

September & October Top Stories



Clean Water For All

Have you ever wondered what it would be like NOT to be able to turn on a faucet and see <u>clear</u> water come out? Have you ever considered taking a shower without <u>clean</u> water coming from the shower head?

Such is the case in many parts of the world.

September 8th - 11:30 AM at the First UMC of Arroyo Grande Mission Team of the UMC of AG will host a potluck luncheon and discussion with special guest speaker Reverend Garth Gilliam, Cal-Pac Conference "Hope for the Children of Africa" Taskforce Chair

Find out what is currently underway through the Cal-Pac Conference and how we can help supply clean water to African villages by building *Borehole Water Wells*.

Clean, drinkable water is a basic need!!
Join us and see how we can continue to
"do all the good you can. By all the
means you can. In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can. At all the times
you can. To all the people you can. As
long as ever you can."

Everyone is asked to bring a side dish or dessert—meal will begin at 11:30 AM. Following the presentation, we will have a discussion on how we can participate



UMC of AG's Water For Life Project is Coming! Bring your cases of water to church ASAP.

What started out as a Youth Group project has spread like wild fire through out our church...and everyone is getting involved. As part of this ministry, we will put customized labels on these water bottles with details about our church. They will then be distributed—for FREE— at the AG Harvest Festival on September 28-29.

We pray you will join this effort and share God's love!

** Check out the new water label (above)—and cool custom T's! **



What's Happening At the UMC of AG?!

See how the Lord can use you in the work of His church.

Take this special opportunity to kick off the different ministries of our church. This is a chance for you to partner in ministry with your UMC of AG family. We hope that you will browse the many different tables that will be set-up in Criswell Hall with details about our varied church ministries.

How will **you** get plugged in and re-think church?



October 31

Slap on some costumes and load up the kiddos (and doggies) and join the UMC of AG church family for a face painting, pumpkin decorating, seed spitting, a pie eating, movie watching, soup serving, salad fixing, a music making –good time!

Phew!...AND a hay maze, as well as, a dog costume contest!

This *Fall Fest and Trunk or Treat* from 5 PM until 8 PM.

Reserve your spot in the parking lot EARLY with Sarah Burgeson.



A Letter to the Church from the Church Finance Chair

Dear Church Family and Friends,

The Church is having financial difficulties and needs your help. Through June of this year we have accumulated a \$21,000 deficit. Stewardship is \$19,000 below plan. Some of this is due to the loss of members through unforeseeable decline in membership. The state of the economy has not helped either.

In order to sustain our ministry I am asking that those involved with the Church try to give a little extra in their Stewardship. If each regular giver could give an extra \$5 per week, and those that are not regular givers would start contributing \$5 per week, much of the shortfall would be eliminated.

Our income has fallen from previous years, however our expenses have not. Most of our expenses are somewhat fixed. Over 75% of our expenses are for salaries, benefits apportionments and quotas. We need to tightly control the remaining expenses. I am also asking Team and Committee Chairs to do their best to minimize expenses. Please delay or reduce, or eliminate expenses whenever possible. We have to live with what we have. The Communications Committee, Finance Committee and the Church Office have already implemented a number of cost-saving measures, including limiting the use of color copies and cutting back on postage expenses.

We do have some good news. Tom Egan and the Trustees obtained a \$50,000 matching grant from the District for repairs on the church. Matched with \$50,000 withdrawn from the Parsonage Fund, the Trustees have been able to perform much needed maintenance throughout our facility, including roof repairs and termite work. These were restricted funds that could only be used for facilities repairs and were not part of the budget. This should save us repair and maintenance expenses in future years.

The cost of mailing this letter to you was donated by a concerned member and did not affect the budget. I ask you to prayerfully consider going above and beyond your already generous contributions, and give a little extra if at all possible.

Grace and Peace,

Joel Anderson, *Treasurer*First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

** See the Treasurer's Report at right (pg 3)





Honor the
Lord by
giving him
the first
part of
all your
income.
Proverbs 3:94

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★ EXTRA! EXTRA! ★

Val McClure, UMM Publicity

Meet The President—Introducing the UMM President for 2012-13



love for freedom finds him riding on his big Harley Davidson Motorcycle. It also may come from his restless nature, developed from his

early life in moving around the country.

Born in Fresno, California, Bernie and his family soon moved to Florida for his early years. He was born totally deaf and had to learn sign language to communicate. In 1956, his mother read of a new operation that was having success at the UCLA hospital in California. She packed up and moved her kids to L.A. where she managed to get Bernie into the University program. The operation was a success and Bernie at age 7 or 8 was enrolled in the Mary E. Bennet Grammar School for the Deaf in the L.A. area: later he went to The John Tracy Clinic (named for the son of Spencer Tracy) where he learned to talk.

Bernie graduated from Belmont High School in 1966 and got a job as a Special Education Teacher's Aide. After that experience, he worked many jobs such as the International House of Pancakes.

Bernie studied at Community Colleges and developed an interest in the electrical trade. He eventually returned to Florida in the 70's to work as an electrician. The 80's brought Bernie back to California permanently where he joined the International Union of Operating Engineers, working on high rise buildings. Bernie tells of a particular

Bernie Hawkins' incident when he was working on a 63 story building when an air conditioning unit fell on him and severely injured his back; he had to endure many operations before getting back to health.

> During this time he attended a Catholic Church in Los Angeles. He enjoyed many motorcycle rides up the coast to the Five Cities area, with which he fell in love. "That's where I want to live," he said to himself many times. He eventually did. Bernie was living on the Central Coast and was later joined by his brother Nick and sister Patty in 1993. Later their mother joined them.

> Early in 2005, Bernie attended a dinner/ dance at the Cliffs Restaurant in Pismo Beach and met a vivacious blond named Mary. They danced together a bit, but he did not make much headway in asking for a date. Although Mary did accept his phone number, weeks went by and Bernie had about given up hearing from her when his phone rang. Mary invited him to meet her at the upcoming dance at the Cliffs. On January 6th, 2007, the two were married in the UMC in Morgan Hill, California.

> Bernie has two boys from his first marriage, Andrew and Billy. Mary has two children, a boy and a girl, Pam and Joe, from her first marriage. You can find Bernie working around the church with his pals Tom Egan and Mike Johnson. His first love is his family and Mary and enjoying his retirement and travel. They are very happy to have found the FUMC of Arroyo Grande and find great joy in being part of the Church family.



UPCOMING UMM EVENTS

(quest speakers TBA — watch bulletins for details)

- September 22 UMM Breakfast in Criswell Hall at 8:30 AM
- September 23 **UMM** Pancake Breakfast from 9—10:30 AM
- October 20 **UMM Breakfast in Criswell** Hall at 8:30 AM
- November 17 UMM Breakfast in Criswell Hall at 8:30 AM
- November 18 **UMM** Pancake Breakfast from 9-10:30 AM

"I NOW REMIND YOU TO STIR INTO FLAME THE GIFT OF GOD WHICH IS WITHIN YOU." 2 TIMOTHY 1:6



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

Patti Melsheimer, UMW publicity

Annual United Methodist Women's Holiday Boutique

Saturday, October 27th, 2012 9 AM—3 PM at the UMC of AG

Hand-crafted items include aprons, quilts, afghans, tote bags, seasonal décor, baked goods, jam, jellies, candy, art, & more.

"Southern Living" Gourmet Lunch

from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Tickets: \$12.50 per person

"Over The Rainbow" Quilt Drawing

You will have an opportunity to win a hand-sewn quilt donated by Yvonne Holt and quilted by our own "Sew 'n' Sews"

Tickets for this drawing are \$1 each (or 6 for \$5)

Proceeds from this event provide support to United Methodist Women's mission projects at home and around the world.



The UMW Boutique is fast approaching!

If you can help by serving on a committee to plan the boutique or help with the various duties including food preparation, serving lunch, chairing a committee, making crafts items, preparing baked goods, making jams/jellies, starting plants, or providing other items for sale at the boutique, contact Sally Weitkamp. Sign-up now!

Remember...ALL monies raised support the mission work of the UMW.

United Methodist Women's Book Club Meet the Author!

The reading group took a break from meeting for June, July and August. They will resume meeting on the last Thursday of September (27th) at 4 p.m. in the McMillen room. They have chosen to read the newly published, <u>A Child in Japan During World War II: Memories of a German Missionary's Son.</u>

These memoirs of Ehrhardt Lang, our former pastor, will be the topic for the September meeting. Rev. Lang has promised to join us for the meeting and share some insights into his book.

His book is for sale in the church library for \$15. Every one interested is invited to join us for this very special Book Club meeting.



Esther

2nd Thursday of each month at 12 PM in the McMillen Room.



3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at a member's home.



Join us on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 PM in the McMillen Room for worship, Biblical teaching, discussion, and prayer.

Mary-Martha Circle

4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the McMillen Room.

Hello All!

First of all a big thank you to everyone who helped send our youth to camp this year. We appreciate the support from UM Men and Women and all the church members who supported us through donations, our bake sale, and our SPUD-tacular. God provided exactly the amount we needed to send Alonzo and Jed to Cedar Glen; and to sponsor



Will, Ryan, Collin, Alex, Sadie, Lexi, and MacKenzie to attend Camp Arroyo Grande. Thank you again for your prayers and support.

Your help is needed again for **AG Harvest Festival**. This year we will not be having our usual food booth (although fun, it takes a lot of work). We will have 1-2 booths in the non-profit area set up as a refreshing and prayer station. We will of course be handing out "Water for Life" and again ask for your help. The Harvest Festival is scheduled for September 28 and 29, which is just around the corner and we hope to pass out at <u>least 3000 bottles of water</u>, which is what we did last year. In order for this to happen we need cases of water, 125 cases to be exact. Start bringing your donations and we will fill the stage. *If you need help bringing them in, find a youth and we will help you carry them to their "spot"*

Youth Group continues to meet on Wednesdays at 7 PM and Sundays at 10:30 AM. We are so glad to welcome some new faces this coming school year: *Lexi, Sevada, and Teddi.*

Mike and I will be attending a National Youth Workers Convention in San Diego in mid-October (10/11-14). We are excited to be able to meet with other youth leaders from all over, attend classes taught by the people whose books and materials we have used over the years, have a time of spiritual renewal and get to meet the Skit Guys! We will tell you all about it when we get back.



youth group

SUNDAYS - IO:30 AM
WEDNESDAYS - 7 PM
Join these 6th-12th grade teens



- ★ We say good-bye to some of our 6th graders. MacKenzie Gandy, Lexi Raetz, Teddi & Seveda Sloan are now officially in Youth Group. We miss you guys...we continue to pray for you all as you grow in Christ.
- ☆ Kid's Night Out continues Wednesday at 6 PM
- We had so much fun at our swim party! Many thanks to our wonderful Sunday School saint who made this party possible.
- ☆ A Children's Ministries Calendar is on the drafting table -watch for that!



8:30 & 10:30 AM

ALL elementary kids meet in the Sanctuary at the beginning of worship, usually in the front pew, and are dismissed (with teachers) after our **Children's Moment**.

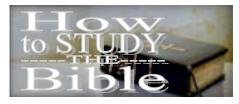
The first Sunday of the month, our group will go off to the McMillen Room for "What We Know Sunday" on our past lessons and then meet with the adults in the sanctuary for communion.



SUNDAYS - 9:45 AM
Come, take the message
a little further in the
McMillen Room.





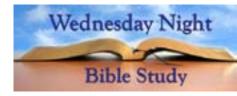


SUNDAYS - 6 PM

Take part in this in this ongoing look of the scripture from start to finish with Mike Herber.



MONDAYS - 7 PM
All men are welcome to room 215 to study & apply
God's word to our life.



ADULTS - 6 PM
KIDS NIGHT OUT - 6 PM
YOUTH GROUP - 7 PM
(See schedule at right)



FRIDAYS - 8:30 AM
All are welcome to the
Library for Bible study, discussion, coffee, & friends!

Wednesday, October 31

Sunday, September 2 Labor Day Weekend	 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Final sermon on the Lord's Prayer series: "For Thine Is The Kingdom and The Power and The Glory Forever" 9:45 AM Sermon Disciples Discussion Group 6 PM How to Study the Bible—NO Class —Resumes 9/9/12
Wednesday, September 5	■ 6 PM New Study Begins: "Sacred Encounters" Week 1: Affirmed
Sunday, September 9 Rally Sunday	 10:30 AM ONE Combined Worship Service 6 PM How to Study the Bible—Teaching & Discussion Group
Wednesday, September 12	■ 6 PM "Sacred Encounters" Week 2: Pursued
Sunday, September 16	 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services 9:45 AM Sermon Disciples Discussion Group 6 PM How to Study the Bible—Teaching & Discussion Group
Wednesday, September 19	■ 6 PM "Sacred Encounters" Week 3: Made Right
Sunday, September 23	 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services 9:45 AM Sermon Disciples Discussion Group 6 PM How to Study the Bible — Teaching & Discussion Group
Wednesday, September 26	■ 6 PM "Sacred Encounters" Week 4: Called
Sunday, September 30	 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services 9:45 AM Sermon Disciples Discussion Group 6 PM How to Study the Bible—Teaching & Discussion Group
Wednesday, October 3	■ 6 PM "Sacred Encounters" Week 5: Abandoned
Sunday, October 7	 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services 9:45 AM Sermon Disciples Discussion Group 6 PM How to Study the Bible Teaching & Discussion Group
Wednesday, October 10	■ 6 PM "Sacred Encounters" Week 6: Sent
Sunday, October 14	 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services 9:45 AM Sermon Disciples Discussion Group 6 PM How to Study the Bible—Break—resumes 10/21/12
Wednesday, October 17	■ 6 PM New Study Begins: "Extravagant Generosity" Week 1
Sunday, October 21	 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services 9:45 AM Sermon Disciples Discussion Group 6 PM How to Study the Bible—Teaching & Discussion Group
Wednesday, October 24	■ 6 PM "Extravagant Generosity" Week 2
Sunday, October 28 Reformation/Harvest Sunday	 10:30 AM One Combined Worship Services 6 PM How to Study the Bible—Teaching & Discussion Group

Fall Fest and Trunk or Treat (FREE—soup and salad dinner)

5:30 -8 PM Community Outreach

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			3			1 12:30 PM Adven- tures of Dr. Chess (211)
2 Coffee Hour - Church Council at 8:30 AM Asprion Family at10:30 AM 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM "Dig Deeper" Disciples Group (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Group(215) **Elementary Sunday School and Nursery available for both services 6 PM How To Study the Bible - NO CLASS THIS EVENING	CLOSED 7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AIaTeen (211)	9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice 5:20 PM—9 PM Christian Counseling for Ladies - call office for details (L) 6:30 PM AG UM Children's Center Positive Discipline Book Series (Pre-K Room)	9 AM Church Work Day 9 AM EOC Senior Health Screening (N/L)	6 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 11:30 AM People's Kitchen - leave to serve 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice 7 PM Worship Team - formerly Red Umbrella (MMR)	7 Men's Retreat at Camp AG - call camp for details Spirit Day at AG UM CC - wear your shirts 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 3:30 PM AG UM CC Closed 4 PM AG UM CC Staff Development (MMR)	8 Men's Retreat at Camp AG - call camp for details 11:30 AM Well for Africa Potluck Luncheon and Discussion (CH) 12:30 PM Adventur es of Dr. Chess (211) 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
9 Coffee Hour - Mary-Martha Circle & Library IT'S RALLY SUNDAY - Visit Criswell Hall and TAKE A LOOK AT ALL THE MINISTRIES IN OUR CHURCH! 10:30 AM ONE Combined Worship Service Welcome Back Choir!!! *Elementary Sunday School and nursery care available	Fine Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (5) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)	8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10 AM UMW Steering (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice 5:20 PM—9 PM Christian Counseling for Ladies - call office for details (L) 4 PM Arrays Grande MS	9 AM AG UM CC Pictures 9 AM Church Work Day	13 ESTHER CIRCLE begins again after summer break at Noon (MMR) 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM AG UM CC Pictures 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice	14 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)	15 12:30 PM Adventures of Dr. Chess (211)
16 Coffee Hour—Finance 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM "Dig Deeper" Disciples Group (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Group(215) * Elementary Sunday School and Nursery available for both services 11:45 AM Christian Education Team (MMR) Bells are Backl 6 PM How To Study the Bible	Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)	summer break- 7PM at the home of a member 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9:00 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 2:00 PM Preschool Board - closed session (MMR) 3:30 PM Preschool Board -	19 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 5 PM Fellowship Dinner (CH) 6 PM Adult Study <u>"Sacred Encounters"</u> Week 3:Made Right 6 PM Kids Night Out 7 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7 PM Youth Group (215)	20 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 11:30 AM People's Kitchen Team - leave to serve 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice 7 PM 'Family Fun Day' Planning Meeting (CH) 7 PM Women Of Worth (MMR)	21 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 12:00 PM Alzheimer's Sup- port Group for Adult Children of Parents (MMR)	8:30 AM UMM Breakfast (CH/S/K) 12:30 PM Adventures of Dr. Chess (211) 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
23 Coffee Hour - UMM Pancake Breakfast from 9 AM—10:30 AM 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM "Dig Deeper" Disciples Group (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Group(215) *Elementary Sunday School and nursery care available for both services 12 PM SPRC 6 PM How To Study the Bible	(MMR) 7 PM Men's Prayer & Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)	9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 5:20 PM—9 PM Christian Counseling for Ladies - call office for details (L) 6:30 PM AG UM Children's Center Positive Discipline Book Series (Pre-K Room) 7 PM Church Council (MMR)	9 AM Church Work Day 9:30 AM Children Center Storytime W/ Pastor David (N)	A Special Meet the Author Book Club with Rev. Ehrhardt Lang at 4PM - (MMR) 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9:30 AM Children Center Story- time W/ Pastor David (N) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 2 PM Mission Team (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice	28 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) AG Harvest Fes	8 AM - LATE UMC of AG Water 4 Life Rest Booth AG Harvest Festival 12:30 PM Adventur es of Dr. Chess (211)
30 Coffee Hour—People's Kitchen 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM "Dig Deeper" Disciples Group (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Group(215) 8* Elementary Sunday School and nursery care available for both services 6 PM How To Study the Bible						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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7 Coffee Hour - Children's Center World Communion Sunday - Special Offering 8:30 AM Contemporary Service & Kid's Sunday School 9:45 AM "Dig Deeper" Disciples Group (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service & Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Youth Group(215) 6 PM How To Study the Bible (MMR)	(MMR) 7 PM Men's Prayer Bible Study (215)	9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10 AM UMW Steering (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice 5:20 PM—9 PM Christian Counseling for Ladies - call office for details (L) 6 PM Arroyo Grande MS Support Group (MMR) 6:30 PM AG UM Children's	9 AM Church Work Day 12:30 PM Alzheimer's Assoc. Care Giver Support Group (MMR)	11 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 12 PM Esther Circle (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice 7 PM AG UM CC Family Fun Day Planning Mtg (MMR)	12 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)	13 12:30 PM The Adventures of Dr. Chess (211)
8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM "Dig Deeper" Disciples Group (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Group(215) * Elementary Sunday School and	(S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR)	9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 2 PM Preschool Board - closed session (MMR) 3:30 PM Preschool Board - open session (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice 5:20 PM—9 PM Christian	9 AM Church Work Day 5 PM Fellowship Dinner (CH) 6 PM NEW Adult Study BE- GINS—"Extravagant Generos- ity" Week 1: (MMR)	18 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 11:30 AM People's Kitchen - leave to serve 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice 7 PM Women of Worth - WOW (MMR)	19 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 12 PM Alzheimer's Support Group for Adult Children of Parents (MMR)	20 8:30 AM UMM Breakfast (CH/S/K) 11 AM (parking lot) 12:30 PM Adventures of Dr. Chess (211) 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
21 Coffee Hour - Church Council 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM "Dig Deeper" Disciples Group (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Group(215) *Elementary Sunday School and Nursery available for both services 6 PM How To Study the Bible	(MMR) 7 PM Men's Prayer Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon	5 PM Grande Ringers Practice 5:20 PM—9 PM Christian Counseling for Ladies - call office for details (L) 6:30 PM AG UM Children's Center Positive Discipline Book Series	9 AM Church Work Day	25 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9:30 AM Children Center Story Time With Pastor David (N) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 4 PM Book Club (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice	26 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) UMW Holiday Boutique & Salad Luncheon set-up	27 9 AM UMW Holiday Boutique & Southern Living Luncheon 12:30 PM Adventures of Dr. Chess (211)
28 Coffee Hour—Staff Parish Reformation Sunday Harvest Sunday Music by Chancel Choir & Lord's Crew Youth in service today NO discussion group TODAY 10:30 AM ONE COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE * Children's Sunday School & Nursery Care available 6 PM How To Study the Bible	(MMR) 7 PM Men's Prayer Bible Study (215)	30 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice 5:20 PM—9 PM Christian Counseling for Ladies - call office for details (L) 6:30 PM AG UM Children's Center Positive Discipline Book Series	9AM Church Work Day	2	012	November 3 Daylight Savings Time Ends Turn your clocks back one hour.



MISSION HIGHLIGHTS: JUDY ATWOOD

Many new things to report this edition! Read carefully so as not to miss out:

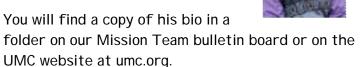
- 1) World Communion Sunday is October 7, 2012,
- 2) Meet our Covenant Missionary,
- 3) Nothing But Nets—I magine No Malaria Project,
- 4) Mission Team News,
- 5) Clean Water for All,
- **6)** Special Giving for 2012 Update (pg 9) see where your are in mission with those in need.

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE IN ACTION

1. World Communion Sunday—October 7, 2012 is one of the six church-wide Special Sundays of the United Methodist Church. Special Givings collected on World Communion Sunday provide scholarships for U.S. racial (and ethnic) minority students and international students, on both the undergraduate and graduate levels. This special Sunday is celebrated on the first of October annually. Watch your bulletin for how you can participate.

2. Covenant Missionary: FRIDO KINKOLENGE

Frido is serving as Director of Children's Ministries in the Liberian Annual Conference and Emk Weltmission Children's Project Manager in Liberia.



3. NOTHING BUT NETS—Imagine No Malaria
Every 60 seconds, malaria claims a life in Africa.

Millions of lives, are needlessly lost every day on the African continent. Entire nations are slipping away, slipping through life's precious net (unless you hear a buzzing inside you).

We celebrate you and appreciate that you accepted the challenge of our *UMC of AG* children in support of their project for 2012 **Vacation Bible School**. We are blessed to be able to send **\$1,039** to this much needed project. At \$10 per net, this means that close to **104** families will be protected from

the threat of Malaria.

3. MISSION TEAM NEWS

Your Mission Team has worked to inform you, and show you ways to participate in mission outreach. Check out the Special Giving Chart below to see how you have been as you can

Many of these also take personal involvement.

4. Clean Water For All — Potluck & Discussion

Join us on Saturday, September 8th, at 11:30 AM for a potluck and the kick off of the *Borehole Water Wells* in Africa. This is a Cal-Pac Conference project that we are proud to be involved in. *I know I appreciate clean drinking water, and I am sure you do too.* We look forward to seeing you there and finding out how we can help supply others with the same basic need. *See the cover for*

Many hands can do many things



THANKS again...

For Your Ministry

Responses &

Special Givings!

LOOK AT THE <u>MANY</u> WAYS WHERE YOU ARE PLUGGED INTO MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. WE CELEBRATE YOU!!!

Special Giving for 2012	
Buckets	1060.00
ELT Scholarships	305.00
Five Cities Christian Women	50.00
Human Relations Day	211.00
John Elmore	371.68
Mission Team	100.00
Native American Sunday	91.00
Nothing But Nets - Imagine No Malaria	1039.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	616.00
People's Kitchen	1613.00
Peace With Justice Sunday	148.00
So. County Food Bank	753.04
UMCOR: Tornados	50.00
7 Months of Giving Total	6537.76



munity at the Shouts of Grace Church in Grover Beach on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month. At 11:30 AM, the team leaves from UMC of AG ready to shine for Christ.

Always In Need Of: CLEAN seasonal clothes, travel-sized toiletries. bedding, towels, oral hygiene supplies (tooth brushes/paste, etc.), new socks, and people to make casserole—we supply the ingredients.

Contact the Ashtons for details.

August 2012

Meals Served—303

(YTD: 2,385)

Socks Distributed—275

(YTD: 5,997)



Our newest DVD, "Christianity and Islam," is both interesting and enlightening. Did you know that there are approximately seven million Muslims in North America? Some of their views are similar to Christian teachings, check this book out and find out where.

ALSO: A reminder that we have an "adopt-a-book" shelf with books donated by church members. Come have a look!



WEDNESDAYS AT 9 AM

Join us as we clean-up this House of the Lord.

There is always something to do and places that need work.
We thank those who help to make this a wonderful place to worship!

Come, contribute as you are able.

Letters To The Editor—author unknown

A Church go'er wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. He began like this:

"I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

As one can imagine, this started a real controversy. "Letters to the Editor" column exploded with responses, much to the delight of the editor. The conversations between readers and editor went on for weeks until someone wrote:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this.. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing... Cod is UP to something!



Help us collect supplies for children in need!

Every year before school starts, a few saints of our church work to collect school supplies for the children in the DPSS system.

You can join this effort by bringing suggested items or just sharpening pencils.

Contact Nancy Baughman or Jan Treat to help out!

Introduction

In the life of every small group there needs to be a process of accountability. This helps keep the members focused on their mission and on tending to their personal relationship

with God. Small-group accountability is simply giving an account of what you have done and not done to build up the body of Christ and to grow in holiness of heart and life.

A Rule of Life

Our United Methodist heritage gives some fruitful help here. In the early small groups, known as classes and bands, the Methodists "watched over one another in love." Their life together was guided by the General Rules given to the United Societies by John Wesley.

The General Rules are simply a Methodist rule of life. These Rules served as a rule of life because they guided the Methodists in their corporate life together and in their personal growth in faith and love. This Methodist rule of life was general because it allowed for the diverse personalities, needs, and spiritual maturity of the members of the class meeting. It was a rule because it was a guide to help the Methodists orient their corporate and individual lives toward Christ and his life in the world. It was like a compass that helps keep a traveler on course to his or her destination. For the Methodists, the destination was holiness of heart and life.

The General Rules are very simple: 1.) Do no harm by avoiding evil of every kind; especially that which is most generally practiced; 2.) Do good as often as you can to as many as you can; 3.) Practice the 'means of grace' (private and fam-

A Rule of Life for Small Groups

by Steven W. Manskar

ily prayer, regular worship attendance, Bible reading and study, The Lord's Supper, fasting or abstinence).

United Methodist Book of Discipline, paragraphs 69-72

This is basic Christianity. The General

Rules help people grow in holiness of heart and life by following the teachings of Jesus Christ as he summarized them in Matthew 22:34-40 and John 13:34-35. They help disciples keep a balance between what Wesley called "works of piety" (loving God) and "works of mercy" (loving your neighbor as yourself).

Works of piety are the instituted means of grace, spiritual disciplines that Jesus practiced himself: prayer, worship, Bible study, and fasting. They are practices that are needed to nurture our personal relationship with God. These means of grace are where we regularly make ourselves available to God and the power of the Holy Spirit. They open our hearts and minds to the movement of grace in the world around us.

Works of mercy are those actions we do to love our neighbor. They are acts of compassion, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, comforting the grieving, visiting the sick and the prisoner (Matthew 25:34-40). And they are acts of justice, such as writing letters to elected representatives on issues affecting our community, nation, and the world.

The balance provided by the General Rules helps Christians grow in their relationship with God and to mature in their walk with Christ. They make up a rule of life that gives us what we need to "grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (Ephesians 4:15).

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<u>Wesley's Model for Discipline</u> and for discipleship, is simply habitual practice of the means of grace (or spiritual disciplines). We know that Christians are formed by initiating persons into a new way of life/behavior that is shaped by Jesus Christ as illustrated in his teaching of the *Sermon on the Mount* and in *The Great Commission*.

This Christian discipline is summarized in 3 words:

Behave

Believe (Know Christ)

Belong (Grow in Christ)

Behave (Go, Share Christ)

This Wesleyan Model is reflected in our UMC of AG Discipleship Pathway.

See how these ideas work together to initiate seekers into the way of Jesus?

Each step helps one grow and mature in faith, hope and love in Jesus Christ.

You too can 'Know, Grow, and Go', in Christ!

The General Rules
Do no harm ...
Do good ...
Keep God's ordinances:

Believe

Keep God's ordinances: worklip, Lard's Supper, prajer, Surpture, & fasting

Belong

Ya, It's Rally Sunday—But, Why Do I Wanna Join a Small Group? Because...

... O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. (Isaiah 64:8)

Christian formation and empowerment for discipleship happens in many diverse

ways and places. Worship, Sunday school classes, Bible study groups, prayer groups, mission and service groups, covenant groups, and even church committee meetings are some of the places where people may be formed in faith and empowered for discipleship in the world. I will argue in this article that Christian formation and empowerment for discipleship happens best in small groups.

Steven Manskar,

Director of Wesleyan Leadership GBOD

the way I live my life me to be the person you are today.

The church is an exprouph to the prought us into the brought us into the proups.

Certainly, people are formed in faith through large-group experiences such as Sunday morning worship. But if Sunday morning worship is the only time or place a person experiences prayer, confession, Scripture, singing, and testimony, then he or she will not experience the fullness of God's grace to form and transform his or her life. The grace that draws us into relationship with God and that forms us into the human beings God created us to be is relational. In other words, God comes to each of us and forms each of us through relationships in which we share the lives and love of other human beings.

One way to understand this is to consider the image contained in the Scripture passage above. The prophet says that we are like clay in the hands of God, who works us like a potter. Have you ever watched a potter work on a lump of clay? She carefully throws the lump onto the center of her wheel. Then, as the wheel spins, the potter forms the clay with her hands. An experienced potter knows just the right places to put her hands to get the shape she wants in the clay. As the piece takes shape, the potter uses her fingers and various tools to make fine adjustments until she gets the clay to take exactly the shape she wants — the shape she imagined in her mind when she began working the clay. The end product is a beautifully formed piece of useful pottery and a work of art that gives joy to its maker and to others.

The Scriptures tell us that God is like a potter and we are like the clay in the potter's hands. The way God shapes us into the human beings God intended us to become is through relationships of love and forgiveness with other human beings, whom God is also forming. We are the hands and fingers of God. Because grace is relational, God forms and shapes each human life through love given and received in human lives. Of course, in the life of the church, the place where such relationships are possible is the small group.

Another way of understanding why small groups are the most effective means of Christian formation is to think of a small group like a family. Families are small groups in which each member is shaped into the person he or she is. For example, my family shaped me. Through my relationships with my father, mother, sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, I was formed in the

Disciple Making Happens
Best in Small Groups
Steven Manskar,

Manskar-Tallakson way of living and being in the world. My family taught me the Manskar way of walking, talking, eating, loving, fighting, forgiving, and playing. My family

formed within me patterns of behavior and understanding the world that have shaped

the way I live my life and how I relate to others. My family formed me to be the person I am today. Your family formed you to be the person you are today.

The church is an extended, global family. Just like the families that brought us into the world and form our personalities and attitudes, the church — as a family of God — has the task and mission of forming us as children of God and brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. Throughout the history of the church, small groups have been the places where Christian formation has taken place most effectively. It is in small groups that we learn the basic practices and habits of the family of Christ: prayer, worship, the Lord's Supper, searching and studying the Scriptures, confession and forgiveness, fasting and abstinence. In small groups, we experience relationships of love, forgiveness, trust, and true intimacy. Through the formation of habits and sharing relationships of love and forgiveness (through this grace — given and received), God is able to form us into the people we are meant to be.

God is the potter, and we are the clay in God's hands. Our task is to yield to God's touch and allow God to form and shape us into the people we are meant to be. God has given us families that, for good and for ill, form our habits, attitudes, and expectations. In baptism, God makes us part of a global, universal family known as the church that has the task and responsibility of forming us as members of the household of Christ. Like a potter, God takes that which our families have placed within us and begins to re-shape and conform us into the image of Christ. Our part is to surrender, to yield, to stop resisting God's grace. And that is where small groups play such an important part in Christian formation. In the relationships of love and forgiveness experienced only in small groups with other Christians who share our journey, God gives us what we need to begin to yield to God's gentle and powerful touch. In small groups, as we learn and practice the means of grace, those holy habits through which we learn and live "the mind of Christ" (Philippians 2:5), grace wears down our resistance and makes us more pliable in God's hands. In the relationships that happen only in small groups, God makes us vulnerable to grace and helps us yield to the divine will for our lives.

God is the potter. We are the clay. Relationships of love and forgiveness are God's hands and fingers seeking to form us to become fully free human beings and channels of grace for the world. By grace, given and received in small groups, we are the work of God's hands.

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Preventing Medication Errors

The best way to prevent medication errors is to be an active member of your health care team. That means taking part in every decision about your health care. Research shows that patients who are more involved with their care tend to get better results. Older people are especially at risk for medication errors because they often take multiple medications. Children are also a vulnerable population because drugs are often dosed based on their weight, and accurate calculations are critical.

Here are some suggestions to help you stay safe.

Make sure that all of your doctors know about every medicine you are taking. Keep a list of all medications. Keep it with you and update regularly. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements, such as vitamins and herbs. The often-forgotten things that you should tell your doctor about include laxatives, sleeping aids, and birth control pills.

Make sure your doctor knows about any allergies and adverse reactions you have had to medicines. When your doctor writes a prescription for you, make sure you can read it. Ask for information about your medicines in terms you can understand—both when your medicines are prescribed and when you get them:

- What is the name of the medicine? What is the medicine for?
- Can I take a generic?
- How am I supposed to take it and for how long?
- How much should I take?
- What side effects are likely? What do I do if they occur?
- Is it safe to take with other medicines (or supplements) I am taking?
- What food, drink, or activities should I avoid while taking this medicine?
- What should I do if I forget to take the medicine?
- Are there refills?

Ask ... your pharmacist for the best device to measure your liquid medicine. Ask ... for written information about the side effects your medicine could cause. When you pick up your medicine from the pharmacy, Ask... Is this the medicine that my doctor prescribed?*

Your doctor may now give you a print out of a prescription that he has already sent to your pharmacy. Studies have shown that Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE) is effective in reducing medication errors. It involves entering medication orders directly into a computer system rather than on paper or verbally.

If in doubt, ask, ask, ask. Be on the lookout for clues of a problem, such as if your pills look different than normal or if you notice a different drug name or different directions than what you thought. It's best to be cautious and ask questions if you're unsure about anything.

If you forget, don't hesitate to call your doctor or pharmacist when you get home. It can't hurt to ask.



Hilde Hollinger	9/3	BOD PIELZOII	10/1
Marj Cawelti	9/5	Kerren Brown	10/2
Kay Walker	9/6	Sally Ann Lynch	10/3
Carleen Minkler	9/8	Val McClure	10/4
Yvonne Holt	9/11	Daisey Paredes	10/5
Sally Weitkamp	9/13	Betty David	10/6
Bob Atwood	9/14	Bob Roemer	10/9
Alice Addison	9/14	Melissa Ferrari	10/9
Peggy Bridges	9/14	Lorie Ford	10/13
Bob Throndson	9/16	Bill Taylor	10/14
Burt Cochran		Chuck Buckton	10/14
BettyAnn Quintana	9/18	Karl Whitehead	10/14
Jan Treat	9/18	Diane Laughlin	10/17
Clydean Headrick		Al Harvey	10/17
Peg Gallop	9/21	RoseAnn Steiner	10/22
June Awalt	9/23	Mary Kelleher	10/24
Christina Bailey	9/23	Jeanne Jenkins	10/28
Judy Atwood	9/26	Gabe Prestemon	10/28
Bob Carr	9/27	Rebecca Avila	10/29
Elvon Houldings	9/28	Lila Anderson	10/29
Jeremy Burns		TJ Dobbs	10/29
Claire Jacob	9/29	Diana Earley	10/30
		Mary Hawkins	10/31



Contact our church office.



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Rev. David M. Burgeson

Missionary (retired): Judy Atwood

Office Administrator: Sarah Burgeson

Bookkeeper: Victoria Gandy

Website Manager: Jamie Foster
Chancel Choir Director: Julie Burns
Praise Team Director: Susan Coho
Organist: Don McGuire

Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler

Multi-Media Director: Mike Coho

Puppet People, Chair: Mike Herber

Handbell Choir Dir.: Leonard Lutz

Christian Education Directors:

Susan Coho, Adult Mike & Linda Herber, Youth Victoria Gandy, Children Bishop: Minerva G. Carcaño

District Superintendent:

Rev. Cedric Bridgeforth

AG UM Children's Center

Director: Madrigal Quaglino

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Layout Editor: Sarah Burgeson **Proofing Team:** David Beaman, Heidi Carpentier & Betty Johnson.

Other contributors:

- Gary Hughes, select photos
- Val McClure, varied features
- Varied Teams/Committees

Deadline: 10th of each month

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

Welcome Back...

	September 2012	
Date	Meeting/Event	Time
9/3	Closed for Labor Day	_
9/4	Trustees (MMR)	7 PM
9/6	People's Kitchen	11:30 AM
9/6	Worship Team	7 PM
9/8	Well for Africa Potluck	11:30 AM
9/9	Rally Sunday ONE service	10:30 AM
9/11	UMW Steering Committee	10 AM
9/13	Esther Circle	noon
9/16	Christian Ed. Team	11:45 AM
9/18	Preschool Board	 2 PM 3:30 PM
9/18	JOY Circle	7 PM
9/20	People's Kitchen	11:30 AM
9/20	Family Fun Day Plan Meeting	7 PM
9/20	Women of Worth	7 PM
9/22	UMM Breakfast (CH)	8:30 AM
9/23	Staff-Parish Relations	12 PM
9/25	Church Council	7 PM
9/26	Mary-Martha Circle	9:30 AM
9/27	Mission Team	2 PM
9/27	Book Club Meet the Author	4 PM
9/28- 29	Prayer & Refresh Booth at AG Harvest Festival	All day

	Jui Calelle	<u> 101:</u>
	October 2012	
Date	Meeting/Event	Time
10/2	Communications	2:30 AM
10/2	Trustees	7 PM
10/4	People's Kitchen	11:30 AM
10/5	AG UM CC Staff Meeting	4 PM
10/9	UMW Steering	10 AM
10/11	Esther Circle	noon
10/11	Family Fun Day Planning	7 PM
10/14	Christian Education Team	11:45 AM
10/16	JOY Circle	7 PM
10/18	People's Kitchen	11:30 AM
10/18	Women of Worth—WOW	7 PM
10/20	UMM Breakfast	8:30 AM
10/20	Family Fun Day	11 AM
10/25	UMW Book Club	4 PM
10/26	UMW Boutique set-up	9 AM
10/27	UMW Holiday Boutique & Southern Living Lunch	9 AM (lunch at 11:30 AM)
10/28	Harvest Sunday ONE worship service	10:30 AM
10/31	Trunk or Treat	7 PM













10/7

(soup & salad at 5 PM)







9/2 9/9 9/16 9/23 9/30 8:30 AM
Church Council
—————
10:30 AM
Asprion family

Mary-Martha Circle
& Library
Finance
Committee

UMM Pancake
Breakfast

10/14 10/21 10/28 Families and Friends of AG UM Children's Center Esther Circle

Church Council

Staff-Parish Relations

People's Kitchen



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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INSERT:

AG UM CC Chronicle

Light So Shine
before men, that
they may see your GOOD WORKS
AND Glorify your FATHER
which is in Heaven.