

"Know Christ, Grow in Christ, Go—Share Christ."

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande



Christmas JUBILEE & Variety Show

December 13th
6 — 9 PM

Come, enjoy festive music,
sing **Christmas** carols,
see a special **Variety**
Show, the **Christmas**
Story AND...
lots of tasty **goodies**.

Don't miss this **FREE**
evening to join our
community as we get into
the Christmas spirit.

Bring a friend.
All are welcome!



ALL LADIES ARE INVITED!

Saturday,
December 7th at 2 PM

Join us for a festive time of fel-
lowship, games, goodies, and
creating "cookie bags" to share
the love of Christ with others
during this Advent season.

Please bring 2 dozen cookies.
One dozen we eat—the other we will
bag up for the community.

Contact Hilary Henderson or
Linda Herber for details.



Shepherd's Notes

David Burgeson, Pastor

Joyous Advent to You All My Church Family and Friends!

Advent is the beginning of the Christian Church year. It is a season of four weeks including four Sundays. I came across this article from the UM General Board of Discipleship website and wanted to share it with you. Enjoy!

What Shall We Do With Advent?

by Dean McIntyre (from GBOD.org)

For many churches, this is the week to confront the annual question, "Shall we sing Christmas carols during Advent or not?" All around us, the world is celebrating Christmas with "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" and "Jingle Bell Rock" on the radio, Christmas-themed movies in the theatres, office parties, school music concerts, television ads and special programs, hauling out the decorations, putting up the tree, downtown city lights, buying and wrapping gifts, and so much more. Even in the church we have Sunday school class parties, staff parties, decorations, concerts, programs, and services — all before December 25. But for many churches, the tension comes every year over whether or not to sing Christmas carols before Christmas.

Those who resist argue for preserving the integrity and meaning of Advent. They say that by jumping immediately into "Joy to the World" on the first Sunday in December, we miss the message of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." They want to experience the themes and practices of Advent, unconfused by the themes and practices of Christmas. They believe that Christmas cannot truly be Christmas for us unless we have first experienced Advent. Congregations that mix the two can only experience theological and liturgical confusion.

To help us remember and preserve the integrity and purpose of the meaning and themes of Advent, consider the following:

1. Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming." During Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ into the world; and we celebrate in various ways how this happens.
2. Christ continually comes to us in the Word and Spirit. We herald that coming by reading the words of Scripture and hearing the Word proclaimed in sermon and song.
3. During Advent, we are to prepare for the coming of Jesus. Historically, the church has done this through a time of fasting rather than feasting. There is a de-

gree of seriousness and austerity to Advent that prepares us for the unbounded joy of Christmas. Advent as a Christian observance has been with us since it first appeared in France in the fourth century. It was originally a preparatory period of fasting and penitence that led to Christmas.

4. One central theme of Advent is that of longing — we are to reenact and experience again Israel's longing for the coming of the Messiah, fully expecting but still waiting for it.
5. The liturgical calendar sets specific themes for each Sunday of Advent. These are not the themes that many churches use today: hope-peace-joy-love, or John-Elizabeth-Joseph-Mary, or some similar scheme. These themes have become so commonplace that many Christians believe that these patterns of observance have a long tradition in the church; when in reality, these are modern inventions, made all the easier with the now almost universal practice of lighting candles in an Advent Wreath as part of worship — also a modern invention. The historical and traditional themes for the Sundays in Advent are:
 - First Sunday: The final return of Christ in victory; the Second Coming.
 - Second and Third Sundays: John the Baptist, his role, his words, his teachings.
 - Fourth Sunday: The events immediately preceding Jesus' birth.

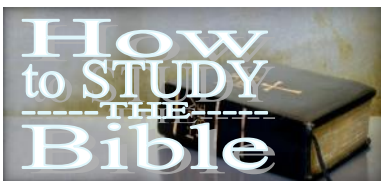
6. Advent is rich in symbolism and art. The traditional color is purple, although blue is now being used in some churches for paraments, stoles, banners, and Advent Wreath candles. Other symbols include the Chrismon tree with its white monograms, the Jesse tree, Advent calendars, trumpets (for Isaiah), the messianic rose, star of Jacob, and fleur-de-lis.

The United Methodist Hymnal, The Faith We Sing, The Upper Room Worshipbook, and Worship & Song all contain hymns, songs, responses, prayers, liturgies, and other resources for Advent. Others are available for free on the General Board of Discipleship's web site.



Sundays - 9:50 AM

Come, take the message a little further in the McMillen Room (MMR).



Sundays - 5 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 - 5:45 PM

Kid's Night Out - 6 PM

Youth Group - 7 PM

(See schedule at right)

FREE Fellowship Meal at 5 PM



Fridays - 8:30 AM

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

Are You in a Small Group Study? Christ said that where two or three gather in his name, He is present (Matt. 18:20). It is clear then that gathering weekly with other believers to listen together for God's guidance is important to our Christian walk.

What group are you in that feeds your spiritual walk with God? Do you attend a regular Biblical study beyond just Sunday's corporate worship? If the answer is no, consider joining us at one of the opportunities listed to the left of this page. We are eager to discuss the Word of God and politely share our opinions on varied topics. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Dates	Topics and Schedule
Sunday, December 1	Advent Message: Matthew 24: 36—44 • 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service • 6 PM How to Study the Bible—Teaching & Discussion
Wednesday, December 4	• 5:45 PM When God Comes Down - Advent Study
Sunday, December 8	Advent Message: Matthew 3: 1—12 • 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service • 6 PM How to Study the Bible—Teaching & Discussion
Wednesday, December 11	• 5:45 PM When God Comes Down - Advent Study
Sunday, December 15	Advent Message: Matthew 11:2—11 • 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service • 6 PM How to Study the Bible—Teaching & Discussion
Wednesday, December 18	• 5:45 PM When God Comes Down - Advent Study
Sunday, December 22	Advent Message: Matthew 1: 18—25 • 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service • 6 PM How to Study the Bible—Teaching & Discussion
Wednesday, December 25	NO STUDY this week. Merry Christmas to you and yours!
Sunday, December 29	Advent Message: Matthew 2:10—18 ONE 10:30 AM Gospel Worship Service & Potluck • 6 PM How to Study the Bible—Teaching & Discussion



FREE & HOT at 5 PM

Free Dinner for EVERYONE!

Bring something to share or just bring yourself—we just want to see you! The goal is for us to keep our church family in company with one another and the community weekly. This dinner is rapidly becoming one that feeds the lonely, those low in funds, and the many that just need a friend—not only of our church but in the community. We are encouraging members to prayerfully consider making donations to this ministry.



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*

Something New for the 2nd annual UMM Christmas Jubilee

Friday, December 13, from 6—9 PM, the United Methodist Men (UMM) will hold their annual *Christmas Musical Jubilee* in Criswell Hall adjacent to the parking area off Halcyon Road. This fun filled program will **include something new** in the form of a **Talent/ Variety Show** with music and song furnished by several volunteers from the church. The evening with some country music, dancing and good food is a great way for participants to enter into the Christmas spirit. Families with children are encouraged to attend. There will be baby sitting service provided at no cost for children under 5 years of age. Call the office to reserve your space. **The general public is invited** and the program is **FREE**.



Annual
Christmas
Jubilee

UMM Regular Meeting for December

The regular breakfast meeting for UMM will not be held in December due to the Musical Jubilee Program – (see above).



Happy New Year with UMM

The first Breakfast Program for 2014 will be held on Saturday, January 18th at 8:30 AM in Criswell Hall. **Program topic** will be "A.G. Police, Now & in the Future" with guest speaker AG Chief of Police, Steven Annibali. Cost of the Breakfast is \$9, payable at the door or you may reserve your place by contacting Bernie Hawkins, UMM President, Mike Johnson, Vice-President, Wayne Huggins, Treasurer or Val McClure, Publicity. **Ladies are invited to any UMM event for 2014 – you will be most welcomed.**



First Pancake Breakfast for 2014

The first Pancake Breakfast of the New Year will be held on Jan. 19th in Criswell Hall from 9 AM—10:30 AM. Menu is: Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit Salad and Coffee, Tea or Hot Chocolate. Cost is Adults \$5, Youth (over 10 year) \$1 (under 10 "free") and the **new family plan**: two Adults with Children \$10. Come; join the good fellowship over a great breakfast.

**** Help yourself to a UMM Newsletter on the UMM Bulletin Board or from the dispensers in the Narthex.



Deadline December 13th. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Article and Item ideas can be e-mailed to the church office before the Communications Committee's next meeting on December 3rd.



Five Cities Christian Women will again be handing out *Christmas Food Baskets* on **December 21st** *with the help of the Boy Scouts*

The California Poppies decorative Artists will bring gifts for the young children to put in the baskets. The Helping Hands of Harvest will hand out coats, jackets, mittens and other items they have collected. The AG Box company Oceano will donate boxes. May churches, individuals and our children's center will donate money and food. Come see this operation in action.

The food may be left in our basket in the Narthex.

Checks may be mailed to:

Five Cities Christian Women
P.O. Box 756
Grover Beach, CA 93483

A receipt will be mailed to you upon request. Thank you!



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

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

Looking Back

& Moving Forward

2013 in Review

The year 2013 has been a very busy and successful one for the United Methodist Women of Arroyo Grande. Much was accomplished. In January, we had our annual Women's Sunday with Veda Ward, Santa Barbara District Social Action chair and a Conference Lay Minister as our speaker. In May, we hosted a discussion of “Immigration and the Bible”. Stephanie Kimec, a US-2 missionary assigned to the Immigration Task Force of the Cal Pac Conference, was our presenter. She gave us a lot to think about regarding our responsibilities as Methodists and Christians with regard to immigration. UMW members from other area churches, as well as, from other denominations joined us for the meeting and the Cinco de Mayo luncheon that followed.

In September, our spiritual retreat was held at the Arroyo Grande UMC Campground. We discussed “The Roma People of Europe”. Laura Wilson, the president of the Long Beach District UMW was our leader for this informative session. Again, our sisters from several other local UMW's joined us.

And in October, we held our annual Holiday Boutique and Brunch. It was well supported by our members and the community at large. A total of \$2,718.75 was raised from this event. This money combined with the pledges received from UMW members throughout the year will be used to fund United Methodist Women's mission projects both around the world and in our local area.

In addition to these activities all of our circles have met regularly to do studies and fellowship. Their studies have included a study of Haiti, a study of women of the Bible, a study of joyous living and other subjects.

Watch for information regarding what the United Methodist Women of Arroyo Grande will be doing in 2014! All women of the church are invited to participate!

“The Dressmaker of Khair Khana”

proved to be a very interesting read for the members of the Book Club in November. The author, Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, a reporter for the *New York Times*, has put together a true story about five sisters and how they survived when the Taliban seized control of their home city of Kabul, Afghanistan. The courage and resourcefulness of the oldest sister, Kamila, was amazing to everyone. It is a book that is available at our local Arroyo Grande public library if others are interested in reading it.

The book club will not be meeting in December but will resume on Friday, January 24, 2014 at noon in the McMillan room. We will be reading “*The Invisible*



Thread”, the true story of an 11-year old panhandler, a busy sales executive and an unlikely meeting with destiny. Books may be ordered from Patti Melsheimer. There are also some copies available from our

Arroyo Grande library.

Other books to be read in 2014 include: “*Please Look After Mom*” which takes place in Seoul, South Korea as the family searches for their mother and long held secrets and sorrows are revealed; “*King Peggy*” about an American secretary who suddenly finds herself king of Otuam, Ghana; and “*Strong Was Her Faith*” which describes eleven different women of the New Testament.

Everyone is welcome to join.



You can help in ministry!

Jesus said in his days on earth, "tend my sheep."

We would like to offer you some opportunities to do just that in your church home.

Over the next few Sundays, you will find a form in your bulletins. We invite you to fill out the form and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. It is our hope that many of you will prayerfully consider participating further in the life of our church.

These are just a few ideas to get you thinking about how you can serve your church:

Usher/Greeter, Liturgist, help provide refreshments for Sunday Coffee Hour, send birthday cards to members & shut-ins, visit those in care facilities or in the hospital, visit with members who are unable to come to church and are confined to their home, or be a part of the prayer chain.

Xmas -- Is It An Abbreviation for Christmas or Part of A Conspiracy To Take Christ Out of Christmas?

Some people see the X in Xmas as a way of crossing out Christ. Some see it as one more tool of those who wish to secularize Christmas. The use of Xmas as an abbreviation by retailers is cited as evidence of the commercialization of Christmas. And still others point out that X is often used as a symbol for something unknown, as in "the X-factor" or the unknown quantity in a mathematical equation.

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the word Christmas comes from the eleventh-century Old English *Christes masse* and the Middle English *Christe-masse*. *Cristes* comes from the Greek *Christos* and *masse* comes from the Latin *missa*, the word for the Roman Catholic service of the Mass. The X in *Xmas* is the Greek letter X, or *chi*, and it is the first letter of *Χριστός*, the Greek spelling of Christ. X has been used as an abbreviation for Christ since the fifteenth century, and Xmas has been used as an abbreviation for Christ Mass or Christmas ever since.

More recently, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Xmas has been used for Christmas in the writings of Lord Byron, Samuel Coleridge, Lewis Carroll, and Oliver Wendell Holmes. And even more recently, of course, it has been used in advertising, by greeting card designers, in merchants' store fronts, on Christmas tree lots, and most recently, on Facebook, Twitter, and in text messaging that limits the number of characters available to users. A personal note: I frequently use X and Xmas, mostly in e-mail, notes for myself, marginal notes in a book, and outlines. I use X for Christ, Xian, Xianity, and certainly Xmas.

The *New York Times*, BBC, and other style guides prohibit the use of Xmas, despite its honorable origins and past use. It is still perceived by some Christians, opportunistic politicians, and media personalities as part of a "war on Christmas." It is not used in the church press, religious educational material, or worship resources, and never in hymns and songs.

"I heard the bells on Xmas Day . . ."

"Love came down at Xmas. . ."

"Sing we now of Xmas. . ."

"We hear the Xmas angels, the great glad tidings tell. . ."

"I saw three ships come sailing in on Xmas Day. . ."

". . .and God sent us salvation that blessed Xmas morn."

and

"I'm dreaming of a white Xmas. . ."

"Then one foggy Xmas Day. . ."

"On the first day of Xmas my true love gave to me. . ."

"We wish you a Merry Xmas. . ."

"Have yourself a merry little Xmas. . ."

"It's beginning to look a lot like Xmas. . ."



Xmas will not replace Christmas in the near future, nor is anyone calling for it to do so. Even for those who understand its past origin and use and who may use it in texting and on Twitter, use of Christmas will continue. But perhaps it is time for those shouting about the use of Xmas in our culture to lower their voices.

SOURCE: GBOD.org



UMC of AG's
People's
Kitchen Team
serves meals to
our community

at Ramona Gardens Park in Grover Beach on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month. The team will be prepping in the kitchen on each Wednesday making the lunches to be distributed. To help, see the Ash-tons.

Continue to pray for a new location for this ministry to continue to serve hot meals!

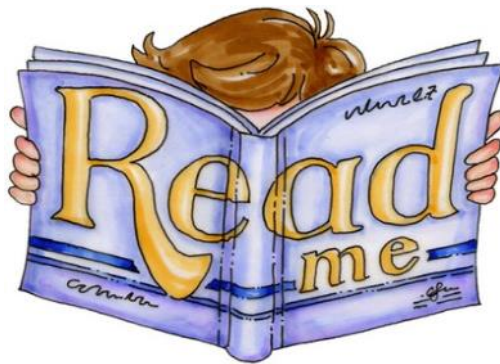
Always In Need of:

Clothes (CLEAN/SEASON APPROPRIATE), travel-sized toiletries, bedding/blankets/sleeping bags, towels, oral hygiene supplies, new socks, and people to help assemble lunch bags on the Wednesday before.

Contact the Ashtons for details.

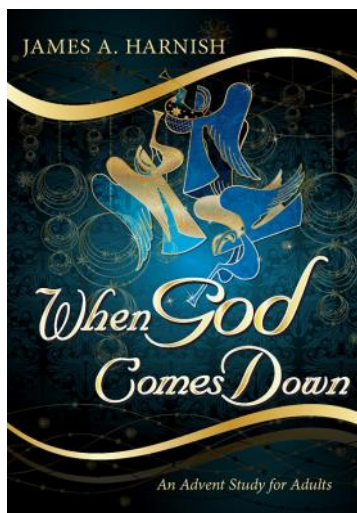
YTD meals served: **3,151**

YTD socks distributed: **9,488**



The Library has many Advent books and DVD's for the holiday season. These include: (books) *First Christmas, The Scandal and the Star, The Day Christ Was Born, Christmas From the Backside*; (DVDs) *Joseph of Nazareth, Mystery of the Three Kings*. We also have Advent Study books for your enjoyment.

Come check them out!



Advent Study Begins - Wednesday, December 4th

Don't miss the Sunday Sermon series!

When God Comes Down explores the meaning of the incarnation—God with us in human flesh. The study looks at the stories of the primary biblical characters in the birth stories through whose lives the miracle of incarnation happened: Zechariah and Elizabeth, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. Harnish also looks at a traditional character in nativity, one who is not mentioned in the Bible, the innkeeper.

Often our Advent/Christmas journey is focused on us – our memories, feelings, relationships and experiences. This study puts the focus on God's action in Jesus Christ. It encourages participants to think more deeply in terms of the biblical, theological, and spiritual meaning of the Nativity and to apply it to their own lives.

Poinsettias

This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as *la flor de la Nochebuena* (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.



Poinsettia Sign-Up

It is the time of year when we ready our sanctuary for the season of Advent. Sign-up sheets will be in the upcoming church bulletins.

Ordering this beautiful Christmas flower will allow you TWO opportunities to give: 1) Make a nice dedication to a loved one and take home the flower to enjoy, or 2) With your dedication, you can donate your flower to a church family member who is homebound or in a care-facility. The cost of this special flower and dedication is \$10 per flower. Dedications will be printed as written in the Christmas Sunday bulletin. —*Thank you all!*



The youth will be collecting non-perishable food items beginning on **December 29, 2013** for our annual **Souper Bowl of Caring 2014** food drive.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.
- Matthew 25:35

Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" - Mark 1:41

John answered, 'The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.' - Luke 3:11

It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches.
- Luke 13:19

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? - 1 John 3:17

Please look for the can in Criswell Hall to deposit your donated items. Items especially needed are peanut butter, tuna fish, and cereal but all food donated is welcomed. Our collection runs through February 2 (Super Bowl Sunday). As always, if you forget your donation that last day, we will gladly sell you a can or two to put in the bucket to score a touchdown. All food will be given to the Five Cities Christian Women's Food Pantry and any monies raised will be given to Blandy, the youth group's Compassion child. Won't you please be part of the team and help to fill the can?

In Christ's service,
Mike and Lou



Sundays - 10:30 AM
Wednesdays - 7 PM
Join these 6th-12th grade
teens living for Christ.



Who Should Go to Emmaus?

Emmaus is open to members of any Christian denomination. Emmaus is for the development of Christian leaders who:

- Are members of a local church.
- Have a desire to strengthen their spiritual lives.
- May have unanswered questions about their faith and the grace of God.
- Understand that being a Christian involves responsibility.
- Are willing to dedicate their everyday lives to God in an ongoing manner.

What Happens on An Emmaus Weekend?

You will enjoy three days of singing, learning, laughing, worshiping, reflecting, praying and participating in small groups. Discussions center around fifteen talks given by laity and clergy. These talks present the theme of God's grace, how that grace comes alive in the Christian community and how it is expressed in the world. You'll also discover how grace is real in your life, how you live a life of grace, and how you bring that grace to others.

You will have the opportunity to participate in the daily celebration of Holy Communion and to understand more fully the body of Christ. You will experience God's grace through the prayers and acts of anonymous service offered by the Emmaus community. You will leave with an experience of Christian love in action that will equip you for new levels of grace-filled service and leadership.

Men's Walk #50

February 27– March 2, 2013

Women's Walk #50

March 6—9, 2013

Prayerfully consider if this is the season that God is asking you to put aside preconceived notions and put your trust in Him. You will be glad that you did. To find out more about this unforgettable journey, contact Pastor David or Sarah Burgeson.

News from the Mission Team

By Judy Atwood, *chair*

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

Many things to report this edition....

So please read carefully so as not to miss out.

1.) UMCOR Typhoon Response, 2.) Christmas Opportunities, 3.) Here I am: Ministry Opportunities, 4.) Clean Water for All, and 5.) Special Giving for Jan.-Oct. 2013.

1. GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE..IN ACTION

UMCOR TYPHOON RESPONSE November 10, 2013—In the wake of Typhoon Haiyan, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is actively mobilizing resources to respond to this latest and largest in a series of disasters to hit the Philippines over the past twelve months. Although an accurate casualty toll is yet to be determined, it is clear that the destruction and disruption of lives due to Typhoon Haiyan, known locally as Yolanda, is massive. Haiyan crashed into the Philippines on Friday, November 8. UMCOR is making plans to fill the gaps in the disaster-relief delivery network and go where the need is greatest. “Our goal,” said Eduarte “will be to reach the yet unreached with supplies that meet their basic needs.” The initial response from UMCOR will involve the distribution of food and water purification tablets. UMCOR expects to provide relief services to at least 1,000 families. In the coming weeks, UMCOR will begin to assess the viability of longer-term rehabilitation projects.

2. CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES

You have an opportunity to help others through the Angel Tree, 5 Cities Christian Women, People's Kitchen and Emergency Food. Keep watching for their special needs.

3. HERE I AM MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

I hope you will continue to find ways that God is calling YOU to be in ministry. Sometime you may have a visitor for a few days or a family member or neighbor that needs the use of a wheelchair, walker, or cane. We have some here at the church that can be loaned out for that purpose. Or if you have such an item you would loan for such a need let the church office know. So keep an eye out for ways we can be in ministry in this way. Continue to pray and listen to God's calling on your life in new ways of being in ministry.

4. **CLEAN WATER FOR ALL:** We are moving closer to our goal of another well for Africa. The challenge is still there for us to reach our goal by the end of the year. If you haven't contributed yet and would like to do so, mark your giving for the well project. I have good reason to believe we will accomplish our goal! Thanks for your support for this important ministry.

Many hands can do many things!

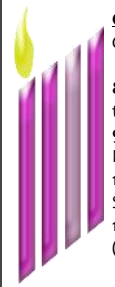
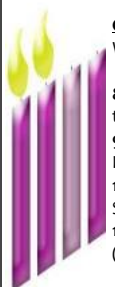

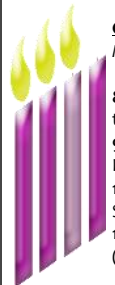
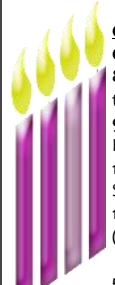






THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS. YOU HAVE BLESSED MANY OTHERS LOCALLY AND AROUND THE WORLD.

Special Giving Chart 2013

Boyle's Itineration	181.16
Disaster Response	30.00
Elmore Itineration	83.00
ELT Scholarship Fund	70.00
UMC of AG Emergency Food	273.84
5 Cities Christian Women Food Pantry	90.00
Hammond Gift to Africa Ministry	10,000.00
Human Relations Day	54.00
Kits for Kiddos (School Kits for Foster Kids)	1558.47
Native American Ministry	275.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	343.65
Peace With Justice Sunday	20.00
People's Kitchen	3,878.44
So. County Food Bank	396.26
UMCOR Tornadoes—US Relief	1,000.00
VBS School Kits	499.00
VBS Supplies	151.00
Wells for Africa	3699.34
World Communion	264.00
Youth Mission Fund	202.00
Giving Total of 2013 (Jan. — Oct.)	\$23,069.16



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Sunday of Advent  Coffee Hour: Congregational Care 8:30 AM Casual Contemporary Service 9:50 AM Disciples Discussion (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Group (215) 5 PM How to Study the Bible (MMR)	2 Pastor's Day off 10 AM Dr. Chess Winter Chess Camp (211) 11 AM Angularis Academy of Fine Arts (CH) 1 PM—3 PM UMC of AG Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)	3 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10 AM UMW Steering (L) 11:30 AM Communications (P/S) 5 PM Grande Ringers (115) 5 PM Ladies Christian Counseling (L) 7 PM Trustees	4 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 9 AM Sr. Health Screen (N/L) 5 PM Fellowship Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Advent Study (MMR) 6 PM Kids Night Out 7 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)	5 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 11 AM Angularis Academy of Fine Arts (CH) 11:45 AM People's Kitchen 5 PM Grande Ringers (115) 7 PM Church Council (MMR)	6 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)	7 12:30 PM Dr. Chess (211) 2 PM Homemade Christmas (CH)
2 Second Sunday of Advent  Coffee Hour: Worship Team 8:30 AM Casual Contemporary Service 9:50 AM Disciples Discussion (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Group (215) 5 PM How to Study the Bible (MMR)	9 Pastor's Day off 10 AM Dr. Chess Winter Chess Camp (211) 11 AM Angularis Academy of Fine Arts (CH) 12 PM Central Coast Hospice Bereavement Support Group (MMR) 1 PM—3 PM UMC of AG Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)	10 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers (115) 5 PM Ladies Christian Counseling (L) 6 PM AG MS Support (MMR) 7 PM Finance (MMR)	11 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 12:30 PM Alzheimer's Association Care Giver Support Group (MMR) 5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner (CH) 6 PM Advent Study (MMR) 6 PM Kids Night Out 7 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)	12 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 11 AM Angularis Academy of Fine Arts (CH) 11:45 AM People's Kitchen 12 PM Esther Circle (MMR) 5 PM AG UMCC S/U (CH) 5 PM Grande Ringers (115) 7 PM Worship Team (MMR) 7 PM Children's Center Holiday Program (S)	13 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 6 PM Christmas Musical Jubilee & Talent Show (CH)	14 12:30 PM Dr. Chess (211) 5 PM Praise Team S/U (S) 6:30 PM Praise Team (S) 6 PM Choir Party 
9—9:30 AM AG UMCC Holiday Program Rehearsal (S)						
15 Third Sunday of Advent  Coffee Hour: Mission Team 8:30 AM Casual Contemporary Service 9:50 AM Disciples Discussion (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Group (215) 5 PM How to Study the Bible (MMR)	16 Pastor's Day off 10 AM Dr. Chess Winter Chess Camp (211) 11 AM Angularis Academy of Fine Arts (CH) 1 PM—3 PM UMC of AG Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)	17 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 9:30 AM Clergy Cluster 10 AM Congregational Care (L) 1:30 PM Preschool Board - Open (MMR) 1:30 PM Endowment (L) 2:30 PM Preschool Board - Closed (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers (115) 5 PM Ladies Christian Counseling (L) 7 PM JOY Circle	18 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 11 AM FCCW set-up (CH) 5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner (CH) 6 PM Advent Study (MMR) 6 PM Kids Night Out 7 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)	19 8 AM FCCW gift wrap (CH) 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 11 AM Angularis Academy of Fine Arts (CH) 5 PM Grande Ringers (115)	20 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 12 PM Alzheimer's Support Group for Adult Children of Parents (MMR)	21 First Day of Winter 8 AM FCCW distribution (CH) 12:30 PM Dr. Chess (211)
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent  Coffee Hour: Children's Center 8:30 AM Casual Contemporary Service 9:50 AM Disciples Discussion (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Group (215) 5 PM How to Study the Bible (MMR)	23 Pastor's Day off 10 AM Dr. Chess Winter Chess Camp (211) 11 AM Angularis Academy of Fine Arts (CH) 1 PM—3 PM UMC of AG Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)	 Traditional Family Candlelight Worship at 7 PM	25 Christ the Savior is Born! 	26 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 11 AM Angularis Academy of Fine Arts (CH)	27 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)	28 12:30 PM Dr. Chess (211) 5 PM Praise Team S/U (S) 6:30 PM Praise Team (S)
29 Coffee Hour: All-Church Potluck Gospel Music Sunday & Potluck ONE 10:30 AM Service (youth group will participate in worship) 5 PM How to Study the Bible (MMR)	30 Pastor's Day off 10 AM Dr. Chess Winter Chess Camp (211) 11 AM Angularis Academy of Fine Arts (CH) 1 PM—3 PM UMC of AG Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)	31 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers (115) 5 PM Ladies Christian Counseling (L)	JANUARY 1 Office Closed 		CHILD CARE Provided **Sunday School & Nursery Care is available at 10:30 AM. ***Childcare for other events can be made available upon request.	

Meet Our
**CHURCH
STAFF**

Church Office: (805) 481-2692
E-mail: fumcag@scbglobal.net
Senior Pastor:

Rev. David M. Burgeson

Deaconess/Missionary (retired):
Judy Atwood, Lay Leader

Office Administrator:

Sarah Burgeson

Bookkeeper: Victoria Gandy

Website Manager: open

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, Virginia Mothes, and
Jerry Smith.

Layout Editor: Sarah Burgeson

Proofing Team: David Beaman, Judy
Atwood and Virginia Mothes.

Other contributors:

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

Deadline: Noon on December 13th.

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

December

Choir Christmas Party

Save the Date!

December 14th
at 5 PM at
B.G. Perriguey
Contact Julie Burns
for more info.

Trustee Tidbits
Tom Egan, chair

Report for October 2013

- As of October, the Parsonage Fund stood at \$142,525. In the coming weeks Tom will be talking to Sam Blakeslee and discuss the status of the Fund and the turmoil in Washington.
- The status of the bus is still on going.
- The edge of the sidewalk has been painted and the project is complete.
- The East side door to Criswell Hall is being looked at by a professional to see what needs to be done.
- Our Church has been asked if we would like to be a voting place in 2014. We said yes. They have already been here and they were very impressed. They will get back to us.
- I hope you have noticed the 10 new plants in both raised planters on both sides of the driveway. The purchase of these plants were made possible through the following memorials: B. Bailes, McLaughlin, H. Fuchiwaki, Charles Aspiron, Bill Ford, B. Wood, Don Gugeler's sister, and Ty Dohi.



David Beaman	12/3
Mike Takanaka	12/5
Stephen Wise	12/5
Michael Balster	12/7
Adeline Bottorff	12/8
Isabella Sloan	12/8
Danica Leonard	12/8
Mike Coho	12/9
Gage Dowd	12/9
Mike Clark	12/9
Kathleen Ballagh	12/9
Eva McClure	12/9
Jamie Foster	12/9
William Russell	12/9
Rita-Ly Hughes	12/10
Richard Duffin	12/13
Susan Thronson	12/13
Julie Burns	12/16
Mary Green	12/17
Pat Whitney	12/17
Kent Unsworth	12/20
Doug Ballagh	12/21
David Bauer	12/22
Cyndee Rohla	12/24
Eric Duffin	12/26
Caress Dowd	12/26
Jed Moore	12/27
Nicole Baughman	12/27
Joe Leonard	12/27
Roy Ferrari	12/28
Mike Jacob	12/28
Elizabeth Alquist	12/29
Harry Egan	12/30

Did we miss a birthday?

Contact our church office...we need you to fill out an information form for you and your family. Please contact us if your birthdate has been printed incorrectly!



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
Address SERVICE REQUESTED

For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given:
the government shall be
upon his shoulder:
and his name shall
be called
Wonderful,
Counselor,
THE MIGHTY GOD,
The Everlasting Father,
THE PRINCE OF PEACE,
Isaiah 9:6

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

IN THIS ISSUE

COVER STORY:

Decembers Headliners

Shepherd's Notes	2
Adult Christian Ed. Calendar	3
UM Men's News	4
UM Women's News	5
Miscellaneous	6 & 7
Youth & Emmaus News	8
Mission Team News	9
Calendar	10
Trustees & Birthdays	11

INSERT:

Children's Center Chronicle



It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year? Or is it?

For most of us, we get excited at Christmas. We start to sing carols, plan parties, bake cookies and candies, decorate our houses, trim the tree, exchange gifts, and just spend time with loved ones.

Sadly, getting caught up in the celebrations, we easily forget the ones for whom "joy" and "wonder" don't exactly fill into their hearts this year.

The reality is many hearts have been broken by events that make celebration simply impossible. For some it is illness, others death of a loved one (sudden or otherwise). It could be the loss of a job or suffocating financial difficulties.

Many have strained family relationships, enduring a marital separation or even divorce. It could be that Christmas simply brings up a difficult and troubled past. Many have been confronted with their own mortality, having been told that this may be their last Christmas.

When life gets turned upside down, the last thing we feels like doing is singing with the angels. The reality is, of course, that in EVERY Sunday worship service, EACH choir rehearsal, and ALL Christmas Eve candlelight service, there are people who are hurting and in pain. There are those whose lives are in turmoil, and who seek help or need answers.

Take the time this year, as we are surrounded by candles, poinsettias, the laughter, and the joyous festivities of the Christmas season, to be aware of this need.

***How can you be The Light for someone
and share your Christmas joy?***