

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

# Cast~A~Net

*The Kingdom of God is like a net that was cast into the sea. ~ Matthew 13:47*



## Here They Come Again

It is that time of year again. Get ready to have a full church. Be prepared to set up chairs in the aisle. It is an exciting time of year, having a great celebration and filling the sanctuary with people. But some members will look down upon those who are CE (Christmas/Easter) attendees. The CE people are not faithful. They don't attend; they don't give; they aren't involved; they don't help with the work that needs to be done to keep the church going.

Now, look at Easter celebrations and CE people through a new lens. The church is the one place that exists, not for itself, but for others. While we often "blame" those who are inactive for their lack of commitment, it could be that the system in our church for welcoming, belonging, and discipling is designed for those results. What if we had a passion that the people who have not been part of the church meet God through Jesus Christ and experience the meaning of Easter? The celebration of Easter is the word of new life and hope. It is the Word that each of us, through the living Christ, can experience salvation, healing, and wholeness. That is a word for all, both inside and outside the church.

How can we make the Easter celebration inviting and welcoming to people who have been inactive or who have rarely been to church? Is everything written out in your bulletin for that day? Do you have the hymns, the Lord's Prayer, Doxology, and other parts of your service written out so it is easy to follow for people who are not familiar with your service? Visitors do not want to be a "spectacle" of themselves and be noticed for doing the wrong things. What are the ways that you can help them diminish that fear? Are there sufficient people from the congregation to welcome them and to help them find nursery care and a seat in the sanctuary? Have these hospitality people been trained? Do you have a follow-up plan in place to make contact with first-time visitors from the community?

Let us give thanks and rejoice for all who come to our Easter services. Many will come because they are visiting relatives in your community. Some who have been marginally active will come because they may have a church memory that draws them to this service of Resurrection and Hope. Some will come because they are on a spiritual journey, and we have the privilege of inviting them to be on a spiritual journey, centered in Jesus Christ.

By Shirley F. Clement (GBOD.org)

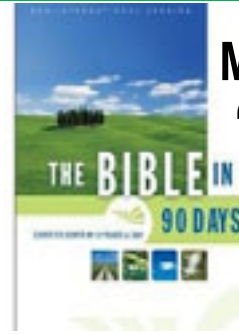
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- **Palm Sunday – March 24<sup>th</sup>**  
The procession of the palms with our children's Sunday School and the Chancel Choir to celebrate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. "Hosanna—Jesus, Save us Now!"
- **Passover Begins – March 25<sup>th</sup>**
- **Pastor's Study—March 27<sup>th</sup>**  
at 6 PM in the McMillen Room.
- **Children's Seder Experience –**  
March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM in Criswell Hall.
- **Maundy Thursday - March 28<sup>th</sup>**  
join us anytime between the hours of **11:30 AM—12:30 PM** and **6:30—7:30 PM** for a free flowing & self-led meditation. Pastor David will administer communion.
- **Good Friday Ecumenical Service**  
March 29<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM hosted by St. Patrick's Catholic Church.
- **UMC of AG will host a Tenabrae Service—A Service of Darkness Good Friday -** March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM with Grover Beach Presbyterian. This service will combine voices of the two choirs and hearts of two congregations making this a must see service as we prepare for Resurrection Sunday.
- **Holy Saturday – March 30<sup>th</sup>**
- **Easter Sunday – March 31<sup>st</sup>**  
Come, celebrate the Risen Lord during both services. Join us!

# Shepherd's Notes

David Burgeson, Pastor



## MARCH 2013 "Bible In 90 Days"

Dear Church Family and Friends,

March 31<sup>st</sup> we will celebrate not only Easter, but the completion of our *Bible in 90 Days*. I must confess it has been a challenge at times to keep up with the reading. I also have been thinking that Easter can't be here already. It is my sincerest hope that you will invite friends and/or family to any of our Holy Week activities that you see on the front page. We will be so blessed to share our family with yours.

I want to take a minutes to share some information what is ahead:

- **Sunday, March 10** there will be ONE service at 10:30 AM. I hope you will come and hear our own Mike Herber teach from Haggai on that Sunday. You won't want to miss what our church ministry directors are planning for that service. We are sorry to miss it. Sarah and I will be in Ventura participating in the Walk to Emmaus - Women's Weekend. I will be *Spiritual Director* for the walk, and Sarah, along with others from our church, will be serving as volunteers for the weekend to minister to these women. Please keep us in your prayers.
- **Friday, March 22** we will have a **Single's Mingle and Potluck** in the McMillian Room at noon. All singles are invited to bring a main dish or salad to share. Beverages and dessert will be provided. We will be sending out invitations at the beginning of March. Let us know if you or some one you know might be interested. You can call my office with questions.
- **During the month of April**, I will begin a new sermon series focusing on the Gospel of John. The weekly Wednesday Pastor's Study beginning April 17 will be on Grace. The text will be Philip Yancey's book "*What's So Amazing About Grace?*"
- **April 4-13, 2013 Mississippi Rebuild Trip**—For the last 7 years, I have participated in a work trip to Mississippi with the Santa Barbara District. It is that time again—year 8 is here. Keep me (and my family) in your prayers as I will be gone to Gulfport. I always look forward to helping to rebuild homes and lives affected by this disaster. While I am away if there is an immediate pastoral concern, please contact Sarah in our church office.
- **Sunday, April 7**, our resident Deaconess and Diaconal Minister (retired), Judy Atwood, will be preaching at both services. Please come and hear as she shares what God has laid on her heart from His Word. Many thanks Rev. Headrick who will lead communion for this service.

Together in ministry,

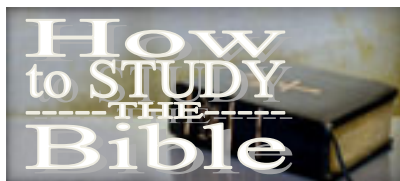
- 3/1—DAY 60— Ezekiel 12:21 Ezekiel 23:39
- 3/2—DAY 61 Ezekiel 23:40 Ezekiel 35:15
- 3/3—DAY 62 Ezekiel 36:1 Ezekiel 47:12
- 3/4—DAY 63 Ezekiel 47:13 Daniel 8:27
- 3/5—DAY 64 Daniel 9:1 Hosea 13:6
- 3/6—DAY 65 Hosea 13:7 Amos 9:10
- 3/7—DAY 66 Amos 9:11 Nahum 3:19
- 3/8—DAY 67 Habakkuk 1:1 Zechariah 10:12  
*New Testament Reading begins March 9th*
- 3/9—DAY 68 Zechariah 11:1 Matthew 4:25
- 3/10—DAY 69 Matthew 5:1—Matthew 15:36
- 3/11—DAY 70 Matthew 16:1—Matthew 26:56
- 3/12—DAY 71 Matthew 26:57—Mark 9:13
- 3/13—DAY 72 Mark 9:14—Luke 1:80
- 3/14—DAY 73 Luke 2:1—Luke 9:62
- 3/15—DAY 74 Luke 10:1—Luke 20:19
- 3/16—DAY 75 Luke 20:20—John 5:47
- 3/17—DAY 76 John 6:1—John 15:17
- 3/18—DAY 77 John 15:18—Acts 6:7
- 3/19—DAY 78 Acts 16:8—Acts 16:37
- 3/20—DAY 79 Acts 16:38—Acts 28:16
- 3/21—DAY 80 Acts 28:17—Romans 14:23
- 3/22—DAY 81 Romans 15:1—1 Corinthians 14:40
- 3/23—DAY 82 1 Corinthians 15:1—Galatians 3:25
- 3/24—DAY 83 Galatians 3:26—Colossians 4:18
- 3/25—DAY 84 1 Thessalonians 1:1—Philemon 25
- 3/26—DAY 85 Hebrews 1:1—James 3:12
- 3/27—DAY 86 James 3:13—3 John 14
- 3/28—DAY 87 Jude 1—Revelation 17:18
- 3/29—DAY 88 Revelation 18:1—Revelation 22:21  
March 29 Good Friday
- 3/30—DAY 89 Make Up Day—if you need it!
- 3/31—DAY 90 Make Up Day—if you need it!  
March 31st, Easter— You are done!

**Congratulations!**



**Sundays - 9:50 AM**

Come, take the message a little further in the Christian Education office (CH).



**Sundays - 6 PM**

Take part in this ongoing look of the scriptures with Mike Herber in the McMillen Room.



**Mondays - 7 PM**

We welcome all men for prayer & study (room 215).



**Adults - 6 PM**

**Kids Night Out - 6 PM**

**Youth Group - 7 PM**

(See schedule at right)

FREE Fellowship Meal at 5:15 PM



**Fridays - 8:30 AM**

Join us in the Library for Bible study, discussion, coffee, & friends!

Dates	Topics and Schedule
Sunday, March 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM &amp; 10:30 AM Worship Service</li> <li>BN90 Week 9 Sermon</li> <li>9:50 AM BN90 Discussions and Study Session</li> <li>6 PM <i>How to Study the Bible</i>—Teaching &amp; Discussion Group</li> </ul>
Wednesday, March 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 PM Wednesday Bible Study — BN90 Week Ten</li> </ul>
Sunday, March 10 Guest Speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ONE 10:30 AM Combined Worship Service</li> <li>BN90 Week 10 Sermon</li> <li>6 PM <i>How to Study the Bible</i>—Teaching &amp; Discussion Group</li> </ul>
Wednesday, March 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 PM Wednesday Bible Study — BN90 Week Eleven</li> </ul>
Sunday, March 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM &amp; 10:30 AM Worship Service</li> <li>BN90 Week 11 Sermon</li> <li>9:50 AM BN90 Discussions and Study Session</li> <li>6 PM <i>How to Study the Bible</i>—Teaching &amp; Discussion Group</li> </ul>
Wednesday, March 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 PM Wednesday Bible Study — BN90 Week Twelve</li> </ul>
Sunday, March 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM &amp; 10:30 AM Worship Service</li> <li>BN90 Week 12 Sermon</li> <li>9:50 AM BN90 Discussions and Study Session</li> <li>6 PM <i>How to Study the Bible</i>—Teaching &amp; Discussion Group</li> </ul>
Wednesday, March 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 PM Wednesday Bible Study — B90 Week Thirteen</li> </ul>
Sunday, March 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM &amp; 10:30 AM Worship Service</li> <li>BN90 Week 13 Sermon</li> <li>9:50 AM BN90 Discussions and Study Session</li> <li>6 PM <i>How to Study the Bible</i>—Teaching &amp; Discussion Group</li> </ul>
Wednesday, April 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 PM Wednesday Bible Study</li> </ul>
Sunday, April 7 Guest Speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM &amp; 10:30 AM Worship Service</li> <li>9:50 AM Discussions and Study Session</li> <li>6 PM <i>How to Study the Bible</i>—Teaching &amp; Discussion Group</li> </ul>
Wednesday, April 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 PM Wednesday Bible Study</li> </ul>
Sunday, April 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM &amp; 10:30 AM Worship Service</li> <li>9:50 AM Discussions and Study Session</li> <li>6 PM <i>How to Study the Bible</i>—Teaching &amp; Discussion Group</li> </ul>
Wednesday, April 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 PM Wednesday Bible Study</li> </ul>
Sunday, April 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM &amp; 10:30 AM Worship Service</li> <li>9:50 AM Discussions and Study Session</li> <li>6 PM <i>How to Study the Bible</i>—Teaching &amp; Discussion Group</li> </ul>
Wednesday, 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 PM Wednesday Bible Study</li> </ul>
Sunday, 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM &amp; 10:30 AM Worship Service</li> <li>9:50 AM Discussions and Study Session</li> <li>6 PM <i>How to Study the Bible</i>—Teaching &amp; Discussion Group</li> </ul>



## Helping men grow in Christ; so others may know Christ!

### UMM Board:

Bernie Hawkins, *President*  
Mike Johnson, *Vice President*  
Wayne Huggins, *Treasurer*  
Tom Egan, *Devotions*  
Val McClure, *UMM Publicity*

### UMM SPEAKER TO DETAIL JAILS IN THE USA

**Jim Rowland** served 35 years within the justice system and has many tales to tell. Mr. Rowland will be our guest speaker at the next UMM meeting at 8:30 AM on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Retired in the 90's, Jim became a paid consultant for the *Prison Fellowship Program* for the State of California. During that time he went to the Island of Malta for what was a 2 week assignment as consultant on their Fellowship Program. He would wind up staying for 3 years as Warden of the Malta Prison. Rowland is an early advocate of "The Victims of Crime" program.

### HERE COMES THE PANCAKES! – AGAIN

Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, the UMM will again offer a superb pancake breakfast for only \$5 adults and \$1 children under age 10. The menu remains: scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, fruit salad and coffee and is all served from 8:45 —10:30 AM.

### TACO SALAD BUFFET HOSTED BY UMM APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>

After a successful 'Taco Salad Luncheon' last year, the UMM were urged to repeat it again in 2013. So, back by popular demand, we will host what is becoming an annual event on Sunday, April 21, immediately following the second service in Criswell Hall (from 11:45 AM to 1 PM). Come and fill your crispy taco bowl with your choice of fixings: lettuce, hamburger, onions, olives, picante sauce, sour cream—what ever meets your fancy.

Your meal ticket includes: taco bowl, rice, re-fried beans, with soda or lemonade, followed up with cake for dessert. **Cost per adults** is \$7 with 10 and under 10 are \$4 per child. Monies raised will go to the many projects to which the Methodist Men donate: youth scholarships, school kits for foster kids, camperships, support our church's Benevolence Fund, as well as, the People's Kitchen, Camp Arroyo Grande, and UMC of AG Sunday School supplies. **TICKETS AVAILABLE** in Criswell Hall Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup> **or at the door the day of the event.**

**For further information see our UMM on Sundays.**



### UMM Schedule 2013

- **March 16** **Breakfast Meeting**  
8:30 AM in Criswell Hall—special guest, James Roland, Lawman to the Nation.
- **March 17th** **Pancake Breakfast**
- **April 21st** **Taco Salad Buffet**  
Served after church at 11:30 AM
- **May 18th** **Camp Work Party**
- **May 19th** **Pancake Breakfast**
- **June 1** **Carl Kliesch Memorial Golf Tournament**
- **June 15th** **All-Church Barbeque**

### Why is men's ministry important?

- Men lead others best by modeling Jesus Christ in thoughts, words and deeds.
- Spiritual maturity is signified in spiritual reproduction, as the faith of mature disciples passes on in others.
- Men growing in Christ become effective spiritual leaders in their homes and congregations, working as partners with their spouses and congregational leaders—both lay and clergy.
- Spiritually growing men help congregations to become vital and alive.
- Everything desired from and through men comes as a result of men growing spiritually and maturing as disciples: family blessings, stewardship, service, outreach, prayer, spiritual leadership, lifestyle evangelism, and faithful obedience. Men are foundational to the life and health of the church.
- When a man lives daily in surrendered faith, God is honored and many lives are blessed. Transformed hearts are forged only within Christ-centered lives—nothing less is our acceptable offering; nothing less truly reveals Christ.

SOURCE: gcumm.org



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

*“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 through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.”*

Sally Weitkamp, *UMW President*; Betty Ashton, *Treasurer*; Patti Melsheimer, *UMW Publicity*

## NEWS From UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Each year, members of the United Methodist Women prepare for faithful living and action by studying up to three mission studies focusing on 1) a spiritual growth topic, 2) a geographic area, and 3) a current issue. The 2012 Mission Studies have been Haiti; Poverty; and Immigration and the Bible. Some of our Arroyo Grande UMW circles and several individuals have been reading the study book “Immigration and the Bible” the past few months.

On February 1, 2013, the United Methodist Women, Inc. put out a national press release entitled, “United Methodist Women launches principles to Immigration Reform.” The following is a summary of that release.

United Methodist Women offers core principles on immigration reform to guide us in the intense national debate and negotiations ahead by Carol Barton.

United Methodist Women welcome the momentum for national immigration reform this year. This is the moment we have been waiting for, and as women of faith committed to justice, particularly for women, youth and children, we must seize this moment! As a contribution, United Methodist Women offer core principles to guide us in the intense national debate and negotiations ahead.

United Methodist Women have been engaged in an Immigrant and Civil Rights Initiative since 2006, building on our long tradition of welcoming immigrants that dates back to the 19th century. In 2012 we engaged in a spiritual growth study, Immigration and the Bible, by Joan Maruskin. With it we explored how the entire biblical story is one of migration—due to famine, war, family conflict, women’s oppression, religious commitment and more. And we learned of the deep biblical mandate to welcome the migrant and to love one another as God has loved us.

We begin the national immigration reform debate with a set of values and principles on what just immigration reform would really look like if we could attain it. The complexity of the coming debate will be in the details and in the political trade-offs that will be made to get a bill passed. We will join with the faith community and with allies in women’s rights, immigrant rights, civil rights and labor organizations to fight hard for the best immigration reform deal. We do not have illusions that our vision is around the corner—it’s a long way off.

The broad principles include:

- Human rights and security of individuals and communities must come first.
- Families must remain united and not be torn apart.
- Equality and due process before the law must be respected for all.
- The specific realities of immigrant women, in all their diversity, must be explicitly addressed.
- Racial justice must be explicitly addressed, particularly regarding enforcement policies that have contributed to racial profiling, access to jobs, public services and due process.
- *Carol Barton is executive for community action at United Methodist Women.*

The Arroyo Grande UMW will conclude their study on Immigration and the Bible with a program and meal on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited. **Be sure to save that date!** Check our future publications for further information as the date draws closer.

For a complete UMW press release on Immigration go to: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/news/> then click on the article entitled: **“United Methodist Women Launches Principles to Immigration Reform.”**

## United Methodist Women Book Club



The UMW Book Club will meet on Thursday, March 28 at 12

noon in the McMillan Room. Bring your own sack lunch (beverages and dessert will be provided). We will discuss: **“Change the World” by Mike Slaughter.**

*Overview - Jesus called us to follow him, to live a life of active faith, feeding the poor, healing the sick, welcoming the alien, and rescuing the desperate. It’s easy to get stuck in our religious habits of just going to church, tossing a few bucks in the offering plate, and occasionally reading our Bible—but Jesus has bigger plans for us. We are called to be his hands and feet in the world. He wants to use us to change the world. Change the World: A Study for Small Groups links Bible study to global mission and local service projects.*

For the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will be reading **“Reluctant Pilgrim: A Moody, Somewhat Self-Indulgent Introvert’s Search for Spiritual Community” by Eruma Okoro**

*Overview - Are you thirsty for God but not so sure about church? If you’ve ever had doubts or felt the gnawing need to examine your interior life, you’ll find a trustworthy companion in Reluctant Pilgrim. Eruma Okoro is a tea-sipping, purse-shopping, seminary-educated, multicultural world traveler who’s been through many twists and turns in her spiritual journey. She is a God-hungry woman trying to navigate her mixed desires, convictions, and disappointments.*

Join us for lively discussion of each book. For more information contact Patti Melsheimer via the church office.

## Trustees Report



### January 2013

- Mike Coho was again our guest and he wanted to close some loose ends. The new Christians Education office has been painted, carpeted, and two new electrical outlets were installed. It needs some phone work.
- The Parsonage Fund went down \$500 to \$127,218. The asking budget for 2013 was \$48,100 and was approved. With all utilities going up this does not leave a lot of room. We have received a donation of \$500 for the Trustees. This will really help. Our Finance Chair is asking for thousands and just a few hundred will make me dance.
- After two new pumps were installed in the sewer system, the electrical control box died. It was estimated at \$500 to fix it. Mike Johnson, Bernie Hawkins, Mike Herber, and I, set out to save \$500. That is what we did. Mike Herber fabricated a part for us and we installed it. It works just fine.
- When asked if we could do a poor mans fix on the driveway, Norm would not hear of it. So, when it gets warmer, we'll fix it properly.

- The sump pump that pumps water from the driveway to the street died. A new one was installed and now that Wednesday work team is fixing a new cover for it. This Wednesday crew is something else. As long as I have donuts they will come.

### February 2013

- We did meet but did not have a quorum so we discussed a few items and left early.
- The Parsonage Fund went up \$2,400 to \$129,622. The new flame and the cross has been painted and it is beautiful. We have Gladys Paulsen's daughter, Carol, to thank for this beautiful piece of art on the outside of the Education Building. Be sure to check it out!



### Wednesdays - 9AM

Join us as we clean up our house of worship—come, and spruce up the House of the Lord; *there is always something to do and places that need work—jobs of all kinds.*

## WHERE DOES THE TERM "GOOD FRIDAY" COME FROM?

by Dan Benedict

The source of our term for the Friday before Easter, "Good Friday," is not clear. It may be a corruption of the English phrase "God's Friday," according to Professor Laurence Hull Stookey in *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church* (p. 96). It is the common name for the day among English and Dutch speaking people. It is a day that proclaims God's purpose of loving and redeeming the world through the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a day that is good because God was drawing the world to God's self in Christ. As seen in John's gospel, particularly, God was in control. God was not making the best of a bad situation, but was working out God's intention for the world — winning salvation for all people. We call it "good" because we look backward at the crucifixion through the lens of Easter!

"Good Friday" is not a universal name for the day. The liturgical title for the day in the Western church was "Friday of Preparation," since the time Jews used the word *paraskeue* (getting ready) for Friday, meaning the "day of preparation." Popular names for the day are "Holy Friday" among the Latin nations, "Great Friday" among the Slavic peoples, "Friday of Mourning" in Germany, "Long Friday" in Norway, and "Holy Friday" (Viernes Santo) among Hispanic peoples.

*The United Methodist Book of Worship* has rich and useful resources for Good Friday and all the days of Holy Week and the Great Three Days (Holy Thursday evening through Easter), 338-376.



### Daylight Saving Time 2013

begins at 2 AM on Sunday, March 10 and ends at 2 AM on Sunday, November 3rd.

Be sure to set your clocks forward one hour before bed. We look forward to seeing you in your usual spot on Sunday morning.



UMC of AG's People's Kitchen Team serves *hot meals* to our community at the *Shouts of Grace Church* in Grover Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. At 11:30 AM, the team leaves from UMC of AG ready to shine for Christ. To help, see the Ashtons.

**Always In Need of:** CLEAN seasonal clothes—especially men's and children's, travel-sized toiletries, bedding, towels, oral hygiene supplies (tooth brushes & toothpaste, etc.), new socks, and people to make casseroles—we *supply the ingredients*.

*Contact the Ashtons for details.*

## EVERETT LEE TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Everett Lee Taylor Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1990 to help defray the cost of college education for deserving members of our church family. Over the course of the last twenty-three years, forty-two church members have received financial assistance in excess of \$44,500..

Scholarship applications for the 2013-2014 academic year are currently available from the church office, Monday-Friday, between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 1 P.M. First time applicants need to submit completed applications, including two (2) letters of reference and a letter of the student's educational goals. Former recipients applying need to submit a new application and a letter describing college or university educational experiences and future goals, plus a current college transcript to show they are in good standing. These materials must be returned to the church office no later than **May 15th**. Recipients will be honored on Youth Sunday in June.

If you or someone you know at the church could use some financial assistance for the 2013-14 academic year, please encourage them to apply for this scholarship. The applicant must be a full-time college, university, or technical school student next year and must be or have been an active member of our church.

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

Thank you,  
Nancy L. Gerrish, *Scholarship Chair*



## Library News

***Final Words From the Cross, by Adam Hamilton, is a must read for Lent.***

This addition to our Library is one that you won't want to miss. The author suggests that Jesus' utterances from the cross have meaning for us today. Here is a brief overview:

*In life and in death, Jesus' words were powerful and meaningful. Despite the serious effort and increased pain required for Jesus to speak as he hung on the cross, Jesus spoke seven "final words"—statements that have much to teach us about Jesus, his Father, and ourselves: "Father Forgive Them"; "Behold Your Son... Behold Your Mother;" "My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?"; "Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise;" "I Thirst;" "It Is Finished;" "Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit."*

*In 24 Hours That Changed the World, Adam Hamilton took us on a Lenten journey through the last day of Jesus' life. Now in this inspiring follow-up book, Hamilton explores these final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross.*

*Each chapter begins with the biblical account followed by a first-person story as might have been told from the viewpoint of one of the characters at the cross. Then the chapter explores the meaning of Jesus' dying words for our lives today. Following the last statement, a post-script recounts the words Jesus spoke following his resurrection, including what truly were the final words Jesus spoke while walking this earth.*

Join the crowd now and experience the final words from the cross.

Other books and DVDs relevant to Easter are also available. Come in and have a look.

## Family Prayers for Special Days in the Life of a Child

There are a number of occasions when families gather together in God's presence to pray about the special times in their lives. During these times the members of the household gather, place the child in the center, and offer one of the following prayers.

### THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Loving Lord, they called you "rabbi," which means teacher. You taught many people about God's world. Guide our teachers. Open our hearts and minds to new learning as (child's name) starts this first day of school. Help her/him to feel your presence. Help us to feel you beside us as we continue to learn and grow in knowledge of your world. Amen.

### WHEN A PET DIES

Caring God, you love everything that you have created. You are sad when we are sad. (pet's name) was a wonderful friend who helped us to learn about loving and caring for another creature. Be with us in our sadness and let our memories of (pet's name) always live in our hearts and bring a smile to our lips. Amen.

### BEFORE A BIG GAME

All knowing God, we are playing a big game today. Fill us with the understanding that winning is not the most important thing. Guide us in fair play. Lead us in praising the successes and accepting the mistakes of the members of our team. Help us to play our best today, knowing that you never expect anything more than our best from us. Amen.

### AT THE BIRTH OF A SIBLING

Creator God, with (child's name), you have given us the gift of a new life. Our lives as a family will be forever changed. Each of us will have a new role, new responsibilities and a new brother/sister to teach your love. Grant us the understanding that you gather him/her into your loving arms with us. Help us to help one another as we love and care for (child's name). Amen.

### BEFORE A VISIT TO THE DOCTOR

Gracious God, be with (person's name) today as he/she visits the doctor. Guide the mind and hands of the doctor in search of healing. We are all concerned and claim your presence in the doctor's office today. We place (person's name) in the comfort and security of your loving arms. Amen.

*Prepared by Barbara Bruce, a Christian educator in Rochester, New York. Reprinted with permission from Claiming Our Time with God (...and with Each Other): A Devotional Guide for Today's Families, edited by Marilyn W. Magee. Copyright 1994 Office of Family Ministries, General Board of Discipleship.*

## What Are We Up To For Spring?



Victoria Gandy,  
Children's Ministry Director

### Holy Week Preparations:

- **Palm Sunday celebration** with the *Procession of the Palms* when the children carry palm branches into the Sanctuary. Children of all ages are invited to participate during the 10:30 service. At Kids Night Out we are considering doing a Passover Seder Dinner and the meaning of the holiday, as it relates to Easter. We will keep you posted.

- **On Easter Sunday** our classes will meet in the McMillen Room for our annual Resurrection Eggs story and program.

### Looking to April:

- **April 11th is the Children's Center Open House.** The Children's Ministry Department will be preparing a spaghetti dinner to be served from 5:45 to 6:45 in Criswell Hall for all the families who will be attending the event. Tickets will be sold for \$5.00 a plate. All proceeds raised from the dinner will be given to help fund our Vacation Bible School which will be held from June 17 - June 21 this summer. We will be traveling to Athens in the steps of Paul.
- **April 14 is Children's Center Sunday,** and our Children's Sunday School classes (hopefully) will be singing with the preschool children. We will also hold our traditional Sunday School Bake Sale from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, with the proceeds again going to help fund our VBS program.
- Volunteers and donations will be gratefully accepted for both these events.



ALL pre-school and elementary kids meet in the Sanctuary at the beginning of worship, usually in the front pew. They are dismissed to their classes with their 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.



# News from the Mission Team

Judy Atwood, *Mission Team Chair*

## **MISSION TEAM NEWS: March/April**

Many new things to report this edition...so read carefully so as not to miss out. 1.) One Great Hour of Sharing, March 10 and Native American Awareness Sunday, April 14. 2.) Meet our Covenant Missionary. 3.) Lent began February 20. Lenten discipline challenge 4.) Mission Team News. 5.) Clean Water for All 6.) Check the tracking of Special Giving in 2012 to see our totals. 7.) Special Giving for January 2013.

### 1.) **GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE..IN ACTION**

- **One Great Hour of Sharing, March 10**—Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation of all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the cost of doing business. This MEANS all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered.
- **Native American Awareness Sunday, April 14**—This special offering develops and strengthens Native American ministries within the annual conferences and educates Native American seminarians.

### 2.) **COVENANT MISSIONARY: FRIDO KINKOLENGE is**



serving as Director of Children's Ministries in the Liberian Annual Conference and Emk Weltmission Children's Project Manager in Liberia. A copy of his bio is in a folder on our bulletin board.

### 3.) **LENT BEGAN February 13 with ASH WEDNESDAY**

**A challenge for us during Lent:** Take on some ministry of Love during Lent that could be included on our list of ministry in action. We often "give up or deny ourselves" something for Lent which is all right. I just challenge you to join me in adding a Justice Ministry of some kind" to your discipline.

4.) **MISSION TEAM NEWS:** Your Mission Team has been busy encouraging all of you to participate in mission outreach in some way. See page 10 for more details. **GOD HAS NO HANDS BUT OURS.**

5.) **CLEAN WATER FOR ALL:** Check out the chart in the entry way of Criswell Hall to see how we are doing on raising funds for a well for Africa. Watch for the new date and other information on the postponed potluck with pictures from Africa.

Thank you for your faithfulness You have blessed many others locally and around the world.

<b>TOTAL Special Giving for 2012</b>	
Alternative Christmas	317.00
Buckets	1060.00
ELT Scholarships	1060.00
Five Cities Christian Women's Food Pantry	50.00
Human Relations Day	211.00
John Elmore	371.68
Mission Team	100.00
Native American Sunday	91.00
Nothing But Nets - <i>Imagine No Malaria</i>	1039.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	616.00
People's Kitchen	148.00
Peace With Justice Sunday	5411.55
So. County Food Bank	1470.09
UMCOR: General Fund	50.00
UMCOR: Hurricane Isaac	50.00
UMCOR: Hurricanes Sandy	1520.00
UMCOR: Tornados	50.00
United Methodist Student Sunday	160.00
Wells for Africa	5668.68
(1168.68 of this is our congregation's well)	
<b>2012 Giving Total</b>	<b>19,449</b>

7.) **SPECIAL GIVING FOR 2013 BEGINS!** Let's enjoy watching this one GROW as we did last year!

<b>New Special Giving Chart for 2013</b>	
Human Relations Day	54.00
People's Kitchen	278.96
So. County Food Bank	58.95
Wells for Africa	20.00
<b>2013 Giving Total</b>	<b>411.91</b>

**Many hands can do many things!**



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

## UMCOR Short-term Mission Experience

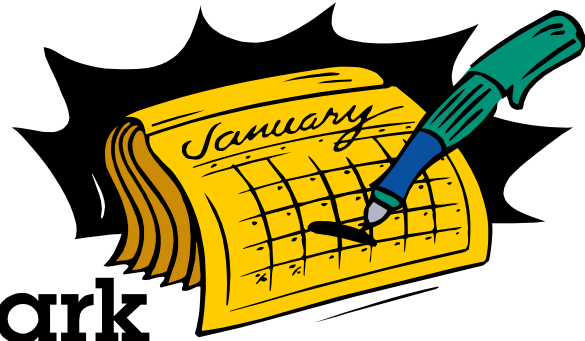
Our local Mission Areas has planned a “Short-term Mission Experience” for members of our four churches (Arroyo Grande, Lompoc, Santa Maria First and Santa Maria – St. Andrews). You are invited to participate! The group, spear-headed by Lois and Don Cook of the Lompoc UMC, has planned a short-term work experience at the UMCOR West Depot located in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The volunteers will work 2 – 3 days at the depot and then 1-2 days outside the depot in the community. There will also be time for sightseeing and recreation. On day one of the trip, volunteers will gather at the Depot for orientation, safety training, and prayers for the week. Work will generally begin the afternoon of the first day. Schedules during the week are flexible, but volunteers may work assembling kits in the depot, cleaning the volunteer space, or outside the depot doing work in the community with projects like the Crossroads Food-Coop or local food banks and shelters. On the final workday, volunteers will gather again for a time of reflection, worship, and planning for taking their experience to their home congregations.

Currently there are 10 people signed up to go on this Mission experience which is scheduled for April 21 – 26. There are no lodging facilities on sight. Most either take their motor homes or stay in motels within easy drive of UMCOR West. There is also no food service provided onsite. There are several local restaurants and fast food chains nearby. Or volunteers may pack their own lunches and/or snacks. Volunteers are also asked to pay a \$20 “processing fee”.

If you would like to learn more or want to sign up, please contact Lois at 805-736-1713 or 951-378-8509 (cell). If you do not feel you can go on the trip but would like to support the volunteers’ efforts you can create some of the relief-supply kits for them to take with them. Many of our members have participated in making the kits including the school kits, layette kits, bucket kits, and health kits. If you or your group would like to contribute to this effort, information is available in the church office or by going on line to [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org). Click on the tab at the top entitled “relief supplies”. There are even patterns to be used to make the school kit bag and a layette nightgown.

*UMCOR’s Mission Statement: Compelled by Christ to be a voice of conscience on behalf of the people called Methodist, UMCOR works globally to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing.*



## Mark Your Calendar!

### March & April

Gary Bailey	3/2	Jeremy Earley	4/1
Carina Avila	3/2	Jack Cuddy	4/1
Tom Egan	3/3	Liz Gholson	4/3
Jerry Smith	3/5	Esther Miller	4/4
Julie Wise	3/7	Amber Burgeson	4/5
Lucy Jacob	3/7	Patti Melsheimer	4/6
Doris Leddy	3/7	Ryan Bailey	4/7
Marjorie Stinson	3/7	Pam Bauske	4/7
Joe St. Laurent	3/7	Eleanor Hughes	4/7
Ethel Gilliland	3/8	Grant Cuddy	4/8
Sue Davis	3/8	Sadie Barber	4/9
Harper Stednitz	3/10	Don Gugeler	4/11
Pat Wiemers	3/13	Randy Dobbs	4/16
Jeff Treat	3/14	Ryan Odom	4/24
Sheila Riley	3/14	Lea Ann Collagan	4/25
Arthur Lowe	3/18	Thomas Earley	4/28
JoAnn Wize mann	3/20	Mac Stransky	4/29
Toni Harvey	3/20		
Ronald Earley	3/22		
Carter Stednitz	3/23		
Marian Middleton	3/23		
Arletta Truesdale	3/25		
Ariel Waterman	3/28		
Ann Smith	3/29		
Tammy Wise	3/30		
Danica Leonard	3/30		
Chuck Ashton	3/30		
Imelda Lowe	3/3		



### Did we miss a birthday?

Contact our church office...we need you to fill out an information form for you and your family.



**Church Office:** (805) 481-2692  
**E-mail:** fumcag@scbglobal.net  
**Senior Pastor:**  
 Rev. David M. Burgeson  
**Missionary (retired):**  
 Judy Atwood  
**Office Administrator:**  
 Sarah Burgeson  
**Bookkeeper:** Victoria Gandy  
**Website Manager:** Jamie Foster  
**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. Cedrick Bridgeforth  
**AG UM Children's Center**  
**Director:** Madrigal Quaglino  
 E-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net  
 Office: (805) 481-2223



**Chair:** open position  
**Members At Large:**  
 Judy Atwood, David Beaman, Pastor David Burgeson, Sarah Burgeson, Susan Coho, Betty Johnson, Virginia Mothes, & Jerry Smith.  
**Layout Editor:** Sarah Burgeson  
**Proofing Team:** David Beaman, Betty Johnson, Judy Atwood and Virginia Mothes.  
**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.

	Event/Meetings	Time
3/1	World Day of Prayer	—
3/5	Board of Trustees	7 PM
3/7	People's Kitchen	11 AM
3/7	Women of Worth	6:30 PM
3/9	Praise Team	6:30 AM
3/10	ONE Worship Service	10:30 AM
3/10	SLO Chamber Orchestra	3 PM
3/11	Central Coast Hospice Bereavement Support Group	12 PM
3/12	UMW Steering Committee	10 AM
3/13	Alzheimer's Association . Caregiver's Support	12:30 PM
3/14	AG UM CC CLOSED	—
3/14	Esther Circle	12 PM
3/14	Worship Team	7 PM
3/15	Alzheimer's Support Group for Adult Children	12 PM
3/16	UMM Breakfast Meeting	8:30 AM
3/17	UMM Pancake Breakfast	9:30 AM
3/19	Preschool Board • Closed session • Open session	— 1:30 PM 2:30 PM
3/19	JOY Circle	7 PM
3/21	People's Kitchen	11 AM
3/22	Singles Potluck & Social	12 PM
3/23	AG UM CC Work Day	9 AM
3/23	Praise Team	6:30 PM
3/27	Mary-Martha Circle	9:30 AM
3/27	AG UM CC Potluck	12 PM
3/28	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	—
3/28	UMW Book Club	12 PM
3/28	Mission Team	2 PM
3/29	<i>Good Friday</i>	—
3/29	AG UM CC Closed	—
3/29	Good Friday Ecumenical Service at St. Patrick's	3 PM
3/29	Tenabrae Service <i>A Service of Darkness</i>	7 PM UMC of AG
3/31	Easter Sunday	—

	Events/Meetings	Time
4/2	Communications	10:30 AM
4/2	Trustees	7 PM
4/3	EOC Senior Health Screen	9 AM
4/4	People's Kitchen	11 AM
4/4	Women of Worth	6:30 PM
4/5-13	Pastor David Gone to New Orleans for Re-build	—
4/6	AG UM CC Work Day	9 AM
4/6	Praise Team	6:30 PM
4/7	SLO County Band Spring Concert at UMC of AG	3 PM
4/8	Central Coast Hospice Bereavement Support Group	12 PM
4/9	UMW Steering	10 AM
4/10	Alzheimer's Association Caregiver's Support Group	12 PM
4/11	Esther Circle	noon
4/11	VBS Spaghetti Dinner	5:45 PM
4/11	AG UM CC Open House	7 – 9 PM
4/11	Missionary to Alaska Julie Elmore Visits	7 PM
4/14	Native American Sunday	—
4/16	Preschool Board ▪ Closed session ▪ Open session	— 1:30 PM 2:30 PM
4/16	JOY Circle	7 PM
4/18	People's Kitchen	11 AM
4/20	UMM Breakfast	8:30 AM
4/20	Praise Team	6:30 PM
4/21	UMM Taco Salad Buffet	
4/24	Mary-Martha Circle	9:30 AM
4/25	UMW Book Club	12 PM

## Coffee Hour Hosts

3/3	Trustees	4/7	Worship Team
3/10	Mary-Martha Circle	4/14	AG UM CC
3/17	UMM Pancakes	4/21	WOW (8:30 ONLY)
3/24	Peoples Kitchen	4/28	Mission Team
3/31	Easter Sunday	<b>Thank you all!</b>	



# First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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### INSERT:

Children's Center Chronicle

## Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center



**275 N. Halcyon Road  
Arroyo Grande, Ca 93420**  
(805) 481-2223

### Open House 7 PM—9 PM

Join us for a spaghetti dinner at 5:45 PM to help raise funds for the UMC of AG's Vacation Bible School coming in June.

Call our children's center or church office for details.