



A Message from our New Pastor

Aloha! I love Hawaii, like my predecessor David Burgeson. Though I haven't been there in a long time, I made fourteen trips in a decade while my sister was a twenty-year resident of Kailua on Oahu. For me it was an inexpensive get-away with a free hotel and kitchen at my sister's place. Who could ask for more?

I'm writing this quickly as I make a last commute to Ventura to make sure all is ready to be received by the movers on August 3rd. They will bring my possessions to 632 S. 14th Street in Grover Beach the next day, August 4th. Home at last!

I come to you from the First United Methodist Church of Ventura, where I served as Senior Pastor for six years. During that time I worked to heal a rocky transition in pastoral leadership, put in place a strong staff constellation with a couple younger "players," brought room rental "rates" into a 2015 reality, encouraged and implemented efforts to bring a 75K deficit budget to place where we began 2015 "nearly" balanced from stewardship giving without over-dependence on vanishing reserves. We worked with a consultant who assessed our worship and created a Worship Design Team that made beginning efforts to shape traditional worship to be more accessible to a variety of worshippers, and put in place a Vision statement and goals to coordinate and solidify our work together. Together we updated our Safe Sanctuary policy, brought job descriptions and staff evaluations and paperwork up to date, and did the important work of the Lay Leadership Committee to strengthen the church and its effectiveness. Every church is different and with you I will discover the important tasks we need to tackle here.

Enough of that! Prior to serving Ventura, I served a fulfilling interim year for the Tustin Aldersgate Church while living in Irvine. I have also served Whittier First UMC, Reseda First, and Temple City UMC as pastor-in-charge, and right out of seminary did two associate ministry appointments at San

Gabriel First and Lancaster UMC. The challenges of itinerating in our congregations haven't come from being a woman in ministry, but rather from being single in ministry. It's a hard row to hoe moving through the changes "solo."

Originally, I came from Grand Rapids, Michigan when a move brought my family of origin to San Diego where I was a member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church. In San Diego I attended San Diego State earning a B.A. in Psychology while completing requirements to enter Physical Therapy School. Plans were interrupted at the death of my father in 1974 and instead I completed an M.A. in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling at Fresno State, an internship at Devereux School in Santa Barbara before entering the US-2 mission program and serving in campus ministry at the Wesley Foundation in Kalamazoo, Michigan. I was trying to quell longings to be in ministry. It didn't work!

After the campus ministry experience, I entered Southern California School of Theology at Claremont and completed the M.Div. in 1984 after being ordained a Deacon in 1983 and received Elders Orders in 1986. During seminary I enjoyed Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Joseph Hospital in Tacoma, Washington where I served as a chaplain and was the Youth Director at Granada Park UMC in Alhambra.

The years in ministry have been rich and rewarding, and I love the people of our United Methodist congregations. The rigorous hours ministry requires leave little time for private pursuits, but I enjoy reading, swimming, yoga, time with siblings, nieces, nephews and the "next generation" that has arrived in full force in our family, boasting 15 great nieces and nephews. I enjoy music, worship and would love to have time to do a little writing, and to remember in writing my mother who passed away on January 27th this year.

It's good to be with you. Let's get acquainted quickly and have a good time doing it! It is my joy to be the pastor of First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande.

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

275 North Halcyon Road . Arroyo Grande . CA 93420 . (805) 481-2692



To Be United Methodist: What is “itinerancy”?

When people new to United Methodism hear that a new pastor will soon be serving their congregation, they may ask:

Why don't we get to choose our pastor?

Who makes these decisions?



Courtesy of the General Commission on Archives and History

The short answers describe how United Methodists have agreed to meet the pastoral needs of congregations.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, preached up to 40,000 sermons in his lifetime. He was an “itinerant” preacher, traveling from town to town in England, setting up Methodist societies.

In the days of Francis Asbury, the first of two Methodist bishops in the United States, a pastor – most often a circuit rider – might be appointed to half of a state or more. His appointment might be for only three months, after which he moved to another circuit. Thousands of the oldest United Methodist congregations today trace their history to a circuit rider.

This traveling from place to place to begin Methodist societies in principle led to the itinerant system The United Methodist Church uses today.

“Itinerancy” refers specifically to the commitment by pastors to go and serve wherever their bishops send them. “Appointment” is the action taken by bishops. These are different, yet related.

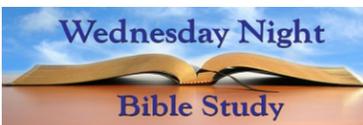
Before they are ordained or licensed, clergy in The United Methodist Church agree to serve where their bishop appoints them. Appointments are for one year at a time. For elders and local pastors, particularly, the goal is to match the gifts and graces of the particular pastor with the ministry needs of a particular congregation. In this “serial leadership” of consecutive pastors – no two are alike – over time, the combination of skills blends to form a broad base of developed ministries.

While bishops make appointments, they incorporate a consultative process outlined in The Book of Discipline that includes district superintendents, pastors and pastor and staff/parish relations committees. The needs and desires of clergy are considered, says Missouri Bishop Robert Schnase, but “the mission of the church comes first.”

—Adapted from “Chuck Knows Church,” Discipleship Ministries, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry website. Read more in “What Do You Mean We’re Getting a New Pastor,” *Interpreter* (Sep-Oct 2014) and *Interpreter OnLine*, www.interpretermagazine.org. Referred to Castanet by Susan Coho, *Adult Christian Education*



Women's Prayer
Mondays at 7 PM
 Women come to pray together
 in the Sanctuary.



Adult Bible Study at 6 PM
FREE Fellowship Meal at 5 PM



Morning Bible Study
Fridays at 8:30 AM
 Join us in the Library for Bible
 Study, discussion,
 coffee, & friends!



Sunday, August 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis— "KEEP YOUR LIGHT BRIGHT" Matthew 5 :14-16, Luke 11 :33-36
Wednesday, August 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM Adult Bible Study A Study of Ephesians — <i>New Life</i>
Sunday, August 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 AM Combined Worship Service Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis— "EAGLES" Isaiah 40: 28-31, Psalm 91
Wednesday, August 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM Adult Bible Study A study of Ephesians— <i>New Fellowship</i>
Sunday, August 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis— "THE BOTTOM LINE IS LOVE" I John 4: 7-12, 19-21, Ephesians 4: 1-6
Wednesday, August 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM Adult Bible Study A Study of Ephesians — <i>New Behavior</i>
Sunday, August 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis — "DRY YOUR EYES" John 11: 32-44, Revelation 21: 1-6a
Wednesday, August 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM Adult Bible Study A Study of Ephesians — <i>New Family Order</i>
Sunday, August 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis — "SABBATH-KEEPING" Deuteronomy 5: 12-15, Mark 2: 23-28

Bible Study for Wednesdays in August

6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Criswell Hall

The five-week Wednesday evening Bible study for August (and the first Wednesday in September*) is entitled:

A Study of Ephesians
 "Made New Through Christ"

Susan Coho, Adult Christian Education Director, will be teaching.

September class begins at 5:45 PM to facilitate choir rehearsal at 7:00 PM



WEDNESDAY EVENING MEALS ?

Is it important for us to continue offering Wednesday night free meals at 5:00 PM for the church and the community? We need to pray about this.

If so, VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to provide meals.

Would you be willing to commit to one Wednesday evening per month, with three others doing the same? The ministry of a free meal to anyone could easily continue. There are funds to reimburse for expenses if you desire.

Let's plan ahead!

Please contact Judy Atwood, Lay Leader



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

David Bauer, *publicity*

UMM
UNITED METHODIST MEN

News & Announcements



- The UMM Cabinet met on July 13th to plan yearly events. Some of the events will be: * Pancake Breakfast, * Taco Salad Luncheon, * Christmas Talent Show, ♥ Sweetheart Breakfast, * Annual Golf Tournament, * Regularly scheduled breakfast meetings with fellowship and interesting speakers.
- The next UMM Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 19th with breakfast and an outstanding speaker. Time and place for the event are to be announced.
- **Did you know?** Our UMM is the only organized United Methodist Men's organization in our six-church Cluster. Our group is chartered by the National Methodist Men's organization.

MINISTERIAL UPDATES by Chuck and Betty Ashton

Betty and I pastor several ministries extending from the **First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande**. They all came about in our attempts to help those in need within our community. We sincerely feel that this is our effort to carry out the wishes of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We are aided in these endeavors by a number of individuals who share our beliefs. We all firmly believe that charity begins at home, namely within our community.

The **FUMC Emergency Food Pantry** is a prime example of our ministries. Each Monday at Criswell Hall from 1 PM to 3 PM we dispense basically a week's supply of food to families and individuals whose incomes fall short of their needs. We obtain the bulk of the food from the **South County Food Bank** due to its reasonable costs. We also get food from the **Salvation Army** and **WALMART's** resources that are unavailable at the Food Bank. We provide them with fresh produce, bakery items, meats, delicatessen, dry groceries, milk and juices when available. It takes us several trips on different days to accumulate the food for the Monday giveaways. Nothing is required of the clients but a head count as to the number of adults and children we are servicing to be included in our quarterly report to the Food Bank. There is no limit as to attendance though we have observed no one abusing our benevolence, and new faces are appearing all the time. So far this year we have provided food to **1,463 families**, which consisted of **4,603 individuals**, including **1,690 children**.

Our **People's Kitchen lunches** is another of our community ministries. Twice a month on the first and third Wednesdays, we have a team that assembles a well-balanced sack lunch that includes two peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to be transported and handed out at the Ramona Gardens Park the next day, Thursday. We give out a minimum of 140+ sack lunches along with boxes of fresh fruit. No one goes without. We are told that some groups on the previous days have failed to provide enough meals. Year-to-date, we have provided **1,829 meals to 1,292 individuals**.

Besides food, we also dispense new pairs of socks at our Thursday meals. It is the singularly most needed clothing item by individuals. We have been averaging 100 pairs at each meal. They are also given out at our Parking Lot Giveaways. We have given out **12,543 new pairs** to date, making it an important ministry.

Finally, our quarterly **Parking Lot Giveaway** is an important ministry to our local community. Hundreds show up to obtain items for their needs. Thousands benefit by our benevolence. We have generally a team of 50 or more volunteers to help out. Many are recipients of our ministry.

All of this is made possible through the generosity of individuals, from within and outside the Church. Several of the various bodies within the Church have contributed. Our team volunteers have given hundreds of dollars. **Cal-Pac** gave us a \$700.00 check for the Emergency Food Pantry. **No monies** come from the Church's Budget or the Mission Team. All funds are used to benefit those in need. No one is compensated for their volunteer efforts or mileage.

If you want to support any of these ministries, financially or materially, see us at our table in Criswell Hall between Church services. You can designate how your funding is to be used. Special donation credit is given through the Church. We also have donation receipts available for tax purposes.

Thank You and God Bless You for Your Support,

Betty and Chuck Ashton



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

UMW SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Come to the Arroyo Grande **United Methodist Women's Spiritual Retreat, Saturday, August 8th** at 2640 Belgian Place, Arroyo Grande. We will be learning how to “create a happy life” through studying, meditating, eating and exercising. Our study will be based on one of the United Methodist Women's Mission Studies for 2015, **“Created For Happiness: Understanding Your Life In God”**.



Our leader for the day is our very own Arroyo Grande UMC pastor, **Rev. Mary Birgelaitis**.

If you have not had the opportunity to get acquainted with our newly arrived pastor, this will be an added advantage of attending the retreat!

The cost of the day is \$20. This includes morning refreshments, lunch, and craft supplies. Make a reservation by completing a reservation form and turning it in at the UMW table at coffee hour or by calling Virginia Mothes. If you attended last year's retreat you will know that this is time well spent and is not to be missed. We look forward to having many women from our church attend. Invite a friend to join you for this very special day. The retreat is from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM.



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Next month on **Saturday, September 12th**, The United Methodist Women of Arroyo Grande will be hosting our special event on *People With Disabilities*. We are inviting UMW ladies from our Northern District to attend. Many of our members suffer from hearing loss, poor vision, and difficulties maneuvering about the church, as well as do many Christians in our community at large. Remember our church motto, **OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS AND OPEN DOORS**. Come to our event and learn about various handicaps, and then we can take positive steps to make our church a welcoming church to our own members with disabilities, and also to encourage those in the community to know our church is available to all.



Holiday Boutique No, it's not too soon! And it's not too late either!

Now is the perfect time for procrastinators (myself included) to get going on your many fantastic ideas for the Holiday Boutique coming up in three short months on **Saturday, November 7th**.

■ Summer is a great time for *Slipping Plants*. Succulents are in great demand with the current drought conditions. Now, don't call me and tell me you have a black thumb when it comes to plants. Succulents are forgiving and you just stick them into some root tone, stick them into some soil, and water them when you remember to. Seriously, Gladys Paulsen has offered to let us

take some slips from her succulent plants.

■ If you are more into *Crafts and Sewing*, here are a few ideas: * Christmas Stockings * Holiday Wreaths * Table Runners * Aprons * Tree Skirts. * Fall and Winter Decorations. Also * Gift Items and * Stocking Stuffers.

■ And don't forget the *Bake Sale*:

* Buy your fruits on sale during the summer and freeze them for pies or jams. * Make up cookie dough and freeze it so you can bake in early November.





The **Congregational Care Committee** and the **Communications Committee** have been assigned the task of creating a more formal church directory, which will include pictures. Photographs for this new directory will be taken each Sunday during first and second service coffee hours during the month of

August. Joe Brown and Val McClure will be taking pictures of all our members and friends in the **Choir Room** adjacent to **Criswell Hall**. Everyone is asked to sign up for the Sunday they want to have their photo taken.

Sign-ups will be taken at the Congregational Care table near the stage in Criswell Hall. If someone is not able to have their picture taken after either first or second service or will be gone during this time, some limited alternate times will be available. If someone is unable to come to the church, committee members will make special arrangements to photograph them in their homes.

It is very important that YOU are included in this directory. Be sure to sign up and to show up for your picture!

Great News—Praise The Lord!

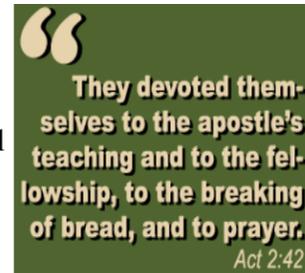
People's Kitchen Has A New Home

Pacific Christian Center will be partnering with **South County People's Kitchen** at **Assembly of God's Living Waters Church**, 946 Rockaway, in Grover Beach. They are pleased to announce a new worship service including prayers, breaking of bread and sharing of the word daily. Beginning Sunday Aug. 2nd, this centers around Acts 2:42-47.

The doors will open at 11:30 AM east side of the building. Come in, have coffee in the cantina area: 11:45 AM—services begin; 12:00 noon—breaking of bread and the meals are served. Seconds will be on site; take out meals will be severely limited. Clean up will start at 12:30 PM, and doors will close and be locked at 1:00 PM.

Kevin Gotchall is the new pastor. Welcome to Pastor Kevin.

From Betty and Chuck Ashton



THE FIVE CITIES CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S PANTRY

Open Monday through Friday, 2PM to 4PM.

Located at 192B South 9th Street in Grover Beach, it serves approximately 2,000 people per month.

Currently the Pantry is in need of

- Peanut Butter
- Canned Tuna
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Canned Kidney & Pinto Beans



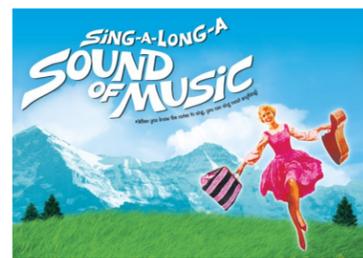
Food donations may be left in our basket in the Narthex.

Monetary donations are very welcome, too. Checks may be sent to P.O. Box 756, Grover Beach, 93483. Receipts will be mailed upon request.



Submitted by Bennie Duffin

Family Movie Night!



First United Methodist Church
Arroyo Grande
Friday, August 21

Doors open at 6:00 PM
Showtime at 6:30 PM

Come join us for a wonderful evening!

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
Chair, Paul Holden



**The Latest from the Trustees,
July 2015**

- Bernie, Mike T. and Paul cleaned up the Pastor's office walls and carpet. Bernie and Mike T. installed new light bulbs in the office as well. The bathroom will be painted in the near future.
- Paul will gather the Church Disaster Preparedness team together in the coming month to discuss moving forward with the Red Cross as a partner.
- We talked about how volunteers are still needed for the Social Hall paint party on Saturday, July 18. Most members of the board agreed to help out.
- The District Superintendent's office said they have no problem with where we install an American flag on the property. This issue now needs to go to our Church conference for a vote on the appropriateness of moving its location from the prior approval spot, outside the education wing, to the Church's yard facing Halcyon.
- Mike J. gave us an idea what the cost for preventative maintenance would be for our heaters and appliances. The board agreed that we should move forward with finding vendors to perform these tasks on a semi-annual basis.
- Paul will ask Judy Atwood if the Missions Committee would be willing to assist with paying for the People's Kitchen/Food Pantry utility month expense through utilizing part of the earnings from the Don McGuire Missions fund.
- Betty and Lorie have begun taking inventory and purchasing kitchen supplies on a monthly basis. Mary H. offered to assist in the future.
- The board agreed to go in on half of the expense of a recent toilet repair for the Children's Center.



Submitted by Patti Melsheimer

For the months of May and June our UMW Book Club read "No Longer Silent, the Empowerment of Women in the Gospels" by Susan De Matthews. This proved to be an interesting read and provoked quite a bit of discussion. Although it described many of the women of the Bible, it was not met with much approval by the members of the book club, basically because of the license the author took in describing the women of the Bible. There are copies of the book in our church library if you would like to decide for yourself!

The group will not meet in August. For our September 25th meeting, we will be reading "Kind Of Kin" by Rilla Askew. The New York Times describes the novel as "a study in the categories and contradictions that dissolve families, dissect communities and split nations. She (the author) personalizes the issue (immigration), exploring with a deft hand and an unflinching moral vision the gray areas of an argument so often presented in black and white."

If you would like to join this lively discussion, please contact Patti Melsheimer or Judy Leonard.
All are welcome!

**The next meeting will be on Friday,
September 25th, at 11 AM in the
McMillen Room.**



Hello All!

We welcome our new Pastor, Mary Birgelaitis, and hope you and your children will take the time to meet and get to know Mary. We are looking forward to a great year of growth for our Children's Ministries and church family!

Last month we explored how even a young child can make a difference in someone's life, as well as help to spread Jesus' ministry. Our church family is important for us all, and we want to convey to our children that everyone matters. God loves us all.

We hope you all had a great time at our weekend Vacation Bible School, SonSparks Labs! I would like to take the time to thank all of my volunteers and families who helped and participated in learning about God's Plan 4 U= Jesus! (We also hope you were able to get all of that Elephant Toothpaste out of your ears! Ha!) 

Events like these are church building. Thank you for helping to strengthen our church. I hope you had many joyful moments as well as insightful ones.

This month, we will look at "Favorite Bible Passages", as we explore five favorite Bible verses. Our main verse is from Psalm 119: 105, "Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey."

We hope the children will remember these verses all their lives' journeys, as many of you may remember them as well. We hope to teach these with joy in mind! Your children are important to us, and we encourage families to spread that joy with others, so that we may build our church's foundations. Don't forget to invite a friend or encourage your children to invite someone to church and Sunday school!

Please look forward to some church events – movie nights that can involve the whole family. Starting July 31, we hope your family caught the film "McFarlane", a feel good sports drama film starring Kevin Costner that follows a cross country underdog team on their quest for the state championship.

Also, get your singing voices ready for a "Sound of Music" sing along night, August 21. Keep in mind that costumes are encouraged! So get those habits and lederhosen ready! You may even win a door prize ... Let's keep that joy flowing!



As we get our children ready for a new school year, we hope you will encourage your children to attend Sunday school, invite friends, and help to spread the news that we are a loving and kind congregation, filled with the Holy Spirit! Children's education should involve body, mind, and spirit!

See you in church!
God Bless,
Carolyn Russell
Children's Ministry Director



FIRST UMC OF ARROYO GRANDE
JOY JAR

Special Joys shared since the last writing. The basket with slips of paper and pens are still by the jar for your use, if you didn't bring some with you. Hope you find it and use it.

New joys from our JOY JAR at the time of printing since the last issue of the Cast A Net.

- * Welcome to our new pastor, Mary Birgelaitis—we are glad to receive you.
- * Thanks for those who filled the pulpit the first two Sundays in July
- * Happy Father's Day to all fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers
- * Rain in July! We will take it any time!
- * Joy for the love of Michael and Victoria
- * Joy for sale by sister, Billie Jane; she sold her house after a 2 year wait...Mary Thronson
- * Painting in Criswell Hall
- * New sand and chips in Pre-School yards
- * New planters in Pre-School
- * Money for 60 "kits for kids" from United Methodist Men
- * Two daughters' birthdays in June, Linda Herber, Beverly Calkins...Chuck and Betty
- * People's Kitchen has a new permanent site
- * Joel's 60th birthday
- * Husband Michael is healing, from Lucy
- * Jan Treat's niece had successful surgery
- * Cristy Van Hook had successful back surgery
- * Baughmans back from trip celebrating daughter's wedding
- * Baughmans were able meet their son's new baby daughter, Josephine
- * New great-grand babies for Jan and Art Moore, and Lynn and George Stewart
- * Don and Helen Gugeler had a wonderful trip and time with family in Idaho
- * Bell Choir
- * Pauline Castillo back in church
- * Anniversaries celebrated by Eva and Val McClure and Jamie and Damien Stednitz
- * We are appreciative for all of the care and friendship given our dad. He always liked your greetings on Sundays and other times....Cristy and Judy

How exciting to witness to the JOYS among us in the congregation and beyond. I am excited to see how we fill the JOY JAR with the JOYS we have experienced each month.

... Judy Atwood, Lay Leader

News from the Mission Team

By Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: August 2015

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

New things to report this edition....so read carefully so as not to miss out. 1. [Meet Gary and Cindy Moon](#)
2. [Local Mission Needs](#) 3. [Special Giving](#)

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

1. [MEET GARY AND CINDY MOON WITH THE AIDS PROJECT IN THAILAND.](#) They were commissioned in October 2009 and assigned to open and direct Angel's Haven Orphanage, a facility for children with HIV/AIDS in Chiang Mai, Thailand (located about 420 miles north of Bangkok). Angel's Haven opened in October 2010 to provide a safe environment and personal care for some of the open HIV/AIDS children in Thailand. It is among the first social ministries of the church in Thailand, where United Methodist mission work is a fairly recent addition to the Southeast Asia Mission Initiative.

They are members of Covenant United Methodist Church, a Korean-American congregation in Pomona. They spent seven years in preparation for mission service after experiencing a call during a training program offered in Los Angeles by a Korea-based organization. Gary was a chiropractor by profession before entering full-time mission work.

The Moons provide support for about 20 boys and 20 girls from 1-20 years old who are infected with HIV in a government-run orphanage in Chiang Mai province. They were among 600 other healthy orphans and they were not getting any special attention, which they needed due to their illness.

They have been working with Baukjan Elementary School for the last five and half years. Last year they helped the school start a community development project which includes a mushroom farm, frog farm, fish farm,

chicken farm, coffee farm, and vegetable garden. This is the second year, and the project is going very well. This year a whole student body is learning about how to manage and run the farms. This year students made some money by selling mushrooms to the villagers. We all hope to continue seeing good results for years to come.

2. [LOCAL MISSION NEEDS](#) We are blessed to have local mission ministries to help meet the needs of those in our own community, also. Five Cities Christian Women continues to have increases in persons served and can use our monetary help as well as staples. Our Food Pantry here at the church also continues to serve increased numbers. You can assist as a volunteer or make casseroles. Donations for the August 15 parking lot giveaway are appreciated as well as assistance that day.

Many hands continue to do many things.



3. [SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2015](#)

ELT Scholarships	50.00
Human Relations Sunday	335.00
Native American Sunday	261.00
No More Malaria	12.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	406.00
Peace With Justice	201.00
People's Kitchen food	288.43
People's Kitchen Misc.	4,426.00
Rev. Lang Mission Fund	5,000.00
South County Food Bank	<u>288.45</u>
6 MONTHS TOTAL:	\$11,267.88

A THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<p>2 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 11:45 AM Church Council (MMR) Coffee Hour Host: Church Council</p>	<p>3 Pastor's Day Off 1 PM EM Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>	<p>4 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9:00 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5:00 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L)</p>	<p>5 8:30 AM People's Kitchen Team Prep-Day (K) 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 9:15 AM Storytime with Pastor & Goodie Bear (N) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 6 PM Adult Bible Study (CH)</p>	<p>6 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9:15 AM Storytime with Pastor & Goodie Bear (N) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 11:30 AM People's Kitchen - leave to serve</p>	<p>7 Spirit Day at AG UM CC - wear your shirts! 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 3:30 PM AG UM CC Closed</p>	<p>8 8:00 AM UMW Spiritual Retreat (home of a member) 5:30 PM Praise Team Set-Up (S) 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice (S)</p>
<p>9 Potluck To Welcome Our New Pastor Mary! 10:30 AM One Service (no 8:30 AM service) 11:45 AM Congregational Care Team (L) 11:45 AM Worship Team (MMR)</p>	<p>10 Pastor's Day Off 1 PM EM Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>	<p>11 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L) 7:00 PM Trustees</p>	<p>12 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9:00 AM Church Work Day 10:00 AM UMW Steering (L) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 6 PM Adult Bible Study (CH)</p>	<p>13 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 12PM Esther Circle (MMR) 7:00 PM Finance Team (MMR)</p>	<p>14 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 12 PM Newsletter Deadline for Articles— Church Office</p>	<p>15 8:00 AM Parking Lot Giveaway (Parking Lot, CH, K, N,) Event Time 11AM to 2 PM</p>
<p>16 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour Host: Staff Parish Relations Committee</p>	<p>17 Pastor's Day Off 1 PM EM Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>	<p>18 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) Preschool Board (MMR) 1:30 PM Open session 2:30 Closed session 5 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L) 7 PM JOY Circle (at home of a member)</p>	<p>19 8:30 AM People's Kitchen Team Prep-Day (K) 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 10 AM Communications Committee (CH) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 6 PM Adult Bible Study (CH)</p>	<p>20 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 11:30 AM People's Kitchen - leave to serve</p>	<p>21  8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 6 PM Family Movie Night "Sound of Music Sing-Along" SHOWTIME: 6:30 PM (S) Set Up for Memorial Service (CH)</p>	<p>22 11 AM Bob Atwood Memorial Service (S, CH) 5:30 PM Praise Team Set-Up (S) 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice (S)</p>
<p>23 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour Host: Esther Circle</p>	<p>24 Pastor's Day off 1 PM EM Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>	<p>25 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L)</p>	<p>26 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 9:30 AM Mary-Martha (MMR) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 6 PM Adult Bible Study (CH)</p>	<p>27 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L)</p>	<p>28 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour Host: Mission Team</p>	<p>31 Pastor's Day Off 1 PM EM Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>					

Meet Our
**CHURCH
STAFF**

Church Office: (805) 481-2692
E-mail: fumcag@scbglobal.net
Find us on Facebook at: United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande
www.facebook.com/fumcag

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

Missionary (retired)/Lay Leader:

Judy Atwood

Office Administrator:

Frances Robertson

Website Manager: Jamie Foster

Choir Director: Julie Burns

Praise Team Director: Susan Coho

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. James Powell

AG UM Children's Center

Director: Madrigal Quaglino

E-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net

Office: (805) 481-2223



Chair: Joe Brown

Members At Large (alphabetically):

Judy Atwood, David Beaman, Pastor Mary Birgelaitis, Judy Leonard, Virginia Mothes, Frances Robertson.

Layout Editor: Frances Robertson

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

Other contributors:

Varied Teams/Committees

**Deadline for September Issue
Friday, August 14, at Noon**

PLEASE NOTE:

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

And Who Is The Grand Winner of the Sew 'n' Sews
"Birds of America" Lovingly-Made Quilt?



She is little Miss Julia Weitkamp,
with her mother Crystal, and her grandmother Sally.
Congratulations! And thank you to the Sew 'n' Sews!



Plan To Join Us !

**Potluck Luncheon on
Sunday, August 9**

To Welcome
Pastor Mary Birgelaitis

**Criswell Hall, following the
Combined Worship Service**

Bring your favorite dish !



**The Church has a staff opening for a
part time Youth Director!**

**Please contact the church office
for a job description and an application.**

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

**Key Volunteer Positions of the Church
Need To Be Filled**

Chair—Worship Team

Chair—Christian Education Team

*If you are interested or would like more information,
please contact the Pastor via the church office.*



Tina Moore	Aug 1
Priscilla Alquist	Aug 2
William Bauske	Aug 3
Fern Farmer	Aug 6
John Romanelli	Aug 7
Nancy St. Laurent	Aug 8
Bob Lowry	Aug 9
Virginia Mothes	Aug 9
Trudy Romanelli	Aug 11
John MacKeen	Aug 12
Bill Gerrish	Aug 13
Jerrelyn Trujillo	Aug 14
Nancy Gerrish	Aug 17
Nancy Burns	Aug 20
Joseph Brown	Aug 23
Cristy Van Hook	Aug 24
Niki Raetz	Aug 26
Charles Burns	Aug 28
Peter Paredes	Aug 28
Cecile Huggins	Aug 30
Wyatt Russell	Aug 31

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

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated books to the Church Library. They are waiting on a special shelf to be checked out! Some books went to the Giveaway for the homeless.

NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE

- | | |
|---|---|
| Jesus Through the Centuries | High Calling |
| Big, Easy Home Fixups | We Were the Mul- |
| House on Main Street | vaneys |
| Touch Points for Women | Earth Abide |
| Outcasts United | God Calling |
| Living Light | We Wait You |
| Cost of Discipleship | Breaking Free |
| How Is It With Your Soul? | Disappointment With God |
| Silence | Just Choose Happiness |
| A Long Way Home | Knowing God |
| Ultimate Journey | Sold |
| The Cross | Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage |
| Proof of Heaven | Death of Money |
| Great Controversy | Counter Attack |
| Prayer For Teens | Half The Sky |

Jan Herber

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

Find us on Facebook at United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande
www.facebook.com/fumcag

IN THIS ISSUE

COVER STORY:

A Message from Pastor
Mary Birgelaitis

- Itinerancy in UMC2
- Adult Christian Ed. Calendar.....3
- UMM News, Ministries.....4
- UMW News, Spiritual Retreat... 5
- Church Directory, Outreach.....6
- Trustees, Book Club7
- Kids' News and Joy Jar.....8
- Mission Team News 9
- Calendar.....10
- Staffing News, The Quilt!..... .11
- Parking Lot Giveaway, Library. 12
- Children's Center Chronicle

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF ARROYO GRANDE

PARKING LOT

GIVEAWAY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 11 AM TO 2 PM

- SOCKS
- CLOTHING
- BACKPACKS
- SLEEPING BAGS
- BEDDING
- BLANKETS



Everything is FREE including coffee, cake & cookies for our guests!

- **Volunteers are always needed to help—check with the Ashtons.**

**HELPING THOSE IN NEED
IN OUR COMMUNITY**