

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande
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Minister of Visitation:
 Rev. J. Harold Headrick

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 Members & Friends

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 Susan Coho

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Choral Pianist:
 Dennis Eiler

Multi-Media Director:
 Mike Coho

Puppet People:
 Mike Herber

Grande Ringers Handbell Dir.:
 Leonard Lutz

Adult Ministry Director:
 open

UM Youth Directors:
 Mike & Linda Herber

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▪ AG UM CC Chronicle

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**Our newsletter is available
 online at worshipweekly.com**

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



WEDNESDAYS IN APRIL

Walk With Jesus Through His Final Week

This Lenten Study for all ages is based on Adam Hamilton's book, *24 Hours That Changed the World*—experience the love in the Last Supper, the sorrow of Good Friday, and the joy of the Resurrection. Join us for supper at 5:15 PM every Wednesday evening.

- **Pastor's Study** begins at 6 PM
- **Youth Group Study** begins at 7 PM
- **Kid's Study** begins at 5:45 PM

(kid's study is an age sensitive adaptation of the book)

APRIL 3 UMC OF AG'S - TALENT SHOW & TREATS
 3 PM—Bring treats to share..join us in Criswell Hall as our church family reveals their hidden and unique talents.

APRIL 16 EASTER BRUNCH & EGG HUNT
 Beginning at 11 AM with a light brunch, we invite you to share with us the glorious **Easter Story**, artistic **Resurrection crafts**, and a jubilant **Easter Egg Hunt**. Kids of all ages are welcome to this family-oriented event!

APRIL 21 MAUNDY THURSDAY
 6 PM—A Look At The Passover Seder & Soup Supper
 7 PM—Service of Holy Communion

APRIL 22 GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE
 3 PM at **St. Patrick's Catholic Church** in Arroyo Grande

GOOD FRIDAY MOVIE NIGHT

7 PM, come see *The Passion of the Christ (Recut)*
 See the film that reveals the final twelve hours of Jesus' life beginning with Christ's pleading in the Garden and ending with a brief depiction of the Resurrection—glimpse flashbacks of Jesus' life in this Mel Gibson film.

APRIL 24 WE CELEBRATE THE RISEN SAVIOR!
 8:30 AM—Contemporary Resurrection Celebration
 10:30 AM—Traditional Resurrection Celebration
 11:30 AM—Celebration Fellowship in Criswell Hall



Pastor David Burgeson



This month we continue our look at *The Top 5 Church Growth Principles* with Principle Number 3 — Felt Needs Are The Connecting Point. It is said that most un-churched people are not going down the road thinking about the eternal destiny of their soul. What they are thinking in all probability is about their family, health issues, friends, kids, finances, or hobbies...just to name a few. If the Gospel of Jesus is relevant to every part of *our* lives, we must show the un-churched people how it is relevant in *their* lives. A major reason people are staying away from church is because it is perceived as not relevant.

Recall when Jesus had a conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well on a topic that interested *her* - water. In disciple-making, there is a lesson here for us all. He talked with her about water—that *she would never thirst again*.

Point here is this, don't start with your agenda, start with theirs.

This brings me to share this from Neil McBride. It summarizes a few needs of people today:

- People feel disconnected and isolated. They are looking for a place to belong and feel part of a family or community.
- People are feeling empty and drained from striving to meet their desires through work, possessions, and/or entertainment. They are looking for spiritual answers to their "hunger."
- People are feeling overwhelmed by the pace of change in every aspect of their world and are looking for help through transitions.

I believe, if we as the body of Christ speak to people's felt needs, we will have conversations. Why? Because they will see our message is from their point of view and therefore relevant. Watch next month's issue, when we look at Principle Number 4.

In ministry together.

David

...and the two shall become one. ~ Mark 10:8

Sarah Barber & David Burgeson
are getting married!

Registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond

Save the Date!
9 July 2011 at 1 PM
at the UMC in Arroyo Grande

	Sunday	8:30 AM	10:30 AM	Nursery	Kids/Youth	Teachers	TOTAL
First Sunday		54	131	2	22	3	209
Second Sunday		1 Service — 134		3	20	3	160
Third Sunday		40	120	3	18	4	185
Fourth Sunday		45	135	3	22	3	208

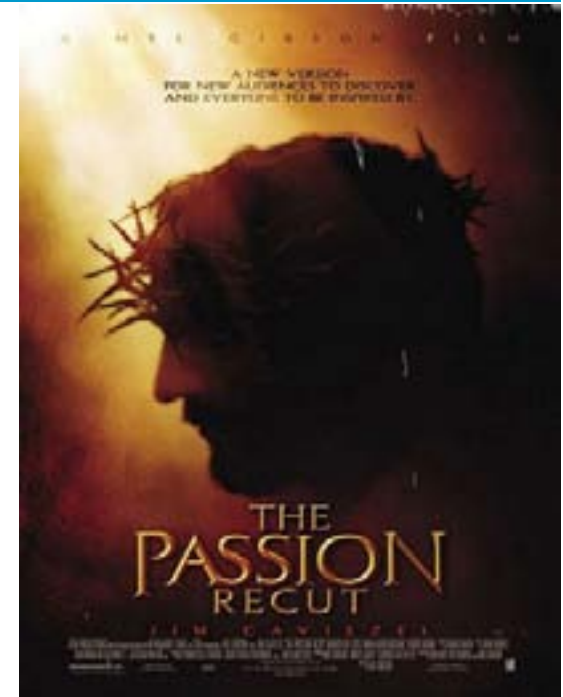
Celebrating a
BIRTHDAY
in April

- Ray Ewick 4/1
- Jeremy Earley 4/1
- Liz Gholson 4/3
- Esther Miller 4/4
- Amber Burgeson 4/5
- Patti Melsheimer 4/6
- Ryan Bailey 4/7
- Sadie Barber 4/9
- Don Gugeler 4/11
- Randy Dobbs 4/16
- Lea Ann Collagan 4/25
- Bob Woods 4/25
- Thomas Earley 4/28
- Mac Stransky 4/29



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

UMC of AG presents
Free Movie Night
April 22
Good Friday
7 PM
in the Sanctuary



The RECUT version has 6 minutes of violent scenes removed from the film. Childcare will be available in the Nursery for small children, and there will also be a Child Friendly version of the Easter story will be showing in Criswell Hall for the older children.

Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 16, 2011

Light Easter Brunch - 11 AM

The Easter Story - 11:45 to 12 PM

Resurrection Crafts - 12 to 12:30 PM

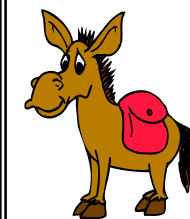
Easter Egg Hunt - 12:30 to 1 PM

A FUN time for all!

Come share some festive food, hear the Easter story, and some fun crafts.

Come for Supper & Stay for the Study

You are cordially invited every Wednesday at 5:15 pm in Criswell Hall for our FREE Wednesday Night Church Suppers.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU NOTE FROM OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS TO OUR GENEROUS CONGREGATION WHO HELPED TO MAKE THE MARCH 13TH BAKE SALE A GREAT SUCCESS. YOU ALLOWED US TO RAISE \$186 - SOME OF WHICH WILL GO TO THE PURCHASE OF A MULE FOR HAITI. BLESSINGS TO YOU!



LIBERIA: REFUGEES POUR IN FROM COTE DIVOIRE

At least 80,000 refugees have fled political unrest in Cote d'Ivoire and taken up sanctuary in neighboring Liberia, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In all, more than 450,000 Ivoirians have been displaced since fighting broke out following contested presidential elections. United Nations observers of the November 2010 elections certified that Alassane Outtara won the elections, but incumbent Laurent Gbagbo has refused to step down.

According to ACT Alliance, a United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) partner, the number of refugees in Liberia could easily reach 100,000 by the end of April.

UMCOR is assessing the needs of the Ivorian refugees in Liberia. Your gift to **Liberia Emergency, UMCOR Advance #150300**, will help UMCOR bring the refugees relief and hope.

JAPAN: EARTHQUAKE, TSUNAMI AFFECT PACIFIC

A huge, 8.9-magnitude earthquake and a powerful tsunami wracked Japan on Friday afternoon, killing thousands of people. As the tsunami rolled through the Pacific region, developing countries and small islands were especially vulnerable. UMCOR is in contact with partners in the region and is assessing the developing situation.

US: FLOOD CONCERNS RISE IN DAKOTAS/MINNESOTA

Communities in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota are preparing for possible record flooding as they await early spring rains. The National Guard is already contemplating two dozen evacuation scenarios, and local people are filling nearly four million sandbags.

United Methodist Bishop Deborah Kiesey of the Dakotas Area Annual Conference sent out a message of hope and solidarity to the communities, trusting that the larger UMC is standing with them in the fight against the rising Red River.

Your gift to **US Disaster Response, UMCOR Advance #901670**, will help those communities affected by spring floods to weather the storm and recover.

UMCOR: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, APRIL 3

When Juma Gul and his family returned to Afghanistan after years in exile in Pakistan, he found his home had been destroyed along with local water sources for agriculture and livestock.

Thanks to an UMCOR program, Gul was able to repair his home, and the underground irrigation system that watered his land was restored. "I am proud to be an Afghan living in my own country, in my own house, and cultivating my own land," he says. Your participation in **One Great Hour of Sharing on April 3** ensures the success of projects like this one and offers hope and healing to the world's most vulnerable people.

Gifts to this offering underwrite UMCOR's cost of doing business so that 100 percent of every other gift you make to a specific UMCOR project will be spent entirely on that project and not on home-office costs. Gifts to this fund can be made all year long. You will find envelopes in the narthex.

HAITI: SUPPORT FOR TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL

While curing 600 patients a year of tuberculosis, *Hopital de l'Universite d'Etat d'Haiti* (HUEH) is also training medical students from Haiti and around the world to treat the dreaded disease.

Established by physicians of Meharry Medical College of Nashville, Tennessee, after the January 2010 earthquake, the tuberculosis program at HUEH Hospital is the main referral tuberculosis center in the country.

UMCOR is working through the Tennessee Annual Conference, which coordinates support for the program, to supplement operational costs for the tuberculosis clinic throughout 2011.

Your gift to **Haiti Emergency, UMCOR Advance #418325**, supports UMCOR's recovery work in post-earthquake Haiti.

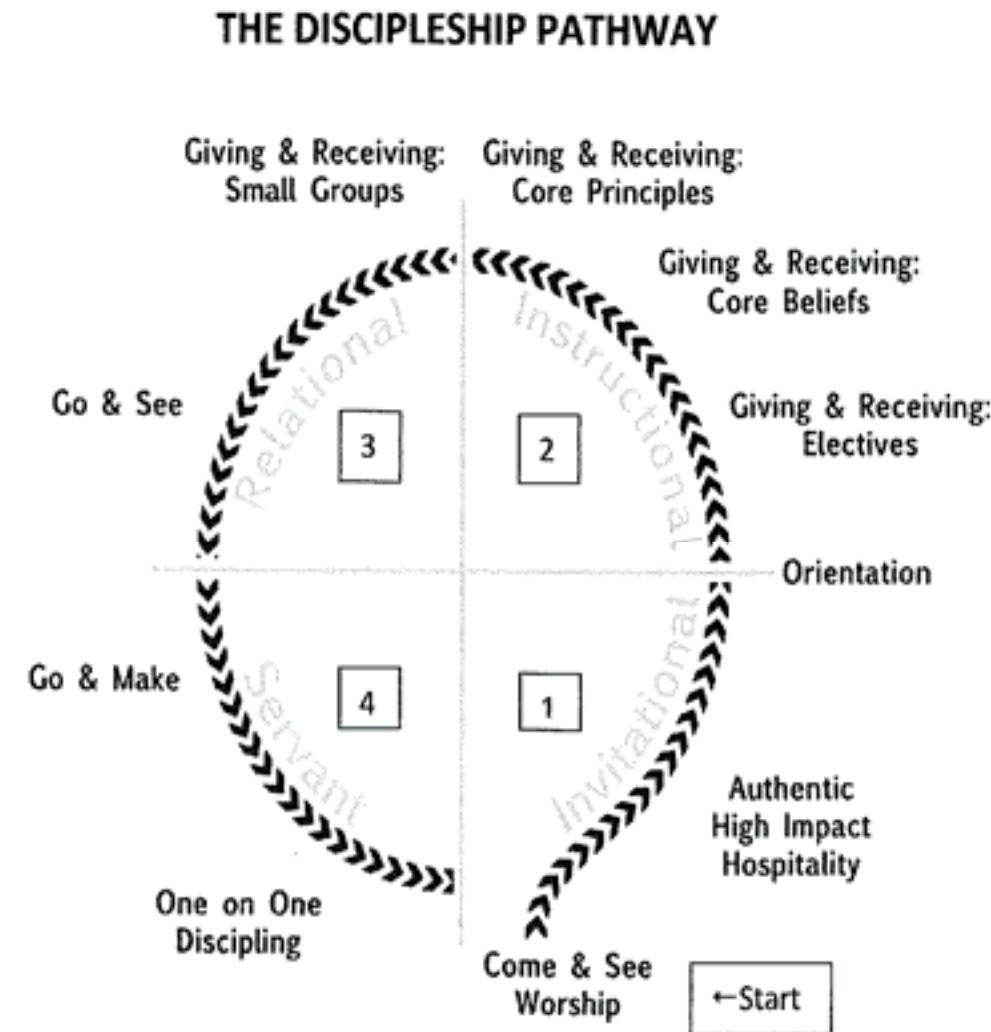
UMCOR provides emergency relief in many areas of the world. To find out more, please visit umcor.org. You can donate to any project by placing a contribution in the offering plate here at UMC of AG; or by sending a check to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068; or by calling 1-800-554-8583 (credit card donations are accepted).

Pastor's Study in Review - Part 2



Deepening Your Effectiveness-Reconstructing The Local Church For Life Transformation

Last month we looked at an overview from the book *Deepening Your Effectiveness*, using the diagram above as a metaphor for the Body of Jesus Christ with the beach as the un-churched. People on the beach were represented as not knowing Jesus Christ. At the different depths in the ocean we see six stages of discipleship growth varying from first accepting Christ as your Savior to becoming His spiritually mature disciple.



This month we will build on the Biblically based philosophy of spiritual development as depicted in the ocean diagram. This diagram can be translated into a process, a pathway, that can be implemented in the local church. In the Discipleship pathway shown at left, we see a simple template which establishes a sequential order of ongoing primary ministries that foster growth and development into mature disciples of Jesus Christ.

- The four segments of the Discipleship Pathway are:
1. Invitational
 2. Instructional
 3. Relational
 4. Servant

In the May Cast-A-Net, we will look at the beginning of the invitational segment of this Discipleship Pathway.

10 Things You May Not Know About Your Pastor

submitted for publication by a pastor in Cave City, KY—given to your pastor by a caring member

- 1) **He Loves You** (Not because it is part of his job description). As a pastor, God has placed in his heart a love and concern for you that you probably wouldn't believe if he tried to explain it, although, like me he could try harder. Your words, notes, and other forms of encouragement mean so much because they come from people your pastor really cares about.
- 2) **He Gets Frustrated** because most of his church family thinks he's the first to know everything—when often he is the last. Few things are more discouraging than learning there has been heart ache, sickness or turmoil that everyone else has been talking about for a week, all the while questioning why the pastor hasn't called or come by for a visit. He could use your help in this area.
- 3) **He Understands That You Don't Agree With Everything He Does.** In fact, he may even know that your way would be better. But sometimes, he also knows he might have to do things a certain way for a while longer (or change something a bit more quickly) for the greater good. He's deeply aware that it may be inconvenient or not as effective, but he is willing for some to be frustrated if it means he can prevent bickering in the church—or make certain he's not compromising doctrinally in an area that maybe no one else has noticed.
- 4) **You Fill Him To Overflowing Joy!** Whether it's your becoming consistent in attendance, asking him a question that reveals you've been thinking about gospel implications, treating others with grace, or smiling while you sing, showing concern when someone is missing from church life or lingering after services because you would rather spend more time together than leave. These are a few of many things you do that make him happy. There are times when he's near tears because he sees God bringing His work to completion in you.
- 5) **He Wants You To Really Know and Love the Gospel,** to have a genuine love for one another; to have your life shaped by the grace of God because when the church has this love and is gripped in this way, there is rejoicing both on earth and in heaven.
- 6) **He Doesn't Expect You To Be Perfect** and is *acutely* aware that he's not. In fact, quite often he is afraid that you may perceive he is not the man of God you thought he was. Not because of some gross sin but because he, too, can be lazy, selfish, tired, frustrated, and distracted in his walk with Christ. Pray that he won't be.
- 7) **For Every Sermon You Think He Bombed...he** thinks he bombed twice as many. But know this: Sometimes, the sermon you love the most leaves him frustrated because what you tell him you loved about it misses the point he was trying to make. Other times, he's 100 percent certain that he proclaimed the text exactly as the Lord wanted him to feel invigorated to have done so — until he realizes everyone hated it or was bored. Knowing that he shouldn't try to be a 'people pleaser' but wanting his church family to be encouraged and engaged is hard to balance. Pray for him.
- 8) **Sometimes, He has No Idea What He Is Doing.** It is not that he hasn't been called to ministry, but seminary didn't train him for every situation. Things often come up and he has no idea what to do. Sometimes by the grace of God he gets it right. Sometimes, he swings and misses, and it scares him to think he might miss again next time. Pray that he would be bold in trust in Christ at *all times* and in *all circumstances*.
- 9) **It Bothers Him When He Can't Make Your Situation Better.** He doesn't care so much about being the hero or a great problem solver, but he's rooting for your marriage to work out. He wants your rebellious child to see the truth. He wants your parent to show you affection. He wants the memories of abuse to be swept away. He wants you to overcome doubts that God is real or that your faith is genuine. He knows God is in control, and that He alone can heal these wounds and perform these miracles. But when his prayers aren't coming, it breaks his heart for you, and he would do almost anything to fix things if he could!
- 10) **He Wants...More Than Anything Else...For Your Labor to Bring Honor and Glory To God.** He knows he has blown it sometimes. that there have been instances when he simply could have and should have done better. His calling as a pastor often terrifies and frustrates him because he knows his own inadequacies better than any one else. He longs for the church family he serves to get it right because he loves God and love you. When God gets the glory—you reap the benefits, your pastor relishes in the joy that all is rooted in Jesus Christ.



Did You Know?

Compiled by Jerry Smith

The United Methodist Church's U.S. membership has continued to shrink. Yet in a newly released statistics, its growth elsewhere in the world has put it over the 12 million-member mark for the first time.

According to the [United Methodist Council on Finance and Administration](#), the church's membership in Africa, Europe and Asia grew from 3.5 million to 4.4 million in the five years ending in 2009. At the same time, worldwide membership increased from almost 11.6 million to nearly 12.1 million. "The major growth has been in Africa and the Philippines," said Scott Brewer, Connectional Services Director for The Finance Council.

Rev. John H. Southwick, a Research Director at the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, asked an African colleague about her take on the rapid growth. She stated that people in Africa are looking for hope. "Most have very challenging life circumstances, and anything they can grab onto has appeal."

Growth has occurred despite further slippage in U.S. membership. U.S. professing membership in 2009 was down 1.22 percent from 2008, to a 7.8 million members, according to new data from the council.

The United Methodist Church remains the third-largest religious group in the United States, and

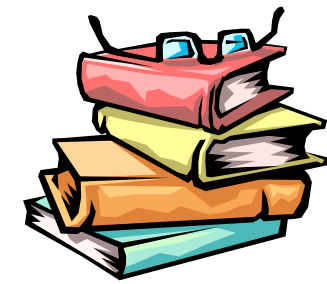
its membership trends — decreases in the United States and increases in other countries — have mirrored those of other mainline denominations.

"There is no future for The United Methodist Church in the U.S. unless it can demonstrate that it can reach **more** people, **younger** people and more **diverse** people," declared the Rev. Lovett H. Weems Jr., a professor at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. The decline did not start yesterday.

The racial/ethnic breakdown for U.S. United Methodist membership indicates 91.2 % white, 5.9 % African-American/black, 1.1 % Asian, 0.9 % Hispanic/Latino, 0.4 % multi-racial, 0.3 % Native American and 0.2 % Pacific Islander.

The People of The United Methodist Church

- Help people in their community
- Accept you for who you are
- Offer a place to belong
- Care for and support each other
- Show respect for other religions
- Support people facing difficulty
- Welcome diverse opinions and beliefs
- Guide others to find deeper meaning



Church Library News

Books, DVD's & Videos For Easter

The Illegal Trial of Jesus by Earle L. Wingo, a lawyer, examines the actions of the Sanhedrin and various other characters such as Judas, Annas (a high priest of Jerusalem) his son-in-law Caiaphas, Pontius Pilot and others. Jesus' trial did not follow many Jewish laws. The author reveals the self-seeking of the Sadducees and the superficial piety of the Pharisees. Let this librarian tell you that Jesus did NOT have a fair trial!

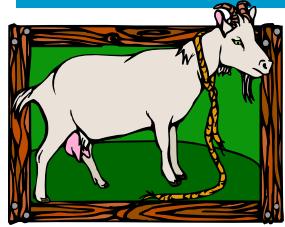
For adult viewing we have *Where Jesus Walked, 3 Days and Jesus*. For teens: check out *The Revolutionary*.

The Easter Story is for our youngest library crowd.

Come and check things out!



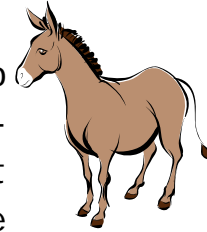
NAME THE GOAT CONTEST



Our Children's Sunday School class decided last fall to select a special project each quarter aimed at missions. At the end of the fall quarter, after a visit to our classroom by Judy

Atwood, they used their bake-sale money to purchase a goat for \$50. The goat was sent to Haiti so the children there could have milk. We then had a Name the Goat Contest and the kids selected the name **Cuddles Hosanna!**

They since learned that water is not easily available on the goat farm and had to be hauled in from other sources — by mule no less. They put their heads together for the winter quarter and decided they must purchase a mule. The cost for the mule is \$350. They have given fifty dollars towards the purchase and are challenging their church family to help them as they continue to raise the balance. Look for the poster on the Children's Sunday School table in Criswell Hall for a picture of Cuddles and the kids.



KIDS NIGHT OUT NEWS

The children are really enjoying their Lenten Study '24 Hours that Changed the World' on Wednesday nights. We are learning all about giving back to Jesus and serving others and following Jesus' example. We have created some great crafts, so be sure to check out our table on the stage in Criswell Hall and see some of the wonderful things our kids are doing!

PLEASE HELP MIKE AND LINDA KEEP THEIR YOUTH DIRECTOR JOB!

Sounds pretty drastic, doesn't it? Well, we are asking for your help in keeping youth at our church. How can you help do this? By volunteering in helping with the Kid's Night Out program on Wednesday nights. Don't forget, all the kids coming to this wonderful program started last year by our Children's ministry team, are our future youth group recruits. We are regularly having 15-20 kids show up for dinner and a program under the leadership of Victoria and Sarah. In order to have a quality program, we need to be able to let Victoria and Sarah focus solely on the kids and not have to worry about the kitchen duties. We have been blessed with many people helping out already but some weeks we have been stretched thin. Please consider seeing Victoria, Sarah, or Carolyn and sign up to be a regular volunteer to help with making or bringing food items, set up, kitchen duties, and clean up. If a group of people volunteered for even one Wednesday a month, the work could be spread out and nobody would have to commit to more than they can do. We ask you to prayerfully consider this and thank you in advance.

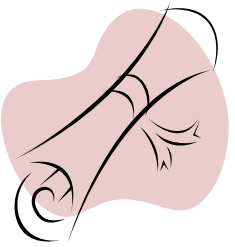
In His service,
Mike and Linda



Tom Egan, *Chair*

- Financials for January show a discrepancy—the gas usage is over budget.
- The Parsonage Fund shows a balance of \$161,000 + as of January 31, 2011.
- Hydrex has treated an area of the ceiling near the Choir loft and should protect the area for 12 years.
- After some work, the attic is close to clean. An old TV along with a few other items remain. There are financial and Children's Center records that need a home. We are still trying to find a spot for a couch.
- The Boy Scouts are looking for an Eagle Project. There is a lot of emptiness under the stage in Criswell Hall. The idea is to add a door to that space, and a cart built to store tables (possibly chairs) that could be pulled in and out. This will leave more storage in the 'Hall closet.'
- The lighting above the choir loft is still on our agenda. Maybe 2 (8 foot long) florescent bulbs on each side of the Cross would be enough to light up the Cross.
- Two handicapped parking spaces were added after some discussion. They are now marked. Next, we will install two "visitor parking" signs. Please remember to observe the declarations. Thank you.
- A new 'Facilities Use Package' has been created-Sarah did a fine job. The new package has a new listing of charges for using our facilities.
- The ovens in the kitchen have been worked on. The new valves are the wrong type, so they are still a problem.
- A new company has submitted a bid to do our cleaning. We will look into this.
- A singing family called *The Josties Family* indicated interest in putting on a concert here. Due to too little time to prepare for this event, and a question that needs to be answered first, we had to say no at this time—Maybe in 2012.
- **Folks, security here at the house of the Lord is still in shambles.** Doors are unlocked and lights are still left on. It is hard to say if one door is violated more than others because they are **all** left unlocked. If you unlock a door, lock and check again when you leave. Please don't leave it to someone else. When you are the only person in the bathroom, and you leave, please turn out the lights. If someone comes in after you, they can turn the lights back on. We need your help.
- It was stated that the only way to curb security problems is to re-key the entire facility. I know this is expensive but I will get an estimate. This will be a multi-tiered system.
- Mike said we need a kiosk and Pastor David said we

EVERETT LEE TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



The Everett Lee Taylor Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1990 to help defray the cost of college education for deserving members of our church family. Over the course of the last twenty two years, thirty-nine church members have received financial assistance in excess of \$37,250.

Scholarship applications for the 2011-2012 academic year are currently available from the church office, Monday-Friday, between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 1 P.M. First time applicants need to submit completed applications, including two (2) letters of reference and a letter of the student's educational goals. Former recipients applying need to submit a new application and a letter describing college or university educational experiences and future goals, plus a current college transcript to show they are in good standing. These materials must be returned to the church office no later than **May 1st**. Recipients will be honored on Youth Sunday in June.

If you or someone you know at the church could use some financial assistance for the 2011-12 academic year, please encourage them to apply for this scholarship. The applicant must be a full-time college, university, or technical school student next year and must be or have been an active member of our church.

You may also donate to the Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship Fund at any time. Without continued donations, eventually we will not be able to show our appreciation and support to our deserving church members.

Thank you, Nancy L. Gerrish, *Chair*

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

**3RD ANNUAL ARROYO GRANDE
UMM'S CARL KLIESCH MEMORIAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT
SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011**

It's time to dust off those old persimmons, oil up the golf shoes and get out the vapo-rub we're off to the golf course to hack away at the little white ball!

Yes, the Third Annual Carl Kliesch Memorial Golf Tournament is just around the corner. This year's event will move to the Challenge Course at Monarch Dunes, a 12-hole par three course nestled among the moguls and ponds of the Trilogy complex on the Nipomo Mesa. Planned activities include unlimited range balls, golf and lunch and if you are interested – a golf demonstration day is planned for that afternoon on the driving range where various equipment manufacturers will have their latest and greatest available for testing. The day begins with Check-in Registration at 8:00 a.m. and golf at 9:00 a.m. (both pdt).

Donations of \$47.00 will be accepted for the golf and lunch or \$19.00 if you'd prefer to join us for lunch only. There will be three closest-to-the-hole competitions, a raffle of some really neat stuff and a 50/50 drawing during lunch. Lunch choices will be tri-tip beef and chicken. For the

golfers, one of the rewards for joining us will be a free pass for another round of golf on the Challenge Course! All proceeds from this event will go directly to the various activities supported by the United Methodist Men, including youth camp scholarships and kits to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) military personnel. Tickets for this event will be available in Criswell Hall immediately after each Sunday service and in the church office during the week. Hole sponsorships are available.

Plan now to join in this very worthwhile event – it promises to be a great day of golf and camaraderie. And, we'll have fun too!

Bud Johnson, *Tournament Director*, is available for any and all questions. Jim David, Steve Shreffer and Chuck Perriguet are available for lessons.

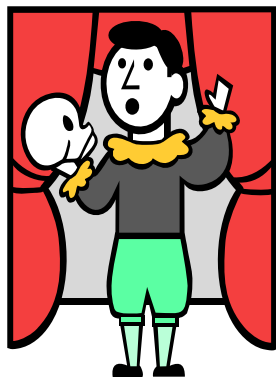
Sweetheart Breakfast Reveals Talent

A capacity crowd enjoyed the UMM Sweetheart Breakfast and Sing-A-Long on February 12th. Led by Don Gugeler with his clarinet and Dennis Eiler on the keyboard, we had a swinging time at the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach with those good old sweetheart tunes. Included were a couple of perfectly-timed songs sung in a round. Our agent is checking into a recording contract for the next year's performance.



UMC of AG's Got Talent

Fun for all ages!
April 3rd at 3 PM in Criswell Hall
Don't miss all of the treats and you certainly won't want to miss the kids and adults share their "unique" gifts in our ALL-Church Talent Show.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
APRIL 2011						<p>1 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 3:30 PM AG UM CC Closed 4 PM AG UM CC Staff Development (MMR) 6:00 PM Family Fun Ho-Down Dance (CH)</p>
<p>3 Fourth Sunday in Lent <i>Lent</i> Coffee Hour Host AGUM Children's Center 8:30 AM Contemporary Service Children's Sunday School—Primary – 6th Grade (211) 10:30 AM Traditional Service UM Youth Group (215) Primary Sunday School Children's Church/Communion 4-6 Grade (MMR) 3 PM All-Church Talent Show & Treats (CH)</p>	<p>4 5 PM Champion Youth Outreach Self-defense (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>5 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 6:30 PM AG UM Children's Center Open House (campus) 7 PM Trustees (MMR)</p>	<p>6 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9 AM EOC Senior Health Screen. (N/L) 5:15 PM Wednesday Night Church Supper (CH) 5:45 PM Kids Night Out (CH) 6 PM Pastor's Lenten Study (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>7 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 12 PM Esther Circle (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 5 PM Bible Reading (S) 6:30 PM AGUM Children's Center Open House 7 PM Red Umbrella (MMR)</p>	<p>8 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>9 9 AM Children's Center BBQ set-up (CH) 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal (S)</p>
<p>10 Fifth Sunday in Lent <i>Lent</i> Coffee Hour Host Esther Circle 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service and UM Youth Group Children's Sunday School at both services 3 PM Music for a Sunday Afternoon (S/CH) SLO County Band Concert</p>	<p>11 10 AM UMW Steering (MMR) 5 PM Champion Youth Outreach Self-defense (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7 PM SPRC (P/S) 7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM Alateen (211)</p>	<p>12 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10:30 AM Communications (L) 6 PM AG MS Support Group (MMR) 7 PM Proclamation Month of the Child City Council Meeting</p>	<p>13 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 1 PM Alzheimer's Care-Givers Support Group (CH) 5:15 PM Wednesday Night Church Supper (CH) 5:45 PM Kids Night Out (CH) 6 PM Pastor's Lenten Study (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>14 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers 5 PM Bible Reading (S) 6:30 PM AG UM Children's Center BBQ Planning Mtg</p>	<p>15 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 1 PM Alzheimer's Care-Givers Support Group (MMR)</p>	<p>16 11 AM Children's Sunday School's Family Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt (CH/Patio & Play yard) UMM's Breakfast cancelled</p>
<p>17 Palm Sunday <i>Palm</i> Coffee Hour Host Finance Committee 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service and UM Youth Group *Children's Sunday School at both services 11:45 AM VBS Assignments Meeting (MMR)</p>	<p>18 5 PM Champion Youth Outreach Self-defense (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>19 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 (MMR)</p>	<p>20 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9:30 AM Mary -Martha Circle (MMR) 5:15 PM Wednesday Night Church Supper (CH) 5:45 PM Kids Night Out (CH) 6 PM Pastor's Lenten Study—Final night (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215) AG UM CC Minimum Day Potluck Picnic School's out at noon</p>	<p>21 Maundy Thursday <i>Maundy</i> THURSDAY 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers 5 PM Bible Reading(S) 6 PM Seder & Soup 7 PM Holy Communion Service (S)</p>	<p>22 Good Friday <i>Good</i> FRIDAY 7 PM Good Friday Movie Night—The Passion - Recut 3 PM Ecumenical Good Friday Service at St. Patrick's Catholic Church</p>	<p>23 Holy Saturday <i>Holy</i> SATURDAY 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal (S)</p>
<p>24 HE IS NOT HERE - HE RISEN! Coffee Hour Host Annual Easter Brunch (CH) 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service and UM Youth Group Children's Sunday School at both services</p>	<p>25 5 PM Champion Youth Outreach Self-defense (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>26 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers</p>	<p>27 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 5:15 PM Wednesday Night Church Supper (CH) 5:45 PM Kids Night Out (CH) * New study—'The Armor Of God' up (CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>28 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 1 PM Yellow Umbrella (MMR) 4PM Book Club (MMR) 5 PM Bible Reading (S) 7 PM Church Council (MMR)</p>	<p>29 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>30 9 AM UMM Chapel Car Service At SMVRR (Santa Maria Valley Rail—Road) 1 PM UMW Spring Tea (CH/K)</p>

Children's Center Closed



Men's Bible Study



Mondays at 7 PM in

Youth Lounge (room 215)
The men are currently studying the books of Hosea and Amos from the Holy Bible. Open to all men of God!



Fridays at 8:30 AM

in the church Library.

No time like the present—we are starting a new study on John 13-15. This is a perfect time to join us. See you there!



This UMW supported group is open to all the women of our church and our community.

We meet in the **McMillen Room** at UMC of AG every **3rd Thursday** of the month at **6:30 PM**. We invite you to join us and share in what God has done, and is still doing, in your life. We support one another in loving accountability and with God's grace according to the Scriptures.



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.



Through the Bible in a year

This is an **All-Church Challenge!** Grab a Bible Reading Schedule from our Narthex or in the church office and get into God's Word.



Need Prayer? Got Praise?

Bring it to our Prayer Chain.

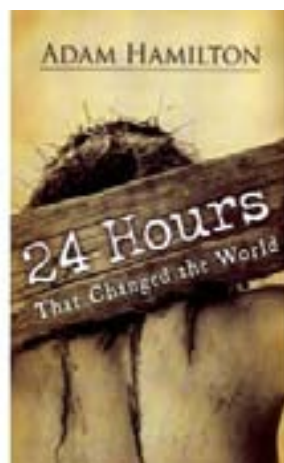
Contact **Pauline Castillo** and she will set the chain in motion.

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.

WHAT'S UP ON WEDNESDAYS?

- 8:30 AM Sr. Exercise Group
- 5:15 PM Wednesday Night Church Supper
- 5:45 PM Kids Night Out
- 6:00 PM Pastor's Lenten Study
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir UM Youth



Walk With Jesus Through His Final Week

Wednesdays in April

Based on Adam Hamilton's acclaimed study *24 Hours That Changed the World*, families will experience the love in the Last Supper, the sorrow of Good Friday, and the joy of the Resurrection. Join us for supper at 5:15 PM.

Pastor's Study - 6 PM

Youth Group Study - 7 PM

Kid's Study - 5:45 PM

(the kid's study is in an age sensitive approach from an adaptation of the book)



United Methodist Women Faith, Hope and Love In Action

submitted by Eva McClure

Women's History Month—UMW Style

April will be Women's History Month for our UMW and will be a time to celebrate those who paved the way for us, those who lead us today and those who will lead us into the future. I invite each of you to take a few moments to think about a woman who paved the way for you.

To celebrate this special month, AG UMW will be having a party on Saturday April 30th from 1pm-3pm at which time all women, daughters, mothers, granddaughters, grandmothers, etc. etc., are invited to a special, elegant tea in Criswell Hall.

It will be a celebration of all those women who have gone before us in the organization of the United Methodist Women, not only world wide but in Arroyo Grande, California. A time to celebrate the Isabella Sloans, Jane Ballaghs, Marge Piersons, etc., who led and inspired our group for many years.

It is a time to celebrate a woman who may have inspired you personally...someone who may have guided you along your career path; someone who may have introduced you to your future husband, someone who may have helped you with your child-rearing skills. There will be a time of sharing so bring your remembrances to the party.

All attendees are encouraged to wear clothing representing the 1860's when the dreams of a small group of Bostonian women were put into action and the Women's Foreign Mission Society was born. There will be a re-enactment of that early meeting.

In order to make this whole party work, though, **we need your help**. We need hosts who will take responsibility for a table of 4 persons to provide table settings, tea pots, center pieces, etc. We need people to supply food which would consist of finger sandwiches, sweets, nuts, mints, etc. We need people to supply recipes for their special dessert, which could be sold at this event. Look for a sign-up sheet in Criswell Hall.

Most of all we need you to come and help us celebrate!!!! Plan now to make this a fun time for all; contact Patti @489-4811 or Eva @ 474-1458 or Virginia @ 473-1157 if you have questions or ideas.



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**
4/7
- Mary Martha**
4/20
- JOY Circle**
4/19

Esther Circle meets the **second Thursday** of each month at **noon** in the **McMillen Room**. They have begun 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. The women are studying **John**.

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



A Pilgrim's Journey: My Walk to Emmaus

By Kent Unsworth

Many years ago I had the opportunity to participate in the Walk to Emmaus. I was relatively new to the church, and I did not feel I was ready. My faith wavered back and forth over the years. Now, in the last few years, I have renewed my commitment to my faith, but I still struggled with my relationship with God.

This last year, I attended Pastor David's information meeting on the Walk to Emmaus. I then realized that I had to do the Walk if I really wanted to bring myself closer to God, to understand what it really means to be a disciple of Christ. This time at Emmaus, forced me to confront one of my biggest fears—giving up control.

For three days—72 hours—I put myself into the hands of others. This was difficult, but as time went on I found my self relaxing, focusing more and more on God. Ultimately I surrendered all my doubts and fears.

I can honestly say that I was humbled and awed by the experience. I was so overwhelmed by the prayers and support during the time away. I have come out of this with my faith deepened in ways I never thought possible. I have a new passion to serve Christ in whatever way I can with a renewed commit to find my calling as a disciple of Christ and to bring others closer to God as I continue on my *Walk to Emmaus*.

De Colores

The Walk to
Emmaus



72 Hours At His Feet

by Sarah Barber

This pilgrim's walk was a tough one. As I entered into the week before the journey, I spent a great deal of time in prayer and preparation, spiritually. My heart was excited to take this trip knowing the way God speaks to His children. It was thrilling to think of the wonderful things God would do on this *Walk to Emmaus*.

Being a mom, of course I had times when I felt guilty as I left my daughter for the first time. But, you know it's funny how God just took that guilt and threw it out the window. He had a goal in mind for me. My prayers deepened and the dedication to His will was strengthened. I was filled with the overwhelming peace that God had this whole weekend planned and He was going to carve out time just for me. What a great feeling!

Once there, I got sick! Satan will do that to you as you try to be effective in your Christian walk. That evil one tried to take me out. My daughter's flu from a few days before hit me like a ton of bricks, and I was now in a full blown spiritual battle. But God used that 'sick time' for my benefit—to quiet my heart and lead me to a place of TOTAL surrender. I had no choice but to completely rely on others. This servant's heart was now in the blessed place of being served.

I was sitting in the perfect seat to listen to what God was telling me the week before. *"I am not going to tell you yet. I have you my darling child. Don't worry...just keep going. What I have for you is at the end of your journey. Keep talking to me and trusting me. I will show you your gift in My time."* Talk about an encounter!

God lived up to His promise and taught me that when He says to step out of the boat, *JUST DO IT!* Don't be afraid or try to look down for footing...He **really** has the whole thing covered. What great freedom it is to truly surrender to Him.

"Restore the joy of my salvation, and sustain me with a willing spirit." (Psalm 51:12)

by Patti Melsheimer

Healthy Corner

Reducing the Stress in Your Life!

During these days of heightened anxiety related to the events of the past few weeks it is important to know how to reduce stress. One effective way to reduce stress is to use meditation. Anyone can practice meditation. It's simple and inexpensive, and it doesn't require any special equipment. Meditation can give you a sense of calm, peace and balance that benefits both your emotional well-being and your overall health. And these benefits don't end when your meditation session ends. Meditation can help carry you more calmly through your day and improve certain medical conditions. There are many types of meditation and relaxation techniques with meditation components. But all share the same goal of inner peace.

In her article, "Finding God in Meditation and Contemplation" Mary Louise Head suggests that meditation is the second stage of prayer. The first stage is described as "vocal prayer" which is recited or sung. And the third stage is contemplative prayer when your heart reaches out to God's presence. Meditative prayer is centered in one's mind which pictures and ponders, reflects and thinks of the Creator God's wonderful actions. Your mind seeks understanding and insight. Your lips are quiet and your mind is active.

Whether you are using meditation to lower your blood pressure or as part of your prayer life, there are skills to be developed in order to learn to meditate successfully. Learn to focus your attention. This is probably the most important

element of meditation. This helps you free your mind from the many distractions that cause stress and worry. Try to relax your breathing. Take deep, even-paced breath using the diaphragm muscle to expand your lungs. Try to be comfortable so that you can get the most out of your meditation. Find a quiet location away from the television, radio or cell phone to practice meditation. "If you have one place where you settle down to pray or meditate on a regular basis, you can move into it faster and more gently; it's your space for that purpose," says the Rev. Theonia Amenda, a retired United Methodist minister and covenant guidance counselor in Slinger, Wis. "I have a room—it's a guest room, really, but it's also my meditation room—and I have symbols around me that help me focus."

The following guidelines are provided to help one in meditative and contemplative prayer. Seek solitude; be faithful to solitude times; welcome both self-knowledge and God-knowledge. Learn to waste time with God. Dare to be alone. Be willing to go apart from the crowd and the action, to be called away from the world's business.

Experiment, and you'll likely find out what method of meditation works best for you and what you enjoy doing. Adapt meditation to your needs at the moment. Remember, there's no right way or wrong way to meditate. What matters is that meditation helps you maintain a relationship with God as well as reduce your stress.

