

Coffee Hour



5th Communications
12th Easter Brunch
19th Children's Center
BBQ & Book Fair
26th 125th Anniversary
Committee

Coffee Hour responsibilities include the set-up and clean-up of the coffee pots and providing refreshments for both the 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM Coffee Hour times in Criswell Hall.
Thank you!

APRIL

Events of UMC of AG

1st Senior Health Screening
Lenten Study
2nd People's Kitchen
Red Umbrella
4th Flute Fun Master-class
5th **Palm Sunday**
Green Umbrella
6th SPRC Meeting
7th Trustees
Care-Ring
8th **Lenten Study**
9th **Maundy Thursday Service**
Esther Circle
10th **Good Friday Ecumenical Service** at St. Patrick's

11th **Holy Saturday Breakfast RUMP**
Praise Team Rehearsal
12th **Easter Sunday Breakfast and Egg Hunt**
14th Communications
15th Mary-Martha Circle
16th Preschool
Church Council
18th UMM Breakfast
19th **Children's Center Book Fair BBQ and Fund Raiser**
Music for a Sunday Afternoon~ SLO County Band
21st JOY Circle
25th Praise Team Rehearsal
26th BBQ at Weimer's Ranch



Bishop: Mary Ann Swenson
Superintendent: Rev. Cathleen Coots
Pastor: Rev. David Burgeson
Min. of Visitation: Rev. Harold Headrick
Secretary/ Newsletter: Sarah Barber
Bookkeeper: Victoria Gandy
Website Manager: Jamie Foster

Music Director: Julie Walters
Praise Team Leader: Susan Coho
Organist: Don McGuire
Puppet People: Willy Ford-Raetz & Mike Herber
Grande Ringers Director: Leonard Lutz
Youth Directors: Mike & Linda Herber

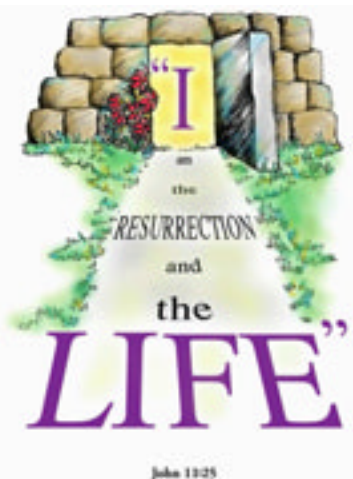
Christian Education Director: Hilary Henderson
United Methodist Children's Center AG UM Children's Center Director: Madrigal (Maddy) Quaglino
e-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net (805) 481-2223

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Cast~A~Net April

"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

Come and experience the joyous display of loyalty to Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. "Hosanna! Jesus, Come and Saves Us Now," the people shouted waving palm branches honoring the long awaited King.

Join us **Palm Sunday** at our **8:30 AM** or **10:30 AM** worship on **April 5th** for a multi-generational "procession of the palms." Bring your family and come as we ready our hearts to begin Holy Week.



On this night Christians commemorate the supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion, when he washed his disciples feet and instituted the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Join us for our **Maundy Thursday** communion service on **April 9th** at **7 PM** in our sanctuary. We will be joined by our men's choir as they sing "Beautiful Savior".



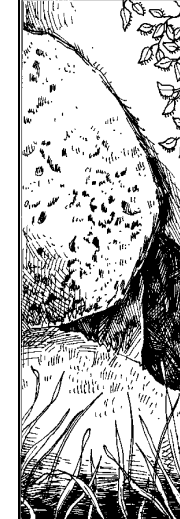
Good Friday is a day when we remember the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ. **St. Patrick's Catholic Church** will host an ecumenical service on **April 10th** at **3 PM** with liturgy from the Gospel of Matthew and the traditional passing of the cross through the congregation.



The theme this year is "**Christ's Passion Through the Eyes of Children.**" Join us as our own Pastor David M. Burgeson and youth group member Carina Avila will participate in this special community service.

The Pharisees recalled Jesus' claim that he would rise three days after death. Fearful the disciples might steal the body and insist that he had risen, guards were posted at the tomb.

This **Holy Saturday** was A Day of *Quiet Hope* for Jesus' followers as they mourned the Christ and waited in anticipation for his promise to be fulfilled. Join us **April 11th** at **9 AM** in Criswell Hall for a breakfast and meditation hosted by the Green Umbrella and our UM Youth.



"**Three Word Message**" is the title of Pastor David M. Burgeson's Easter message for this celebration Sunday.

We can't give away these three choice words. You will have to come and join us on April 12th to hear them for yourself and find out the **TRUTH** about Easter.

The glorious music of Easter at both the 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM services will celebrate the resurrection with our Praise Team and Chancel Choir. The sanctuary will be adorned with Easter banners, Paraments, our special Easter lilies.

An **Easter Brunch** will be held in **Criswell Hall** following the services. The children will have an **Easter Egg Hunt** at **9:45 AM** and share in the 10:30 AM worship service. We invite you, your family and friends to join us!

Christ the Lord is Risen as He said!

HE IS NOT HERE; HE IS RISEN!



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Layout Editor: Sarah Barber
Proofers: Sarah Barber, David Beaman, and Virginia Mothes
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 Articles for consideration must be submitted by this date.
Address Updates: Do you want to be removed from our mailing list? Need to update your information or add a friend? Contact our church office at (805) 481-2692 or e-mail us at fumcag@sbcglobal.net



Pastor David Burgeson



Dear Friends,

I am looking forward to the journey to the cross and celebrating Easter with you.

I hope you will participate in many of your church's activities and programs this month. As I did last month, I want to give you a the sermon titles and scripture for each Sunday.

Date	Scripture & Sermon Title
April 5 - Palm Sunday	Mark 11:1-11 <i>Sunday's Coming</i>
April 12 - Easter Sunday	John 20:1-18 <i>Three Word Message</i>
April 19 - AG Children's Center Sunday	John 20:19-31 <i>Doubt vs. Belief</i>
April 26 - ELT Scholarship Sunday	Luke 24: 36-48 <i>Here's Your Sign</i>

Also two more Lenten Study dates with their topics:

Date	Study Topics
April 1	<i>Promised Hope</i>
April 8	<i>Passionate Trust</i>

See you in church-
Bring a friend!

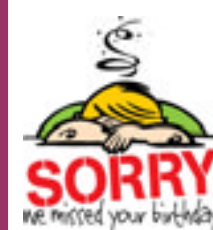
David

ATTENDANCE Is Your Pledge Up To Date?

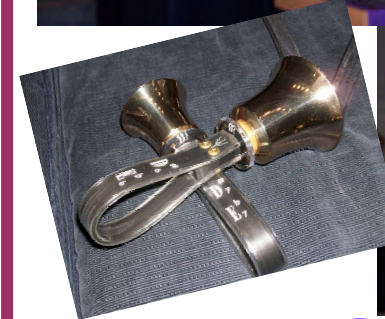
March 2009 (as of 3/22)		March 2009 (as of 3/22)	
1st	178	<u>Monthly Goal</u>	\$ 22,220.
8th	160	<u>Received to date</u>	\$20,767.
15th	208	<u>Difference</u>	
22nd	180		
Sunday Average = 182		Figures rounded to the nearest dollar \$ 1,453.	



Esther Miller	4/4
Amber Burgeson	4/5
Patti Melsheimer	4/6
Ryan Bailey	4/7
Sadie Gandy-Barber	4/9
Don Gugeler	4/11
Jacquelyne James	4/12
Ashley Herber	4/13
Randy Dobbs	4/16
Dorothy Novo	4/18
Rose Marie Bailey	4/22
Bob Woods	4/25
Simon DeVos	4/29
Mac Stransky	4/29



*Did we miss your birthday?
Would you like to have you or a family member recognized?
Let us know!*



More fun with our church family



Another Spectacular "Spud"-tacular!

Not a spud was left to tell the tale, Pictured above is Hilary Henderson, our new Christian Education Director and long time member. What a great potato washer! Lexi Raetz pictured at right is busy with her mother Nikki, chopping away at the toppings. Above at right are our the UM young men busy "supervising" ! Fun was had by all! Thanks everyone!



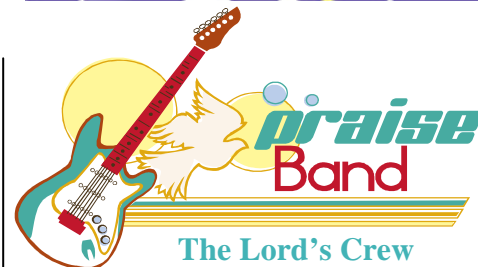


Choir to Participate in Holy Week

The Chancel Choir has been busy preparing for Holy Week. Join us on Palm Sunday when the Choir will perform the anthem "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna". The Choir will also perform for the Maundy Thursday Service where the men will sing "Beautiful Savior". Holy week will conclude with choir will perform an anthem and end the service with the familiar "Hallelujah Chorus" on Easter Sunday. Plan to attend all three services as we journey with Christ from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem to his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

We look forward to participating in the Central Coast Cluster Choir Festival on May 3rd. Preparations for will begin soon. This year the Festival will be held in our sanctuary. More details will be in the next Cast~A~Net. Make plans to attend this exciting 125th Anniversary event. The Choir rehearses every Wednesday from 7- 8:30 PM in our church sanctuary. New members are always welcome. See you there!! Kent Unsworth, *Choir Publicity*

APRIL



The Lord's Crew is a praise band of worship leaders who leads our congregation during our Contemporary Worship Service at 8:30 AM every Sunday morning under the direction of Susan Coho.

REHEARSAL DATES

(REHEARSALS BEGIN AT 6:30PM AND SET-UP AT 5:30 PM)

11TH REHEARSAL
25TH REHEARSAL



"Surely he hath
borne our grief
and carried our
sorrows."

Isaiah 53:4



Let me introduce myself, my name is Hilary Henderson. My family, husband Norman, son Jordan and I have been members of the First United Methodist Church for 14 years. Norman serves on the Trustees and has recently become involved with the United Methodist Men; Jordan is an active member of the youth group; and Jordan and I have both played in the Handbell Choir for several years.

We often hear that God opens doors and we are supposed to walk through. What you don't often hear is that sometimes God doesn't wait for you to walk. He pushes you through anyway. This is what has happened to me. Ask me about how got led me to this position. I would love to share the story with you.

As the Director of Christian Education, I will use this space to communicate with the congregation, to make announcements, and to ask for your help and prayers. Please feel free to contact me at church or you are welcome to call my home, my number is in the church directory.

God Bless and see you in church! ~ Hilary



THE JAPANESE COMMUNITY OF THE ARROYO GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

by David Beaman

Over the years of our church history there has been considerable interaction with members of the Japanese Community. A recent interview/discussion with Mr. Kaz Ikeda and some members of our church; Jean Hubbard, Gladys and Bill Paulsen and I, helped clarify some details of interest.

Kaz was born in King City, CA in 1918 when his father worked at Speckles' Sugar. At a very young age he, along with his mother and some of his siblings, traveled to Japan to attend school to learn the traditional Japanese customs and language. He returned before age 6 when the family moved to Arroyo Grande in 1929 where they worked as vegetable farmers. His father, and many other Japanese families, wanted the children to become Christians. They found the Methodist Church in the village to be friendly and welcoming, especially in the Sunday School classes for the children.

One particularly interesting item, identified in the research of church historian, Jean Hubbard, is the water color copy of an original painting by the artist Hoffmann, "Christ In Gethsemane" that currently hangs in the McMillen Room. On Mother's Day, May 8, 1936, this painting was presented to the church by the Japanese Community and was displayed on the wall behind the pulpit in the church in the village for many years.

The period after Pearl Harbor and during WW II was a very traumatic time for the Japanese and for American citizens. Each side had very strong feelings of victimization or patriotism and very great distrust of one another. The fear for the



"Christ In Gethsemane" is the title of this painting by Hoffmann which hangs in the McMillen Room.

potential of west coast invasion of the US led to government decisions which caused major disruption of the Japanese families. Many were ordered to report to Assembly Areas. They hand carried all their belongings for transport to Relocation or Detention Camps far away their San Luis Obispo county homes. In light of this, some Japanese men did in fact serve in the US Armed Forces such as 442nd Division. Many, like Kaz, were American citizens swept up in the throes of wartime. After the war was over many never returned. Those that did, had to start their lives all over again.

In the middle and later years of the 1960s our current church building, at 275 North Halcyon Road, was under construction and members of the Japanese Community participated in that work with carpentry and labor. Also, they specifically donated and graded all of the installed landscaping as a contribution to the building project.

During the years when the church held those unique, all-day, *Deep Pit Barbecue* fund raising events the Japanese Community always supplied, made and mixed the massive amounts of salad required to fill the plates of the hungry congregation and loyal community customers.

Kaz openly reflected how in these more recent years, the local Japanese Community numbers have diminished considerably from the time of his youth. We want them to know we respect and appreciate their ethics, manners, loyalty and historical heritage. Especially the association we happily share.



UNITED METHODIST MEN

Happy 125th FUMCAG!

The Methodist Men Elect New Officeers

At The Meeting

On March 21st, the United Methodist Men elected a new slate of officers for now and the coming year. Filling the new positions are:

Tom Egan	President
Dick Melsheimer	VP and Program Chair
Wayne Huggins	Treasurer
Val McClure	UMM Communications

A standing ovation was given to Dick Gainer, the outgoing interim president, for his outstanding performance in club leadership for the past year.

The meeting also included an excellent presentation by Steve Tanaka on the current and future needs of water in our county, state and the world.

Next meeting

Scheduled for 8:30 AM on April 18th at the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach, our group will use the Conference Room off the main floor of the Lobby. Program will be our own Don Guegler will present a program on a visit he and Helen took to South Korea with the SLO Symphony. Don is going to play some excerpts from the music the group performed on that trip.

Other Up-coming Events

May 9th	Work Party at Camp AG
May 30th	UMM will set up for the Tabernacle Worship Service at Camp AG
May 31st	AG UMC will worship at the Camp AG Tabernacle
June 20th	UMM BBQ at the home of The Melsheimer's

God Bless you! Val McClure, *UMM Publicity*

Everett Lee Taylor Scholarships Available

The Everett Lee Taylor Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1990 to help defray the cost of college education for deserving members of our church family. Over the course of the last eighteen years, thirty-five church members have received financial assistance in excess of \$28,500.

Scholarship applications for the 2009-10 academic year are currently available from the church office, Monday—Friday between the hours of 9 AM and 1 PM. First time applicants need to submit completed applications, including two (2) letters of reference and a letter of the student's educational goals. Former recipients applying need to submit a new application and a letter describing college or university experiences and future goals, as well as a current college transcript to show they are in good standing. Please return these materials to the church office no later than May 15th. Recipients will be honored on Youth Sunday in June.

If you or someone you know at the church could use some academic financial aid, please encourage them to apply. The applicant must be a full-time student at a university or technical school and must be an active member of our church.

You may also donate to the Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship Fund at any time. Without continued donations, eventually we will not be able to continue our support of our deserving church members.



Alfred Henry Ackley was born in Pennsylvania in 1887. He showed great promise as a child, and his musician-father personally tutored him before sending him to New York City to study music.

From there, it was on to the Royal Academy of Music in London. Alfred then returned to the States to attend Westminster Seminary in Maryland, and he was ordained into the Presbyterian ministry in 1914. After pastoring a church in his home state of Pennsylvania, Alfred was called to a congregation in California.

It was there in 1932, that Alfred met a Jewish man to whom he began witnessing. But the man resisted the Christian faith, saying, "Why should I worship a dead Jew?"

That statement played on Alfred's mind as he prepared his Easter Sunday message. Rising early to prepare for the day, Alfred flipped on the radio as he shaved and was astonished to hear a famous liberal preacher in New York say: "Good morning -- it's Easter! You know, folks, it really doesn't make any difference to me if Christ be risen or not. As far as I am concerned, His body could be as dust in some Palestinian tomb. The main thing is, His truth goes marching on!"

Alfred wanted to fling the radio across the room. "It's a lie!" he exclaimed. His wife rushed into the bathroom, asking, "Why are you shouting so early in the morning?"

"Didn't you hear what that good-for-nothing preacher said?" Alfred replied.

That morning, Ackley preached with great vigor on the reality of Christ's Resurrection, and he did the same at the evening service. But later that night, he was still exercised over his friend's question and the morning's radio sermon. "Listen here, Alfred Ackley," his wife said at last. "It's time you did that which you can do best. Why don't you write a song about it and then maybe you'll feel better?"

Alfred went to his study, opened the Bible, and re-read the Resurrection account from Mark's Gospel. A thrill went through him, and he began writing the words to "He Lives." A few minutes later, he was at the piano putting it to music, not dreaming it would become one of the church's most triumphant Easter hymns.

Source: fbccrescent.org

He Lives

Written by Albert Ackley
(Inspired by God!)

VERSE 1

I serve a risen Savior,
he's in the world today;
I know that he is living,
whatever men may say;
I see his hand of mercy,
I hear his voice of cheer,
And just the time I need
him he's always near.

CHORUS

He lives, He lives, Christ
Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and
talks with me
Along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives,
salvation to impart!
You ask me how
I know he lives:
He lives within my heart!

*"He is not here;
for He is risen,
as He said."
Matthew 28:6a*

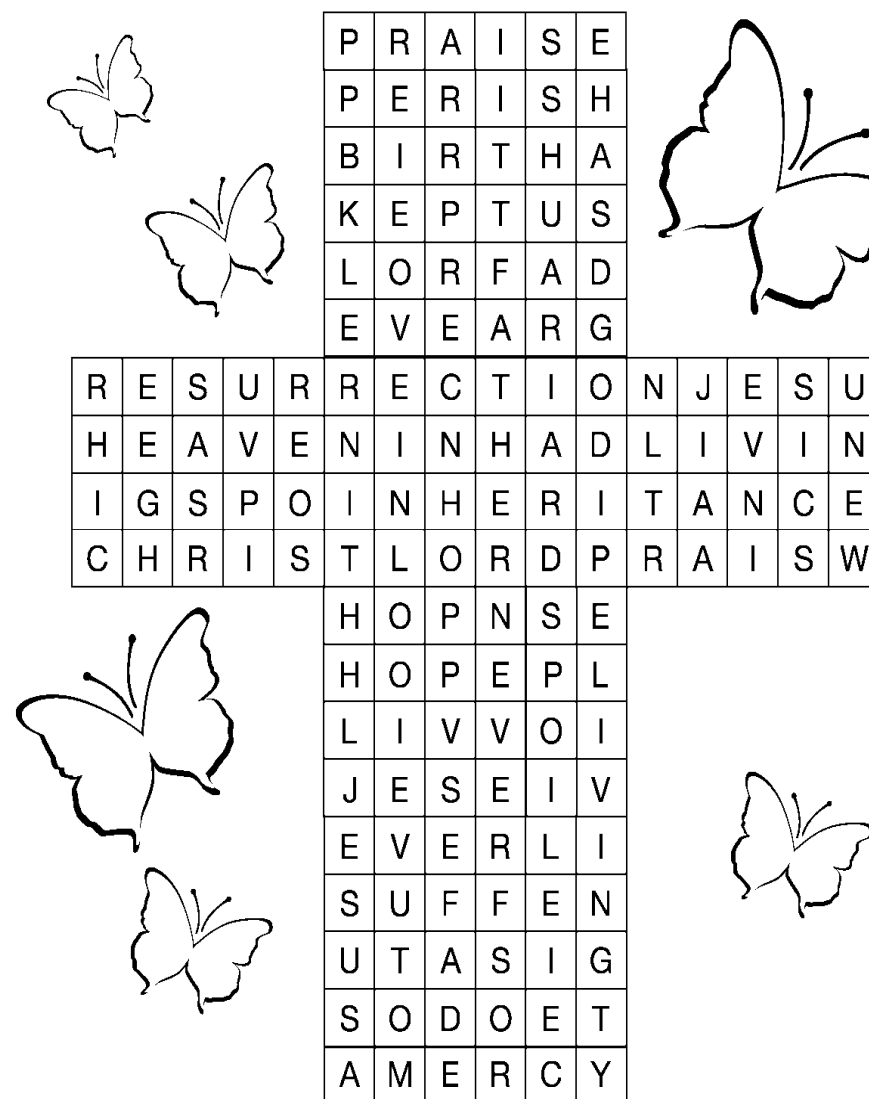
Alleluia!
HE IS ALIVE!



OUR LIVING HOPE

Easter is a time to rejoice because of what God did for us in sending his Son. Jesus is our living hope. Read 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV) below. Then find the **bold** words in the crossword search.

"Praise be to the **God** and **Father** of our **Lord Jesus Christ!** In his great **mercy** he has given us **new birth** into a **living hope** through the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an **inheritance** that can **never perish, spoil or fade** — **kept in heaven** for you"



EASTER CARD

Many symbols remind us of Jesus' death and resurrection. This Easter, put some of those symbols on special cards. Then give the cards to other people to share the good news that Jesus is alive.

What you need:

- Craft foam
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- Empty food can without label
- Paint and paintbrush
- Paper plate
- Paper (8 1/2" x 11")
- Markers or crayons



What you do:

1. Choose some simple Easter shapes to draw on the craft foam (cross, empty tomb, heart, etc.).
2. Cut out each shape.
3. With an adult's help, glue the shapes onto the can.
4. Pour a thin layer of paint onto a paper plate.
5. Roll the can in the paint and then roll the can onto the paper.
6. Try this several times using different colors.
7. When your paper is dry, fold it into a card.
8. Write "Happy Easter!" or a Bible verse on the front of the card. Then give it to someone.



Trustees Report March 2009

From Tom Egan, *Trustee Chair*

- The AG UM CC submitted a request to plant two trees in the courtyard for shade to the classrooms. They also requested to build their sand box. After much discussion, the Board felt the trees eventually will up root the cement, so no trees. But since the reason for the trees was to provide shade and cool down the rooms, an alternative plan will be discussed. The Board and AG UM CC will in cooperation select a suitable place for the sandbox. It was suggested that the entrance gate at each end be closed off. This will remove the desire of the children to climb the gates and therefore no gate will need to be built. This was approved and will be done.
- The Boy Scouts have been having a hard time raising money for their project and that is why nothing has been started.
- The termites and ants have been taken care of. We will now have a bi-monthly treatment for the ants. This will be in the kitchen, Criswell Hall and the upstairs youth room.
- Parking lot lights mounted on the roof of the classrooms do not come on. This is due to the timer that they are connected to needs to be replaced. It will be done.
- Both doors to Criswell Hall were open.
- It was noted that the pre-school sign in front was so close to the larger lighted sign that when traveling in a car, you could not read the larger sign. The pre-school sign was then moved back to give motorists time to read both signs.
- A water proof sealant was applied to the rain gutters and the wood facing that they are mounted to. This will stop the rain from dripping on you head as your enter the Narthex from either side. The test is set.

Methodist Men to Hold Memorial Golf Tournament



The United Methodist Men are planning to honor Carl Kliesch and raise money for youth Summer Camp scholarships when they hold "The Carl Kliesch Memorial Golf Tournament" at the Pismo State Beach Golf Course on Saturday, May 2nd. The 9 hole scramble format will accommodate 4 or 5 person teams and the entry fee will include lunch at nearby Fin's Seafood Restaurant immediately after the Tournament. Shotgun Start is scheduled for 8 AM. Entry fee is \$36 which includes the tournament play, lunch and special prizes. Tournament is open to all, both men and women, who will enjoy Fish & Chips, or Half Pound Burger and Fries served with a choice of soup, salad or coleslaw as part of the event. Prizes will be awarded for:

- Closest to the Pin
- Low Gross Score for 1st & 2nd place teams.

There will also be a 50/50 Raffle Drawing. Tickets will be available for the event in Criswell Hall after each church service. Teams are limited, so you need to get your ticket early. For further information call Bud Johnson at 343 0916. Tickets will also be available from the Church Office.

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."

Women's Circles

All ladies are welcome!

Please join us at any of our three friendly UMW Circles here at our church. We welcome all ladies with open arms to the following groups who meet each month.

Esther Circle meets the second Thursday of each month at noon in the McMillen Room at our church. This month we meet on April 9th. In addition to good Christian fellowship, we will continue to study—*The Native Americans*.

JOY Circle meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at a member's home. Our April meeting will be on the 21st at the home of **Rosemary MacKeen**. Please contact the church office for the address. The JOY Circle is studying a book by Trevor Hudson titled, "Questions God Asks Us."

Mary-Martha Circle meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the McMillen Room at our church April 15th at 9:30 AM. We will continue our study about the Native Americans.

Join us for study, loving fellowship and outreach.

Sincerely~ Ann Williamson
 UMW Publicity

UMW Holiday Boutique Saturday, November 14th, 2009

This special sale will include both seasonal and general craft and gift items. We will need all of your help to create the numerous items needed to make this boutique sale successful. If you would like to contribute any fruits of your labor and talents, start creating now! We hope that many will participate and donate time and energy to the sale. Please contact Virginia Mothes with ideas or for more info.

Yikes! It's April Already! Wasn't it just Christmas?!?

Happy Spring to all of you. Sometimes it's easy to let time get away from us. In our rushing around, we need to take the time to slow down and make sure we are walking with the Lord. We have the opportunity to pray together, study together, study our faith, enjoy fellowship with caring friends and work together for the benefit of a world larger than just ourselves. This is all available to us through our activities in the United Methodist Women.

As stated so well in the book of Joshua, "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

One focus of our UMW mission work is children. It is our belief that if children are raised with safety, security, food, shelter, education and basic human rights, these children will grow to be loving and secure adults. United Methodist Women believe deeply in responding to Jesus' mandate to "care for the least of us."

Children often do not have a voice in the world, so United Methodist Women care for them and advocate on their behalf. One sees this commitment globally through community centers, educational opportunities for refugee children, homes for street children, advocacy against sexual exploitation and child labor, educational institutions and much more. United Methodist Women are involved in more than 100 mission institutions and in more than 10 countries around the world.

The Healthy Corner

By Patti Melsheimer

Advance Directives

What in the world is an *Advance Health Care Directive* you may ask! An Advance Health Care Directive is the best way to make sure that your health care wishes are known and considered if for any reason you are unable to speak for yourself. The California Medical Association (CMA) strongly recommends that everyone complete an Advance Health Care Directive so that there will be someone you trust to actively participate in the decisions surrounding your health care.

By completing this form, California law allows you to: first, appoint another person to be your health care "agent" who will have legal authority to make decisions about your medical care if you become unable to make these decisions for yourself. And second, it allows you to write down your health care wishes—for example, a desire not to receive treatment that only prolongs the dying process if you are terminally ill. Your doctor and your agent must follow your lawful instructions.

The Advance Health Care Directive is now the legally recognized format for a living will in California and has replaced the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (or "DPAHC") as the legally recognized document for appointing a health care agent in California. It allows you to state your wishes about refusing or accepting life-sustaining treatment in any situation. It can be used to state your desires about your health care in any situation in which you are unable to make your own decisions, not just when you are in a coma or are terminally ill. In addition, it allows you to appoint someone you trust to speak for you when you are incapacitated. Any California resident who is at least eighteen (18) years old (or is an emancipated minor), of sound mind, and acting of his or her own free will can complete a valid Advance Health Care Directive. You do not need a lawyer to assist you in completing an Advance Health Care Directive form. You can appoint almost any adult to be your agent. It is important that you talk to the people you plan to appoint to make sure they understand your wishes and agree to accept this responsibility. An Advance Health Care Directive is valid forever, unless you revoke it or state in the form a specific date on which you want it to expire.

When you complete the form, make sure that it has been properly signed, dated, and either notarized or witnessed by two qualified individuals (the form includes instructions about who can and cannot be a witness). Keep the original in a safe place where your loved ones can find it quickly. Give copies of the completed form to the people you have appointed as your agent and alternate agent(s), to your doctor(s) and health plan, and to family members or anyone else who is likely to be called if there is a medical emergency. Take a copy of the form with you if you are going to be admitted to a hospital, nursing home or other health care facility. You can revoke or change an Advance Health Care Directive at any time. If you revoke or change your directive, you should notify every person or facility that has a copy of your prior directive and provide them with a new one. You may obtain an Advance Health Care Directive form from your doctor, your hospital, your attorney, or on line at <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov>.



UM Youth News

This just in....the Spudtacular was totally fully baked and a great success!!! Our best Spudtacular ever! We raised \$1071 to go into our Camp Colby camping funds. Thanks to all who bought tickets, those who bought tickets and donated them, those who just donated money, and to everyone who gave of their time and talents to make sure that everyone left stuffed. Many thanks and appreciation to the youth and their parents who helped with set up, cooking, and clean up. Wow Normie you can sauté! Thanks to Pastor David and his excellent bacon testing skills (see picture). Thanks to the Green Umbrella crew for all their help and donations of toppings. Thanks to Jim Johnson for his donation of avocados and his daughter Karen Wise (who helped by bringing into town).



If you liked the potatoes feed, please mark your calendars and plan on attending the Holy Saturday Breakfast on April 11th at 9 AM, with food prepared by the youth and their parents and a time of meditation and reflection in preparation for Easter Sunday. Donations are welcome.

We continue to meet on Wednesday and Sundays and welcome newcomers. Last week we learned a great lesson that some things aren't what they seem and maybe toothpaste, frosting, and Crisco all look the same on the end of toothbrush. Ask a member of our youth group how this tied into the lesson on Lot's wife.

We are anxiously preparing for youth Sunday which will be on June 14th.

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM in our Youth Lounge as we discover God in the life of an American teen.



BEHOLD, CHRIST HAS RISEN!



Wherever two or more are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst ~Matthew 18:20



Do you have a special prayer request? Do you have a praise to share? Simply bring it to our Prayer Chain by contacting **Betty Ann Quintana at 773-2896** and she will begin the process. The Prayer Chain is available to any and all who are in need of prayer for themselves or for others.

Requests can remain anonymous.

Every **Thursday at 10 AM**, a group of dedicated prayer warriors, known as the **Intercessory Prayer Group**, meets in the Library to prayer for our church family and the requests mentioned over the week both in services, in the prayer book and via prayer chain. We invite any who would like to serve and join these people as they lift up these requests to the Lord. Contact the church office for more information.



The **Women of Prayer** is a non-denominational women's group that meet at **7 PM on Mondays** 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. Please contact Susan Coho.

Many thanks to our Church Family

To our church family,

We would like to thank you for the many phone calls, notes, cards and the rides to our doctor's appointments. The love and attention are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Warren and Yvonne Holt

These are thank you notes from various members of our church family and their families

Dear family,

Everyday we pray for our loved ones, our country and people we don't even know. My mom Betty is a member of your church family. I have attended a few times. Some very sad. Some I will never forget, like calling on angels Isaiah 9:2—7. That works great for me.

I heard that message on the last in December before my brother went into ICU. Then everything changed. My mom was alone....my brother in ICU...what could I do?

I live in Orange County. I hate to drive. (etc.) Well the Holy Spirit pulled that message out of my memory and I "called on the angels."

Next thing I know, I'm in my car driving to Santa Maria. Weeks pass and I'm back at home feeling empty. I prayed for the angels to be near my mom and for the Lord to watch over my brother.

I called this church and asked for prayer. Not only did I get your prayers, but also your kindness too for my mom. Thank you so much.

Mark is out of ICU and doing better. Yes, we pray everyday. Our Lord listens!!

~ Brenda Ballew (Betty Lorenz's daughter)



Two Great Celebrations 135 Years of Music & 125 Years of Service !

**SLO COUNTY BAND TO PERFORM ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT
SUNDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 19th
at the Arroyo Grande First United Methodist Church**

The San Luis Obispo County Band will be joining in the celebration of our church's 125th anniversary by performing their annual spring concert, at our church on Sunday afternoon, April 19th, at 3:00 pm. The program theme is "135 Years of Music", commemorating the Band's 135th Anniversary year and will contain music for concert bands by composers from Ippolitov-Ivanov to John Williams. Tunes from the classics, Broadway and Hollywood, and Dixieland jazz will be on tap. The Band is under the direction of Leonard Lutz.

There is no admission charge for the concert but a free-will donation will be taken at the door. Call 543-5691 or see website slocountyband.org for more information.



These words were spoken to a crowd in one of the books of the New Testament :

"This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

Who said those words?

- A. Paul
- B. Peter
- C. John
- D. Luke

Answer: B (See Acts 2:32, NRSV.)



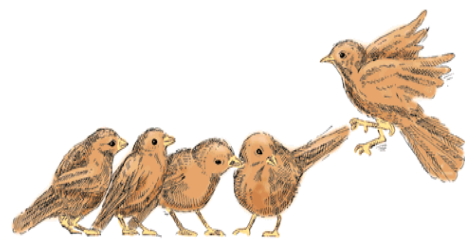
RUMP

Retired United Methodist Persons

We invite all retired persons to attend a noon potluck in the McMillen Room on the second Saturday each month.

April 11, 2009

Contact the church office or Bob and Vel Lowry for information on future RUMP events.



OUR CHURCH WELCOMES

We want to take a minute to introduce you to some new members of our church family. Please join us in welcoming Paul Collagan, Pamela Motley, Mike and Marian Balster, Bernie and MaryAnn Hawkins who were welcomed in , along with Gary Hughes and Jerrelyn Trujillo who joined our church at the end of last year.

Each of these new brothers and sisters in Christ are a blessing. We praise God that he lead these special people to our church. Please be sure to seek them out during church services and introduce yourself.

OH...and wear your name tag! This is a good way to help them remember your name as well as any new visitors to our church.

Dates to Remember

- Palm Sunday, April 5
- Holy Week, April 5-11
- Maundy Thursday, April 9
- Good Friday, April 10
- Holy Saturday, April 11
- Easter Day, April 12
- Administrative Professionals Day, April 22



First Come – First Served!

A few Sunday's ago I strolled into the UMCAG sanctuary early service when I noticed a stranger sitting in my "favorite" aisle seat, in the center pew. However, without any hesitation, I sat in another seat. After all, I respect and follow the first come-first served principle when it comes to seating or waiting in line. The rule of thumb for this principle, you get there first, the vacant seat is yours to sit in provided there are no "reserved section signs" posted for special seating arrangements, etc.

Does anyone have a right to claim an occupied seat? We know names are not assigned on a pew seat nor should we expect a reserved seat sign except at special events. Regular church members out of respect will normally avoid sitting in seats where known older members and members with disabilities like to gather and sit together. But that doesn't mean a particular seat will always be available and reserved for you to occupy if you arrive late. And for first-time visitors they deserve our extra attention in feeling welcome.

Would you ask anyone to move because they're sitting in your regular seat? I would anticipate a person occupying your preferred seat would be offended and any rudeness considered improper in a church setting. If it were a first time visitor good chances are that he or she will be looking for another church to attend the following Sunday.

Is it really worth the risk of looking foolish and selfish all at the same time? It just makes good Christian sense and shows thoughtfulness and concern for saving the church from any form of embarrassment and in my opinion "rude behavior" could challenge our universal UMC creed: "Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors."

A church forum in 2008 speaks out - You're sitting in my pew/seat!

"I was at church one Sunday when I overheard some people complaining about people sitting in "their" pew. Personally, I think that it's immature to think that a particular church pew or chair belongs to you, just because you prefer to sit there. If someone is sitting in your favorite spot, just sit somewhere else."

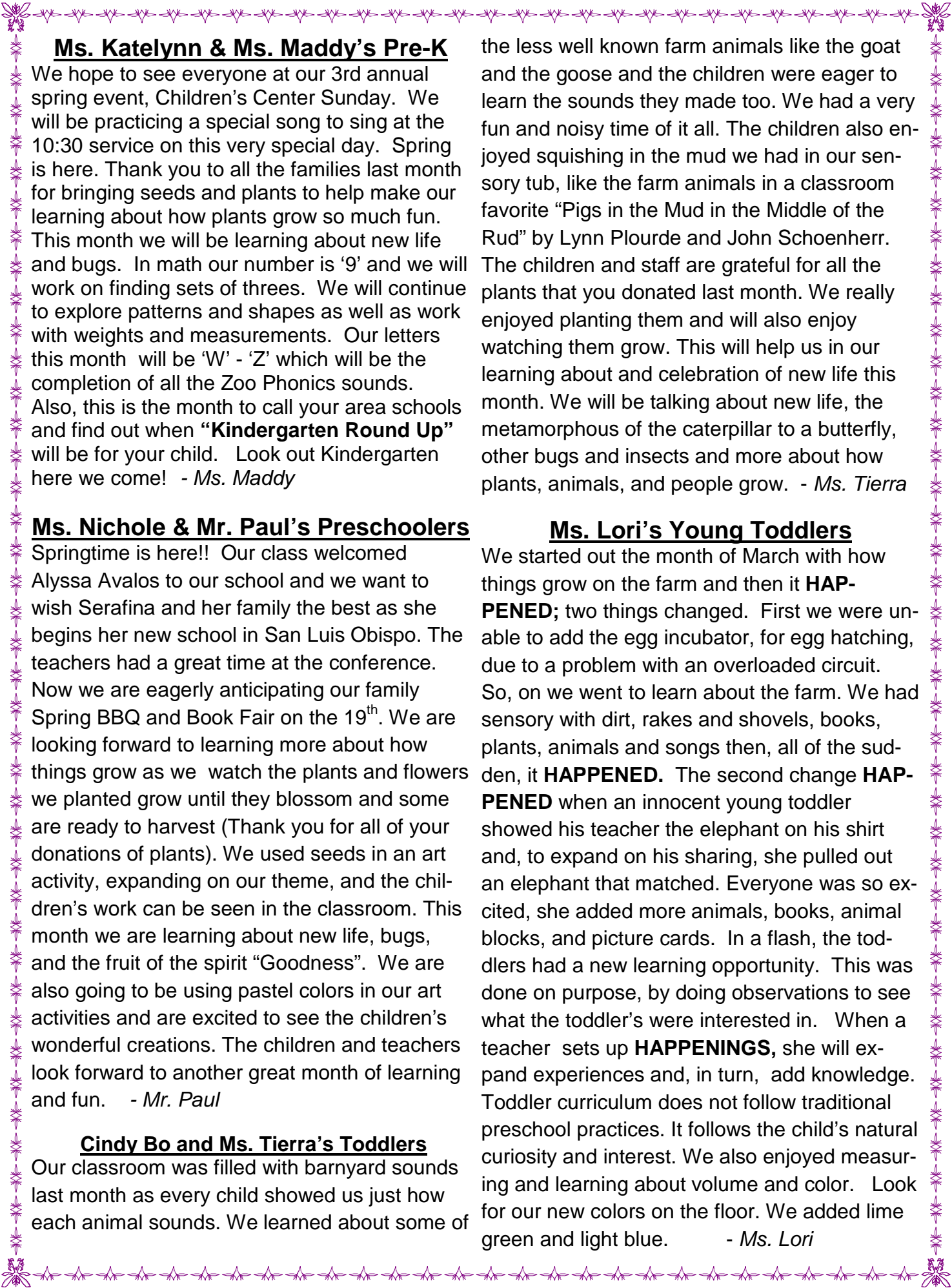
"This happened to a couple at my church. They were new and didn't know that certain people had "claimed" their seats, so they just sat down. The lady put up a huge fuss, and held it against them for the rest of their time at the church. Even if your church is into claiming seats, don't get mad at new people who don't know."

"There is one spot in my church that I absolutely love, but I'm not going to get mad if someone is in the seat, I'm just going to make sure I get there early enough to get it!"

"I know an older couple that had that happen to them on their FIRST visit to a church...TWICE before church even started!!! It also turned out to be their LAST visit!"

"Happened to us once. We were told to sit in the front of the church for our baby's dedication, so we could get to the stage quickly. But the seats there tend to be claimed by "prominent" people, mostly a clique of older ladies. One of them was so annoyed at us for taking "her" place and gave us the eyeball all through the service. We explained why we were there, and that we'd need to get up and get out of that row of seats, but she still insisted on sitting on the end seat, blocking our way out, and then making a huge fuss and nasty faces when we had to get out to go up on stage."

PLEASE NOTE: Nothing in this article is met to imply that our UMC of AG has a problem in the seating of its congregation nor have I ever witnessed or heard about any such event. My comments/opinions are based on my own experience and research of other churches available on the Internet. I can think of no better way for the prevention of rude behavior than to learn from the unfortunate mistakes of others in a church setting.



Ms. Katelynn & Ms. Maddy’s Pre-K

We hope to see everyone at our 3rd annual spring event, Children’s Center Sunday. We will be practicing a special song to sing at the 10:30 service on this very special day. Spring is here. Thank you to all the families last month for bringing seeds and plants to help make our learning about how plants grow so much fun. This month we will be learning about new life and bugs. In math our number is ‘9’ and we will work on finding sets of threes. We will continue to explore patterns and shapes as well as work with weights and measurements. Our letters this month will be ‘W’ - ‘Z’ which will be the completion of all the Zoo Phonics sounds. Also, this is the month to call your area schools and find out when “**Kindergarten Round Up**” will be for your child. Look out Kindergarten here we come! - *Ms. Maddy*

Ms. Nichole & Mr. Paul’s Preschoolers

Springtime is here!! Our class welcomed Alyssa Avalos to our school and we want to wish Serafina and her family the best as she begins her new school in San Luis Obispo. The teachers had a great time at the conference. Now we are eagerly anticipating our family Spring BBQ and Book Fair on the 19th. We are looking forward to learning more about how things grow as we watch the plants and flowers we planted grow until they blossom and some are ready to harvest (Thank you for all of your donations of plants). We used seeds in an art activity, expanding on our theme, and the children’s work can be seen in the classroom. This month we are learning about new life, bugs, and the fruit of the spirit “Goodness”. We are also going to be using pastel colors in our art activities and are excited to see the children’s wonderful creations. The children and teachers look forward to another great month of learning and fun. - *Mr. Paul*

Cindy Bo and Ms. Tierra’s Toddlers

Our classroom was filled with barnyard sounds last month as every child showed us just how each animal sounds. We learned about some of

the less well known farm animals like the goat and the goose and the children were eager to learn the sounds they made too. We had a very fun and noisy time of it all. The children also enjoyed squishing in the mud we had in our sensory tub, like the farm animals in a classroom favorite “Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud” by Lynn Plourde and John Schoenherr. The children and staff are grateful for all the plants that you donated last month. We really enjoyed planting them and will also enjoy watching them grow. This will help us in our learning about and celebration of new life this month. We will be talking about new life, the metamorphous of the caterpillar to a butterfly, other bugs and insects and more about how plants, animals, and people grow. - *Ms. Tierra*

Ms. Lori’s Young Toddlers

We started out the month of March with how things grow on the farm and then it **HAP-PENED**; two things changed. First we were unable to add the egg incubator, for egg hatching, due to a problem with an overloaded circuit. So, on we went to learn about the farm. We had sensory with dirt, rakes and shovels, books, plants, animals and songs then, all of the sudden, it **HAPPENED**. The second change **HAP-PENED** when an innocent young toddler showed his teacher the elephant on his shirt and, to expand on his sharing, she pulled out an elephant that matched. Everyone was so excited, she added more animals, books, animal blocks, and picture cards. In a flash, the toddlers had a new learning opportunity. This was done on purpose, by doing observations to see what the toddler’s were interested in. When a teacher sets up **HAPPENINGS**, she will expand experiences and, in turn, add knowledge. Toddler curriculum does not follow traditional preschool practices. It follows the child’s natural curiosity and interest. We also enjoyed measuring and learning about volume and color. Look for our new colors on the floor. We added lime green and light blue. - *Ms. Lori*



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande **April 2009**

**Family Bar-B-Que and Fun Day
at the Wiemers’ Ranch**

The celebration of our church’s 125th Anniversary continues!

On **April 26th** we will gather as a church family for a traditional Santa Maria style bar-b-que and lots of fun at the ranch of Pat and Larry Wiemers. Anyone who has ever been to the Wiemers’ Ranch knows there is a large assortment of things to do after you finish eating. There is a playground for the children, and horseshoes, ping pong, basketball, ladder ball and washer toss for anyone willing to participate. If folks want to bring cards or board games, that’s fine too. There will be plenty of comfortable places to sit and visit and enjoy the spectacular views of the valley and the ocean beyond. We’ll also have live entertainment provided by members of our congregation.

Because our hosts need to know how many to prepare for and to finalize the bus transportation, there will be response cards in the church bulletins on April 5th and 12th for you to use to make your reservation. After you have filled out the response card, please place it in the “piggy basket” in the narthex. (There is also a form in this issue of the Castanet which may be sent or dropped off at the church office.) Deadline for reservations is Sunday, April 12th. The Wiemers are hosting this event as a fund raiser for the 125th Anniversary. There is no charge for the meal, but donations are appreciated, and **all money received will go toward bills for other 125th Celebration events.**

The BBQ will be served between 12:30 and 2:00, and activities will be available all afternoon. Since parking is very limited, those driving private cars are encouraged to **CAR POOL PLEASE**. Transportation from the church parking lot to the ranch will also be provided on handicapped accessible buses but anyone is welcome to ride the bus. **Please be sure to complete the transportation portion on your reservation. We really need a head-count for the buses.** The first bus will leave the church at 12 noon and continue until 1:30. Transportation from the ranch back to the church will be provided until 4:00 p.m. Be sure to wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes to church that day and you will be ready for a memorable day with your church family at P&L Ranch!



Tear off and return this portion to church by April 12th to make your reservation.

My family and I will be at the BBQ _____
Your family’s name

of adult meals: _____ **# of children’s meals:** _____

We plan to:

- ☐ car pool
- ☐ bus from the church parking lot.

125th Anniversary Celebration Plans Progress for Camp Tabernacle Service

Plans were firmed up at the March 8th meeting of the 125th Year Celebration Committee for the up-coming joint services at the Camp Arroyo Grande Tabernacle on Sunday, May 31st. The joint service will begin at 10:45 AM and conclude with a box lunch. Arrangements are being made for parking, baby sitting, and transportation for the elderly.

It is believed that a good deal of the management of the camp was done by the Arroyo Grande Episcopal/Methodist Church in the early days. The Tabernacle was a major meeting place for church and religious groups and public speakers in the 1800's.

To hearken back to those early days it has been suggested that those who wish to do so may wear costumes of the early times to the service. This could include bonnets, long dresses, hats and boots, cowboy outfits, farmers and city folks. As many of the ranchers were of Spanish decent Spanish outfits could be included. This fun event is scheduled as part of the 125th Year Celebration. It is even rumored that we may have a special visitor attend. Watch the Sunday Bulletins and Castanet for further details as they develop.



**Miss Piggy is
getting
hungry again!**

Thank you to all who have turned in the money from their little red piggy banks to help feed *Miss Piggy*, (AKA *The Very Greedy Big Pig*) The money collected from *Miss Piggy* is being used to help finance our on-going celebration of the 125th Anniversary of our church. There are many exciting events planned throughout the year with costs involved. Please support these events by feeding *Miss Piggy*! You must see the fantastic "pig-o-meter" on the piano in Criswell Hall to see what a terrific job you are doing taking care of *Miss Piggy*. Your next opportunity to "Feed the Big Pig" will be Sunday, April 26th. Be sure to roll your coins if at all possible. Extra wrappers are available in the church narthex.



The 125th Anniversary Committee met on March 8th to continue planning for the various church celebrations. Plans were discussed for Bible Sunday on March 29th, the all church BBQ and Family Fun Day at the Wiemers on April 26th and Tabernacle Sunday on May 31. There was also discussion of various music events including the Methodist Cluster Choir Festival on May 3, Music Sunday, June 7, which will be a 'Festival of Hymns' and the possibility of an Even Song program at the old Village church that Harvest Church now occupies. The next planning meeting will be May 17th at 11:45 AM in the McMillen Room. Anyone who is interested in participating in the planning of the various activities is invited to attend.

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center

April 2009

Message from Maddy

Spring is here! April is "The Month of the Young Child." Our school has many activities planned including "Children's Center Sunday" on April 19th. The Pre-school and Pre-K children will singing a song at the 10:30 AM service, followed by our "Annual Spring BBQ" from 11:30 AM-2:30 PM. The BBQ will help raise money to purchase needed materials for the classrooms. Also, on this special day, there will be a benefit concert for **The San Luis County Band**, from 3:00-5:00 PM, in the church sanctuary. Many volunteers are needed to make this day a success. Please sign up on the "BBQ Sign Up Sheet", on the Sign In /Out table, if you can help. There will be a planning meeting on April 14th at 6:30 PM in Room 4 to work on the final details.

The Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center opened it's doors in September 2005 with 3 children and currently have 50 children enrolled. **Our summer and fall enrollment/registration takes place in April.** The deadline for our current families to register/re-enroll this year will be on Friday April 10th. After April 15th, we will begin contacting families on our waiting list to let them know if there will be space available for them in our summer and/or fall program. Toddler families account for most of our new enrollment. They are able to enroll because of space made available when the current toddlers move to our preschool class. When these children transition, there are only a few spaces left for new families to enroll in our preschool. The Pre-K class only has a few spaces for new families as well because of it's popularity. Our Pre-K program follows the Pre-K Guidelines set by the Department of Education which is designed to help children to successfully transition into Kindergarten.

It is always good to plan ahead when looking for a quality program. We pride ourselves on having an educated staff that have a love for and commitment to teach young children. Also, we work hard on creating an environment that stands for quality. **Thank you to the staff, the families, and the church and board members, for all their time and dedication in making this a great program.**

Theme for The Month

New Life and Springtime Discovery

Things that
slither, fly, crawl, and hop,



Fruit of the Spirit Focus for the Month: Goodness

"If you are wise and understand God's ways, live a life of steady **goodness** so that only good deeds will pour forth"

James 3:3



Dates to Remember

- **Friday April 3** — STAFF DEVELOPMENT
School closes at 3:30
- **Tuesday, April 7** - OPEN HOUSE WITH
SUMMER AND FALL ENROLLMENT/
REGISTRATION 6:30 -7:30 PM
- **Thursday, April 9**—SPRING POT LUCK/
SCHOOL CLOSURES AT 12:00. Sign out your
child and join us for lunch in the courtyard.
- **Friday, April 10**—SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR
GOOD FRIDAY.
- **Tuesday, April 14**—BBQ PLANNING MEET-
ING 6:30 -7:30 PM
- **Sunday, April 19** — CHILDREN'S CENTER
SUNDAY, SPRING BBQ, BOOK FAIR, AND
BENEFIT CONCERT. See flyer for details.
JUST AHEAD:
May is Parent-Teacher Conference month