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In This Issue

Shepherd's Notes.....2
 Healthy Corner.....3
 UM Men's News.....4
 News of the UMW.....5
 by Jerry Smith.....6
 Trustees Report.....7
 Finance Report.....8 & 9
 Walking for Health10
 Music Page.....11
 Youth News.....12
 Sunday School News.....13
 Small Group News.....14
 Birthdays & Misc.....15

Insert

▪ AG UM CC Chronicle

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PLEASE NOTE:

Layout Editor reserves the right to cut and edit articles to meet space limitations.

To be removed from our mailing list or to edit an address, call (805) 481-2692 or fumcag@sbcglobal.net.

The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

Cast~A~Net

January 2011

"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



UMC of AG Has The BEST Staff!

Not Just Another Potluck

In nearly 127 years, this church has grown from its humble beginnings to this present site where a magnificent edifice stands. In the Five Cities, where over sixty-five faith bodies exist, the United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande stands out exemplifying an outstanding family-oriented church, where church members are not just another number, but can be identified readily and are welcomed by name. There are on-going events and various doings that benefit each member of the family. All of this is made possible in one way or another by the exhausting efforts of the church staff.

The Staff is not a body of heavily compensated individuals, but a group of dedicated members of our congregation who walk the extra mile to see that our church functions beautifully; we too often take them for granted. The Staff-Parish Board wants to recognize their efforts and give you an opportunity to meet and thank them.

What better way could there be to say thank you than to have a good old fashioned, United Methodist potluck. Fellow church members, please mark **Sunday, January 9th, 2011** on your calendar. After a another stirring service by Pastor David to set our gastric juices in motion, we will hold the first **Staff Appreciation Potluck Luncheon** at **11:45 AM in Criswell Hall**. All are invited!

Let us know what potluck dish you wish to bring. See the sign up sheet in Criswell Hall following the next few Sunday services.

We hope that you will join us!



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 Burns

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:
 open

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





Pastor David Burgeson



Dear Church Family,

I want to first say thank you for your cards and gifts this Advent season. I am blessed by your thoughtfulness and kindness. Thank you to all who put hard work into both of our candle-lighting services, what a special night! There were 335 in attendance.

As 2010 ends I give thanks to God for the many ways in which we have sought to fulfill our mission by reaching out to our church members and friends—but you have also taken Jesus’ words seriously by taking it to the streets. You are an example of Christ’s words, “Go into all the world.” Your words and actions are to be commended.

2011 will begin as a year in which I want to focus with you on five principles of Church growth. The first is disciple-making. You know I have moved recently and found myself going through boxes and came across an article about the top five church growth principles. It’s about relating to making disciples a priority. It’s from *REV* magazine: “The longer a congregation exists, the more concerned it tends to become with self-preservation- and less concerned with its original purpose.”

As I read this statement it says, the focus is more inward than outward. I have read books on growing a church and they say when the focus becomes inward versus outward the church stops growing. As your Pastor that’s not the direction I want to see us go. I want us to get back to our primary goal, following Christ’s primary goal of making disciples.

This will take place through prayers, programming, budget, staff, and evaluating all the church’s ministries on their contribution to increasing the number of disciples for Jesus Christ. One essential thing we must make happen as a church is to “go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life.” (from *The Message* Mathew 28:19)

During January our focus will be on Disciple-Making. More details will be listed in Sunday worship.

There will be a class beginning January 19, on continuing Wednesdays for those following Christ’s mandate to go and make disciples. You will need to sign up and purchase the text, “Deepening Your Effectiveness”, by Dan Glover and Claudia Levy.

I want to invite you to join me in reading the Bible daily this year. You will find a *Daily Bible Reading Schedule* in the Narthex. Some of you may recognize this from Rev. SonHye Kim. Be sure to ‘X’ the date and scripture so that you can track your daily reading.

In ministry together.
David

ATTENDANCE	Sunday	8:30 AM	10:30 AM	Nursery	Kids/Youth	Teachers	TOTAL
	First Sunday	41	140	2	26	6	215
	Second Sunday	42	134	4	27	5	212
	Third Sunday	53	122	2	25	6	208
	Fourth Sunday	—	130	4	12	4	150
	Christmas Eve						335




- Jim Sawyer 1/1
- Phil McKibben 1/2
- Doris Rice 1/3
- John Neel 1/4
- C. J. Cochran 1/4
- Alexander Paredes 1/4
- Karen Marshall 1/5
- Alonzo Ferrari 1/6
- Polly Monson 1/6
- Norm Henderson 1/7
- Charles Lang 1/7
- Matthew Rohla 1/9
- Jim Duffin 1/10
- Bill Brown 1/14
- Lexi Raetz 1/15
- Nancy Baughman 1/17
- Caitlin Herber 1/17
- Tracy Regusci 1/18
- Art Moore 1/20
- Russell Ewick 1/20
- Jim Alquist 1/20
- Judy Leonard 1/22
- Madge Young 1/24
- Pat Conover 1/26
- Lynn Stewart 1/27
- Barbara Schilkoff 1/28
- Carmonde Cochran 1/28
- Mary Thronson 1/29
- Jordan Henderson 1/29
- Dr. Patrick Spalding 1/31
- Ron Montgomery 1/31

Choral Antics at the Sing-a-Long



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



<p>2 8:30 AM Contemporary Service and Children's Sunday School 9:30 AM Sunday School/Bible Study (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service and Children's Sunday School 11:45 AM Un-Hanging of the Green (all-church)</p>	<p>3 6:00 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR) OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>4 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 7 PM Trustees (MMR)</p>	<p>5 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9 AM EOC Senior Health Screening 9 AM Walking for Health Group 1 PM Alzheimer's Care-Givers Support Group (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>6 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 11:45 AM People's Kitchen - leave to serve 5 PM Grande Ringers 7 PM Red Umbrella (MMR)</p>	<p>7 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 3:30 PM AG UM CC Closed 4 PM AG UM CC Staff Development (MMR)</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 8:30 AM Contemporary Service and Children's Sunday School 9:30 AM Sunday School/Bible Study (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>10 9 AM Clergy Cluster Mtg (211) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR)</p>	<p>11 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10:30 AM Communications Committee 5 PM Grande Ringers 6 PM AG MS Support Group (MMR)</p>	<p>12 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9 AM Walking for Health Group 11 AM Blue Umbrella (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>13 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 12 PM Esther Circle (MMR) 2 PM Yellow Umbrella (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringer 6:30 PM Church Council (MMR)</p>	<p>14 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 1 PM Alzheimer's Care-Givers Support Group (MMR) 7 PM Touch of Beauty (MMR)</p>	<p>15 8:30 AM UMM Breakfast Meeting @ The Mission Inn of Pismo Beach 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal (5:30 PM set-up) (S)</p>
<p>16 UMM All-Church Pancake Breakfast 8:30 AM Contemporary Service and Children's Sunday School 9:30 AM Sunday School/Bible Study (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service and Children's Sunday School</p>	<p>17 OFFICE CLOSED  6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR)</p>	<p>18 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 2:30 PM Preschool Board closed session (MMR) 3:30 PM Preschool Board -open session (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 7 PM JOY Circle (Member's Home)</p>	<p>19 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9 AM Walking for Health Group 9:30 AM Mary-Martha Circle (MMR) 2 PM & 6 PM Pastor's Study (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>20 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 11:45 AM People's Kitchen - leave to serve 2 PM Yellow Umbrella (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 7 PM Finance</p>	<p>21 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>22 10 AM Membership Class (MMR)</p>
<p>23 8:30 AM Contemporary Service and Children's Sunday School 9:30 AM Sunday School/Bible Study (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service and Children's Sunday School Reception of New Members</p>	<p>24 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR)</p>	<p>25 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers</p>	<p>26 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9 AM Walking for Health Group 2 PM & 6 PM Pastor's Study (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>27 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers</p>	<p>28 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 6:30 PM AG UM Children's Center Taco Bar & Regatta Painting Party</p>	<p>29 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal (5:30 PM set-up) (S)</p>

ABBREVIATION

LEGEND

MMR	McMillen Room
CH	Criswell Hall
K	Kitchen
S	Sanctuary
N	Narthex
P/S	Pastor's Study
L	Library

30
8:30 AM Contemporary Service and Children's Sunday School
9:30 AM Sunday School/Bible Study (MMR)
10:30 AM Traditional Service and Children's Sunday School
1 PM
UMC of AG Annual Charge Conference

31
6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR)
7 PM Men's Bible Study (215)
7 PM Women of Prayer (S)
7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR)

by Patti Melsheimer
Healthy Corner
Antibiotics: Misuse Puts You & Others At Risk

Antibiotics can be lifesavers, but misuse has increased the number of drug-resistant germs. Antibiotic resistance occurs when antibiotics no longer work against disease-causing bacteria. These infections are difficult to treat and can mean longer lasting illnesses, more doctor visits or extended hospital stays, and the need for more expensive and toxic medications. Some resistant infections can even cause death. Antibiotic-resistant bacteria will continue to be a global health concern — and using antibiotics wisely is important for preventing their spread.

When is it appropriate to use antibiotics? Antibiotics are effective against bacterial infections, certain fungal infections and some kinds of parasites. Antibiotics don't work against viruses. Taking an antibiotic when you have a viral infection won't make you feel better — and can contribute to antibiotic resistance.

Consequences of antibiotic misuse: If antibiotics are used too often for things they can't treat — like colds, flu or other viral infections — they become less effective against the bacteria they're intended to treat. Not taking antibiotics exactly as prescribed also leads to problems. For example, if you take an antibiotic for only a few days — instead of the full course — the antibiotic may wipe out some, but not all, of the bacteria. Thus, the surviving bacteria becomes more resistant and can be spread to other people. When bacteria become resistant to first line treatments, the risk of complications and death is increased. In the United States alone, thousands of people die each year of antibiotic-resistant infections they contracted in the hospital.

What you can do to safeguard antibiotic effectiveness: Repeated and improper use of antibiotics is the primary cause of the increase in the number of drug-resistant bacteria. Here's what you can do to promote proper use of antibiotics:

- **Understand when antibiotics should be used.** Don't expect to take antibiotics every time you're sick. Antibiotics are effective in treating most bacterial infections, but they're not useful against viral infections, such as colds, acute bronchitis or the flu. And even some common bacterial ailments, such as mild ear infections, don't benefit much from antibiotics.
- **Don't pressure your doctor for antibiotics if you have a viral illness.** Instead, talk with your doctor about ways to relieve your symptoms.
- **Take antibiotics exactly as prescribed.** Follow your doctor's instructions when taking medication. Don't stop treatment a few days early because you're feeling better. Taking the full course of antibiotics is the only way to kill all of the harmful bacteria.
- **Never take antibiotics without a prescription.** If you didn't complete a full course of antibiotics, you might be tempted to use the leftover medication the next time you get sick or to pass it along to someone else. But this isn't a good idea.
- **Prevent the spread of germs.** Good hygiene goes a long way in preventing infection. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water, especially after using the toilet, changing a diaper, or handling raw meat or poultry. Keep food preparation areas clean.
- **Protect yourself and others.** Antibiotic resistance is a global health problem. Nearly all significant bacterial infections in the world are becoming resistant to commonly used antibiotics. When you misuse antibiotics, you help create resistant microorganisms that can cause new and hard-to-treat infections. That's why the decisions you make about using antibiotics — unlike almost any other medicine you take — have far-reaching consequences. Be responsible in how you use antibiotics to protect your health and that of your family, neighbors and community.

Condensed from an article by Mayo Clinic staff



★ EXTRA! EXTRA! ★

Men's News

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

Submitted by Bill Weitkamp

Cabin Construction At The Methodist Camp

Come to the breakfast meeting on Saturday, January 15 to hear Steve Tallant, manager of the Methodist Camp in Arroyo Grande, tell about the progress of the cabin construction project. A cabin was recently completed and dedicated and five more are planned. This is also an opportunity to learn about the operation of the camp and how it serves so many groups. The meeting place is the Mission Inn, 601 James Way in Pismo Beach and the buffet breakfast opens at 8:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

UMM Gets CIA Briefing

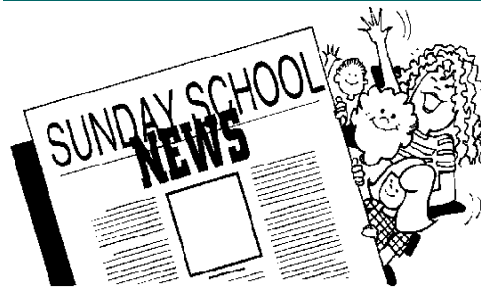
By an unidentified source

Those spy thriller TV shows aren't so farfetched, "except for the women". Or so we were told at our November 20th UMM meeting by retired Central Intelligence Agency officer Odell Lee, a neighbor of church members Bud and Betty Johnson. Lee colorfully described his unclassified experiences in widespread areas of the world (exact locations probably classified) during his career. He speaks several diverse languages and has written a book which is being carefully scrutinized by the CIA before it can be published. Like those TV thrillers, his unusual and humorous talk held us spell-bound. Sorry we can't tell you more – we don't want to be visited by the CIA.

Walk to Emmaus & UMM Programs Discussed at December Meeting

At the December 11 UMM breakfast meeting, Pastor David explained the Walk to Emmaus weekend for men which will be held February 24–27, 2011 in Ventura. This is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. A separate weekend program is available for women. For more information, contact Pastor David or visit the Upper Room's *Walk To Emmaus* website at www.upperroom.org/Emmaus

At our business meeting, plans for the third annual Carl Kliesch Memorial Golf Tournament to be held in May and monthly meeting programs were discussed. Be certain to follow this column and the church bulletin for announcements about talks on the Methodist Camp cabin construction (January 15 – see above article) and the sinking of the Montebello (March 19) and an exciting excursion led by Jamie Foster on a railroad chapel car (April 30). Our Sweetheart Breakfast will be held on February 12. Everyone is welcome at all UMM events.



LIGHT SWITCH COVER

Everyone who believes in God and lives for him is a child of light. Make this cover for your bedroom light switch to remind you to be a light for God.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- Light switch cover
- Screwdriver
- Colored paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Decoupage glue
- Paintbrush
- Craft knife



What you do:

1. Remove the screws from the cover.
2. On the paper, draw small images related to light and write out "Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8, NIV).
3. Cut out the drawings and verse. Make sure they'll fit on the cover.
4. Paint the cover with a coat of decoupage glue, and then immediately place the drawings and verse on the cover.
5. Paint over them with another coat of glue. Let it dry.
6. Turn the cover over and use a craft knife to cut out the opening for the light switch.
7. Using a screwdriver, place your new light switch cover on your wall.



From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Good | Righteousness |
| 2. Death | Children |
| 3. Go | Life |
| 4. Evil | Come |
| 5. Adults | Bad |

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

"When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are _____, your body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, NIV
(1)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of _____." John 8:12, NIV
(2)

"I have _____ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV
(3)

"For what do _____ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV
(4)

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as _____ of light." Ephesians 5:8, NIV
(5)

Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children

UM YOUTH NEWS

Happy New Year to All!

The youth have been and will be busy! Many thanks to Devin and Adrian (and Kara, too) for being ushers at the ecumenical service. Jordan, David, Amanda, and Caitlin did a great job playing bells as well. Many of youth came to help with the Hanging of the Greens. I believe when you mention pizza to hungry boys, they will show up. We made our famous enchiladas for the December People's Kitchen meal. Thanks to all the youth who did a great job assembling the meals and to those who helped with decorating the cookies. Big thanks to Hilary, Tina, and Eileen for helping to cook, assemble, and with wrangling the youth. Jed Moore commented that the enchiladas smelled so good that we should make some for our group to eat, so with that in mind, we made enchiladas for the 12/22/10 Kid Night Out group (which also enabled the youth to enjoy enchiladas and also help out with a skit for the kids). Jed, Tim, Victoria, Devin, Adrian, David (Anderson), Amanda, and Jordan all participated in the Family Christmas eve service. They all were wonderful. We have many activities planned for the coming year. Please look for our barrel in Criswell Hall for our *Soup-er Bowl of Caring* campaign that runs from 01/01/11 until Super Bowl Sunday (guys help me out when is that??). Look for more upcoming events in next month's article. We continue to meet on Wednesdays and Sundays and welcome all youth sixth grade and up to attend. We welcome youth to bring friends and we also challenge the girls in the church to come and help us even out all the boys who are attending.

I wanted to include a picture of Montana Dobbs. She very generously cut her hair in December in order to donate 10 inches of hair to Locks of Love. Way to go Montana!

In Christ's Service, *Mike and Lou*



Ann Williamson, UMW Publicity

It's January and a Happy New Year to each and every one of you!



Time for a new beginning and the motto for the United Methodist Women this year. It says everything about the purpose of a Methodist Woman in one simple phrase and is says so much about life as we walk on our Christian Journey.

As stated in our December newsletter article, our Holiday boutique was a great success. Through the boutique, mission pledges and other various fundraisers, the UMW ladies have raised close to \$8000. This will all go to different mission projects. We have already sent a large portion to our district, they will then send these monies on to the global and national mission needs.

Our UMW ladies have decided to disperse a portion of these funds as follows:

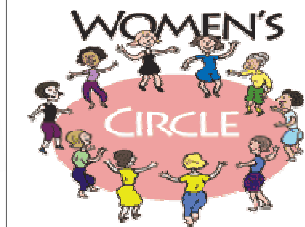
- **\$500** for our own church Library to fund new books from the UMW reading list.
- **\$1000** for Grover Beach Elementary—whose majority of students live below poverty level.
- **\$500** for our church Benevolence Fund.
- **\$800** for the AG United Methodist Camp to be used toward building a new cabin.

A small sampling of some of the books in the new 2011 reading list for UMW are...

- *Being A Christian in the Wesleyan Tradition*—this book sets out the important differences between United Methodists and other denominations and tells what makes us unique. Understanding these differences helps us to understand the how's and why's of mission, ministry, and theology of the world.
- *Claiming Earth As Common Ground*— we are asked, "Can people of faith save the environment? or "Can the Environment challenge save religion?" The author tells us that people of faith have the numbers, the passion and the mandate to save our planet.
- *Disfigured: A Saudi Woman's Story of Triumph*—The author was on a family program on a Saudi Television show and her abusive husband assaulted her. Her memoir is not simply the story of the violence she suffered nor is it a tale of revenge. It is simply a story of generosity of spirit and of her evolution into an activist on behalf of women.

Again, I say, I am proud to be a member of our church and also the UMW. Many wonderful things are being done. These things reach far and wide and right here at home in our own community.

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
1/13
Mary Martha
1/19
JOY Circle
1/18

Esther Circle meets the second Thursday of each month at **noon** in the **McMillen Room**. They will begin their new study on the book *Joy to The World—Mission in the age of Global Christianity*.

Mary-Martha Circle meets on the third Wednesday of each month at **9:30 AM** in the **McMillen Room** of our church. They will start the book *The Beauty and Courage of Sudan: Why A Dream of Peace Is Possible*.

JOY Circle meets on the third Tuesday of each month at **7 PM** at a members home. Contact the church office for January's location. They are continuing their serious and thought provoking study on the Sudan.



Overcoming Discouragement Part—2

Compiled by Jerry Smith

If you're discouraged, why? Generally, discouragement follows on the heels of hope that doesn't pan out. For example, I had hoped that Jim would become a valuable employee. Instead, he quit, so I felt discouraged.

Knowing the source of your discouragement is essential to overcoming it. Maybe you were unrealistic in your hopes and need to learn to be more astute in your judgment (as in my situation with Jim). Maybe people you trusted let you down. Or maybe your discouragement is more generalized, a sign of burnout or broad dissatisfaction with your life. Discouragement could reflect underlying depression that is itself the symptom of deeper emotional discord. If you can accurately identify the cause of your discouragement, you'll be on the road to alleviating it.

Share Honestly with Trusted Counsellors

If you're discouraged, don't keep it to yourself. Don't let pride or shame prevent you from sharing honestly with people who will listen empathically and respond wisely. Your gutsy openness will bring relief for you and freedom to others.

Throughout the years at Laity Lodge, we have followed the example of Howard Butt by sharing our lives openly, including our joys and our sorrows, our successes and our disappointments. Such honesty has opened our hearts to new experiences of God's grace. In my own life, I have found that the very act of sharing my disappointment at work with my wife or another close friend often leads to a lessening of my discouragement. Their input also helps me understand why I'm discouraged and what I can do about it.

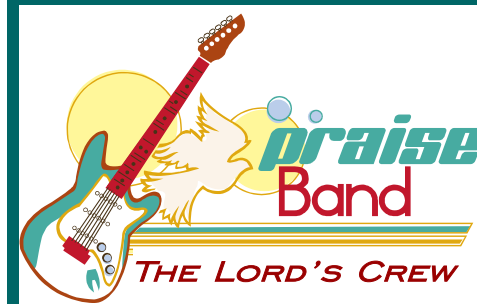
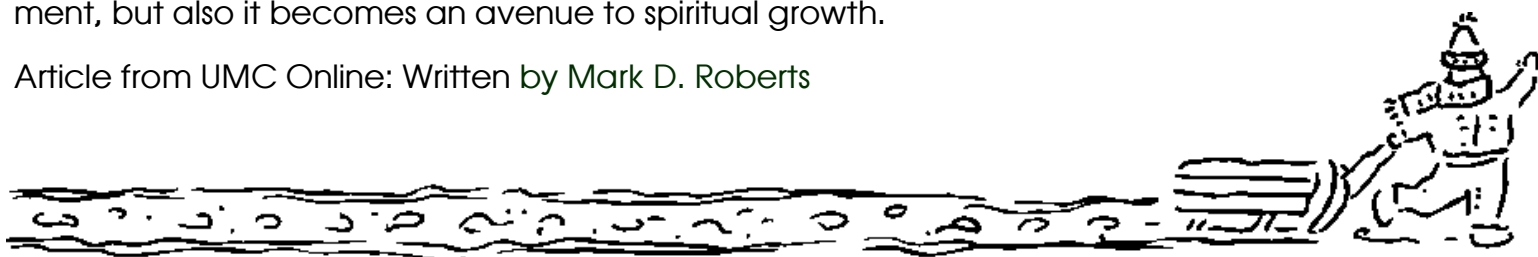
Share Honestly with God

Or, to use more common language, pray about it. Here's where I agree completely with "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." If you feel discouraged, "take it to the Lord in prayer." We can tell him everything, including the fact that we're discouraged. When we do, we begin to experience God's gracious peace.

Moreover, when we share our discouragement with the Lord, we are open to discovering his presence in the midst of our unhappiness. Perhaps God is wanting to teach us something essential through our discouragement. Maybe he is redirecting our energies, our work, or our lives.

When we take our discouragement to the Lord in prayer, we find that our hope is redirected and rekindled. With the Psalmist, we confess, "And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in you" (Psalm 39:7, NLT). This doesn't mean we never trust others or expect their help. But it does remind us that God alone is fully trustworthy and that his help is both necessary and utterly reliable. The more we hope in God, focusing on his trustworthiness, the more we will find our discouragement melting away, replaced by confidence in God. Thus we not only overcome discouragement, but also it becomes an avenue to spiritual growth.

Article from UMC Online: Written by Mark D. Roberts



The praise band is a team of worship leaders we call **The Lord's Crew**. This Group leads our Contemporary Worship 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.

January's rehearsals are scheduled for **15th & 29th at 6:30 PM on** If you are unable to attend please contact director. Thank you!



Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year



Greetings and Happy New Year!

What a very busy and exciting Christmas Season our church and choir has had.

It was a "Joy, Joy, Joy" to be involved in the Clark's Center Annual Sing-a-long Program. FUMCAG joined forces with Grover Beach Presbyterian Church Choir and sang two songs: "Go Tell It on the Mountain" and "Master's In This Hall." We also had the opportunity to sing three other songs with the rest of the cast of characters that were involved in the program. What fun! I would like to thank all the members of the choir for their support and dedication to make this project happen, as well as the rest of the church and staff for accommodating all of our many extra rehearsals.

We also spent a blustery winters' day at St. Patrick's school singing carols. Thanks to all who braved the elements.

Can't wait to see what else God may send our way. Of course we are always looking to grow, so prayerfully consider joining us.

With a song in my heart,
Julie Burns—Choir Director



PRAYER CHAIN

**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.



**Do You Regularly Attend UMC of AG?
Do You Want About Becoming A Member?**

Rev. Harold Headrick will be conducting a class on the Methodist beliefs and traditions to help those who are considering membership. We invite you on January 22 at 10 AM to the Mc Millen Room of UMC of AG if this is something that you would be interested in. Please contact Pastor Harold or the church office.

**FROM HENDERSON SETTLEMENT
New Van Ordered!**

Thank you so much for your overwhelming response to our plea for Campbell's barcodes. Because of your generosity, we were able to order a deep water blue rear minivan that is scheduled to arrive mid February. Please continue to save the bar codes for us. We have already begun to bank the barcodes for another van or items that can be used for our Youth Ministry program. Products to collect are BIC, Campbell's, Post, Prego, Franco-American, Pepperidge Farms, Spaghetti-Os, Swanson's and V8. A list of participating products can be obtained on the Labels for Education website.

from November 2010 Henderson Hollers



Walking for Health

Our Walking for Health program will resume on **Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 9:00 am**. We do warm-up exercises before embarking on our walk around the neighborhood near the church and cool down exercises when we return. We have two walking groups – one for the "speedy" walk-

ers and one for the less experienced or "less peppy" walkers. Please join us! There will be free pedometers for the first three who arrive on January 5th!



I am the New Year.

I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living.

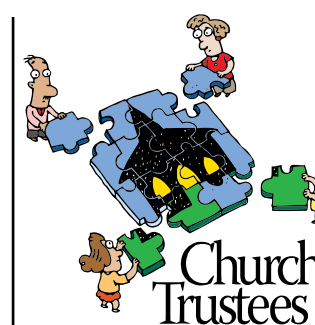
I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last 12 months.

All you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All the good you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all you hoped but did not will, all the faith you claimed but did not have—these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, **"See, I am making all things new"** (Revelation 21:5, NRSV) —*Author unknown*



Tom Egan, Chair

It was asked if we removed two seats (4 people) from the bus, could a person with a regular driver's license drive the bus? Tom will check with the CHP.

Since there was no response to our request for a used port-a-crib, Tom purchased a new one. We now have two.

All lights inside and outside have been replaced.

- The piano has been repaired but now needs tuning. Since our meeting, this has been done.
- It was reported that a piece of the wall opposite an outlet located in the kitchen gets warm. This was looked into but could not verify any warm space.
- There were some complaints about the quality of our cleaning. Tom asked for a meeting with our cleaning crew boss. She came out and before I could say anything, she said the bathroom was filthy. I said that is why you are here. Action was taken and we now have clean bathrooms.
- The Trustees wanted a real Christmas tree this year but due to the cost of the tree, a stand and fire proofing, we bought a new artificial tree. Then one used artificial tree was donated.
- A meeting needs to take place with city fathers to see what needs to be done to change the zoning of our vacant lot. Tom will look into this.
- Since there has been random reports of break-ins in our area, the question of security came up. Tom will check with other churches in this area.
- The present handicap signs have to be replaced. It was also stated that we need more handicapped spaces. Tom will get a price quote.
- Tom has replaced some plants thanks to the Ty Dohi Memorial Fund
- The roof has developed two leaks. Tom and Norm will look into this.
- It was suggested that we look at the pump that pumps waste to the sewer line. After the meeting, Tom and Norm checked out both pumps and they work just fine.
- All this rain has brought us lovely weed patches and will be treated.
- The Endowment Committee has graciously transferred \$5,000 to the trustees for 2011 repairs. Thank you, thank you!
- The new budget for the Trustees for 2011 has been given to the Finance Committee.

LOOK AT WHAT OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS HAVE BEEN UP TO!



Thank you for your support of the Goat Farm on La Gonave, Haiti. You are helping a family get a new start.

Miss Judy

Certificate of Purchase of One Goat



KEC/GBGM
Mission La Gonave
Joe & Pastor Shirley Edgerton
www.lawrencecentralumc.org

\$50.00 was given as donation to GBGM Advance Special #982465-B for the purchase of one goat by the Association of Peasants on La Gonave island (APG), Haiti.

APG is a new industrial organization to help improve life and economy on south La gonave island in Haiti. The parent organization AAPLAG has been active on LG for 30 years. Goat offspring are given to the poor to start new groups and provide income. Thank you.

www.advancinghope.org

At the Family Fun Day of the AG UM Children's Center, the children of our Sunday School class had a bake sale. This was to raise funds for our class itself.

After some discussion and a special visit by Ms. Judy Atwood, our former covenant missionary, the kids decided to give the proceeds to a special project that buys goats and chickens for family's in need in Haiti.

OUR kids decided on a goat!

Great job kiddos!

You are showing God's love in your giving hearts.



as of 12/26/2010

Received to Date

\$23,690

Monthly Goal

\$ 21,179

The Finance Committee has completed the preliminary budget for 2011.

Unfortunately the budget requests exceeded our expected income received by about \$41,000 (based on the pledges). This is due in part to lower pledge income, loss of the income from the Burke and Pace property rental and higher personnel costs as we are almost fully staffed.

We are continuing our pledge drive. We are asking every member and friend of our church to pray about their giving to our church. If you are able to add to your pledge please let Virginia Mothes or Tom Egan our financial secretaries know.

Based on the results of the continued pledge drive, the Finance Committee will re-evaluate the preliminary 2011 budget in January.

see chart on next page

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande 2010 Budget Requests vs. 2011 Budget

	2010	2011		
INCOME	BUDGET	PRELIMINARY	CHANGE	
Stewardship	\$278,360	\$267,500	-\$10,860	Pledges down
Other Income	\$24,000	\$9,600	-\$14,400	Loss of Property Rental Income
TOTAL	\$302,360	\$277,100	-\$25,260	
EXPENSES				
Pastor, Staff & Benefits	\$185,830	\$199,872	\$14,042	Filled 3 open staff position.
Programs	\$33,996	\$35,640	\$1,644	
Property Repair, Maintenance & Utilities	\$40,104	\$39,763	-\$341	
Apportionments	\$42,430	\$36,990	-\$5,440	Good News! Apportionments are lower.
TOTAL	\$302,360	\$312,265	\$9,905	
Deficit	\$0	-\$35,165	-\$35,165	That is the problem

Walk To Emmaus Weekends Coming Soon

The *Walk to Emmaus* is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all."

The *Walk to Emmaus* experience is a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion. The "Emmaus Community" is made up of those who have attended an Emmaus weekend. The community supports the 72-hour experience with a prayer vigil, by preparing and serving

meals, and other acts of love and self-giving. The Emmaus Walk typically begins Thursday evening and concludes Sunday evening. Men and women attend separate weekends.

During and after the three days, Emmaus leaders encourage participants to meet regularly in small groups. The members of the small groups challenge and support one another in faithful living. Participants seek to Christianize their environments of family, job, and community through the ministry of their congregations. The three-day Emmaus experience and follow-up groups strengthen and renew Christian people as disciples of Jesus Christ and as active members of the body of Christ in mission to the world.

To have questions answered and how you can apply, please talk with Pastor David, Tom Egan, Sandra Sawyer, Alice Addison, Heidi Carpentier, or Tina Moore.



Men's Walk - February 24-27
Women's Walk - March 3-6