

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

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

January 2015



**Welcome our
North District Superintendent To
The Pulpit On January 11**

Reverend Dr. Cedrick Donyat Bridgeforth is an Alabama native who currently serves as District Superintendent in the California-Pacific Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Prior to his appointment as District Superintendent, Dr. Bridgeforth served as Pastor of the Crenshaw United Methodist Church, Bowen Memorial United Methodist Church, Director of Alumni and Church Relations at Claremont School of Theology, and course instructor at the University of La Verne's Ecumenical Center for Black Church Studies.

He is a graduate of Pepperdine University (Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership), Claremont School of Theology (Master of Divinity), and Samford University (Bachelor of Arts in Religion).

Dr. Bridgeforth served four years in the United States Air Force and is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



**UMW Women's Sunday
January 18
"Press On" - Philippians 3:12-14
Guest Preacher Rev. Son Hye Kim**

The Reverend SonHye Kim was born and raised in Seoul, Korea. Her family immigrated to the United States in 1985 and settled in Hawaii. She moved to California to attend Fuller Theological Seminary. She graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 1998 and was commissioned as provisional member of this annual conference in 1999.

She was appointed at First UMC of Arroyo Grande as Associate Pastor in 1999 and was ordained as Elder member in 2002. Harris UMC in Honolulu was her second appointment as an Associate Pastor. In 2006 she became the pastor-in-charge at First UMC of Huntington Beach and served there for three years. Ojai UMC was her fourth appointment and she served there for 14 months.

Then she was called to Kapolei Korean United Methodist Mission in 2010. At Kapolei she implemented many outreach programs that reached out to the community. Those programs included Free Car Washes, Community Luncheons, Movie Nights and a Free Yard Give-away. Through those programs 500+ people came to the church and experienced the love of Jesus Christ in tangible ways. The people from the homeless shelters in the community especially felt at home at Kapolei Church and many people from community joined the Sunday worship. There is also a significant amount of military veterans who participate in the church ministries and attend Sunday worship service. They come from a neighboring housing project for veterans. She has met the challenge of joining together Korean-speaking members and local citizens from the community so that they see themselves as one family.

Last year she was appointed at Echo Park UMC in Los Angeles as interim pastor.

She loves the Lord and His people. She believes in the power of God's love and prayer and wants to be a matchmaker for the Lord. She is a visionary who knows how to make the vision work.

Church Friends and Family,

Here is something that I read from the Global Board of Discipleship website (GBOD.org) that I wanted to share with you for Epiphany. I hope it blesses you as it did me.

Together in ministry,


Epiphany

Many of us were introduced to Epiphany through the familiar silhouetted-image of Three Wise Men bearing gifts as they followed the Great Star by night. In some cultures, Epiphany is known as the *Day of the Kings* (*Día de los Reyes*). It is also known as Twelfth Day or Twelfth Night, reflecting an old custom of giving a gift for each of the days from December 25 to January 6 for the 12 days of Christmas. The day has special meaning for a number of reasons. Several branches of Christianity celebrate the birth of the Christ Child on January 6 or January 7

The word *epiphany* means *appearance* or *manifestation*. Popular usage likens *epiphany* to words such as *eureka* or *aha!* Use of this word by some English speakers conjures images of having a light bulb turned on, or of being able to see something that was once hidden from view. The texts for the Sundays after the Epiphany dramatize the many ways that we people came to understand who Jesus was, through his baptism, the miracle at the wedding, or through that bodacious declaration in his hometown synagogue! But, this ever-widening circle of revelation began 'outside the circle' of Judaism, so to speak, with the Magi.

Who were the Magi?

Many versions of the Bible refer to them as the *Wise Men*. We often forget that these Magi or Wise Men were non-Jews. **Older sources** suggest that they were priestly descendants of one of the tribes of the Medes **known for their knowledge of the stars (astronomy) and their ability to interpret dreams.**

What can we learn from the Wise Men?**First, the Wise Men began their journey because of their beliefs.**

It was a common belief that when a world leader like a king was born that a special stellar phenomenon would appear in the sky. The Magi saw something that convinced them that they had seen the long-awaited sign. Historians tell us that the Jews, the Romans, and the Persians were all watching the skies about that time, looking for signs of the birth of an extraordinary king. A few years before, around 11 BC, Halley's Comet had been seen. There were other stellar phenomena, includ-

ing a bright star, Sirius, which appeared brightly in the daytime instead of at night. The Wise Men saw the star and began their journey.

May God give us all inspiration for this year's journey.

Second, the Wise Men were willing to follow what they had seen into unknown territory.

Their journey took them outside their country and their comfort zone. The Wise Men risked the consequences of disobeying Herod, who was known to behave as a madman when provoked and returned to their country by another way.

The Christian journey is often an off-road excursion.

Third, the Wise Men were committed to the journey -- wherever the star might lead.

The Wise Men set out to find a newborn King by following a star and ended up in finding a baby born to young, relatively poor parents! Not exactly what they expected and not exactly what befit their dignity as priests.

In this coming year, may we look to heaven for guidance and comfort and may we accept God's blessings in whatever forms we find them, just as the Wise Men accepted that their long, expensive journey led them to a baby born to young, inexperienced parents who lived on the poor side of town.

Finally, the Wise Men brought gifts.

They did the thing that people in the East or in Africa or in India would do when visiting royalty. They brought gifts.

- Gold was the kind of gift that you brought to a king.
- Frankincense was the kind of gift that you would bring to a priest.
- Myrrh was given to someone who was about to die.

On This Twelfth Day, or Three Kings Day, otherwise known as Epiphany, think of the gift that you will offer to God in the coming year. The gift of time? The gift of your talents? Your service in the community? Your witness and testimony? The gift of undying love and devotion?

Their greatest gift comes to us in the form of a realization. The Wise Men were the first Gentiles to recognize that Jesus belongs to everyone. Good news is for everyone, not just a select few.

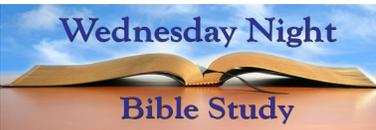
*Star of wonder
Star of light
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading
Still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Amen.



Mondays at 7 PM

Women come to pray together in the Sanctuary.



Adults at 5:45 PM

(See schedule at right)
FREE Fellowship Meal at 5 PM

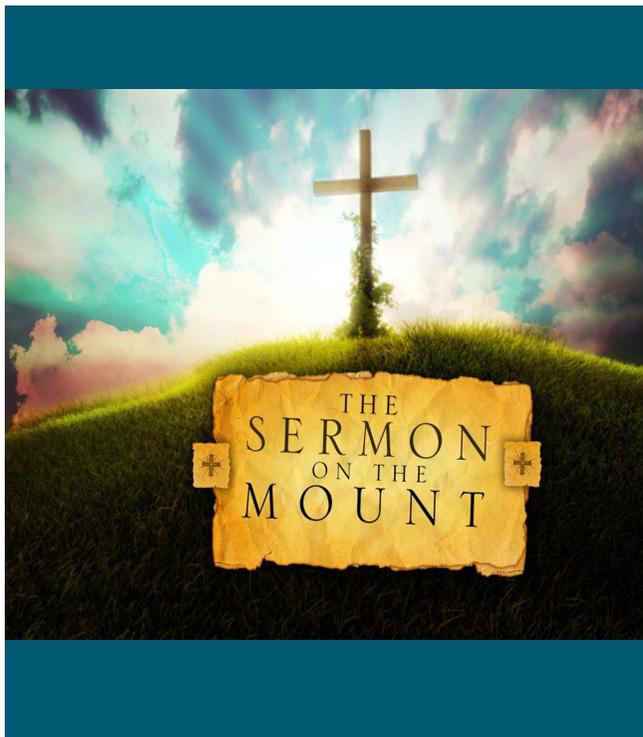


Fridays at 8:30 AM

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



Dates	Topics and Schedule
Sunday, January 4	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service
Wednesday, January 7	• 5:45 PM Adult Study—The Sermon on the Mount Session ONE: <i>People Who Change the World</i>
Sunday, January 11	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service Guest Preacher—Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth
Wednesday, January 14	• 5:45 PM Adult Study—The Sermon on the Mount Session TWO: <i>How Good Is Good Enough?</i>
Sunday, January 18	• ONE 10:30 AM Worship Service - UMW Sunday Guest Preacher—Rev. Son Hye Kim
Wednesday, January 21	• 5:45 PM Adult Study—The Sermon on the Mount Session Three: <i>An Audience of One</i>
Sunday, January 25	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service
Wednesday, January 28	• 5:45 PM Adult Study—The Sermon on the Mount Session Four: <i>How to Thrive in Any Economy</i>
COMING in February	Continuing on Wednesdays : <i>Continues in the Sermon on the Mount A More Perfect You (2/4) and False Confidence (2/11)</i>



**Deepening Life Together: Sermon on the Mount
A 6 Week Series for Wednesdays**

Go deeper. In the Word. In your faith. In your life.

What is God's standard for ethical living? Can we ever hope to reach it? What was Jesus really teaching us in the Sermon on the Mount? And how can we let God work within us in order to move us ever on toward holiness?

Deepening Life Together helps answer these questions and many more. Each session guides you through the Scriptures, cultivating a dynamic group discussion and helping you grow in a deeper relationship with God and others.

Come in and look at this sermon from a new angle. Join us on Wednesdays in January (into February) at 5:45 PM as we meet together, learn and discuss this important well known transformative sermon.



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

David Bauer, *publicity*

What A Blast!!

The UMM Annual Christmas Jubilee did not fail to meet expectations. Under the careful eye of Master of Ceremonies and coordinator, Bernie Hawkins, the event was a smash. Approximately 75 were in attendance and we all sang carols, laughed at some comedy acts, enjoyed many of the musical acts as well as some magic. We cannot wait until next year!!



Monthly Meeting Memos

Saturday, January 17, the UMM meeting will meet in Criswell Hall. CALFIRE will be our guest speaker following a breakfast at \$9 per person. See Chuck Ashton for more information & Wayne Huggins or Val McClure for tickets in early January...!!!

***Join us for pancakes on January 18 from 8:30 AM—10:30 AM.**

Meet our new UMM President Chuck Ashton!

Here's a condensed biography of Chuck Ashton's life thus far:

- Born: March 30, 1939 in Southgate, California.
- 1953-57 Graduate of Huntington Park H.S.-Class Valedictorian
- 1957-61 Graduate of Occidental College, BA in History/Poly Sci.
- 1989 Obtained Real Estate License & Brokers License
- Member of Downey Masonic Lodge for 53 yrs.
- 1989-2000 Owned & Operated Five Cities Realty
- Joined FUMCAG (First UMC Of Arroyo Grande) in 1996 after attending for many years.
- 2004-08 Member of Grover Beach City Council
- 2009 Awarded a Plaque from Grover Beach for 5000 hrs. of Volunteerism
- 2010 Jointly took over the FUMCAG People's Kitchen Program with wife Betty. They feed an average of 136 individuals twice per month.
- The pair also co-chair the FUMCAG Food Pantry where they average 200 clients per week.
- Chuck & Betty promote a Church Parking Lot Giveaway several times a year when they provide the Needy of the Community w/Basic Essentials.
- Chuck's leisure time hobbies include fishing & hunting.

**IF YOU DON'T KNOW CHUCK PERSONALLY,
PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF...!!!**



**CONGREGATIONAL
CARE MINISTERS**

The Congregational Care Committee hopes that everyone has received their copy of the Church Directory and has had a chance to look it over. Please forward all corrections as well as comments to the church office and to the attention of the Congregational Care Committee. This was a first attempt and we are aware that there need to be modifications made. Please be patient while the corrections are made and a second edition is printed, hopefully within the next six months.

We thank all those who took the opportunity to deliver poinsettias to those who are sick or shut-ins. This is a very rewarding experience for all who participate.

Our wish for the New Year is that more will join our committee and help us to fulfill our goal to make this a caring and loving church family for all who enter its doors.

Patti Melsheimer, *Chair*

Our team needs 2 people to help out with our Congregational Care Table after either or both worship services on Sundays.

If you are interested, the tasks will include:

- After first service setting up the table with cards, etc.
- After second service, taking down the table and mailing cards.
- For both services the team needs people to help circulate cards and gather signatures from our church family.

Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this ministry. Contact Buffy Prestemon.



**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"

Sally Weitkamp, Publicity

Happy New Year

There are LOTS of exciting things that will be happening this coming year for the AG UMC so...

Mark your calendars for these 2015 activities.

January 18	Women's Sunday
January 31	Santa Barbara District Local Leaders Training (at UMC of AG)
February 1	Super Bowl Chili Feast (take out event—begins 11:30 AM)
March 28	Faith & Community for Persons with Disabilities
May 9	Mother's Day Luncheon and Special Program
June	Spiritual Retreat (date to be announced)
November 7	Boutique and Luncheon

Every January the United Methodist Women throughout the world celebrate a day we call Women's Sunday. This is special day recognized by the UMC to acknowledge women's contributions to the local and global church with their many projects that benefit women, children and youth worldwide.

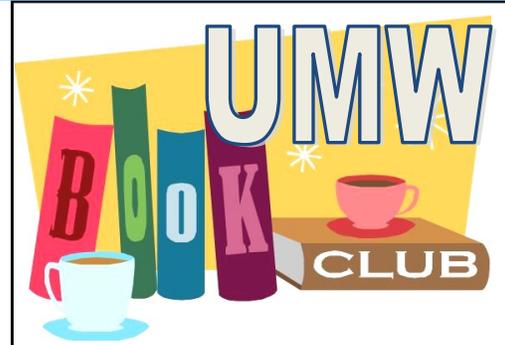
The Arroyo Grande United Methodist Women will celebrate this annual event on January 18th. It is a ONE service Sunday at 10:30 AM in which we select a woman we feel represents women's issues and concerns. This year we welcome our former associate pastor, Rev. Son Hye Kim. We are so delighted to welcome her back. You may remember Son Hye in her service here with Rev. Ehrhardt Lang and Rev. Bob Underwood. She was a great asset to our church and were saddened to see her go. Son Hye is currently assigned as the senior pastor to the Echo Park United Methodist Church in Los Angeles.

Join us to give her a warm welcome home. (Please see cover for her bio).

Quiet Discipleship of the Arroyo Grande UMW

Every year they toil for hours sewing tiny stitches and create beautifully hand sewn quilts. What do they do with the money they make from their sales? ALL proceeds go to the mission and service projects of the United Methodist Women. Yes these are our Sew 'n' Sews—the ladies craft and quilting group who meet every Tuesday at 9 AM in the McMillen Room.

Please join us in saying thank you to these lovely ladies who help us year after year. Thank you to Helen Gugeler, Leona Beerup, Kerren Brown, Betty Ann Quintana, Mary Thronson, Trudy Romanelli, and Mary Ellen Keulen. Though we don't acknowledge you enough, you are important! God bless each of you!



The UMW Book Club is one segment of our United Methodist Women's effort to implement and live by the UMW Purpose, which states that we will "expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church".

We read books recommended by the United Methodist Women as well as other books that help us in our understanding of mission and the world.

The group just finished the book "Sum it Up" by Pat Summit, the nationally recognized women's basketball coach, and her struggles learning to coach women of different backgrounds and expectations and how to deal with her declining abilities due to Alzheimer's disease.

To begin the New Year we will be reading the newest book by the author, Mitch Albon, entitled, "The First Phone Call from Heaven". If this sounds interesting to you, please join us on Friday, January 30 at 11:00 a.m. for a discussion and fellowship. For additional information, contact Patti Melsheimer.



First UMC of Arroyo Grande Joy Jar

As Lay Leader, I would like to challenge us with creating a *JOY Jar* for 2015. Let us find the joys in our everyday lives and focus on that instead of negativity. Did you receive a blessing this week? Did something awesome happen this week? **Share it with us!**

You will come up with ideas that I haven't thought of, but thought I would list a few to help stimulate your JOYS. Have you had any answered prayers; a celebration; Bible verses; appreciate things in nature; new milestones in life; any gifts of the spirit; special quotes; health issues; opportunities; surprises...you keep adding more.

We will gather them each month and share them in the newsletter. You may share your name or not—your choice. Find the jar in the Narthex and drop your JOY in the jar. I will leave a basket with slips of paper and a pen if you need it. Or you can come with it prepared and just drop it in.

I am excited to see how we fill the *JOY Jar* with the Joys we have experienced each month.

Thanks—Judy Atwood

Have a blessed New Year and may you recognize God's goodness and mercies at each turn!



TOGETHER, WE EXTEND A HELPING HAND TO THOSE IN CRISIS SO THEY CAN OVERCOME FORMIDABLE OBSTACLES.

Human Relations Day is January 18, 2015

Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of your town and you will find what Jesus called “the least of these.” Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. People like:

- o An immigrant teenager in Texas’ poorest county, being recruited by a local gang
- o A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas
- o An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work

Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them. And that’s what we want to model as the people of The United Methodist Church. To continue the ministry of Jesus we established Human Relations Day as a Special Sunday that calls all of our churches to participate in helping all God’s children to realize their potential.

Equipping The United Methodist Church to Be the Church

As a member of The United Methodist Church, your gift, on this day, allows the work of folks like Bruce and Becky Ballou to build relationships with those teens in Texas. Your gift allows Montey Payne to lead recovering addicts towards healing. And your gift helps Rev. Steve Burr find work for ex-offenders.

This work, and hundreds of other ministries, are possible because you give.

Will You Support the Ministry of Christ Among Those on the Margins?

Will you continue to support Human Relations Day? Will you continue nurturing at-risk youth, strengthening communities’ self-improvement efforts and advocating for the oppressed?

Rev. I Maliik Safir, whose church works with those gripped by addiction in Little Rock, sums up the work of Human Relations Day by recalling Jesus’ story of the Good Samaritan: “to meet the poor, the disadvantaged and the underserved at the places where others have robbed them and help them to recover from the wounds of social inequality.”

Read a story about the impact you are making with your gifts at www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/human-relations-day

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



office closed

Church Office will be closed on January 1 & 2, 2015 See you on 1/5/2015

1 AG UM CC Closed 11:30 AM People's Kitchen - leave to serve

2 Spirit Day at AG UM CC - wear your shirts! 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 3:30 PM AG UM CC Closed for Staff Development

3 10 AM Unhanging of the Green 12:30 PM Dr. Chess (211)



Coffee Hour Host: Finance Team

8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Group(215) 12:15 PM SPRC

5 Pastor's Day off 11 AM UMM Board Meeting (L) 1 PM Dr. Chess (211) 1 PM UMC of AG Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 6 PM AG Rec. Dept. - Quilting (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)

6 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (handbell Room) 5 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L) 7 PM Trustees (PENDING)

7 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Adult Study - Part I 7 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)

8 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 12 PM Esther Circle (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (handbell Room) 7 PM Finance Team (CH)

9 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)

10 12:30 PM Dr. Chess (211) 5:30 PM Praise Team Set-Up (S) 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearse (S)



North District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth

Coffee Hour Host: Mary- Martha Circle

8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Group(215) 12 PM Congregational Care Team (L)

12 Pastor's Day off 1 PM Dr. Chess (211) 12 PM Central Coast Hospice Bereavement Support Group (MMR) 1 PM UMC of AG Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 6 PM AG Rec. Dept. - Quilting (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)

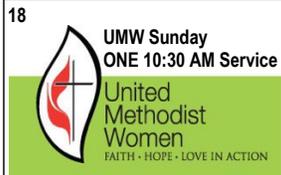
13 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (handbell Room) 5 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L) 6 PM Arroyo Grande MS Support Group (MMR)

14 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 10 AM UMW Steering (L) 12:30 PM Alzheimer's Association Care Giver Support Group (MMR) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Adult Study - Part II 7 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)

15 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 11:30 AM People's Kitchen - leave to serve 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (handbell Room)

16 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) Newsletter Deadline

17 8:30 AM UMM Breakfast Meeting 12:30 PM Dr. Chess (211) 1 PM Helen Moore Celebration of Life (pending)



Special Guest Preacher Rev. Son Hye Kim

Human Relations Sunday Offering *Please prayerfully consider your gift



Join us for the UMM Pancake Breakfast 8:30-10:30 AM

19 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Observance * Church Office Closed 1 PM Dr. Chess (211) 1 PM UMC of AG Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 6 PM AG Rec. Dept. - Quilting (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)

20 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9:30 AM Clergy Cluster 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10:30 AM Communications (P/S) 1:30 PM Preschool Board - open session (MMR) 2:30 PM Preschool Board - closed session (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (handbell Room) 5 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L) 7 PM JOY Circle (at the home of a member)

21 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 10 AM Communications 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Adult Study - Part III 7 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)

22 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 1 PM Mission Team (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (handbell Room)

23 UMW Set-up 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)

24 8:30 AM UMW District Local Leadership Training Meeting (MMR/CH/L/K) 12:30 PM Dr. Chess (211) 5:30 PM Praise Team Set-Up (S) 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearse (S)

25 Coffee Hour Host: Church Council

8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Group(215) 12 PM Christian Ed. Team

26 Pastor's Day off 1 PM Dr. Chess (211) 1 PM UMC of AG Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 6 PM AG Rec. Dept. - Quilting (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)

27 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 1 PM Alzheimer's Support Group for Adult Children of Parents (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (handbell Room) 5 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L)

28 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 9:30 AM Mary-Martha (MMR) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Adult Study - Part IV 7 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)

29 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (handbell Room) 7 PM Church Council (MMR)

30 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 11 AM UMW Book Club (MMR)

31 12:30 PM Dr. Chess (211)

Celebrate the New Year with Your Family

by MaryJane Pierce Norton (GBOD.org)

More often than not, New Year celebrations are geared toward adults and focus more on the party than on the milestone of a New Year. You can celebrate the New Year in your home either on New Year's Eve, on New Year's Day, or during the first week of January. Here are some suggestions:

Sort through toys and clothes. Set aside those items that are in good shape to give to a shelter, a homeless center, or a church.

Make New Year's resolutions. Although we often laugh at these and fail to keep them, the beginning of a New Year is a good time to ask the following question, "What do I want to accomplish in this New Year?" Ask each person to come up with three things he or she hopes to do in the New Year. Focus on a new skill to learn, a good habit to start, a bad habit to stop. Write these down. On the family calendar, circle a date four to six weeks from when you write these to look at the resolutions again and find out how each person is doing with his or her resolutions.

Decide together on family activities for 2015. Ask each family member to contribute ideas to the following topics:

- o Places we would like to eat in 2015.
- o Places we would like to visit in 2015.
- o Fun activities we would like to do as a family in 2015.
- o People we want to visit in 2015.
- o Ways we would like to worship together in 2015.

[as we are doing here at UMC of AG, create a "Joy Jar"]



Celebrate the New Year with traditional food. In many areas of the U.S, greens or black-eyed peas are served. Other areas have different traditions. If there is no tradition for your family, decide together on a good New Year's food that you would like to enjoy together at the beginning of this year.

- o **Participate together in a time of devotions as a family.** If you have a hymnal in your home, check to see if there is a service for the New Year. Or use the following for a time of devotions:
 - o Sit together around a table. In front of each person place a small votive candle. Light each candle, saying to one another, "Thank you God for another year of life and love in our family."
 - o Sing together a hymn of your choice or one of the following: "Hymn of Promise"; "O God, Our Help In Ages Past"; "Joy to the World"; "Sanctuary."
 - o Prepare for prayer by asking each person in the family to list one thing he or she's hope for in the New Year. After each person says what he or she hopes for, respond together, "O God, we give you thanks." End by praying the Lord's Prayer together.



News from the Mission Team

By Judy Atwood, *chair*

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS: Many things to report this edition...so read carefully so as not to miss out.

- 1.) Human Relations Day Offering,
- 2.) Giving Tuesday,
- 3.) Blanket Campaign,
- 4.) 2015 Mission Projects,
- 5.) Layette Items for NOME, and
- 8.) Special Giving totals for 2014.

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE . . . IN ACTION

1. HUMAN RELATIONS DAY OFFERING

On January 18th we will be taking our first special offering of the general church. Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of town and you will find what Jesus called "the least of these." They are those who are living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. People like: *An immigrant teenager in Texas' poorest county, being recruited by a local gang; *A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas; *An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work.

Over and over, Jesus served people like this, embracing them. And that's what we want to continue to model as the people of The United Methodist Church here in Arroyo Grande.

2. GIVING TUESDAY DECEMBER 2, 2014

Thank you to those of you who participated in the Giving Tuesday. Global Ministries will allocate matching funds dollar for dollar up to the first \$1 million in gifts to Advance projects received online on December 2nd, 2014. A maximum of \$2,500 per individual gift to a project will be dispersed as matching funds. A project may receive a maximum of \$25,000 in matching funds. A health care center in Haiti now offers increased access to care. A community in Sierra Leone finished digging a well to provide clean safe drinking water.

3. BLANKET CAMPAIGN FOR CHRISTMAS

November 23rd was Blanket Sunday, and a special blessing by Pastor David was given before they were given out at the People's Kitchen Annual Christmas Party and by the 5 Cities Christian Women's Christmas baskets. We reached nearly 200 blankets to help provide warmth for those who received them. Thank you for your great response. You provided a blessing to many people.

4. 2015 MISSION PROJECTS

The mission team will be discussing mission projects for 2015 when we meet in January. If you have any suggestions for the committee please let Judy know so they can be considered in our discussion.

5. LAYETTE ITEMS FOR NOME

Another box of needed times has been sent to Nome for their special project for new babies and their families. Thanks.

Many hands can do many things!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS.

YOU HAVE BLESSED MANY OTHERS LOCALLY AND AROUND THE WORLD.

6. SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2014

Alternative Christmas	180.00
Children's Ministry	100.00
AGFUMC Food Pantry	20.00
Human Relations Sunday	317.00
Imagine No Malaria	2,878.00
Native American Sunday	187.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	656.00
Peace With Justice	285.00
People's Kitchen Food	4,050.91
People's Kitchen Misc.	7,551.88
South County Food Bank	463.22
Student Day	45.00
Vacation Bible School	481.00
World Communion	150.00
Youth Mission Fund	253.00
11 MONTHS TOTAL	17,618.79

DON'T ASK GOD TO GUIDE YOUR FOOTSTEPS, IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO MOVE YOUR FEET.

A New Year's Resolution That Will Transform the United Methodist Church By Gil Hanke

What would transform each local church within our denomination? What activities have a proven track record that turn “pew sitters” into “disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world?” These are not new questions, and the core answer returns us to some basic premises of John Wesley as he understood the teachings and servant leadership of Jesus Christ. The delivery system of these basic tenants requires an update, but the answers are obvious.

Here are some assumptions:

1. Disciples are not made in worship services, but corporate worship is essential to being a disciple
2. Discipleship forms in small Christ centered groups that regularly meet, usually weekly
3. Discipleship focuses us on a growing relationship with Christ
4. Our Wesleyan roots require a balance in both personal and social holiness
5. Most discipleship groups are gender specific
6. Many discipleship groups are intergenerational
7. Some discipleship groups are formed for a particular study or from a particular event
8. Some discipleship groups form for a particular time frame
9. Many groups continue for years
10. Discipleship groups require some deliberate interaction with Scripture and with Prayer

What are the challenges with getting men into small groups?

1. Time
2. If they grow out of a particular event, adding new persons to the group can be difficult
3. Time
4. The group can get off track and become something that is not Christ centered or Wesleyan
5. Time

There is no shortage of materials for small groups. Some use fairly expensive materials that combine video and small group discussion, while some have only a set series of questions that each participant answers during each meeting. Many do some combination of materials, but cost should not be a limiting factor. Wesley began many of his small groups with the single question, “How is it with your soul?”

Are we inviting men with the right question?

How do we deal with the time issue? This is really a combination of issues. There is the time of the meeting, the time to get to and from the meeting. In larger cities the transportation time is a bigger issue. Maybe we are ask-

ing the wrong question. When we set up a group are we asking, “We want you in this small group, and we are going to meet at X (particular time) on every Y (particular day), at Z (particular place)?” Would we get further if we asked, “when could you meet, night or day?” Take the “where” out of the deal; take the travel time out of the deal. Focus on a meeting time. Then use the technology that is available. It could be a conference call, but more likely it will be a “hangout” on Google or a Skype call.

Technology is the best way to manage the “time” issue. It is also the best way to have men under 40 in your group. Because you are doing this online, does not mean you open this group to strangers lurking on the internet. This is using technology to connect with people you already know. This same group could decide that there is a special event they want to attend, or a local mission project they want to help with, so they can all get some “3D” time as well. The technology can also be used with a face to face meeting, for people who can meet, but can't be at the meeting. Persons who travel a lot, or who move to another community can still stay connected.

If a pastor is asked, “What would you want the men [women] of this church to do on a daily basis?” their answer would probably be:

1. Read the Bible
2. Pray
3. Celebrate where you see God at work
4. Find a way to deal with issues that challenge you

Here is a very simple format for a small group. Ask each man to read the Upper Room Daily Devotions every day. They can subscribe to small booklet, or have it sent to their phone, tablet, or computer every day. Each devotional includes the scripture and the prayer. In the meeting, ask “Which reading made the most sense to you this week? Which reading didn't make sense to you this week? Where have you seen God at work this week? What is your plan to deal what is challenging you?” Groups typically meet for only one hour, and begin and end with prayer.

So as we start the new year, let us do what we can to start small groups of men who agree to read the Upper Room Daily Devotions each day and meet for up to one hour face to face in person or electronically. Let's agree to transform the men of our churches. Let's stop talking about the need for disciples and make some.

**Gil Hanke is top staff executive of the General Commission on United Methodist Men.*

Meet Our
CHURCH STAFF

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Senior Pastor:
 Rev. David M. Burgeson
Missionary (retired)/Lay Leader:
 Judy Atwood
Office Administrator:
 OPEN POSITION
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
Handbell Choir Dir.: Leonard Lutz
Christian Education Directors:
 Susan Coho, *Adult*
 OPEN POSITION, *Youth*
 Carolyn Russell, *Children (Interim)*

Bishop: Minerva G. Carcaño
District Superintendent:
 Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth

AG UM Children's Center
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Other contributors:
 ■ Varied Teams/Committees

Deadline:
Noon on January 16th.
PLEASE NOTE:

Layout Editor reserves the right to cut & edit articles to meet space limitations.



Greetings in the New Year!

With Christmas behind us, we move forward in our lessons about Jesus and his teachings in the New Year. We hope our children will enjoy these stories, as well as learn from them, feeling the touch and love of God in their daily lives. Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Carolyn Russell — *Children's Ministry Director*

P.S. We are always looking for volunteers to help us on Sundays and with other church events. If are interested, please contact me or the church office.



"Seek and you will find."
 - Matthew 7:7. NIV



Current Finances of UMC of AG as of 9/21/14

Monthly Budget

\$ 22,322.

Received to Date

\$ 19,095.

Difference

- \$ 3,227.



Jayne Stednitz	1/2
Lynda Mahaffey	1/4
John Neel	1/4
Alex Paredes	1/4
Ella Craig	1/6
Polly Monson	1/6
Norm Henderson	1/7
Carolyn Russell	1/15
Nancy Baughman	1/17
Jim Alquist	1/20
Art Moore	1/20
Judy Leonard	1/22
Pat Conover	1/26
Lynn Stewart	1/27
Barbara Zilkoff	1/28
Jordan Henderson	1/29
Eileen Odom	1/29
Mary Thronson	1/29



Did we miss a birthday?
 Contact our church office...we need you to fill out an information form for you and your family.



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

Give me
one hundred
preachers
who fear
nothing
but sin
and desire
nothing
but God,
and I care not
a straw
whether they
be clergymen
or laymen,
such alone
will shake
the gates of
hell
and set up
the kingdom
of heaven
upon earth.

- John Wesley

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- Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth

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Children's Center Chronicle

