

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
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Insert

▪ AG UM CC Chronicle

**Communications
Committee**

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order)

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Pastor David Burgeson, Heidi
Carpentier, Susan Coho, Betty
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& Virginia Mothes.

Article Deadline:
*10th of each month (see important
notice on page two)*

PLEASE NOTE: *Layout Editor
reserves the right to cut/edit
articles to meet space limitations.*

To add a friend, edit an address
or to be removed from our
mailing list, please notify our
church office at (805) 481-2692,
by fax at 481-2693, or via e-
mail at fumcag@sbcglobal.net.

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

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



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

Sarah Barber & David Burgeson
are getting married!

July							
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

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

We Invite You All To Attend!

This is a special day for our church as the Barber and Burgeson families unite on July 9th at 1 PM here at UMC of AG. We pray that you will join us and stay for the cake and punch reception in Criswell Hall following the ceremony .

While our pastor is away on his honeymoon, we welcome two special guests to our pulpit, former pastor Al Gorsline and Ed McRae. We hope that you will welcome them and enjoy what God has to say through these special men.

The church office will remain open with volunteer assistance from 9 AM to noon. Regular office schedule will resume upon their return the week of July 25th.



Visit our website at worshipweekly.com

- Senior Pastor:**
Rev. David M. Burgeson
- Minister of Visitation:**
Rev. J. Harold Headrick
- Ministers:**
Members & Friends
- Office Administrator/ Newsletter:**
Sarah Barber
- Bookkeeper:**
Victoria Gandy
- Website Manager:**
Jamie Foster
- Chancel Choir Director:**
Julie Burns
- Lord's Crew - Praise Team Dir.:**
Susan Coho
- Organist:**
Don McGuire

- Choral Pianist:**
Dennis Eiler
- Multi-Media Director:**
Mike Coho
- Puppet People:**
Mike Herber
- Handbell Dir. — Grande Ringers:**
Leonard Lutz
- Adult Christian Education:**
Susan Coho
- UM Youth Directors:**
Mike & Linda Herber
- Children's Ministry Director:**
Carolyn Russell
- Bishop:**
Mary Ann Swenson
- District Superintendent:**
Rev. Cathleen Coots

AG UM Children's Center

agumcc@sbcglobal.net
(805) 481-2223

Director: Madrigal Quaglino





As we are in the Season of Pentecost I want to share with you from our Bishop Mary Ann this article that came across my desk in my Shepherd's notes this month.

"Dear Friends in Christ,

As we prepare for Annual Conference in Redlands next week, I am in West Virginia as guest preacher (for Bishop Ernest Lyght, who is ill, and for whom I ask your prayers.) Their theme scripture is Acts 1:1-10, and Jesus' final instructions to the disciples to 'wait for the power of the baptism of the Holy Spirit,' and then with that power, to witness "to Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." Here's an excerpt from the first sermon that I believe holds true for us all. ~ **Bishop Mary Ann**

The Japanese town of Ishinomaki was hit hard by this year's terrible earthquake.* Hiroyuki Takeuchi was the editor of the local newspaper, Ishinomaki Hibi Shimbun. Once his office stopped shaking after the long, violent quake, Hiroyuki checked to see if he was OK, and if his staff was OK. Then he looked around the newsroom; all the computers were instantly useless; the printing presses on the ground floor would soon be flooded by the impending tsunami.

The newspaper had a regular daily circulation of 14,000, with an unbroken record of daily delivery for the last 100 years. But in those few moments, the earth had shaken the newspaper back into the journalistic stone age. But Hiroyuki was not going to let an earthquake stop their purpose.

The reporting staff gathered and was sent out on foot to get whatever information they could, bringing back handwritten notes. These were collected and Hiroyuki began dictating that day's newspaper: what was usually a press run of 14,000 dropped to just six: six papers written out by hand by flashlight on large sheets of white paper using black felt-tip markers, and then posted in evacuation centers and other gathering places.

For the next week, the reporters went out daily, collecting news and stories; one reporter told of how he waded through chest-deep water, holding his precious notes overhead back to the office, where the publisher became truly the publisher, because he had the best handwriting!

Here was a team of people that **knew their purpose**; deep in their bones, they knew their purpose—find the news, tell the story—and in the midst of catastrophe, they fulfilled their purpose. Because they kept faith with their purpose, families were reconnected, resources were directed to where there was the most urgent need, the disaster was addressed and healing began.

What did Jesus say to his disciples? You will be baptized, you will receive power, then with that spiritual power, you will be my witnesses—you will tell this story—in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. We are gathered this evening because there is an unbroken chain of success stretching back to those disciples—as inept as they sometimes were, as often as they didn't get it, they got this part right: tell the story of the cross and the empty tomb, give your witness to the power of God's grace revealed in Christ Jesus, be baptized and receive both the power and the purpose to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. *Amen.*"



- R. N. Gilliland 7/2
- Gladys Paulsen 7/2
- Carol Smith 7/2
- Kristen Davis 7/3
- Laura Ewick 7/3
- Shirley Cross 7/4
- Bud Johnson 7/6
- Mike Rohla 7/9
- Madge Harvey 7/10
- Bernie Hawkins 7/11
- Larry Baughman 7/11
- Dick Melsheimer 7/14
- Sarah Barber 7/14
- Enrique Quintana 7/15
- Lillian Duffin 7/15
- Gary Hughes 7/15
- Carole Browne 7/18
- Serafina Regusci 7/19
- Joel Anderson 7/19
- Betty Lorenz 7/20
- Lew Hammond 7/22
- Sabrina Leonard 7/27
- Montana Dobbs 7/29
- Morrie Gregory 7/29
- Cassie Williams 7/29
- Buffy Prestemon 7/30
- Donna Truman 7/30
- Zac Spalding 7/31



Sunday	8:30 AM	10:30 AM	Nursery	Kids/Youth	Teachers	TOTAL
First Sunday	38	105	1	12/6	7	169
Second Sunday	78	155	3	10/in service	3	169
Third Sunday	34	103	2	13/in-service	3	155
Fourth Sunday	38	138	2	14/in service	4	196

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 15%;"> <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> </div> <div style="width: 40%; text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="width: 15%;"> <p>1 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 3:30 PM AG UM CC Closed 4 PM AG UM CC Staff Development (MMR)</p> </div> <div style="width: 15%;"> <p>2 12:30 —4:30 PM Adventures of Dr. Chess (211)</p> </div> </div>						
<p>ONE SERVICE 10:30 AM</p>	<p>4 5 PM Champion Youth Outreach Self-defense (CH) - OFF for Holiday 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 style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>5 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 7 PM Trustees (MMR)</p>	<p>6 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9 AM EOC Sr. Health Screening (N/L) 5 PM Family Supper (CH) 5:45 PM Kids Night Out (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>7 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 11:30 AM People's Kitchen leave to serve 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 7 PM Finance (MMR)</p>	<p>8 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 6 PM Barber-Burgeson Wedding Rehearsal & Dinner (SCH)</p>	<p>9 12:30 —4:30 PM Adventures of Dr. Chess (211)</p> <p>1 PM Barber-Burgeson wedding Everyone is invited (CH/S)</p>
<p>10 Coffee Hour Host ELT Scholarship Committee</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service and UM Youth Group *Children's Sunday School at both services</p> <p>Guest Preacher Al Gorsline</p> <p>Burgesons gone until July 23</p>	<p>11 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)</p>	<p>12 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10:30 AM Communications (L) 6 PM AG MS Support Group (MMR)</p>	<p>13 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 11 AM Blue Umbrella (MMR) 1 PM Alzheimer's Care-Givers Support Group (CH) 5 PM Family Supper (CH) 5:45 PM Kids Night Out (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>14 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L)</p>	<p>15 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>16 12:30 —4:30 PM Adventures of Dr. Chess (211) 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearse (S)</p>
<p>17 Coffee Hour Host Red Umbrella</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service and UM Youth Group *Children's Sunday School at both services</p> <p>Guest Preacher Ed McRae</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)</p>	<p>19 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR)</p>	<p>20 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 5 PM Family Supper (CH) 5:45 PM Kids Night Out (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>21 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 11:30 AM People's Kitchen leave to serve 6:30 PM WOW (MMR)</p>	<p>22 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 12 PM Alzheimer's Care-Givers Support Group (MMR)</p>	<p>23 12:30 —4:30 PM Adventures of Dr. Chess (211)</p>
<p>24 Coffee Hour Host All-Church Sunday</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>26 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 2 PM Preschool Board - closed session (MMR) 2:30 PM Endowment (L) 3:30 PM Preschool Board—open session (MMR)</p>	<p>27 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 5 PM Family Supper (CH) 5:45 PM Kids Night Out (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>28 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group (L) 4 PM Book Club (MMR) 6:30 PM Church Council (MMR)</p>	<p>29 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>30 12:30 —4:30 PM Adventures of Dr. Chess (211) 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal (5:30 PM set-up) (S)</p>
<p>31 Coffee Hour Host A Thank You from the Burgesons</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service and UM Youth Group *Children's Sunday School at both services</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>					

Deepening Your Effectiveness: Restructuring The Local Church For Life Transformation

PART IV: RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP Recap of Weds Evening Bible Study by Susan Coho

In the first installment of this series, we learned that the ocean diagram below parallels a new believer's path to becoming a fully committed follower of Jesus Christ; a path that can be implemented in the local church. There are 4 parts in this Discipleship Pathway: 1) Invitational 2) Instructional 3) Relational and 4) Servant. Invitational Discipleship invites us to receive the opportunity for restoration. Instructional Discipleship teaches about the many aspects of restoration. Relational Discipleship, our focus this month, is the mechanism through which we truly participate and come to an understanding and practice of God's original intent for us.

According to Dan Glover, author of our study, relational discipleship has not been practiced in many, many churches. Instead, we have embraced the concept of friendship. Don't we all seek to be a friendly church? Of course, the very essence of Invitational Discipleship is to create a welcome, friendly environment. However, the church has taken discipleship even beyond the invitational stage and replaced it with less potent friendliness. Granted, friendship is not a bad thing in and of itself, but the church is not commissioned to make friends. It is commissioned to make disciples. We can see the reason for lack of life transformation in the church when we compare definitions for these two terms.

- Disciple - One who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another as one of the twelve in the inner circle of Christ's followers according to the Gospel accounts; a convinced adherent of a school or individual.
- Friend - One attached to another by affection or esteem.

Friends have no motivation to spread the doctrines of Christ because there is no expectation placed upon them to do so by their church-based relationships. Disciples accept the doctrines of Jesus and make them their own. Jesus' doctrines become the core principles that drive disciples, as they emulate Jesus' lifestyle. Accepting the doctrines of Jesus is not a pre-

requisite for friendship. Because friends are attached by tender feelings (affection), high regard or simply because they are acquainted rather than by passionate, shared conviction; there is no compelling drive to emulate Jesus' lifestyle.

Relational discipleship proactively equips people for the journey ahead. It is devoted to building a healthy biblical community where people can appropriately work through new information they gain from preachers and teachers. They learn to incorporate it into everyday life, correctly interpreting God's voice, and wrestling through the roller coaster ride of discerning their God given purpose. It is in giving and receiving encouragement, confession, direction, and guidance, accountability, and loving confrontation that the Holy Spirit begins to transform people into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

There are two tangible components to the Relational Discipleship segment: 1) Small groups 2) Go and See ministry. *Small groups* provide an emotionally safe environment where a believer's spiritual agitation can be appropriately addressed. The role of the small group leader is to create a trust-filled environment where people can safely confess their God-dreams, and deal with their spiritual agitation. In the small group a person's "flame" can be fanned into beautiful growth in Christ.

In *Go and See Ministry*, believers are allowed to "test drive" helping in a given ministry to gain experience and discover the individual call God has on their lives. In the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus said to His disciples "You feed them". That was inconceivable to the disciples! Jesus then said "How many loaves do you have? Go and see".

Prior to this time, the disciples had only watched Jesus performing miracles. Through "going and seeing", they helped in ministry, they suddenly became part of the actual miracle Jesus performed.

In the August Cast-A-Net, we look at the final Discipleship Pathway step: Servant



Yellow Umbrella News Mission & Social Concerns

Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION HIGHLIGHT

This month I am sharing an article about a ministry that happened at Give Ye Them To Eat (GYTTE) in Mexico where Muriel and Terry Henderson are missionaries. Another example of the UMC in mission where we have missionaries that we support.

Cristina Perez decided to participate in a great adventure in the company of 11 other villagers from Mataplanta, Veracruz. They traveled more than five hours to the GYTTE Tree of Life Training Center in Tlancualpican, Puebla, to take part in a workshop on the Dry Composting Toilet System. This was the first time Cristina had traveled out of her village, and she had great hopes that learning about this technology would improve the quality of life for her family by providing an appropriate and cost-effective solution to their sanitation needs.

During the workshop, Perez explained that in her community some of the families have pit latrines like hers, whereas others have no sanitation facilities whatsoever. Although it embarrassed her to say so, she noted that when their latrine was full, the only thing they could do was to empty out the pit in order to use it again. Disposing of the sewage was yet another problem.

Recently, the government offered to help Perez's community by putting in sewage lines so families could build flush toilets, but villagers found this approach problematic. The cost per household to connect to the sewage line was more than many families could afford. The lack of water available to homes made a flush toilet an unlikely solution, and the government's plan to pipe sewage to the river would contaminate the water source villagers used for bathing, clothes washing, and fishing.

Cristina said the workshop was a blessing for her and the entire group because it offered an economical alternative that enabled them to solve their sanitation problem without contaminating their world. The group expressed joy over the concern the GYTTE program has for people and their needs. After the workshop, Cristina and her family built a dry composting toilet system in their small home.

This has brought about a big change in their lives.

Catalino Sanchez is the coordinator of Give Ye Them To Eat's Pueblo Partners Program

THANKS FROM THE CHILDREN

You folks are wonderful! You have made it possible for the children to reach their goal of raising the needed funds for the mule for the Haiti Goat Park. As a result, a healthy animal will be able to carry the needed water for the goats. This will make a success of raising healthy stock to benefit families on La Gonave, Haiti.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE SPECIAL OFFERING FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE

With your support, there will be the opportunity for ministry that treats our sisters and brothers in a more just way, both in our conference and around the world.

THANKS FOR SPECIAL GIVING RESPONSE

Thank you on behalf of the recipients of all the special givings which you have shared with others during the first part of the year. We are so blessed. It is good to see that we want to and are able to share with those around the world who are in need in one way or another.

SPECIAL GIVING UPDATES

Domestic Disaster Response	\$25
South County Food Bank	\$775.82
Goat for Haitian Goat Farm	\$50
Haiti Relief	\$25
Japan Relief	\$1,830
Native American Ministries	\$409
Mule for Haitian Village	\$350
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$785
People's Kitchen	\$307
Spring Storms	\$405

TOTAL \$4,961.82



Mondays at 7 PM in the 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!

BIBLE READING

Every Thursday—rain or shine—we will meet in the Sanctuary and continue reading the Bible aloud from 5—6 PM. We pray that you will join us in this time to bless the Lord and read His Word.

*Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.
—Psalm 119:105*



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** to 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?

- 5:00 PM Wednesday Night Church Supper
- 5:45 PM Kids Night Out
- 6:00 PM Pastor's Study
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir is off for summer! UM Youth



Through the Bible in a year

All-Church Challenge!

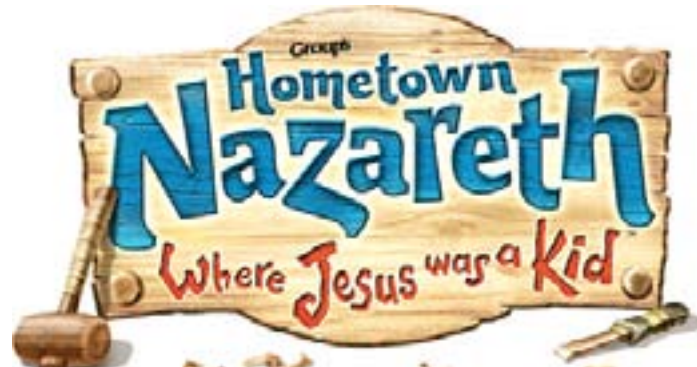
Bible Reading Schedules are available here at UMC of AG for us to join in reading God's Word in one year.



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.





What A Week - Praise God!
June 20-24, 2011



Offices are closed July 4th



ONE SERVICE CELEBRATION

July 3rd our church will combine both services and worship together as one at **10:30 AM.** Join us as we sit together as **ONE** family in the presence of our Father.

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Women Blessings World Thank Offering

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JULY 2011						1 5 cents for each room in your home
3 Give thanks for Latin American Caribbean Missionaries	4 5 cents for each time you wash your hands	5 5 cents every time you say a prayer	6 10 cents for each fruit you eat today	7 5 cents for each book you are reading	8 25 cents for each book you are reading	9 Count your friends
10 Give thanks for African & Pacific Island Missionaries	11 10 cents for each pair of shoes	12 25 cents for each Bible	13 5 cents for each cup of coffee or tea today	14 10 cents for each son & daughter	15 25 cents for each trip to the market	16 Count your family members
17 Give thanks for Russian & Asian Missionaries	18 5 cents for each hair brush	19 25 cents for each automobile	20 5 cents for each slice of bread you eat today	21 10 cents for each grandchild	22 25 cents for each TV program watched	23 Thank God for Loving us
24 Give thanks for Middle Eastern Missionaries	25 5 cents for each letter you receive	26 25 cents for each computer	27 5 cents for each vegetable you eat today	28 5 cents for each small kitchen appliance	29 5 cents for each phone call	30 Thank God for a beautiful world
31 Give thanks for the U.S. Missionaries	World Thank Offering Day - August 11th <i>Refer to page 7 for more details</i>					



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

United Methodist Men and Guests Enjoy June Barbecue

The Nipomo Mesa home of Steve and Dee Anna Shrefler was the setting on June 11th for the UMM summer barbecue for the second year in a row. Nestled beside an avocado orchard, the Shrefler home is beautifully furnished and decorated and the group dining room was the cleanest garage most of us have ever entered. The chicken and tri-tip barbecue with all the trimmings was perfectly prepared, the weather was sunny and the Christian fellowship most enjoyable. This winds up the UMM program until monthly meetings resume on Saturday, September 17. Watch this column and Sunday church bulletins for meeting announcements. Contact UMM President Tom Egan if you have ideas for meetings and other programs or would like to volunteer your committee skills and expertise.

Dick Gainer Named 2011 United Methodist Man of the Year

Dick Gainer was honored as the 2011 Methodist Man the Year at the UMM barbecue. We see him and his wife Peggy beside the minister at each communion service as they offer personal prayers and comforting. Dick continues this caring during the week as he makes visitations to those in need as a member of the Blue Umbrella Committee. He was vital in keeping the UMM wheels in motion following the sudden death of UMM President Carl Kliesch in 2008. Dick took over as president and led the planning process to continue our busy schedule. He is a strong supporter of Christian missions and served as Yellow Umbrella (missions) chairman for many years. His name has been added to the list of famous men you will see on the United Methodist Man of the Year plaque in Criswell Hall.



Monthly Goal

\$ 22,000

Received

\$ 20,618

Difference

\$ -1, 382.



- At the end of May we were 8% over budget. This is live-able. Our Parsonage Account still stands at \$169,336.
- The ovens are now working fine.
- Plans have been laid out for a 16' x 16' shed. We will get a quote for materials on this project.
- The bus was inspected and passed except for paper work. I have applied for the Employer Pull Notice Program which is required by the CHP. I now have to set up a drug and alcohol program for our drivers. People in this program are called at random and must be tested within an hour. The bus was used recently for a short trip and all went well.
- The long strip of plants from Halcyon to the metal shed does not get watered properly due to a bad timer. This will be taken care of.
- We still have two leaks in the choir area. This may be the cause of some higher notes heard recently.



Mark your calendar

You are invited to join a discussion of the **Social Principles of the United Methodist Church**. The Social Principles is "the product of ninety-eight years of legislative decisions made by lay and clergy members of the United Methodist Church and its predecessor denominations. The Social Principles are prayerful and thoughtful efforts on the part of many General Conferences to speak to complex and controversial issues in the global community." Co-led by Pastor David and Patti Melsheimer, this is your opportunity to examine your own theology and ethics, as well as those of our church.



Join us 6 PM in the McMillen Room every Wednesday in August for a stimulating discussion!



We doubled attendance at the last service. Come and see what the fuss is about!



Welcoming Ministry! (PART-2)

Compiled by Jerry Smith

The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The UMC spoke to the heart in practical ways, using the popular media of the day: print, song and preaching. They steadfastly refused to let their words be confined to the sanctuary and classroom. So God's Word was shared with the masses in the streets of England, the British Isles, the colonies in America and eventually around the world.

Today, The United Methodist Church faithfully carries our traditions to the 21st century. It emphasizes the first movement of the symphony of grace. Like the hymns and field preaching of 18th century England, the messages are designed to go beyond the people already in our congregations to invite all people to respond.

On behalf of the people of The United Methodist Church, we offer this invitation: "Our hearts, our minds and our doors are always open." It is an invitation to discover that United Methodists are an open, hospitable community of people. It is a promise that United Methodist congregations will welcome everyone to a rich experience of faith and work together to growing in spiritual well-being.

The message emerges from a core human experience—a sense of emptiness in day-to-day existence—shared in some way by everyone. For some, it is a feeling that our activities are

meaningless or our jobs purposeless. Others express a fierce sense of self-sufficiency and independence that masks a deeper uncertainty. Some experience a sense of distance from people—a lack of intimacy in even the closest human relationships. Others feel trapped in emotional distress, unrelenting pain or crushing defeat. However this feeling manifests itself, it expresses a basic reality: Humankind is frustrated and estranged from one another and from God. To this common life experience, we offer hope and invitation. In our souls, there is a desire and up-welling of energy that urges us to seek more from life and to develop meaningful and trustworthy relationships with others and with God. This power and drive comes as a gift, unexpected and unmerited. It is an eternal presence—a grace and a power—available to everyone whether we are alert to its presence or not. It is a sheer gift from a loving God. It is the dimension of God's love that John Wesley called "prevenient grace."¹

That power is available to all people, everywhere. It invites us to search for understanding of life; it urges us to reach out to others and find community. It pushes us beyond our narrow self-interest to compassion and service to others. In a welcoming culture, people are accepted for who they are and are supported in sharing their gifts.

SOURCE: 2010 United Methodist Communications

¹ The [United Methodist Book of Discipline \(2008\)](#) defines prevenient grace as "...the divine love that surrounds all humanity and precedes any and all of our conscious impulses. This grace prompts our first wish to please God, our first glimmer of understanding concerning God's will, and our 'first slight transient conviction' of having sinned against God. God's grace also awakens in us an earnest longing for deliverance from sin and death and moves us toward repentance and faith."



Submitted by Eva McClure
United Methodist Women
Faith, Hope and Love In Action

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WORLD THANK OFFERING

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me?" Psalms 116:12

"The World Thank Offering is an offering of spontaneous, additional gifts to United Methodist Women given out of gratitude for God's abundance and in celebration of the joys of life. Individuals or families collect such gifts which are then brought together once a year with a special dedication service."

The first Thank Offering was observed in Lansing, MI, over 125 yrs. ago due to the inspiration of Mrs. H.E. Taylor. She was elected District President of the Methodist women's group in 1881 and cites a District meeting where a wonderful sense of Divine power was felt. When she got home she relived the whole meeting over again and felt so blessed that she had cried aloud, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits?" A voice said, "You can make a Thank Offering". She at once thought of a \$5 gold piece that she had just gotten from selling dried apples and said, "Yes, Lord! I can and I will."

We, in Arroyo Grande, have so very much to be thankful for...our Church family with all the blessings which come to us thru being a part of that body of Christians, the awe-inspiring beauty of our surroundings, family, our community of friends, music, theater, and the list goes on and on.

In order that each person may have an opportunity to express his/her own personal gratitude to God for his many gifts this year, AG United Methodist Women will be celebrating **World Thank Offering Day** - August 11th. **July** will be the month each person daily thinks about and reminds themselves of God's blessings in their own life; the BLESSING CALENDAR on the bottom of this page can be used to help you in that process. As each daily BLESSING is acknowledged/celebrated, a small offering will be given toward UMW supported mission projects. These 'Thank You' offerings can be placed in a container in a convenient spot in your home and then brought to a special UMW meeting at the Church in August.

The World Thank Offering is and has been for many decades an opportunity for personal Thanksgiving and learning of mission outreach. (More information on this meeting in the next Cast-a-Net).

See page 5 for the Blessings World Thank Calendar



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.



Church Library News

Karen Kingsbury is well known for her inspirational novels. Thanks to Fern Farmer, we now have two more of her popular series: "Sunrise and Sunset" and others. Come in and have a look. Also check out our "Adopt-A-Book" shelf. They consist of book that have been donated to the library that we want to make available to the congregation. Don't forget: summer time is a good time to read.



You may have missed it—so we want to share some of our special moments from Youth Sunday (June 12th)...if you were there they are a reminder of what a great youth group team we have. Thank you to Mike and Linda for their hard work each year in putting this program together, to the kids for their participation. We are grateful to God that we are blessed with people like you in our church family.

Youth Group will continue to meet every Wednesday in the Youth Lounge at 7 PM



Our ELT Scholarship recipients (below, from left) Ibby Russell, Amanda Trecartin, Mara Spaulding, Caitlin Herber, and Chelsea Bailey.

"If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."
John 14:14, NRSV

submitted by Patti Melsheimer



AIDS – An Epidemic That Has Not Yet Been Defeated!

It has been 30 years since AIDS was first reported in the United States in 1981. Since then it has become a major worldwide epidemic, killing nearly 30 million people worldwide, including more than 615,000 Americans. Although it is a subject difficult for most of us to discuss or talk about, it is of great concern and must be addressed by all of us. As Methodists we are challenged by our "Social Principles" to "be actively involved in the prevention of the spread of AIDS by providing educational opportunities to the congregation and the community."

AIDS is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV. By killing or damaging cells of the body's immune system, HIV progressively destroys the body's ability to fight infections and certain cancers. People diagnosed with AIDS may get life-threatening diseases called opportunistic infections. These infections are caused by microbes such as viruses or bacteria that usually do not make healthy people sick.

Today, 34 million people – including more than 1.2 million in the U.S.- are living with the virus. This year, 1.8 million of them will die, including about 17,000 in this country. Globally, women account for half of all HIV infections. About 21 percent of those infected with HIV are unaware of their infection.

HIV is found in the blood, semen, or vaginal fluid of someone who is infected with the virus. You may be at increased risk of becoming infected with HIV if you: 1)engage in anal, vaginal, or oral sex with men who have sex with men, multiple partners, or anonymous partners without using a condom; 2)inject drugs or steroids where needles/syringes are shared; 3)have a sexually transmitted infection, such as syphilis, genital herpes, chlamydia, gonorrhea, bacterial vaginosis, or trichomoniasis; 4)have been diagnosed with hepatitis, tuberculosis, or malaria; 5)exchange sex for drugs or money; 6)are exposed to the virus as a fetus or infant before or during birth or through breastfeeding from a mother infected with HIV; 7)received a blood transfusion or clotting factor in the United States anytime from 1978 to 1985; 8)engage in unprotected sex with someone who has any of the risk factors listed above.

Remember, HIV cannot survive for very long outside of the body. HIV cannot be transmitted through routine daily activities such as using a toilet seat, sharing food utensils or drinking glasses, shaking hands, or through kissing. The virus can only be transmitted from person to person, not through animals or insect bites. People infected with HIV who are taking antiretroviral therapy can still infect others through unprotected sex and needle-sharing.

Of the estimated 1.2 million Americans currently living with HIV, 21 percent do not know they are infected. People who have been infected recently with HIV often have few to no symptoms yet are extremely infectious and may unknowingly transmit the virus to others. Therefore, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends HIV testing for adults, adolescents, and pregnant women during routine medical care. When people know their HIV status, they can begin treatment and make better decisions about sexual behaviors, breastfeeding their children and other activities.

Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent HIV infection nor is there a cure for HIV/AIDS. To reduce your risk of becoming infected with HIV or transmitting the virus to others get tested regularly for HIV; practice abstinence; remain faithful to your spouse or partner; consistently use male latex or female polyurethane condoms; do not share needles.

(Sources: National Institute of Health, National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, Los Angeles Times (6/5/2011); Social Principles of the UMC, 2009-12;162U.)