



Homecoming Herald

“Rock Founded, Christ Centered, Faith Sustained”

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

August 2009

125th Anniversary Homecoming Dinner

Saturday, September 19th is almost here! And what a wonderful evening is planned! We will gather at the *South County Regional Center, 800 West Branch Street, Arroyo Grande* to renew old acquaintances, learn more about the history of our church and enjoy a wonderful meal together. Social hour and entertainment will begin at 4 PM followed at 5 PM by a lovely steak dinner. The program, including brief remarks by our Bishop and District Superintendent, city and county dignitaries, and the showing of a video will follow at approximately 6 PM.

Many of our former pastors and associate pastors including William (Bill) Black, Alan (Al) Gorsline, (Kenneth) Ken Criswell, Ehrhardt Lang, Bob Underwood, and Son Hye Kim have replied that they will be present for both the dinner and the Celebration Service on Sunday. In addition we will be privileged to have Bishop Mary Ann Swensen and District Superintendent Catie Coots with us for both events. Many former members including Bill and Tina Ballagh and Judy Atwood have also replied that they will be in attendance.

Jamie Foster has been named the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Entertainment will be provided by Jim and Mary Johnson. Heidi Carpentier, Jamie Foster, and Sean Lehman have put their creative talents to work to produce a variety of audio visuals for our viewing pleasure and to assist us in reflecting on our church's history. Jean Hubbard, our church historian, will be accepting reservations for the book she has compiled, *Arroyo Grande United Methodist Church: 125 Years in Ministry*. Additionally, Mike Coho has reproduced recordings made by the Chancel Choir over the years and will be taking orders for the CD.

If you have not yet made a reservation for this extraordinary event, do so immediately by calling the church office at 481-2692. The absolute deadline for reservations is September 10th. If you previously made a reservation but now find you will not be able to attend, please call the church office so that your reservation can be given to someone on the waiting list.

Pat and Larry Wiemers, and Bette Mankins and Cyn-dee Rohla have been working very diligently to make this a memorable event for all. They have been assisted by many members of our congregation.

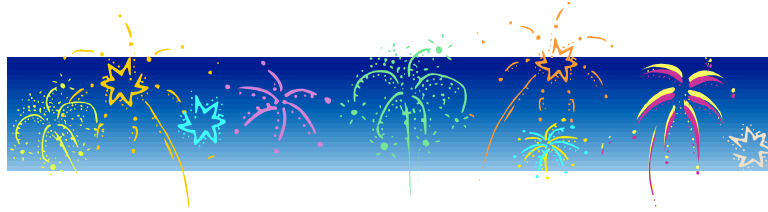
Thank you to all who helped put this evening together!!

You Can Help!

If you have wanted to help with the 125th Anniversary Celebration Homecoming Dinner but weren't exactly sure how, here are some areas we are in need of your help!

1. Bake a cake for the dinner. Cake mix and frosting mix can be picked up on September 13th and returned to the Regional Center by 4 PM on the 18th.
1. Help set up the tables and chairs Friday, September 18th.
2. Be a server for the dinner.
3. Help clean up after dinner that evening, September 19th.
4. Provide transportation for someone.

Sign-up sheets will be available in Criswell Hall beginning September 6th if you would like to volunteer.



Celebration Sunday, September 20, 2009

*“Rock Founded, Christ Centered,
Faith Sustained”*

We have used this year of celebrations of our 125th anniversary to rededicate our lives to Christ through a deeper fellowship with members of our congregation and through outreach to the community. The finale of our celebration will be our **Celebration Sunday Service**. This will be a combined service with all attending at **10:30 AM**.

The morning’s message will be presented by the Rev. Mary Ann Swenson, our California – Pacific Conference Bishop. Our District Superintendent, Catie Coots, will bring greetings from the Santa Barbara District. Judy Atwood, our Covenant Missionary, (daughter of Bob Atwood) will bring us words from the mission field. Many of our former pastors will join Rev. David Burgeson and Rev. J. Harold Headrick in the worship service.

The Chancel Choir, the Lord’s Crew Praise Team, and the Grande Ringers Bell Choir will all participate in the morning’s service. Don McGuire’s “Anniversary March and Song” will be performed along with other selections. The service will be followed by the ringing of the church bells. The first note will be struck by Doug Ballagh, who, as a young boy, was the final bell of the service at the “old church” in the village before moving to our “new” location at 275 N. Halcyon. The second note will be rung by our Bishop. Others will then be invited to ring the bell, hopefully ringing a total of 125 times!



Evensong Service

On **Sunday, September 13th at 3:00 p.m.** (please note the time correction!) there will be a very special service in a very special location! Julie Walters and Jamie Foster, in coordination with Pastor David, have compiled an afternoon of music and meditation that will be held in the “Old Methodist Church” located in the Arroyo Grande Village, and now known as the Harvest Church. Our choir will be returning to rehearsals earlier than normal in order to prepare for this program. Pastor David will have a short meditation to accompany the choir and congregational singing.

The 125th Anniversary Committee has included this service in the overall plan of events to commemorate the fact that this was the original location of our First United Methodist Church in Arroyo Grande. We are sure that you will be enriched by this service and also enjoy a “peek back in history”. We look forward to your attendance at this service.



I MISS YOU!

Farewell to the Homecoming Herald!

We have enjoyed having this special addition to our monthly newsletter but it is time to say *Adieu!* This publication was part of our year-long celebration for UMC of AG’s 125th anniversary. Thank you to all who contributed to its content; YOU made it special!!

Thank You

Many thanks to all who so generously “fed the pig” this past year! Our last “Feed the Pig” Sunday, August 9th you donated over **\$1550!!!** WOW! This will be of great help in defraying the costs of our many activities in the ongoing celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the United Methodist Church in Arroyo Grande. She is now a very happy Miss Piggy!

