care will be provided for those younger.

Please RSVP for childcare by December 3, 2010 at Noon.

Call the church office - 481-2692.



Sunday	8:30 AM	10:30 AM	Nursery	Kids/Youth	Teachers	TOTAL
7th	37	143	2	22/7	5	216
14th	38	115	3	14/8	4	182
21st	35	134	2	19/7	5	202
24th	THANKSGIVING EVE ECUMENICAL SERVICE					168
28th	41	141	0	10/7	4	203

"Learn the Bible in 24 Hours" by Dr. Chuck Missler is the title of our current **Men's Bible Study** book. **Every Monday at 7 PM** in room 215 we welcome other men who would like to join in deepening their walk with Christ.



Our Adult Sunday School class is having great discussion on the book of Acts. These letters to the church at Corinth give us the tools as Christians on how we are to spread the Word of God as disciples of Christ.

Grab a snack in Criswell Hall to feed your body and we will meet you **after the 8:30 service** in the McMillen Room to nourish our souls. A new study will begin in January!



Come for a special & joyful evening of study & fellowship with your sisters in Christ.

Join us from 7-8:30 PM on the 3rd Friday evening of each month in the beautiful candlelight of the McMillen Room of our church.

You don't want to miss this -- *it's like a spa for your spirit!*

See you soon, alumni and newcomers alike.

For further information or questions call *Sandra Sawyer*.



This non-denominational women's group meets on **Mondays at 7 PM** 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. *Contact Susan Coho through the church office if you have any questions.*



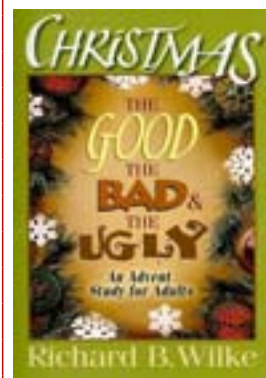
**Need Prayer?
Got Praise?**

Bring it to our Prayer Chain. Contact **Pauline Castillo** and she will set the chain in motion.

REQUESTS CAN REMAIN ANONYMOUS

Every **Thursday at 10AM**, a dedicated group of prayer warriors, we call our **Intercessory Prayer Group**, meet in the Library to pray for members of our church family and the community as they lift up requests given to our prayer chain, those mentioned in worship, or on request cards.

We invite ANY who would like to join in intercession and lift up these prayers and praises to God our Father.



Pastor's Advent Study

Beginning December 1st

"Christmas: The Good, the Bad, the Ugly" by Richard B. Wilke. See you Wednesdays at 2 PM or 6 PM in the MMR. *Join us for dinner at 5:15 PM in Criswell Hall.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
<p>ABBREVIATION LEGEND</p> <p>MMR McMillen Room CH Criswell Hall K Kitchen S Sanctuary N Narthex P/S Pastor's Study L Library</p>						<p>1 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM EOC Senior Health Screening 10 AM UMM Board Meeting (L) 11 AM Blue Umbrella (MMR) 2 PM & 6 PM Pastor's Study (MMR) 5:15 PM Family Supper (CH) 5:45 PM Kid's Night Out (S/CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>2 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 11:45 AM People's Kitchen <i>leave to serve</i> 5 PM Grande Ringers 7 PM Red Umbrella</p>	<p>3 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 3:30 PM AG UM CC Closed 4 PM AG UM CC Staff Development (MMR)</p>	<p>4 2:00 —3:30 PM Adventures of Dr. Chess (211) 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearse (S) 5:30 PM Bottorff Private Party (CH) <i>set-up 3:30 PM</i> 3 PM Sweet Adelines Rehearse (S)</p>
<p>5 Coffee Hour Host-Finance Committee 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:30 AM Sunday School/Bible Study (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service 3 PM Music for a Sunday Afternoon <i>Sweet Adeline's Christmas Concert</i> (S) 6:30 PM Blue Christmas (S)</p>	<p>6 10 AM UMW Steering (MMR) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR) 7 PM Evening with Saint Nicholas (S)</p>	<p>7 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers (MMR) 7 PM Trustees (MMR)</p>	<p>8 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 1 PM Alzheimer's Care-Givers Support Group (CH) 2 PM & 6 PM Pastor's Study (MMR) 5:15 PM Family Supper (CH) 5:45 PM Kid's Night Out (S/CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>9 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 12 PM Esther Circle (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers</p>	<p>10 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>11 2—3:30 PM Adventures of Dr. Chess (211) 8:30 AM UMM Breakfast at Mission Inn of Pismo Beach</p>			
<p>12 Coffee Hour Host-Staff-Parish Relations 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:30 AM Sunday School/Bible Study (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>13 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)</p>	<p>14 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10:30 AM Communications Com. (L) 2:30 PM Preschool Board closed session (MMR) 3:30 PM Preschool Board -open session (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 7 PM Finance (MMR)</p>	<p>15 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9:30 AM Mary-Martha Circle (MMR) 2 PM & 6 PM Pastor's Study (MMR) 5:15 PM Family Supper (CH) 5:45 PM Kid's Night Out (S/CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>16 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers 7 PM AG UM Children's Center Holiday Program (S)</p>	<p>17 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearse (S) 7 PM Touch of Beauty (MMR) AG UM CC Pajama Day</p>	<p>18 2:00 —3:30 PM Adventures of Dr. Chess (211)</p>			
<p>19 Coffee Hour Host-Blue Umbrella 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:30 AM Sunday School/Bible Study (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>20 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)</p>	<p>21 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 7 PM JOY Circle</p>	<p>22 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 2 PM & 6 PM Pastor's Study (MMR) 5:15 PM Family Supper (CH) 5:45 PM Kid's Night Out (S/CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>23 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers</p>	<p>24 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 6 PM Family Candlelight Service 7:30 PM Traditional Candlelight Service Office Closed</p>	<p>25</p>			
<p>Dec. 20-24 AG UM Children's Center Winter Break - SCHOOL CLOSED →</p>									
<p>26 Coffee Hour Host-Church Council 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:30 AM Sunday School/Bible Study (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>27 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)</p>	<p>28 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers</p>	<p>29 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 5:15 PM Family Supper (CH) 5:45 PM Kid's Night Out (S/CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>30 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearse (S)</p>	<p>31 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 7 PM Game Night and Potluck (CH) 7-7:30 PM Quiet Holy Communion (S)</p>	<p>Happy New Year!</p>			



Start your day off RIGHT and get to know your church family in this small group setting. **Fridays at 8:30 AM** in the church Library. No time like the present to get involved. Our current study book is titled, **Be Alive: A Study of John's Gospel Chapters 1-10**. See you there!





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

Submitted by Bill Weitkamp

December 11 Meeting to Feature Walk to Emmaus

The Walk to Emmaus weekend scheduled for February 24-27 in Ventura will be explained by Pastor David at the monthly breakfast meeting of the United Methodist Men on Saturday, December 11. The Walk to Emmaus® is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders.

A business meeting will follow the program. A spring golf tournament, charitable funding and meeting plans are on the agenda.

Please notice that December 11 is the second Saturday of the month, not our usual third-Saturday meeting day. But we will be meeting at our usual time and place, 8:30 AM at the Mission Inn, 601 James Way in Pismo Beach. Everyone is welcome at all UMM meetings. For more information about meetings and other events, call Tom Egan or Bill Weitkamp .

Helping Soldiers and Children in Afghanistan

Following an inspiring talk at the October 16 UMM meeting, it was voted to donate \$300 to a program that provides care packages for soldiers and village children in the far reaches of Afghanistan. Former marine Si Tennenberg described how 5,500 packages have been sent to Iraq and Afghanistan in the last four years. Each military package is shared by several soldiers.

Thank-you emails he receives describe the extreme weather conditions, the loneliness and the lack of basic items that men and women are tolerating. It is easy to see how even their heavy backpacks can't provide many of their needs. Special military shirts, socks, gloves, eye drops, soap, toothpaste and phone cards are a few of the requested items. Special needs for women are panties, sports bras, tampons, facial cleaning wipes, hairbrushes, Mydol, lip gloss and more. Children's gifts include school supplies, clothing, shoes, stuffed animals and toys.

In addition to the UMM donation, members took addressed packages to the post office after the meeting and paid the \$12.50 postage to mail them. Each box contains about \$40 worth of supplies. But Tennenberg said that something as simple as letters, notes or crayon drawings can be contributed and he will put them in the boxes. His email address is sitenspot@aol.com.



NATIVITY SCENE POTS

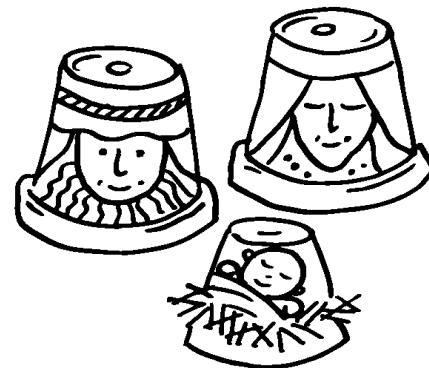
Celebrate the joy of Christmas — and remember Jesus' birth — by making this craft to decorate your home or to give as a gift.

What you need:

- 3 terra cotta pots (any size)
- Acrylic paints (including one for skin color)
- Paintbrush
- Craft glue (or a glue gun, with an adult to help)
- Brown yarn
- Material swatches
- Straw-colored raffia

What you do:

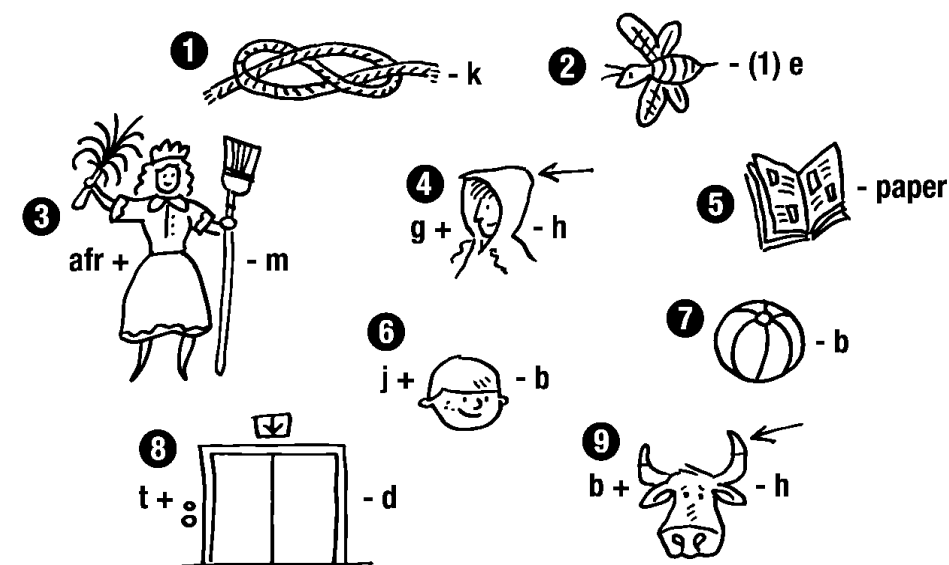
1. Decide which pot will be Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus. Turn each pot upside-down and paint a face on each one.
2. Decorate the pots by painting hair and clothes or by using yarn and material as hair and head coverings.
3. For baby Jesus, glue raffia along the bottom to look like straw in a manger.



The angel's message

On the first Christmas Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.

Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.



“Do _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 . I bring you _____ 4
_____ 5 of great _____ 6 that will be for _____ 7 the people.
Today in the _____ 8 of David a Savior has been _____ 9

to you; **he is Christ the Lord.**” Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answers: 1. knot-k=not; 2. bee-(1)e=be; 3. afr+maid-m=afraid; 4. g+hood-h=good; 5. newspaper-paper=news; 6. j+boy-b=joy; 7. ball-b=all; 8. t+down-d=town; 9. b+horn-h=born
“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Overcoming Discouragement

Part—1



Compiled by Jerry Smith

"Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in you"

Psalm 39:7 (NLT)

When "Jim" left my office at church, I was elated. Our meeting had been a tough but productive one. As his boss, I worked hard to help Jim understand my expectations and where he had been falling short. I tried to be gracious as I spoke critically, and Jim received my counsel with a willing spirit. Months of supervisory effort seemed finally to be bearing fruit. An immensely talented young man, Jim had great potential to be an outstanding member of the church staff. Thus I was encouraged by his response to our meeting and looked forward with hope to our future together.

When I arrived at my office the next morning, a blank envelope sat ominously on my desk. It contained Jim's resignation letter. He was finished at the church. There was nothing I could do or say to change his mind.

At that moment I felt deeply discouraged. My hope for Jim's fruitful future at our church shrivelled on the vine. I felt like a dismal failure as a boss. Who was I to think I could manage a large church staff? Maybe I should just pack up my bags and find more suitable employment.

You may not have faced something just like my experience with Jim, but I expect you have felt the heavy weight of discouragement. Maybe it came at work, as a project for which you had high hopes fell apart. Perhaps it had to do

with a close relationship that splintered owing to a misunderstanding. Or your discouragement might have resulted from frustration with your inability to be the kind of person you know God wants you to be.

Discouragement ... such a common emotion ... how can we overcome it? How can we get beyond discouragement, and even learn from it?

Go Ahead and Feel Discouraged

First of all, if you want to overcome discouragement, allow yourself to feel discouraged. No, I don't recommend that you rev up negative feelings that aren't there. But if you are truly discouraged, don't pretend otherwise. Trust God enough to feel what you really feel.

Some Christians think that discouragement itself is something about which to be ashamed, almost as if it were a sin. One of my favorite hymns, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," urges: "Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer." Perhaps in an ideal world we should never be discouraged. But in reality, discouragement is a normal part of human life. The Psalmist asked for God's help with despair (see Psalms 42-43). The Apostle Paul admitted his own deep discouragement (2 Cor. 1:8-9). If we deny our discouragement and pretend we're "just fine," we won't be able to overcome it.

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United Methodist Women

Ann Williamson, UMW Publicity

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

at Carleen Minckler's house on 12/9 at noon.

Mary Martha

at Sally Weitkamp's house on 12/15 at 9:30 AM

JOY Circle

at Patti Melsheimer's house on 12/21 at 7 PM

IT'S CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME!

THE PERFECT TIME TO JOIN US!

Check with your UMW Circle Chair for location and other information – contact information available in the church office

Ho-Ho-Ho and Merry Christmas to all in this our Advent Season!

As you know the hard working ladies of our church made a great success of our Holiday Boutique held November 13th at our church. The yummy Holiday Brunch was a great hit! We've had many requests for the egg casserole that was served...here it is:

Mexican Souffle

10 eggs	1 pint	non-fat cottage cheese
1/2 C. flour	1/2 tsp.	salt
1 tsp. baking powder	1 lb.	grated jack cheese
1/2 C melted butter	2 small cans of Ortega chilies	

***add bacon crumbles—optional*

Beat eggs and combine rest of ingredients. Pour mixture into a buttered 9 x 13 inch dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.

In addition to our fabulous brunch, we really met our goals in sales at the boutique. Between the brunch and the boutique sales, we grossed about \$3650. Praise God!

Thank you one and all for attending our affair. Also to those ladies who generously donated their time and talents to make this such a great success. Your help and creative ideas were not un-noticed!

God is great and the proceeds from our sales will all go to our world, national, and local mission projects. Merry Christmas one and all!





Tom Egan, Chair

- Due to a generous donation, the bus has been lettered. Did you see it?
- Tom will do a trip to Wal-Mart to buy a port-a-crib.
- The cabin has been finished and was dedicated. Check for pages for pictures.
- Some time ago, The Board stated that all posting of drives, coming events, or news that needed to be shared will be done so on the cork boards only. Not on the windows, walls or stanchions. Thanks for your compliance.
- Mike and Tom will get a lift to work on the burnt out lights.
- The fruit flies have finally left us!
- Don said that the piano needs repair and to be tuned, but who pays for this? This will be taken care of.
- It was reported that an electrical outlet in the kitchen is leaving a warm spot on the opposite wall in Criswell Hall. This will be looked into.
- It was also stated that the cleaning crew is not doing an adequate job. This also is being looked into.
- The Board decided to buy a real Christmas tree after Thanksgiving.

**Rotary Club of Arroyo Grande presents
Community & Holiday Sing-Along
Sunday, December 19 at 4pm**

For the third year in a row, the Arroyo Grande Rotary Club has assembled a group of local performers to delight the Clark Center audience! Bring the family to enjoy the talents of the Village Carolers of Studio Sing, Sing, Sing, the Nipomo High School Band, the Estero Bay Brass Quintet and the Combined Choirs from the Arroyo Grande United Methodist Church and the Grover Beach First Presbyterian Church. After numerous phone calls to the North Pole, arrangements have been made for a special appearance by Santa Claus! The dancing Sugar Plum Fairies from DPAC - Dello's Performing Arts Center will also grace the stage while the Grand Finale will feature the wildly popular piano man, Rudolf Budginas.

Net proceeds from this event will be donated to the music and arts programs of various South County schools.

General Admission Seating - \$10 Adults, \$5 Children/Students
\$25 Family Tickets (for 6) are also available in advance only.

Buy Tickets Now!



November 2010

Received to Date

\$ 19,991

Monthly Goal

\$ 21,179



3rd Annual Community
**CHRISTMAS
& HOLIDAY**

Sing-Along



**Sunday
December 19th
4:00 PM**

**At The
Clark Center
For The
Performing Arts**

FEATURING:

- Village Carolers from Studio Sing, Sing, Sing
- Nipomo High School Band
- Estero Bay Brass Quintet
- DPAC Sugarplum Fairies
- Combined Choir of United Methodist Church,
Arroyo Grande & First Presbyterian Church, Grover Beach
- Special Guest Appearance by renowned pianist Rudolf Budginas**
And, of course Santa, Your Family and some Surprises!

TICKETS:

- \$25 for a family of six!**
(In Advance)
- \$10 for adults**
- \$5 for children/students**
- Tickets available NOW through the Clark Center. This show will sell out!*

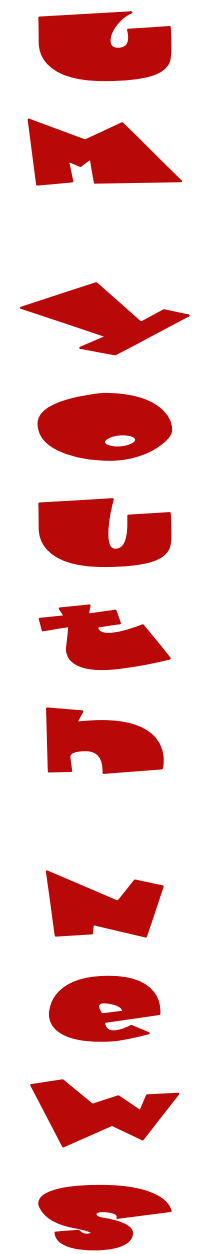
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INFORMATION
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@ 805.550.9461**



"All Ticket Sales Proceeds go to music programs of our local schools"



The praise band is a team of talented worship leaders we call **The Lord's Crew**. This Group leads our **Contemporary Worship Service** every Sunday during the **8:30 AM service** and is under the direction of Susan Coho. The team meets for practice every other Saturday of each month, unless otherwise stated. December's rehearsals: **6:30 PM on 11/6 & 11/20**. If unable to attend please contact director. Thank you!



Hello to all,

Sorry for the long delay in articles. You would think with no children in the house, we would have time for all kinds of things, but alas that is not the case. To catch everyone up, we had more fun and fellowship than funds from our Harvest Festival booth. We took in around \$400 dollars, which covered the cost (we purchased a tent this year to have for future years). We did successfully label and pass out 3000 bottles of water. Thanks to all that donated and also helped with labeling. We really appreciated those RVers who hung in and helped all the way to the last label. Some of our youth came and hung out at the Trunk or Treat at the church which was fun for all who attended. Our youth are all so busy with school, sports, music, robotics, and video games (you know who I am talking about) that we are always glad to see their smiling faces. We put out a challenge to the boys in the group (who vastly outnumber the girls) to bring a girl to an upcoming meeting and thanks to Carina, Montana, Victoria, Rachel, and Stephanie for helping to even out the ratio. We will be making the Peoples Kitchen meal for December, our famous enchiladas and frosted Christmas cookies.

We look forward to next year. Please look for our Souper Bowl of Caring barrel starting on January 1st. We again will be collecting canned food and non perishable items until Super Bowl Sunday and all items will be donated to the Five Cities Christian Woman's Food Bank. We are planning a dinner for our parents and youth, look for further details next month. As always, February means 'Spud-acular', more details next month. Have a joyous Christmas and Happy New Year. We will continue to meet during the break on Wednesdays and Sundays.

In Christ's Service—Mike and Lou



Feed My People

By Heidi Carpentier

As the holidays fast approach, many turn to a giving mentality. This giving may take place in the form of tangible gifts to friends and family, cash donations to the bell ringers outside of dept. stores, and cans of food in barrels outside grocery stores.

As having been a part of FUMC of AG for going on 3 years, I have seen the generous nature of the people here, not just during the holidays, but year round. One of the out-sources of this church's generosity is through the Peoples Kitchen.

The Peoples Kitchen is a non-profit organization that began in May of 1991. Our church is just one of 18 churches and 35 teams that collaboratively support the effort of feeding a hot meal to our south county hungry 365 days a year.* The [Methodist church team](#) is headed up by Chuck and Betty Ashton. I learned more when I spent some time with the Ashtons on a recent [Monday morning](#) as they were sorting and organizing the food and clothes that are stored in cabinets within Criswell Hall. Once a month the team is scheduled to feed the homeless and needy people. On that morning, previously prepared and frozen casseroles are baked in Criswell Halls kitchen. These casseroles have been assembled by our church members, labeled by the type of casserole, who assembled it, and the date, then placed into the kitchen freezer at Criswell Hall. After the baking is done, the casseroles are packed up along with other food items and multiple boxes of clothes, then trucked down to the feeding site. Although this site has changed over the years, it is currently behind the Shouts of [Grace Church](#) in Grover Beach.

I had the opportunity to be a part of this dedicated team on Nov. 4. I met them on site at 11:40 am. After getting my name tag and a pair of food handling gloves I took my position behind the [stainless steel pans](#) of fruit. The serving line was basically 4 or 5 of those 8' banquet tables that had dishes of food on them. On one side were the food servers. The other side became a stream of people that followed their plate as it was passed from one server to the next. I would be in charge of handing out the fruit that day, which consisted of apples, bananas and pears in varying degrees of ripeness. Later on I learned that most of this food comes from the [San Luis Obispo Food Bank](#), which is essentially a warehouse that looks much like a back room of a grocery store. Here food is deposited and withdrawn by organizations and churches, such as our own, for feeding the hungry.

Pastor David was on hand to offer a [prayer of thanks](#). As the patrons of this makeshift mess hall made their way through the line my mind wandered to thoughts of how does this happen within a country of plenty? Who were these patrons? I even recognized a few of the people in line who I know to have jobs but come to find out, they do not make enough to both pay the bills and eat too. Upon more research of the five cities homeless coalition web site*, I learned that the patrons of the peoples kitchen consist of a diverse population that doesn't just consist of homeless, but also includes the working poor, those that battle addictions, retirees, single moms, mentally unstable or challenged, and physically handicapped. No matter their background or story, each person was gracious and thankful, never grabbing for more than they were offered.

continued PEOPLE, page 8



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

The people of The United Methodist Church.®

PEOPLE continued, from page 7

After all were served once, anyone could come for seconds or thirds. The official plate count of the day was 84. Leftovers were sent with those who wanted them. I reflected on the story of the [loaves and fishes](#) and how there were baskets full of leftovers after blessing the meal. What a pleasant thought that God does provide. Two days later, I found myself accepting Betty's invitation to help them at the food bank. I arrived and found 6 familiar faces, one of them being one of our church youth. He will gain community service credits for his participation. We began sorting apples from a huge cardboard container to smaller, more manageable boxes. Then we sorted boxes full of canned goods and stocked the shelves with like products. Beans here, soups there, raisins, canned milk, etc. This is where those cans that you put in the barrels at the grocery store end up. Food also comes in from various other sources. The Peoples Kitchen gains food credits for every hour of our participation at the [food pantry](#). Chuck and Betty can then return and use those credits to buy food items such as the fruit that I was serving just the other day, or the ingredients used in the casseroles.

I never realized that there was such a system and intermingling of organizations behind this whole feed the needy effort. It takes every one of them to keep it running efficiently and consistently. My eyes were opened to what a huge part our Methodist church team plays and how it is uniquely individual in providing to the needs. Any donations made to our peoples kitchen church team is used specifically by our team to meet those needs. In the process of feeding and talking with the people, the team becomes aware of other needs and steps up to meet them. This has most recently included a sock drive which has been extended through to the end of the year. Chuck is also beginning a drive for hygiene products which includes soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, disposable shavers, shampoo, etc.

To help the [Methodist Church Peoples Kitchen](#) team make a difference this [Christmas season](#), approach their information table in Criswell Hall [this Sunday](#).

*source: www.5chc.org

Food Baskets



Five Cities Christian Women Food Basket Give-Away

December 21, these faithful ladies of the Five Cities Christian Women will be giving away several baskets to needy families in our area. They could use your help—monies are slowly rolling in and food donations are welcome.

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.

Food donations can be left here in the Food Bank basket in the Sanctuary!

Monies can be mailed to:
P.O. Box 756

Grover Beach, CA 93483

**Thank you for your
continued generosity!**

Lessons & CAROLS

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

When Oliver Cromwell came to power in England, Catholics were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Tradition holds that Catholic parents developed "*The Twelve Days of Christmas*" to teach children their beliefs.

- **The partridge in a pear tree**
Represents Jesus - *The partridge will sacrifice its life to save its young.*
- **Two turtle doves**
The Old and New Testaments
- **Three French hens**
Faith, hope, and charity; or the three gifts of the Wise Men
- **Four calling birds**
The four Evangelists -- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- **Five golden rings**
The first five books of the Old Testament
- **Six geese a-laying**
The six days of creation described in Genesis
- **Seven swans a-swimming**
The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord)
- **Eight maids a-milking**
The eight Beatitudes
- **Nine ladies dancing**
The nine choirs of angels - Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels, and 'regular' angels; or the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit - love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, patience, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control).
- **Ten lords a-leaping**
The Ten Commandments
- **Eleven pipers piping**
The eleven faithful Apostles
- **Twelve drummers drumming**
The twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed

Once again have put up a Christmas tree loaded with the Christmas wishes - we call it **The Giving Tree**.

Each 'ornament' has the name and the wish of a child who are in Foster care and are not living with a parent(s).

Here's how it works—Each 'ornament' is a tag with the name of a child and their wish. Each tag also has a duplicate. **We ask that you take only the original, leaving the copy on the tree.** This will allow us to check that each on child's Christmas wish.

Once you have granted the wish, please leave the **UN-wrapped gift** in the church office. Gifts are picked up regularly. All gifts must be brought by 12/19/10—Thank you!!

Please contact Jan Treat or DPSS with any questions. Christmas blessings to all of you!!

