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The First United Methodist Church
 Arroyo Grande
 Visit our website at worshipweekly.com

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The Lord's Crew Director:
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Choral Pianist:
 Dennis Eiler

Puppet People:
 Mike Herber
Grande Ringers Handbell Dir.:
 Leonard Lutz
Adult Ministry Director:
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UM Youth Directors:
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Insert

- Newsletter Questionnaire
- AG UM CC Chronicle

To pray is to seek communion with the very spirit of a holy God.

To pray is not primarily to ask for things, but reverently to receive a Presence.

To pray is to open our innermost self to the royal entry of the eternal Lord.

To pray is to expose one's secret being to the purifying fires of God's holy grace and love.

~ John Henry Jowett

The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

Cast~A~Net

September 2010

"The kingdom of God is like a net that was cast into the sea" ~ Matthew 13:47
 Phone: 805-481-2692 Website: WorshipWeekly.com Email: FUMCAG@sbcglobal.net



12 September 2010

we hope that you will join us in Criswell Hall between services.

We will have tables set-up with information about our church's many ministries allowing you the opportunity to see what the various groups are all about and how **you** can get involved.

Check out information on:

- Grande Ringers-Handbell Choir
- Chancel Choir
- The Lord's Crew—praise
- UM Youth Group
- Umbrellas
- United Methodist Women
- United Methodist Men
- Children's Programs
- AG UM Children's Center

Each group is eager for your participation this year. Join in one group or all—just be sure to check them out and see how the Lord can use you in the work of His church. This is your chance to be a partner in ministry with your UMC of AG family.

AG Harvest Festival

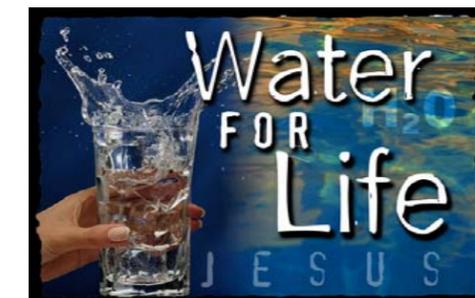
IS HERE AGAIN!

September 24th & 25th

our Youth Group will be giving away FREE water bottles before, during and after the parade of the Arroyo Grande Harvest Festival. Last year we gave away close to 3,000 bottles — What a blessing!

AGAIN—we will collect cases of water—which you can bring to church at any time. We will then put our church's name and information on how to get the living water of Jesus Christ on each bottle.

Join us in stepping out into the world as we **rethink** our church and **make church a verb.**





Pastor David Burgeson



Hello church family and friends,

I have been thinking and praying recently (specifically on the last 3 months) about how I can take better care of myself physically. One area the Lord has shown me has been exercise. I must confess, I have not been doing much on a regular basis in the past. So, on June 1st, I received a pedometer (a device that I attach on my belt that measures each step). There is a website that I plug into which tracks my steps and progress. I have been aware of the need to walk for some time and with the pedometer on my waist it helps remind me. Telling you this helps me in hopes of being an example for you and our need as people to be active. Look to the page at your right, our *Healthy Corner* by Patti Melsheimer. This month has especially good information.

Additionally on the health track, I have been evaluating my day off on Friday. Those of you who drive by the office on Fridays may occasionally see my truck. Well I am guilty! During my two weeks off (ok, partial two weeks) I found that having Monday off better works for me. Some of you, along with fellow Pastors, have suggested I try this. So in taking your advice, I will be out of the office on Mondays and be back in the office on Fridays - beginning NOW! If there is an important pastoral need, of course, just give Sarah a call at our church office.

School is back in session, so that means that many groups who took a well-deserved time off will be back in session in September. **This month will certainly be busy!** I hope you will participate in the areas you are interested when you can. Check out the calendar inside—*A heads up:* I will be starting our Wednesday Pastor's Study in September (the 2nd or 3rd week of September). More information will be available in Sunday bulletins as we get closer to the starting date. **REMEMBER: to bring cases of water to distribute at the AG Harvest Festival. We could use you!** September 25th at the 2010 AG Harvest Festival. We will hand out water bottles, see the cover or our Youth Group for more information on this special out reach event.

I close with some bulletin bloopers for fun! Thank God, we are all going on to perfection!

Just for Fun - Bulletin Bloopers:

- The peacemaking conference scheduled for this weekend has been cancelled due to a conflict.
- Morning Sermon: 'Jesus walks on water.' Sermon Tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'
- Softball game against Our Lady of Prophecy next Thursday will be cancelled due to rain. Trust us.
- Next Sunday afternoon, Farmer Jones will host our youth, giving them a behind – the-scenes tour of his diary.

ATTENDANCE	Sunday	8:30 AM	10:30 AM	Nursery	Kids/Youth	Teachers	TOTAL
	1st	45	111	4	9/5	6	180
	8th	36	159	4	14/in service	4	217
	15th	41	135	3	9/8	6	202
	22nd	40	159	3	12/?	5	219



- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| Ruth Joy | 3 |
| Hilde Hollinger | 3 |
| Marj Cawelti | 5 |
| Kay Walker | 6 |
| Carleen Minkler | 8 |
| Yvonne Holt | 11 |
| Sally Weitkamp | 13 |
| Ann Bowers | 14 |
| Bob Atwood | 14 |
| Ben Baughman | 14 |
| Bob Thronson | 16 |
| Burt Cochran | 16 |
| Jan Treat | 18 |
| Betty Ann Quintana | 18 |
| Clydean Headrick | 19 |
| Peg Gallop | 21 |
| Judy Atwood | 26 |
| Elvon Houlding | 28 |
| Claire Jacob | 29 |
| Jeremy Burns | 29 |



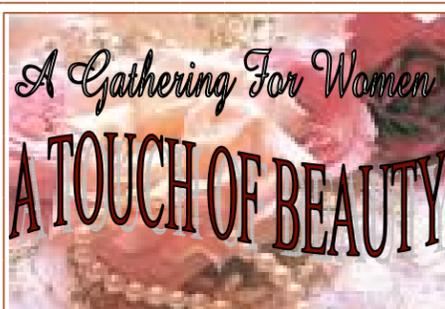
Did we miss your birthday? Would you like to have you or a family member recognized?



Received to Date
\$ 17,692
as of 8/23/10
 One week to go - we can do it!!
Monthly Goal
\$ 21,179



"Learn the Bible in 24 Hours" by Dr. Chuck Missler is the title of our current **Men's Bible Study** book. **Every Monday at 7 PM** in room 215 we welcome other men who would like to join in deepening their walk with Christ.



Come for a special & joyful evening of study & fellowship with your sisters in Christ.

Join us from 7-8:30 PM on the 3rd Friday evening of each month in the beautiful candlelight of the McMillen Room of our church.

You don't want to miss this -- *it's like a spa for your spirit!*

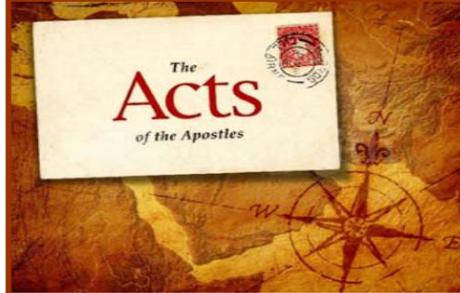
See you soon, alumni and newcomers alike.

For further information or questions call *Sandra Sawyer*.



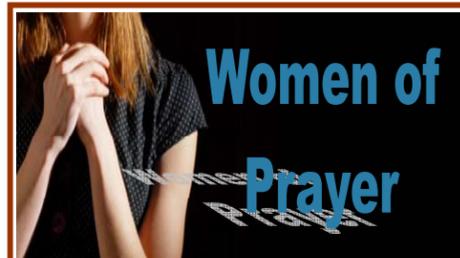
Start your day off RIGHT and get to know your church family in this small group setting.

Fridays at 8:30 AM in the church Library. No time like the present to get involved. Our current study book is titled, **Be Alive: A Study of John's Gospel Chapters 1-10**. See you there!



Our Sunday School class will discuss the book of Acts. These letters to the church at Corinth remind us of the birth of the church. They give us the tools as Christians on how we are to spread the Word of God as disciples of Christ.

Grab a snack for your body in Criswell Hall and feed your soul **after the 8:30 service** in the **McMillen Room**.



This non-denominational women's group meets on **Mondays at 7 PM** in the UMC of AG Sanctuary to pray for this church and others in the community; asking God to pour out His Spirit of redemption, deliverance, healing and salvation. *Contact Susan Coho through the church office if you have any questions.*

PRAYER CHAIN



Need Prayer? Got Praise?

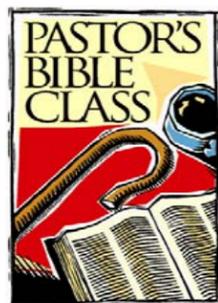
Bring it to our Prayer Chain.

Contact Pauline Castillo and she will set the chain in motion.

REQUESTS CAN REMAIN ANONYMOUS

Every **Thursday at 10AM**, a dedicated group of prayer warriors, we call our **Intercessory Prayer Group**, meet in the Library to pray for members of our church family and the community as they lift up requests given to our prayer chain, those mentioned in worship, or on request cards.

We invite ANY who would like to join in intercession and lift up these prayers and praises to God our Father.



It's Back!

Pastor's Weekly Wednesday Study

Pastor David will lead a NEW study beginning in the month of September. Meet us in the McMillen Room Wednesdays at **2 PM** or **6 PM** - **actual start date TBA**. Please sign-up with the church office or at church in Criswell Hall.

by Patti Melsheimer

Healthy Corner

10K Per Day

How many steps did you take today?? Ask Pastor David or Pastor Harold and they will be able to tell you. They are each now wearing a pedometer as part of the United Methodist program to encourage healthy life styles among the UMC clergy. This program was launched 3 years ago after a study done by Duke Divinity School showed that Methodist pastors were declining in health. "Our vision is to develop a resilient, well-informed cadre of United Methodist pastors as skilled in the care of themselves and their families as they are in the care of their congregations" said Robin Swift, director of the program. And now many congregations, inspired by their pastors, are also sponsoring programs to motivate people to "walk in the steps of Jesus, Abraham and Sarah toward simple life-style changes that lead to better health and a focus on faith".

Of all forms of exercise, walking is the most natural and accessible, says Allan Abbott, M.D., professor of clinical medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. "For people who qualify as 'couch potatoes' and get no daily exercise, I recommend resolving to walk one mile every day. If a day goes by and you don't manage to get in your walk, don't give up," he says. "Just resolve not to miss more than one day in a row of walking." Abbott adds that wearing a pedometer on your belt every day may be the most cost-effective way to jump start an exercise program. "Set a target goal of 10,000 steps per day, and use the pedometer to monitor your progress toward that goal," he says.

There is no great trick to walking. It does not require any special skills or advanced conditioning. Walking doesn't require any special equipment or clothing. All you need is a good pair of walking shoes, some comfortable clothing and you're set! "Exercise should be in the same category as eating and sleeping - an essential part of your daily routine," says a USC fitness expert. "The biggest excuse in our society is that we don't have time to exercise," he notes. "We place it as an 'extra,' as something we take time off to do. It should be like going to the bathroom, eating and sleeping. If you put exercise in that same category, it takes on a different importance in your life. It's not a chore; it's a part of being a physical being."



If you would like to be part of UMC of Arroyo Grande's effort to become a healthier congregation, please contact Pastor David or Patti Melsheimer.
We hope to start a walking group soon!

Complete this tear-off & put in the offering plate or return to our church office.

- I want to become healthier.**
- I want to join a walking group.**

The best time for me is: _____ morning _____ afternoon _____ evening

The best day for me is: _____ Monday _____ Tuesday _____ Wednesday
 _____ Thursday _____ Friday _____ Saturday

Name: _____ Phone: _____



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

Submitted by Bill Weitkamp

New Season of Monthly UMM Meetings Begins Saturday, September 18

Curtains will open for a new season of United Methodist Men's breakfast meetings on Saturday, September 18. Connie O'Henley, Executive Director of the Clark Center Performing Arts Association, will highlight the diverse entertainment programs scheduled for this local theatre from now through next spring.

Mark your calendar for the third Saturday of the month and plan to join us at this same location and time for more great programs and fellowship. Everyone is welcome at all UMM meetings. Watch this newsletter and church bulletins for updates.

Church Pancake Breakfasts Begin September 19

We will be serving an affordable and delicious pancake breakfast from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the church on one Sunday during alternate months starting September 19. Give your domestic cooking staff a break and join us.



Thank you so much for all the prayers, cards, calls, and positive thoughts that you sent our family's way this year as we dealt with Bodie's heart problems, the death of Bill's dad, and now with my breast cancer surgery. The power of prayer is truly amazing, and we are eternally grateful for all the support you have given our family.

Love, Bill & Nancy Gerrish

Dear Arroyo Grande Church, I want to thank God, the Church, the Pastors and the congregation for their support since my wife passed away in March. Since my first day of attendance and since joining the church, you have always given me encouragement with your kind words, smiles and hugs. Your continued prayers will bring me through this time and allow me to be happy again and continue to be a committed Christian. Sincerely -Joe Brown



YEAH! School Has Started and a few of our Sunday School friends have moved on to Youth Group. We wish Caleb Lundquist, Iridian Nunez, William Russell, Victoria Paredes, and Amelia Sloan well as they join the Herbers, tweens and teens as they continue their walk with Christ.

During the fall, we will introduce Bible Bucks which are an earning incentive that the kids can save for prizes that can be earned by bringing your Bible, memorizing your scripture verse and even bringing a friend. We will be presenting Bibles to children 3rd grade and up on Bible Sunday. Watch for more information on that as it unfolds.

We are continuing with our 8:30 AM Sunday School class and are seeking volunteers to help with either class. If you know of anyone who would be interested please contact Carolyn Russell-Williams.. More opportunities are coming in December - look out for more on Kids Night Out-WOW! and watch future issues and bulletins for more of the scoop on our winter programs.

Smart cookies

September is an exciting time, as you begin growing in wisdom with a new year of school and Sunday school. Be a "smart cookie" by making this special container for your kitchen. Change the pictures as your year goes by. Or fill the container with cookies to give as a gift.

What you need:

- 2 identical disposable plastic containers (rectangular and clear)
1 lid
4 photos or drawings
Scissors
Sticky bow or ribbon (optional)
Cookies

What you do:

- 1. Cut four different pictures or drawings to fit the sides of your container. Allow the edges to slightly overlap around the four sides of one container.
2. Gently set one container inside the other. Then slide the pictures or drawings down between the two containers to cover the four sides. Press the inner container down to secure the pictures in place between the sides.
3. Fill the container with cookies, and put the lid on top of the inner container.
4. You can put a sticky bow or ribbon on the lid to make the container look like a present.

Just for KIDS GOD'S INSTRUCTION
The Bible is a guide for how we should live. In Sunday school and at home, we learn how God loves and saves us. Solve this puzzle to find Proverbs 4:13 (NIV), which tells about the importance of God's Word.
First, write the word that means the opposite of the one given. Then write the correct letters on the number-coded lines below.
young death cold come
sweet can't no later
"H
6 15 10 5 12 11 13 5 6 1 15 ' 3 1
15 1 5 2 8 5 6 5 9 1 ;
9 11 14 12 3 6 5 17 8 2 2 ' 7 1 12
6 5 6 10 16 1 11 12 2 6 7 8 "

Answers: old, life, hot, go, sour, can, yes, now
"Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life." (Proverbs 4:13, NIV)

KAY WALKER

A Busy Life Story of 90 Years

by: David Beaman

Unlike some of us, Kay has kept very detailed and organized records of her family history and when I recently visited, she was converting boxes of photographs into organized albums. Judging by the large accumulation, it will be a full task to finish.

After her father was discharged following W.W.I her parents married and left Wisconsin for Rouse, Colorado, a coal mining camp, to start his new job as director of the local YMCA. Kay became their first child in September 1920. In her first four years the family moved with YMCA to Nebraska, Wyoming, back to Wisconsin, then again to Aguilar, CO, where they purchased a new home and a dry cleaning business. After 2nd grade, she returned to Wisconsin to live with her grandparents. This involved a 1 1/4 mile walk (each way) to school with her 2 friends. During snowy winters, her granddad drove them in a "one horse open sleigh" because the conditions were frigid. She also recalls "delicious, warm weather" and after church luncheons on the green lawn.

In 1933 the whole family moved to Meeker, Colorado. They owned a Model A Ford and gas cost just 15 to 25 cents per gallon. Kay finished grade school and later graduated from high school with 38 classmates. She held jobs including working at Meeker Dry Cleaners - the family business, ticket seller at the movie theater, waitress at Meeker Cafe. Hobbies she enjoyed board games, cards, barn dances and trips to local lakes. At the Methodist church, she sang in the choir and taught Sunday school.

In 1938, Buford "Boots" Walker from Marlow, OK joined the Civilian Conservation Corps at Ft. Sill. The unit was assigned duty at Meeker, CO and one of his jobs was to deliver uniforms to the dry cleaners. He met Kay and they married in July, 1940. They worked in the business two years then moved to Paso Robles, California in October 1941.

Everyone was involved with the patriotic war effort and Boots enlisted and served in US Navy until 1945 on *USS Chincoteague*, a Seaplane Tender that was destroyed by enemy attacks in South Pacific but limped home to Mare Island, was reconditioned and returned for more active duty. Kay worked at PX #2 plus the Officer's PX at Camp Roberts while Boots was deployed at sea.

Once the war duty was over, millions of servicemen needed jobs and Boots worked in construction and at Sunray Oil plant. He also did night time correspondence classes in plumbing and heating and passed the Contractor License exams. With these qualifications, he founded and worked 43 years as *B. E. Walker Plumbing and Heating Co.* Kay managed the office functions of scheduling, billing and bookkeeping from their home as well as keeping the household for the family, including children Michelle, Patricia and Nancy.

They moved to their current Arroyo Grande home in 1954 and were invited by Wilma Dixon, a beloved church matriarch, to join the church. Boots donated labor to maintain the plumbing and heating systems. He installed the first ever disposal and automatic dishwasher and every church woman signed a "Thank You" card to him.

Sadly, Boots passed away in 1997. The current family includes 5 grandchildren, 9 great, and 2 great-great grandchildren all of whom Kay is very proud.

Kay has taught elementary age Sunday School and continues with newsletter and bulletin preparation for our church. She often serves as a Sunday morning *Door Greeter* and could write the book on how to make one feel welcome and comfortable.



Eva McClure, UMW publicity



United Methodist Women

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

The summer hiatus for UMW Circle meetings has come to an end and now it is time to move ahead with monthly gatherings, continuing study topics, fellowship and preparations for the fall Boutique/Brunch which is the major fund-raiser for 2010. As stated in the UMW Vision at the General Assembly meeting this Spring, "United Methodist Women provide opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, to become more deeply rooted in Christ, and to put faith into *action*. Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world."

Action is already underway for the Boutique/Breakfast with some participants making such items as: metal garden art, aprons, throw blankets, pinecone/holiday/candle centerpieces, baby clothing, jams/jellies, starts of plants/cacti, Christmas tree ornaments etc., etc., etc., Our President, Virginia Mothes, would love to hear from you and learn what ideas you might have as to how we could make this a very special and unique event.

Both the Santa Barbara District UMW and the California-Pacific Conference UMW will be having Annual meetings in the near future. The Santa Barbara Dist. Meeting will be held Saturday, September 25th in Reseda UMC and the Cal-Pac meeting will be held Saturday, October 23rd (more details in the next Cast-a-Net). We will have representation at both of these meetings as Patti Mel-sheimer will be installed as the new Secretary; Virginia Mothes will be installed as the new Treasurer of the Santa Barbara District; Sally Weitkamp will continue on the Board as well. Both events will be a day of inspiration and sharing with other UM Women. If you are at all interested in attending either or both of these gatherings, please contact any of the persons named above as there will be car-pooling available for anyone wishing to go.

	Esther Circle 9/9
	Mary Martha 9/15
	JOY Circle 9/21

Esther Circle meets the second Thursday of each month at **noon** in the **McMillen Room**. They are starting a study on the book, *Faith and Food* by Wendy Whiteside. This book discusses how faith is nurtured, strengthened and enhanced by food.

Mary-Martha Circle meets on the third Wednesday of each month at **9:30 AM** in the **McMillen Room** of our church. They will also study, *Faith and Food* by Wendy Whiteside

JOY Circle meets on the third Tuesday of each month at **7 PM** at a members home. This month will meet at the home of **Pam Motley**. Information available in the church office.

More UMW News

Its not too early to consider officers for our local UMW for 2011. As members of the United Methodist Women, we pledge to develop a creative, supportive fellowship with a focus on missions, both locally and globally. To accomplish this goal, we need members to guide and lead in order to fulfill our UMW pledge.



Highlighted positions for President, Vice-President and Secretary descriptions will be revealed in the next issue. Stay tuned!



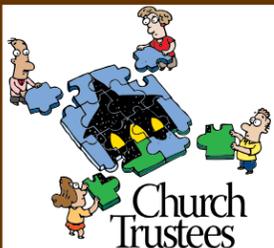
Holiday Arts & Crafts Boutique

13 November '10

9 AM—2 PM

We need your help to create the numerous items needed to make this boutique a success. So start creating now!!

We trust that you will participate in donating time and energy to the many aspects of this day. Please contact Virginia Mothes with questions or ideas.



- In July, we lost \$600 from the parsonage fund.
 - We were also over budget on the gas bill account. Norm & Tom will check the gas line for leaks.
 - We have received one-half the expense needed to get the bus painted—in progress.
 - No work has been done on the Children's Center.
 - RV'ers will be here September 19th. They will increase the size of the Chancel/Alter area by approximately 3 feet.
 - Burke and Pace said the fence is ours but we haven't decided what to do with it yet.
 - The Community Choir has asked to use the sanctuary as part of Adult Education. Board accepted with a donation agreement.
 - A request to use our kitchen was received.
- However, we do not rent out our kitchen for outside business purposes.
- We have received \$5,000 from the Pacific Homes account and we will put monies into a non-budget account to be used for miscellaneous repairs.
 - Since the nursery is being used at both services, we need *a second (and maybe a third) port-a-crib*. **If you want to donate one to the Church, please let me know. It must be new or slightly used within the past year and up to code. Thanks!**
 - It was suggested we need an office for our Children's Christian Education Director.
 - **REMEMBER:** When you leave the church grounds at anytime—LOCK *all* doors and TURN OFF *all* lights, heaters and other utilities to help us save

Meet Kerren Brown by Betty Johnson

According to Kerren Brown, she has been a Methodist for a "very long time." In Riverside, California, she made her first contact by joining MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship) and met long-standing friends, and her future husband. They raised their children in that church. Now, Kerren finds that worshipping in our UMC of Arroyo Grande is very much like being in Riverside.



And how did she arrive here? One of her daughters graduated from Cal Poly, and this dedicated mom tells us that her daughter, "never came home." So Kerren made countless trips from Riverside to San Luis Obispo, over the years, and recently decided to make the Central Coast her home, too. She also has a daughter and family in Orange County whom she visits frequently.

Kerren's local daughter and family had urged her to "please apply" for a job transfer to the Central Coast. Now in Grover Beach, Kerren continues her work of 35 years with California Children's Services. This program assures health services for children who are seriously ill, or are long-term chronically ill. For fifteen of these years, she was on the Survey Team that monitored the activity at hospitals throughout California. Now Kerren is Supervising the California Children's Services Medical Therapy program, working with occupational and physical therapists, treating children in the entire area of SLO County. Retirement? "It's going to be hard to give up my job," Brown says with emotion.

Now a member of our church, Kerren is thinking about down the road, post-retirement activity. In our church, she has become part of the team that rotates times to be the person who will be "turning the choir music pages" for our organist or pianist. Thinking about these Sunday Services and Wednesday rehearsals, she says with a wonderful smile... "I love being up there with the choir." Welcome To Our Church, Kerren.



Choir to Resume—September 12th

As summer comes to an end, our Chancel Choir is just beginning. Thank you so much to all the fabulous musicians who played this summer. What an exceptional group of talent we have in our church.

We are so looking forward to another fun filled year of making music to the glory of God. Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 1st at 7PM in the sanctuary. During the summer, I had the opportunity to sit in the congregation and hear some of you. There are some *very good voices out there*. So if you have ever thought about joining the choir, now is a great time. Our new music for the year is uplifting and such a joy to sing. We really do have a lot of fun.

If you aren't sure you want to sing, perhaps you would consider being a page turner; there are always openings. *Reading music isn't required*. Give me a call through the church office.

Thanks once again to Irene Kliesch for hosting our choir party on August 21st. Everyone enjoyed good food and fellowship. In Christ, *Julie Burns*

From the Desk of the Adult Christian Ed. Director:

The Lord is so awesome! He loves us with His deep abiding LOVE.

Our **Adult Sunday School** is studying the Book of Acts directly from the Bible and all are enjoying learning about the apostles, the early church and the ministry of Paul. Everyone is always welcome to attend the 9:30 AM study which will continue until the end of September. Come on out; your SPIRIT will love the nourishment.

A Touch of Beauty will resume September 17th from 7 -8:30 PM in the candlelight of the McMillen Room. A reminder e-mail will be coming, as well as, our beautiful invitations on September 12th.

In October, I hope to begin "**Sermon Based**" **Growth Groups** which are 8 week long home fellowship groups made up of 10-16 people who meet weekly from 7-8:30 PM to share, study and support one another.

I hope you will take the opportunity to enjoy the offerings outlined above and grow in your knowledge of your Lord and Savior and one another.

May your life be blessed ~ *Sandra Sawyer*



The praise band is a team of worship leaders we call **The Lord's Crew**. This Group leads our Contemporary Worship every Sunday during the 8:30 AM service and is under the direction of Susan Coho. The team meets for practice every other Saturday of each month, unless otherwise stated.

6:30 PM Rehearsal Schedule
11th & 25th

Library News



We have recently acquired a new full-length feature film on John Wesley. It covers closely the important events of his life, including the house fire and an ill-fated romance. Look for it in our DVD section.

The Library is open every Sunday between and after services. We hope that you will stop in and check us out. A self-check out system is in place for all other times by filling out and turning in the jacket card. See you soon!

Meet Joe Brown

by Jerry Smith



For Joe, life began in Long Beach California in the late nineteen thirties where he was born to a loving mother and a hard working father who worked the oil fields in Signal Hill. The Brown family in the subsequent war years would later be called on to resettle in central California as Dad was transferred to work the oil fields of Coalinga. As it turned out the move provided young Joe Brown opportunities for continued growth and after graduating High School he was eager to attend a local Junior College for two years. He later transferred to UCLA in southern California where he finished up his formal education and graduated as a chemist.

In 1955, Joe Brown met Colleen his future wife to be, who just happened to be the girl who moved in next door to his parent's family home in Coalinga, California. One can only imagine the closeness and convenience they enjoyed in forging their relationship. In 1957 they would tie the knot as husband and wife. And, in due time would become the proud parents of a son and a daughter. Both children, Jeff and Cindy, years later now reside in Southern California and still maintain close contact with their mother and father.

With much emphasis on planning, Joe and his wife were able to live and enjoy a life of opportunity, as doors opened for his beginning as a Chemist for Shell Oil for about a year. He then became a process engineer and worked for the electronics industry (that's a person who develops processes for putting together electronic equipment). Joe ultimately ended up in aerospace engineering for thirty years with TRW after which he retired in 1992. At that time the company was offering incentives to leave for early retirement if you were 55 years old.

That program and some phenomenal luck enabled Joe and Colleen to find their dream retirement home on the central coast of California. A local news ad in the Los Angeles Times advertised half acre lots on the Nipomo Mesa and because they were very familiar with this area over the years, chose this as their retirement community. They invested in a custom built 3000 square foot home with all the amenities built-in for comfort and convenience. Today, this model home abounds with green lawns and lush beautiful gardens. Both Joe and Colleen over the years created a home for any family to be very proud of.

I asked Joe about his hobbies, travel and entertainment and he was quick to respond with (playing the piano self-taught), reading, working on the computer, gardening, neighborhood walking group, making ice cream, movies, and on occasion visiting the casinos with a group of friends.

While working, Joe traveled extensively around the states and once to Europe and with Colleen they scheduled many personal points of interest in the U.S and outside our borders to various ports of call.

Unfortunately, health in the family would later become a serious issue for Colleen and eventually she would end up in a wheel chair with Joe as the caregiver for several years. Close to their 53rd year of marriage, in March 2010, she sadly passed away peacefully at Arroyo Grande Hospital. She dearly loved their children, their only grandchild Jake and son-in-law Doug. God Bless Colleen and the Joe Brown Family.



The Emmaus Experience

by Heidi Carpentier

Imagine vacationing on a cruise ship. Each day is planned, all your food is made for you, entertainment is provided and you are given souvenirs of sorts to remember the journey. Your only thoughts are of relaxing on deck while working on a suntan.

Imagine hearing the testimony of a friend at church. While listening, you reflect on your own life and wonder how you might draw closer to God.

Imagine dining at the finest dinner theater in town where the waiters and actors emanate kindness and concern for you. Their service to you exhibits pure joy.

Imagine shedding all sense of time - no clocks, no phone calls, no e-mail, no TV, no radio, *no distractions*.

That is 'The Walk to Emmaus'. A weekend that holds something different for everyone and yet provides the same for all.

"How," you might ask, "will this grow my Christian walk?"

As a pilgrim (the name that is given those taking the walk), I was able to step away from the distractions of every day life and open up to receiving the unconditional acceptance from previous walkers and the genuine love of Christ. I learned that Emmaus is not a church substitute, but rather an avenue to enhance my relationship with Christ, which will in turn benefit all of my relationships.

It's not a coincidence that the walk takes place over three days. As I reread the Emmaus story in Luke 24:13-31, it tells how on the third day following the Crucifixion of Jesus, two disciples were walking the road to Emmaus when they were joined by a 'man' who recounted to them Moses and the prophets concerning the things of Jesus. This 'man' was the risen Christ. However, the disciples did not recognize Him until after spending time learning, eating and resting with Him. I thought, "How often do I miss Him because I'm too wrapped up in other things?"

As I reflect on this writing, I am reminded of the verses from Matthew 11:28-29, "Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me. I will give you rest." These words of Jesus invite us to a time with Him that is free of distraction so that we may learn from and take rest in Him. Only then can our eyes open to our next step in our journey with Him.

I encourage you, my church family, to join with me at the next Walk to Emmaus. It has the potential to both deepen and expand your genuine sense of purpose in the Lord.



THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Big love, faith, and hope to all who sponsored us - the women - on the 43rd Walk to Emmaus. Love, *Alice Addison*

I am so grateful that Pastor David and my Sponsor, Mike Smith, facilitated my going to the *Walk to Emmaus* the weekend of August 5—8th with 3 of my church sisters. My experience showed me a deeper understanding of the Lord's *Agape* Love and how He sheds it abroad in the hearts of believers in order to effectively minister to one another. This is a once in a lifetime experience.

Take a look at the Emmaus website at upperroom.org for more information on this Sacred journey.

Remember, He loves you with an Everlasting Love. Be blessed, as I was, as you enter in. ~ *Sandra Sawyer*

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WOW THE SUMMER WENT BY SO QUICKLY!

The youth had a great time hosting the Simi Valley church Youth Choir back in July the weekend of the 24th and 25th. We enjoyed a dinner of burgers and hot dogs, silly games, and an even sillier movie. Over fifty youth and adults from both churches participated. A big thanks goes to Norm and Hilary Henderson for helping with the cooking and cleaning. Thanks to Melissa Ferrari and Tina Moore for their help too!

We had a Mini Lock-In...well "mini" because most of us adults can't stay up all night anymore when we keep the kids. We released the 16 youth at midnight all charged up from the fabulous food, bounce house madness, music, video games, and movies. Lets not forget the endless supply of junk food -what a fun night!

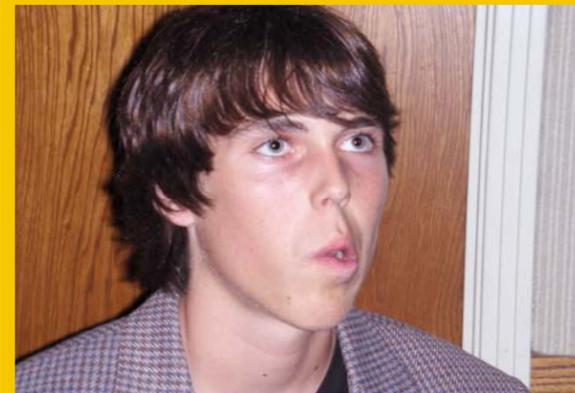
On the horizon... The Harvest Festival on September 24 & 25 and hope you all will support us again with donations and water. Come by!

We continue to meet Wednesdays evenings at 7 PM and Sundays during second service. *Invite all youth sixth grade and up to join us - Bring a friend!*

Caitlin Herber is off to Azusa Pacific. We will miss her kindness and sweet smile, but wish her well on her continued on her journey with Christ and on her adventures in college.



Miss Herber would like to say good-bye to church family and to thank her "fellow ding-a-lings" that worked in the nursery with her. She wants you to know that she will always cherish the time spent here with everyone! Oh—and she'll be back!



youth lock-in