

**275 NORTH HALCYON ROAD**  
**ARROYO GRANDE, CA 93420**  
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**US POSTAGE**  
 Permit #27  
 Arroyo Grande  
 CA, 93420

# December 2011

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Insert AG UM CC Chronicle



- December 6**  
 An Evening With St. Nicholas  
 by Jamie Foster at **7 PM**
- December 16**  
 Blue Christmas at **7 PM**
- December 15**  
 AG UM Children's Center  
 Holiday Program at **7 PM**
- December 24**  
 Christmas Eve by Candlelight  
 • **6 PM** Family Service  
 • **7:30 PM** Traditional Service
- December 25**  
 ONE Unique Christmas Service  
 at **10:30 AM "Blessing of the Toys"** (kids bring a toy and they come to church in PJ's)
- December 31**  
 • Food & Game Night at **6 PM**  
 • Quiet Meditation and Holy Communion at **7 - 7:30 PM**
- January 1**  
 ONE Celebration Service at  
 10:30 AM—Happy New Year!

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



## Advent Series For The WHOLE Family

All through Advent, Pastor David will look at the story of a simple girl, an ordinary man and an unforgettable destination. Sundays and Wednesdays the adults, kids and youth group will use the Word of God and read *The Journey—Walking the Road To Bethlehem*, a book by Adam Hamilton.

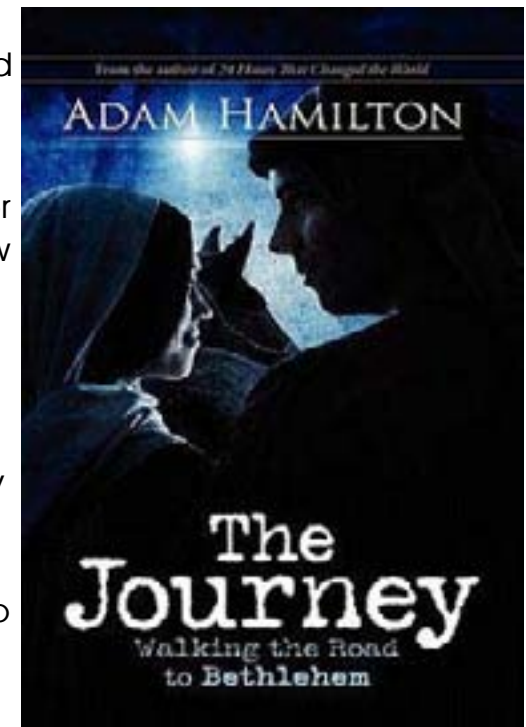
With these, we will explore the story of the birth of Jesus with fresh eyes and ears. We will walk through the Holy Land and retrace the steps of those involved. We'll draw upon insights gained from historians, archaeologists, biblical scholars, theologians and from walking in the places where the story occurred, all in an effort to discover a real meaning of Christmas.

**The Journey sermon series**  
 continues **Sundays at 8:30 AM** and  
**10:30 AM** with Pastor David.

**A Discussion Group at 9:45 AM**  
 will meet in the McMillen Room for  
 some interesting thought and new  
 perspectives.

**REMEMBER to bring the family  
 on Wednesdays !**

*The Journey* with the Adult Bible  
 Study is at **6 PM**. Our elementary  
**Kids Night Out at 6 PM** will walk  
 the *Road to Bethlehem* led by  
 Victoria Gandy. Our Youth Group  
 will also travel the road with  
 the Herbers at **7 PM**.



Visit our website at [worshipweekly.com](http://worshipweekly.com)

**The First United Methodist Church**  
 275 North Halcyon Road  
 Arroyo Grande

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- Senior Pastor:**  
 Rev. David M. Burgeson
- Minister of Visitation:**  
 Rev. J. Harold Headrick
- Resident Missionary (retired):**  
 Judy Atwood
- Office Administrator/Newsletter:**  
 Sarah Burgeson
- Preschool/Church Bookkeeper:**  
 Victoria Gandy
- Website Manager:**  
 Jamie Foster
- Chancel Choir Director:**  
 Julie Burns
- Lord's Crew - Praise Team Director:**  
 Susan Coho
- Organist:**  
 Don McGuire

- Choral Pianist:**  
 Dennis Eiler
- Multi-Media Director:**  
 Mike Coho
- Puppet People, Chair:**  
 Mike Herber
- Grande Ringers— Director:**  
 Leonard Lutz
- Christian Education:**  
 Susan Coho, *Adult*  
 Mike & Linda Herber, *Youth*  
 Carolyn Russell, *Children*
- Bishop:**  
 Mary Ann Swenson
- District Superintendent:**  
 Rev. Cathleen Coots
- AG UM Children's Center  
 Director:** Madrigal Quaglino  
[agumcc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:agumcc@sbcglobal.net)  
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- Chair:** Heidi Carpentier
- Members At Large :**  
 Kathleen Ballagh, David Beaman , Pastor David Burgeson,  
 Sarah Burgeson, Susan Coho,  
 Betty Johnson & Jerry Smith.
- Layout Editor:**  
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 Gary Hughes & members.
- Deadline: 10th of each month**  
**NOTE:** Layout Editor reserves the  
 right to cut and edit articles to  
 meet space limitations.



Pastor David Burgeson



# Shepherd's Notes for Christmas



**We have entered the season of Advent.**

Advent is the beginning season of the Christian Church. A time of anticipation and waiting. We prepare our hearts in celebrations of the birth of Jesus. This time of year is so special. Many glorious hymns of worship and carols of praise have been written about the coming Christ. Some of these songs my family enjoys during this time of waiting. I know you do also!

One that truly touches me is by Charles Wesley, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus." This carol reminds us that God promised to send His Anointed One to rescue Israel. The Scriptures foretell of this coming kingdom, though many in Israel had grown weary in the silence and waiting that lasted for close to 400 years. Still others remained hopeful. They continued to wonder and wait patiently as the years slipped by.

I believe Wesley captures for each of us the deep yearning the Israelites must have felt as they awaited the coming of their Deliverer— the Messiah. Looking back, it is hard to fully appreciate their sense of anticipation. It seems that today we find ourselves in a similar situation, don't we?

When Jesus left the earth, He promised to return. After more than 2,000 years, we still wait for his return. Oh what a joyous time that will be for us as we prepare to celebrate his birth and lift our voices to sing, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus."

I hope you will make plans to join our church family and participate in the many ways we will celebrate Jesus' birth. Just take a moment and look at our calendar for this year! Invite a friend or family member to join you.

That reminds me...as this special season draws closer, there will be many children and their families, as well as youth, and adults who will be visiting with us for a variety of reasons. — Let's all offer Christ's warmest welcome!

*In ministry together,*

*David*



Sunday	8:30 AM	10:30 AM	Nursery	Kids/Youth	Teachers	TOTAL
6th	46	118	3	20/in service	6	<b>193</b>
13th	46	131	3	14/6	5	<b>205</b>
20th	37	110	2	11/?	5	<b>165</b>
27th	NO INFORMATION AT TIME OF PUBLICATION					



- David Beaman 12/3
- Kent Olsen 12/4
- Mary Whitfield 12/4
- Mike Balster 12/7
- Sam Waterman 12/7
- Adeline Bottorff 12/8
- Isabella Sloan 12/8
- Danica Leonard 12/8
- Eva McClure 12/9
- Gage Dowd 12/9
- Kathleen Ballagh 12/9
- Jamie Foster 12/9
- Mike Coho 12/9
- Mike Clark 12/10
- Ben Davis 12/11
- Rita-Ly Hughes 12/12
- Susan Thronson 12/13
- Richard Duffin 12/13
- Chelsea Bailey 12/14
- Ken Leonard 12/14
- Karen Brown 12/16
- Julie Burns 12/16
- Marvin Thurman 12/19
- Kent Unsworth 12/20
- Tierra Tomlyn 12/20
- Harold Bailey 12/21
- Doug Ballagh 12/21
- Duncan Leonard 12/22
- Mary Johnson 12/23
- Cyndee Rohla 12/24
- Tom Gilliland 12/24
- Eric Duffin 12/26
- Nicole Baughman 12/27
- Caress Dowd 12/27
- Jed Moore 12/27
- Roy Ferrari 12/28
- Mike Jacob 12/28
- Josiah Paredes 12/31

## WHAT DO WE HAVE IN COMMON? (OK...BESIDES PRETTY FACES!)



THESE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY SHARE ONE UNIQUE GIFT. CAN YOU GUESS WHAT THAT GIFT IS?

**OK...we'll tell you! They are:** (1) Mike Coho, (2) Gage Dowd, (3) Jamie Foster, (4) Kathleen Ballagh, and (5) Eva McClure.

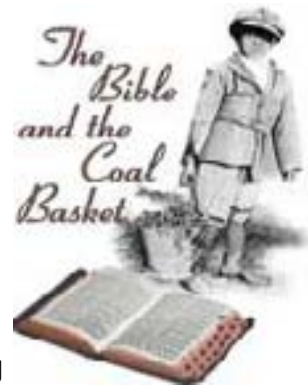
**ALL share a December 9th date of birth** - as well as good looks!

\*\* In the middle of the mix there is Mike Clark who trails the group by ONE a day, (12/10) we just had to include him.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF  
OUR DECEMBER BABIES!



The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible.



His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in any way he could. One day the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house.

The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was "impossible to carry water in a basket," and he went to get a bucket instead.

The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a bas-

ket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough," and he went out the door to watch the boy try again. At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even

if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty.

Out of breath, he said, "See Papa, it's useless!"

"So you think it is useless?" The old man said, "Look at the basket." The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean.

"Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out." **That is the work of God in our lives.**

Take time to read a portion of God's word each day—pray that He will use it to turn your heart and mind to Him.

*"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word."*  
Psalm 119:9



### People's Kitchen Serves Christmas Meal on December 15th

We need people to:

- make casseroles,
- prepare the meals,
- serve the meals, AND
- donate... **Christmas gifts.**

Small WRAPPED gifts for men and women, as well as, some generic ones. These donations can be returned to the barrel in the Narthex (be sure to mark packages accordingly). A list of gift suggestions is available.

MEALS SERVED	
November 2011:	283
<b>YTD:</b>	<b>2,262</b>
SOCKS DISTRIBUTED	
November 2011:	279
<b>YTD:</b>	<b>3,517</b>

The UMC of AG People's Kitchen Team serves hot meals to the needy in our community at the *Shouts of Grace Church* in Grover Beach on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. The team leaves UMC of AG at 11:30 AM with eager hearts for service.



# "The Journey - Walking the Road to Bethlehem"

## SERMON SERIES & BIBLE STUDY FOR ADVENT

This series is based on a book by Adam Hamilton, entitled "*The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*." Pastor David will lead us, along with Adam Hamilton, from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. As we did with Jesus' crucifixion in 24 Hours That Changed the World, (our Lenten Study of 2010 & 11), once again we approach a world-changing event with thoughtfulness. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road. Take the journey!

- Sunday, November 27th
  - Sermon *Mary of Nazareth* (8:30 AM & 10:30 AM services)
  - 9:45 AM Disciples Discussion Group
- Wednesday, November 30th 6 PM Adult, Youth, & Children's Advent Study—*Mary of Nazareth*
- Sunday, December 4th
  - Sermon *Joseph of Bethlehem* (8:30 AM & 10:30 AM services)
  - 9:45 AM Disciples Discussion Group
- Wednesday, December 7th 6 PM Adult, Youth, & Children's Advent Study—*Joseph of Bethlehem*
- Sunday, December 11th
  - Sermon *Mary's Visit to Elizabeth* (8:30 AM & 10:30 AM services)
  - 9:45 AM Disciples Discussion Group
- Wednesday, December 14th 6 PM Adult, Youth, & Children's Advent Study—*Mary's Visit to Elizabeth*
- Sunday, December 18th
  - Sermon *From Nazareth to Bethlehem* (8:30 AM & 10:30 AM services)
  - 9:45 AM Disciples Discussion Group
- Wednesday, December 21st 6 PM Adult, Youth, & Children's Advent Study—*From Nazareth to Bethlehem*
- Sunday, December 25th
  - Sermon *The Manger* (10:30 AM ONE Christmas Service)
- Wednesday, December 28th 6 PM Adult, Youth, & Children's Advent Study—*The Manger*
- Sunday, January 1st
  - Sermon *New Beginnings* (10:30 AM ONE Service)
- Wednesday, January 4th 6 PM Adult, Youth, & Children's Advent Study—*New Beginnings*

Please Note: Sunday Disciples Discussion Group and Wednesday Adult Advent Study are both held in the McMillen Room







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

## To Drill or Not To Drill That Is The Question

October 29, 2011, twenty nine UMC of AG'ers met in the church lot and headed off to the *Melfred Borzall Manufacturing Plant* in Santa Maria. This plant is owned by the Melsheimer family. This UMM trip was scheduled on a week-day so we could view the plant in full operation.

Several in the bunch boarded the 'new' church bus and were carefully delivered to the facility by the hands of driver Mike Coho. It was an enjoyable bus ride —the vehicle and the driver performed well.

*Melfred Borzall* manufactures drill bits from flat steel and steel rods. The finished drill will eventually be used to angle under roads, rivers and even buildings. The finished drills ranges from the size of a broomstick to a 3,500 pound monster that drills a 2 foot bore. The friendly staff of 35 were busy doing all kinds of jobs from welding to engineering and publicity. Company sales are world wide with the products held in high regard throughout the drill business.

A portable welding unit is taken to schools for demonstrations on special "work days" and many projects are participated in by Hancock Community College, as well as, Cal Poly. Most of the company's equipment are original designs. The plant has recently been expanded to double its previous size and new workers are being hired.

This unique November program began with a display of many of the companies smaller products followed by a power point presentation by Peter Melsheimer on the total operation. This was followed by a delicious breakfast cooked and served by Patti Melsheimer assisted by Eva McClure. After breakfast, the group was broken up into smaller groups, with a guide, and taken through the plant.

## DECEMBER MEETING...

Will be held on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM in Criswell Hall at the church. Breakfast will cost \$9 per person. Sign-ups start Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> in Criswell Hall after the service.

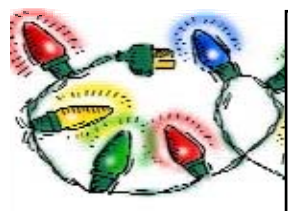
**Menu:** Scrambled Eggs, Ham, Fruit Cup, Sweet Rolls, Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate.

**Decembers Program** will be the annual planning meeting for the United Methodist Men's 2012 calendar. We hope to see you there!

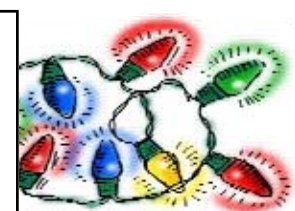
## WAIT...THERE'S MORE!

As Wayne Huggins, UMM Treasurer reported in the November Cast~A~Net, the men have donated \$1,650 in 2011 to varied worthy projects in our church. These and other projects will be discussed in this December planning meeting.

All men in the church are eligible to participate in Methodist Men activities and events. There are no annual group fees, only the cost of the meals. For further information contact Tom Egan (UMM President), Wayne Huggins (Treasurer) or Val McClure (UMM Publicity).



**Richard Gainer** sends you all a HUGE thank you for your caring calls, cards and prayers after his recent surgery. "You are a blessing to us both!"



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>Coffee Hour Host: <i>Blue Umbrella</i></p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service &amp; Kid's Sunday School</p> <p>9:45 AM Sermon Discussion Group (MMR)</p> <p>10:30 AM Junior Church &amp; Youth Group meet and join in Communion</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> <p>11:45 PM SPRC (MMR)</p> <p>1:30 PM Central Coast Celebration Chorus - "Sweet Adelines" concert</p>	<p>5 5 PM Champion Youth Outreach - Self Defense &amp; Safety Awareness (CH)</p> <p>6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR)</p> <p>7 PM Men's Bible Study (215)</p> <p>7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p> <p>7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)</p> <p>7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)</p>	<p>6 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH)</p> <p>8:30 AM Lifeline Screening (CH/N)</p> <p>9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR)</p> <p>10 AM UMW Steering Committee (L)</p> <p>5 PM Grande Ringers</p> <p>5:20 PM Mom &amp; Dad Factor Group for Ladies (211)</p> <p>6:25 PM Boundaries for Ladies (room 211)</p> <p>7 PM "A Visit With St. Nicholas" (S)</p> <p>7 PM Trustees (MMR)</p> <p>7:30 PM Ladies Christian 12-Step Recovery (211)</p>	<p>7 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH)</p> <p>9 AM EOC Health Screening (N/L)</p> <p>9:30 AM Mary-Martha Circle (at the home of Sally Weitkamp)</p> <p>5 PM Fellowship Dinner (CH)</p> <p>6 PM Kids Night Out(211)</p> <p>6 PM Advent Bible Study (MMR)</p> <p>7 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p> <p>7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>8 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH)</p> <p>10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L)</p> <p>12 PM Esther Circle (MMR)</p> <p>4 PM Book Club (MMR)</p> <p>5 PM Weekly Aloud Bible Reading (S)</p> <p>5 PM Grande Ringers</p>	<p>9 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>10 12:30 PM The Adventures of Dr. Chess (211)</p>
<p>11 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>Coffee Hour Host: <i>Mary-Martha Circle</i></p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service &amp; Kid's Sunday School</p> <p>9:45 AM Sermon Discussion Group (MMR)</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service ** Children's Sunday School &amp; Youth Group available</p> <p>11:45 AM Green Umbrella (MMR)</p>	<p>12 5 PM Champion Youth Outreach - Self Defense &amp; Safety Awareness (CH)</p> <p>6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR)</p> <p>7 PM Men's Bible Study (215)</p> <p>7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p> <p>7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)</p> <p>7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)</p>	<p>13 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH)</p> <p>9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR)</p> <p>10:30 AM Communications Committee (L)</p> <p>5 PM Grande Ringers</p> <p>5:20 PM Mom &amp; Dad Factor Group for Ladies (211)</p> <p>6 PM AG MS Support Group (MMR) - NO December Meeting</p> <p>6:25 PM Boundaries for Ladies (room 211)</p> <p>7:30 PM Ladies Christian 12-Step Recovery (211)</p>	<p>14 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH)</p> <p>1 PM Alzheimer's Association Care Giver Support Group (MMR)</p> <p>3:30 PM Caroling at The Alder House</p> <p>5 PM Fellowship Dinner (CH)</p> <p>6 PM Kids Night Out(211)</p> <p>6 PM Advent Bible Study (MMR)</p> <p>7 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p> <p>7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>15 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH)</p> <p>10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L)</p> <p>11:30 AM People's Kitchen - leave to serve</p> <p>5 PM Weekly Aloud Bible Reading (S)</p> <p>5 PM Grande Ringers</p> <p>6:30 PM WOW (MMR)</p> <p>7 PM Children's Center Holiday Program and Reception (S/CH)</p>	<p>16 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p> <p>12 PM Alzheimer's Support Group for Adult Children of Parents (MMR)</p> <p>7 PM Blue Christmas (MMR)</p> <p>6:30 PM Lord's Crew Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>17 8:30 AM UMM Breakfast Meeting at the UMC of AG (CH)</p> <p>10:45 AM Grander Ringers play at Seventh Day Adventist Church of Arroyo Grande</p> <p>12:30 PM The Adventures of Dr. Chess (211)</p>
<p>18 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>Coffee Hour Host: <i>Finance Committee</i></p> <p>**** Handbells join our worship service</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service &amp; Kid's Sunday School</p> <p>9:45 AM Sermon Discussion Group (MMR)</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service ** Children's Sunday School &amp; Youth Group available</p> <p>4 PM Grande Ringers join the Sing- A-Long at the Clark Center</p>	<p>19 5 PM Champion Youth Outreach - Self Defense &amp; Safety Awareness (CH)</p> <p>6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR)</p> <p>7 PM Men's Bible Study (215)</p> <p>7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p> <p>7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)</p> <p>7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)</p>	<p>20 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR)</p> <p>2 PM Preschool Board - closed session (MMR)</p> <p>3:30 PM Preschool Board - open session (MMR)</p> <p>5 PM Grande Ringers</p> <p>5:20 PM Mom &amp; Dad Factor Group for Ladies (211)</p> <p>6:25 PM Boundaries for Ladies (room 211)</p> <p>7 PM JOY Circle</p> <p>7:30 PM Ladies Christian 12-Step Recovery (211)</p>	<p>21 8 AM 5 Cities Christian Women Food Baskets Distribution (CH)</p> <p>1 PM Adventures of Dr. Chess—chess camp (211)</p> <p>4 PM Caroling at the Garden Creek</p> <p>5 PM Fellowship Dinner (CH)</p> <p>6 PM Kids Night Out(211)</p> <p>6 PM Advent Bible Study (MMR)</p> <p>7 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p> <p>7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>22 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH)</p> <p>10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L)</p> <p>5 PM Weekly Aloud Bible Reading (S)</p> <p>5 PM Grande Ringers</p>	<p>23 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>24 6 PM Christmas Eve Family Service</p> <p>7:30 PM Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service</p>
<p>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</p> <p>Coffee Hour Host: <i>Communications</i></p> <p>NO EARLY SERVICE TODAY</p> <p>10:30 AM Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM One Traditional Christmas Day Service</p>	<p>26 5 PM Champion Youth Outreach - Self Defense &amp; Safety Awareness (CH)</p> <p>6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR)</p> <p>7 PM Men's Bible Study (215)</p> <p>7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p> <p>7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)</p> <p>7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)</p>	<p>27 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group</p> <p>9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR)</p> <p>5 PM Grande Ringers</p> <p>5:20 PM Mom &amp; Dad Factor Group for Ladies (211)</p> <p>6:25 PM Boundaries for Ladies (room 211)</p> <p>7:30 PM Ladies Christian 12-Step Recovery (211)</p>	<p>28 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group</p> <p>1 PM Adventures of Dr. Chess—chess camp (211)</p> <p>5 PM Fellowship Dinner (CH)</p> <p>6 PM Kids Night Out(211)</p> <p>6 PM Advent Bible Study (MMR)</p> <p>7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>29 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group</p> <p>10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L)</p> <p>5 PM Weekly Aloud Bible Reading (S)</p> <p>5 PM Grande Ringers</p> <p>6:30 PM Lord's Crew Rehearsal - Sanctuary</p>	<p>30 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>31 NEW YEAR'S EVE</p> <p>6 PM Finger Food &amp; Game Night (CH)</p> <p>7 - 7:30 PM Quiet Meditation &amp; Holy Communion (S)</p>



# Different Ways We Give at Christmas

## A Special Way To Say, "I Love You," At Christmas

You can order a poinsettia with the church office or look for the order form insert in upcoming bulletins all through the month of December. This year's flowers will cost \$10. If you would like to help with the delivery of these Christmas flowers to our shut-in members and those in care-facilities, please contact our Blue Umbrella Chair, Cyndee Rohla or the church office.



**The Giving Tree** is set up and loaded with tags to aid foster children in our local DPSS system. Look for it in the Hall and grab a tag...they go fast! We have many Christmas wishes of kids in foster care on the tree this year. You can help!



Attached to each "ornament" will be a duplicate tag for each gift. Please take **only the original (leave a copy on the tree)**. We ask that you bring the **UN-wrapped** gift to *the tree by Sunday, December 18*. — Gifts are picked up regularly. If you have questions, please contact **Jan Treat** or the DPSS. God bless!

## Five Cities Christian Women Christmas Food Baskets



December 21, these faithful ladies will be giving out over 60 baskets to needy families in our area.

**WE NEED THESE ITEMS:** frozen turkeys; canned cranberries, canned yams (large), canned fruit (large), and canned vegetables, canned olives, canned milk, and canned pumpkin (large); boxes of dressing (large); cake mix and frosting; Jell-O (large); chicken broth; and boxed mashed potatoes.

Monetary donations can be mailed to: P.O. Box 756, Grover Beach 93483— Call 489-6706 for further information.

*Your giving is a blessing!*

## Mark Your Calendar! Committees, Councils, Boards & Meetings



Date	Meeting	Time
12/1	People's Kitchen	11:30 AM
12/1	Red Umbrella	7 PM
12/6	Trustees	7 PM
12/7	Mary-Martha Circle	9:30 AM
12/8	Esther Circle	12 PM
12/11	Green Umbrella	11:45 AM
12/13	Communications	10:30 AM
12/15	People's Kitchen	11:30 AM
12/15	Women of Worth	7 PM
12/17	UMM Breakfast	8:30 AM
12/20	JOY Circle	7 PM
	<b>See you there!</b>	

# December



Virginia Mothes, UMW Chair at UMC of AG



**United Methodist Women**  
*Faith, Hope and Love In Action*

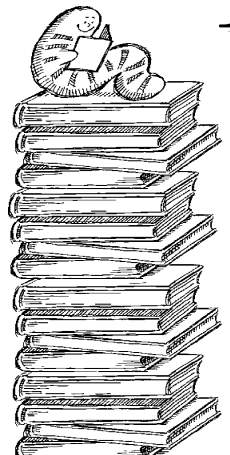
*The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the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

We wish to thank everyone who contributed to and purchased from our Boutique/Bake Sale Sunday - November 6th. We received \$964 due to your generosity. This was a fun fundraiser.

Our final fundraiser for the year is a *Virtual Tea*. Letters were sent out explaining that you don't need to bake or make anything - just relax with a cup of tea (bag included) and contribute to our UMW goal of local and world mission giving. Our goal for this fundraiser is \$2,000.

New officers for 2012 have gratefully accepted the following positions: Sally Weitkamp, Chair; Virginia Mothes, Vice-Chair; Eva McClure, contact person as Secretary but with various members rotating throughout the year; Betty Ashton, Treasurer and commitments from Rosemary MacKeen and Mary Hawkins as Chairs-in-Training for 2013. We will have an introduction and installation on January 8, 2012 at UMW Sunday. Santa Barbara District President Beverly King will be our featured speaker.

Also in January, our church will host the Santa Barbara District LOT (Local Officer Training). We will invite officers from the northern part of our county to join us for a day of sharing, learning and fellowship. This event will take place on Saturday, January 21st from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM.



## Library News

Enjoy a Christmas book and/or DVD as you celebrate this beautiful season.

We have both to offer!  
**Come check us out on Sundays!**



## COFFEE HOUR

- 4th Blue Umbrella
- 11th Mary-Martha Circle
- 18th Finance Committee
- 25th Communications Committee



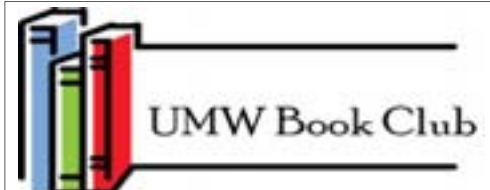
**We Invite You to Join Us!**

**Esther Circle**  
Every **2nd Thursday** at noon in the **McMillen Room**.

**JOY Circle**  
Every **3rd Tuesday** at 7 PM in a member's home.

**Mary-Martha Circle**  
The last **Wednesday** of each month in the **McMillen Room** at **9:30 AM**. Special December meeting on 12/7 at 9:30 AM at the home of Sally Weitkamp.

**Women of Worth**  
Every **3rd Thursday** in the **McMillen Room** at **6:30 PM**.



The Book Club will meet this month on **December 8th** at **4 PM** to discuss the recent book, *Laugh Your Way to Grace* by Susan Sparks  
**Watch for January's book title in the weekly bulletins.**



# REPORT for NOVEMBER 2011 *Tom Egan, chair*

- † Financials in November were not good. We are over budget; the Parsonage Account is down \$8,000. We are sharpening our pencils.
- † I want to thank all of those fine people that *showed up for the work party*. All went well. What a beautiful job! (AND many thanks to those who fed us—yummy!).
- † The roof has been completed. It's now time to repair damage done by said roof. The fun just goes on and on.
- † We are trying to find a company that will tune and repair our organ when needed. It is very complicated.
- † The bus was used by the UMM to get them to the Melsheimer manufacturing plant where they were shown how computers are running his equipment. A fine, fine program.
- † Electrician, Ted Sloan has replaced the bad outside lights. We now need a vertical lift to repair a short in one of the fixtures in the sanctuary ceiling.
- † Norm Henderson is going to get us some quotes to repaint the outside of the Church;



replace the trim boards around the Church; do some termite work; and replace the wood in the atriums. Then based on availability of money, we go from there.

† I am getting more and more depressed when I look into the Trustee's tool closet. *Each time I see fewer and fewer tools.* I, PERSONALLY, have put in two hammers— both are gone. Some small tools were in the tool box—gone. A member donated a battery operated drive motor complete with battery and charger—it lasted less than two weeks in that closet and is now not there. The list is long. IF something needs to be fixed and a person comes without tools, there are none! This is an inconvenience—now, the person has to go home and get tools. **REMEMBER: This is the Lord's House. Seven days a week, not just on Sundays.** If you need...use it—BUT, return it! People need access —we don't want to set it up with only ONE key. **Please, be sure to check-out items through the church office. Be sure to return what you use! -Thanks!**



## Pledge Income November 2011

**Monthly Pledge Goal**  
\$ 22,000.

**Received** (as of 11/20)  
\$ 20,057.

**Difference:**  
\$\$ - 1,943

*Did You Make Your Pledge to God for 2012?*



**"Up All Night" Night Was A BLAST!**  
Phew did we stay up late. The kids played games, enjoyed crafts and watched a movie. Of course, we all ate too much and had lots of goodies...but it wouldn't be a sleepover if we didn't.



do know we need you and your talents. If you would like to be a part of the 2012 VBS Team, we are happy to have you aboard. We need a little bit of everything. **We have a place for YOU—No matter what your age!**

**Advent Wreath Making Was Tons Of Fun!**

We glued and glittered our little hearts out. Several families came and together we learned about the candles and their meanings, as well as, the reason we celebrate the Advent season.

**Our VBS information is starting to roll in for 2012.**

A program has not been selected yet, BUT we

If you would like to see our handy work, please feel free to join us in the Sunday School room during either the 8:30 AM or 10-:30 AM worship services on Sundays or on **Wednesday** evenings at **7 PM** during **Kid's Night Out**. The kids would love to show you around.

**"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."**

- Proverbs 22:6 -



## youth group

NEWS FROM THE TEENS

**We Have Good News!**  
The new school year brought some much needed ele-

ments to our youth group ... GIRLS. On a regular basis we now have a even ratio of girls to boys. Sorry, Amanda! You were a trooper last year being the lone girl (that is unless Montana came). We want to welcome Sadie, Miranda, Monica, Michelle, Ashlee, and Taylor to our motley crew. What a blessing to have all those who regularly attend, especially when they bring friends. We have been averaging 10—15 in attendance on Wednesdays. As always, these young people are busy in everyday life with sports, music, school, and their various jobs. We are glad that coming to learn about the life of Christ continues to be an important part of their lives.

**Christmas Cards** (sponsored by Beverly's Fabric and Crafts.) On November 6, the local Beverly's Store allowed people to make cards that would be forwarded to our service men and women for Christmas. They also allowed for cards to be made prior to the event and dropped off. Our group spent an evening making cards with messages of thanks for their service and wishing them all Happy Holidays. The boys proved their ability to be crafty and with the girls we made 35 cards.

**Other news** - We have been studying the book of Daniel during our Wednesday Night Youth Group meeting and are looking forward to joining *The Journey* Advent Study with the church.

**The youth have been begging for a lock-in...**an overnight-er...over Christmas? More to follow.

In Christ's Service,  
Mike and Lou

**We recently had an opportunity to participate** in an event to honor our troops. Thanks Montana Dobbs for letting us know about *Operation*







**Celebration Chorus  
Christmas Concert**  
**December 4th at 1:30 PM**  
**UMC of AG Sanctuary**  
*The award winning Central Coast Celebration Chorus is part of an international organization of women singers dedicated to the joy of performing exciting four part harmony in celebration of the art of barbershop music!*

**“Bells Will Be Ringing...”**




**December 6th 6 PM**  
—New Life Community Church Senior Dinner at 6 PM  
**December 17th**  
—AG Seventh Day Adventist Church at 10:45 AM service  
**December 18th**  
—UMC of AG Church Services 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM  
**December 18th**  
—Rotary Christmas Sing-a-long Concert—Clark Center at 4 PM  
**See you there!**

*GRANDE Ringers*



**The Lord's Crew News**  
You may have noticed some additions to the Praise Team. We have MacKenzie Gandy and Sadie Barber (Burgeson) as special fill voices these days. They are a great gift and are a perfect gift.  
**December's Rehearsals**  
Saturday—3rd; Fridays—16th & 29th

*“To achieve great things two things are needed: a plan, and not quite enough time.”*  
— Leonard Bernstein



WOW – do I ever understand that quote. I would just like to a moment to thank our choir, Dennis, Don and page turners for the greatness they have been producing this year. We always say, “I wish I had another week to practice this one.” But ya know what? We may not be quite ready for an anthem on any given week, yet *the Holy Spirit steps in and takes over...great things always happen.*

We have some new and some older songs planned for Christmas: the spirited *Ding, Dong Merrily On High*, (with maybe a trumpet or two); a haunting rendition of *Lo’ How A Rose Err Blooming*, even a *Calypso Lullaby* and of course, Christmas Eve wouldn’t be complete without *Oh Holy Night*. We hope you enjoy our selections for the Advent Season and that it helps build the anticipation of the blessed event of Christ’s birth.

I am looking forward to the bells joining with us in an anthem on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The choir will also participate in the second service on Christmas Eve at 7:30 PM. Special music is planned for Christmas Day as well, which by the way is on a ONE Service Sunday this year.

Some of the choir members have been staying late after Wednesday rehearsals to work on some fun Christmas music. We hope to share with a retirement home with patients at the hospital. You are welcome to join us.  
A blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to you! **Julie Burns, Choir Director**  
*We invite any who are interested in joining the choir to come to our Sanctuary every Wednesday at 7 PM for rehearsals.*

**- Yellow Umbrella News -  
Mission & Social Concerns**

**MISSION HIGHLIGHT:**  
**Judy Atwood**  
*This month I am sharing some ways you can explore mission at your computer--where in the world is the United Methodist Church?*

**Give A Gift That Changes The World**  
Thank you for your generous response to the *Alternative Christmas* opportunities. If you are looking for other ways to share in the work of the United Methodist Church, let me suggest that you visit UMCOR on the internet. You can see some other gifts that change the world, i.e., Horn of Africa, Water and Sanitation, Anti-Human Trafficking, Sustainable Agriculture and Development, and Haiti Emergency, among others.


**More Exploration**  
To see a good video of a Volunteer in Mission Team (VIM) in Haiti. Visit [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) to have a look for “*Mission to Mellier Haiti—September 2011*”. It is well done. I encourage you to take the time to see it through.  
Also, if you want to see pictures of the hurricane strength storm that recently went through Nome, Alaska, you can ‘friend’ missionary Julie Yoder Elmore on Facebook. Mention you are from AGUMC and that I suggested you contact her. She has pictures on her page.

**THANKS FOR SPECIAL GIVING AND MINISTRY RESPONSES**  
I continue to say thank you on behalf of the recipients of the special givings which you have shared with others. You continue to amaze me.  
**If you have special areas of interest and would like to know how to find out more, please let me know and we will see what we can find. Where are you plugged in to one of them? I celebrate you!!!**



Special Giving Updates 2011	
Domestic Disaster Response	298.00
Five Cities Christian Women	174.00
Goat for Haitian Goat Farm	50.00
Haiti Relief	50.00
Japan Relief	1830.00
Julie/ David Elmore (Alaska)	150.00
Mule for Haitian Goat Farm	350.00
Native American Ministries	409.00
Nothing But Nets	517.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	785.00
Peace with Justice	307.00
People's Kitchen	968.00
So. County Food Bank	1238.70
Spring Storms	480.00
VBS Mission Project	249.19
World Communion Sunday	586.00
<b>Your Giving TOTAL 7888.55</b>	

**YOU... BELIEVE. GIVE. SAVE LIVES.**



Since launching in April 2010, supporters have helped [Imagine No Malaria](http://Imagine No Malaria) to deliver more than 588,000 bed nets, train 3,500 local health workers and create 15 in-country health boards to fight malaria in Africa.  
Today, we are pleased to announce the United Nations Foundation has granted \$3 million to support *Imagine No Malaria* campaign costs. This allows us to continue making sure your donation goes directly to fight this killer disease of Africa.  
But, the urgency continues...“Our children are still dying,” Bishop Eben Nhwatiwa of Zimbabwe. In fact, a child dies of malaria every 45 seconds.  
**These people need help!** The US Senate is considering a critical budget bill that would protect funding for global health, including malaria. Please take a moment to contact your senator asking for his or her support for global health funding.  
[Imagine No Malaria](http://Imagine No Malaria) is the *One Big Thing* we can do together!






### An Evening With Saint Nicholas

**December 6 at 7 PM**

We invite you to hear from Saint Nicholas himself. The Bishop of Myra, will personally share his story, from his birth and childhood in Patara, through his days as a leader of the church. Listen as he weaves through the legends and stories that have built up around him and share some of his thoughts regarding today's amalgam we call Santa Claus. For St. Nicholas, it was all about sharing God's love.

*Saint Nicholas is portrayed by Jamie Foster.*



*Caroling at Care Facilities*

**December 14 at 3:30 PM**  
(Alder House in Arroyo Grande)

**December 21 at 4 PM**  
(Garden Creek in San Luis Obispo)

**Julie Burns has ALL the info.**  
Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 8 PM in the sanctuary.

## BLUE CHRISTMAS

Yes, blue...as in 'I've The Blues'

For many people, the approaching holidays don't bring with it the joy and happiness advertised on television or in greeting cards. Not everyone is up for a cheery holiday and isn't ready to have a "Holly Jolly Christmas." Due to the experience of a recent loss, new or unresolved grief among varied other traumatic events that affect life they may be dreading this celebration season.

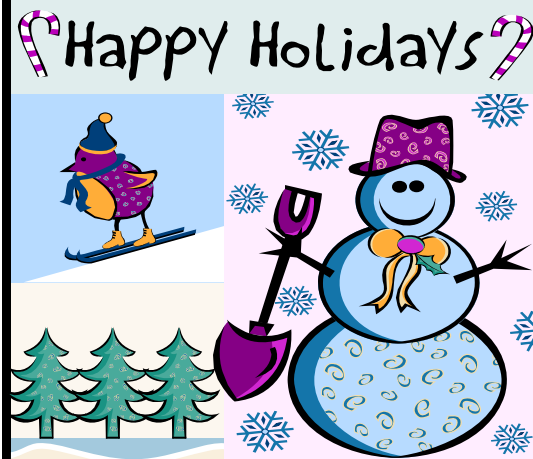
Now in it's 4th year, UMC of AG provides a **Blue Christmas** service that offers each participant a peaceful time to quietly acknowledge burdens and offer bring them to the Savior, Jesus. Pastor David invites you to our **McMillen Room** on **December 16 at 7 PM.** Come, spend the evening for this time of scripture, music, meditation and prayer.

**"Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28)**

[www.antiocatalicas.com](http://www.antiocatalicas.com)

The Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center invites you .....

**HOLIDAY PROGRAM**  
**DECEMBER 15TH at 7 PM**  
UMC of AG Sanctuary



**Happy Holidays**  
This year we are proud to share selections with you that we have had lots of fun working on just for you!

A light reception of cocoa, coffee and wintery treats will be served in Criswell Hall following this highly anticipated performance.

## Christmas Eve by Candlelight

**Family Service 6 PM**

This service for the entire family will feature our kids and youth in a creative re-telling of the **Nativity Story** —based on *Luke 2*.

**Traditional Service 7:30 PM**

This liturgical service includes a Christmas message by Pastor David and our Chancel Choir will lead us in carols.

**Blessings of Christ be yours this Christmas !**

## ONE 'Unique' Christmas Service

**December 25—10:30 AM**

This **COMBINED** service is for the whole family to celebrate the birth of Christ **TOGETHER!**

- Our chancel choir will lead us in carols of Christmas;
- The children will join worship in their P.J.'s – yes, pajamas!
- Pastor David has planned a special '**Blessing of the Toys**'.

**Another of the ways we will say Happy Birthday to Jesus !**



**6 PM - ???**  
in Criswell Hall  
**New Year's Eve 2011**  
4<sup>th</sup> Annual Potluck & Game Night  
Bring your favorite game...favorite food...and favorite friend!  
**BEWARE:**  
Games get competitive!



### Quiet Meditation & Holy Communion

We invite you to our sanctuary on **December 31st**, between **7 & 7:30 PM** for a self-led service and free-flowing of Holy Communion.



**START THE YEAR OFF RIGHT!**  
**ONE SERVICE**  
**AT 10:30 AM**