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The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

Cast~A~Net

JANUARY 2010

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



I would like first to thank you for your gifts, treats, and cards during Advent and Christmas time. What a wonderful church family!

I also want to thank all of the members who have served our church faithfully over this past year. I know you have probably served in that same position for over a year, but I did not want to neglect to acknowledging your work in ministry.

The Nominating team will meet this month to prepare a slate of officers and team members for our various Committees and Umbrella teams to be present at our Charge Conference. Scheduled for January 26 at 7:30 PM in the McMillen Room (MMR), the Charge Conference will be chaired by our District Superintendent, Rev. Catie Coots. Staff-Parish Relations Committee will meet prior to this meeting, also with Rev. Coots, at 6:30 PM in the MMR.

We certainly have much to be thankful for as a church whose presence here in Arroyo Grande has held strong for one hundred and twenty five years. We sure enjoyed acknowledging this milestone in 2009. It brings us to a time to look together at 2010 and beyond.

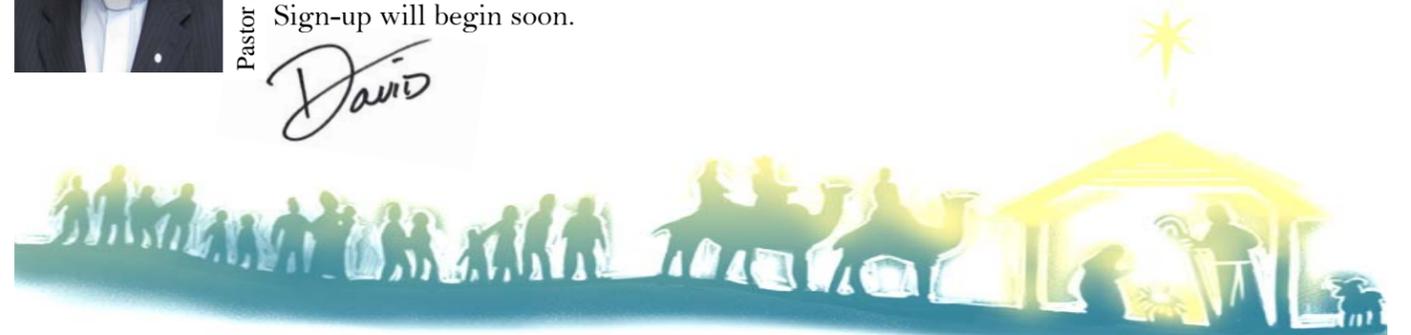
You and I know we are not getting younger (as one who celebrated his 60th in November of '09). We all say it sure would be nice to have a few more families in attendance. It is my prayer that we will not just say those words, but actually that we will together make this a reality. As your Pastor, I would like 11 people to begin thinking and praying on how we, together, might make this happen for God and His church. If this is something you would like to join me in or would like to know more about, please contact me through the church office.



Pastor David M. Burgeson

In November of 2009, I wanted to know from you what does our mission statement mean to you - "Every Member A Missionary". The answers centered around making disciples for Jesus Christ. To help us reach this goal, I will be leading a 5 week study at two different times, at 2 PM and at 6 PM, for one hour starting on Wednesday, January 13th and ending February 10th. The theme for this study will be "Discipleship". The text for our study will be *Jesus' Parables About Discipleship* written by James Moore. Sign-up will begin soon.

David



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him



Senior Pastor:
Rev. David M. Burgeson

Minister of Visitation:
Rev. J. Harold Headrick

Ministers:
Members & Friends

Office Admin./ Newsletter:
Sarah Gandy-Barber

Bookkeeper:
Victoria Gandy

Website Manager:
Jamie Foster

Chancel Choir Director:
Julie Walters

The Lord's Crew Director:
Susan Coho

Organist:
Don McGuire

Puppet People:
Mike Herber

Grande Ringers Handbell Dir.:
Leonard Lutz

Adult Ministry Director:
Sandra Sawyer

UM Youth Directors:
Mike & Linda Herber

Children's' Ministry Director:
Seeking applicant

Christian Counseling Intern:
Carol Gandy

Bishop:
Mary Ann Swenson

District Superintendent:
Rev. Cathleen Coots

AG UM Children's Center
agumcc@sbcglobal.net
(805) 481-2223

Director:
Madrigal Quagliano



The people of The United Methodist Church

In This Issue...

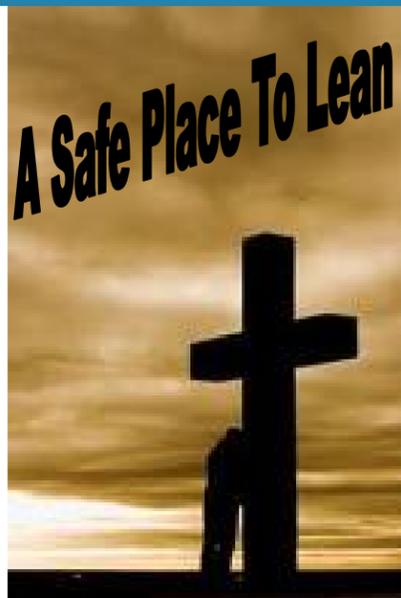
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Insert

Children's Center Chronicle

Our Team

Chair: David Beaman
Layout Editor: Sarah Barber
Proofers: Sarah Barber, David Beaman, Pastor David Burgeson & Virginia Mothes
Our Committee: Sarah Barber, David Beaman, Reverend David Burgeson, Heidi Carpentier, Virginia Mothes, Jerry Smith and Michael Thurman.
Photographer: Gary Hughes with varied monthly contributors.
Deadline: 10th of each month
 Articles must be submitted by this date for consideration.
Address Updates: Do you want to be removed from our mailing list? Need to update information? Add a friend?
Contact our church office at [805] 481-2692 or e-mail us at fumcag@sbcglobal.net



Christian Counseling Ministry at First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

Christian Counseling uses tools of the mental health profession and the truths of the Bible. It provides help, hope, and healing through the truth and power of God's word, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. With the Bible as the final standard of authority, Christian Counseling is based on God's love, and deals with life's past, present and future issues. It applies to all people and deals with all components of the human condition be they physical, social, psychological, and spiritual.

We would like to introduce you to two special people. First let's bring to light, Carol Gandy. Carol is a Marriage and Family Therapist Registered Intern. Under the supervision of Sandra Sawyer, LCSW (who we will introduce later in the newsletter), Carol will be involved in a new ministry here at UMC of AG as a means of counseling for our congregation and the community. Carol holds both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Psychology from Chapman University College and has been trained as a Christian Counselor at a local church for five years. She is a member of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, and the American Association of Christian Counselors.

Our church is committed to serving the community with short term counseling (6-10 sessions) covering a variety of needs including: Anger, Anxiety/Fears, Depression/Discouragement, Grief, Life Purpose & Transitions, Marriage/Family/Relationship Conflicts, Negative Childhood Experiences, Premarital Counseling-Prepare/Enrich Inventory, Forgiveness, Spiritual Issues.

For more information on this special ministry, please contact the church office. To schedule an appointment, call Carol Gandy directly. Her number can also be obtained through the church office.

Then you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free.
 ~Jesus



Souper Bowl Sunday



It's that time again!!

Help us in support of our local *Five Cities Christian Women's Food Bank*. Look for the large container in Criswall Hall starting this month. Bring not only cans of *soup* but any canned food or non perishable. Collections end February 7th on Super Bowl Sunday. A usual, our youth will have cans to sell should you FORGET yours.

Don't forget those cans and plastic for our recycling for camp project!

Look for the box in Criswell...see Mike and Linda or a member of our UM Youth with questions. Thank you for your prayers and continued support for our young people!

- Jim Sawyer 1/1
- Phil McKibben 1/2
- Doris Rice 1/3
- Francis Fink 1/3
- John Neel 1/4
- C. J. Cochran 1/4
- Alexander Paredes 1/4
- Karen Marshall 1/5
- Alonzo Ferrari 1/6
- Polly Monson 1/6
- Norm Henderson 1/7
- Charles Lang 1/7
- Matthew Rohla 1/9
- Jim Duffin 1/10
- Lexi Raetz 1/15
- Nancy Baughman 1/17
- Caitlin Herber 1/17
- Tracy Regusci 1/18
- Russell Ewick 1/20
- Jim Alquist 1/20
- Judy Leonard 1/22
- Madge Young 1/24
- Pat Conover 1/26
- Lynn Stewart 1/27
- Barbara Schilkoff 1/28
- Carmonde Cochran 1/28
- Mary Thronson 1/29
- Jordan Henderson 1/29
- Dr. Patrick Spalding 1/31
- Ron Montgomery 1/31

Joyeux Anniversaire



January 2010 Sermon Themes

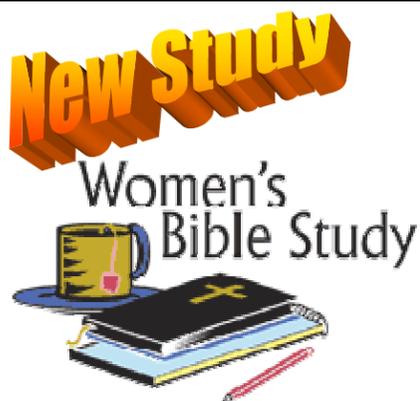
DATE	SCRIPTURE	THEME
3rd	John 1: 1—18	<i>Epiphany</i>
10th	Luke 3: 15—17; 21—22	<i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>
17th	I Corinthians 12: 1—11	<i>Our Calling and Spiritual Vocation</i>
24th	I Corinthians 12: 12—31	<i>Servanthood and Giftedness</i>
31st	I Corinthians 13: 1—13	<i>You Before I</i>



Did we miss your birthday?

Would you like to have you or a family member recognized? Let us know!

Small-Group News



Join us for a new study! Beginning Sunday, January 3rd, our ladies will begin a study on "The End Times" led in coordination between Sandra Sawyer and Kathleen Balagh. You won't want to miss it every **Sunday morning** in the **McMillen Room** at **9:45 AM** join with other ladies in their quest to seek God's will for their lives and strengthen their daily walk with Christ.

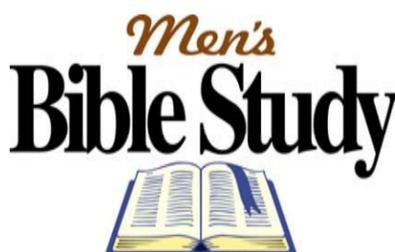


3rd Red Umbrella
10th Esther Circle
17th UMM Pancakes
24th Board of Trustees
31st Church Council

All are welcome to meet with us on **Fridays at 8:30 AM** in the library and get to know our church members in this small group setting. This is the perfect time to join us as we are starting a **new book for the season of Advent** called, *While We Wait*, by Mary Lou Redding. We look forward to having you with us!



Join our **Men's Bible Study, Mondays at 7 PM** in room 215 you can join with other men who have committed themselves to Christ and who seek spiritual leadership through Christ's word and His teachings. Join the men as they "Learn the Bible in 24 Hours" through this book by Dr. Chuck Missler.



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* if you have any questions with regard to this group of special ladies.



Do you have a prayer request?
A grateful praise?
Bring it to our Prayer Chain.

Every **Thursday at 10 AM** a group of dedicated prayer warriors, our **Intercessory Prayer Group**, meets in the Library to pray for members of our church family, and other requests mentioned on the prayer request cards, those mentioned in services each week, those written in the prayer book and called in via prayer chain. We invite any who would like to join and lift up these requests to the Lord. Contact the church office for more information.

Requests can remain anonymous.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<p>1 Campus Closed for New Year's Holiday</p> <p>2 10 AM Un-Hanging of the Green (all-church) 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal (5:30 PM s/u) (S)</p>
<p>3 Coffee Hour Red Umbrella Epiphany Sunday 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Service 11:45 AM Green Umbrella (MMR)</p>	<p>4 6:00 PM Debtors Anon 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7 PM SPRC 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR)</p>	<p>5 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 7 PM Trustees</p>	<p>6 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM EOC Senior Health Screening 1 PM Alzheimer's Care-Givers Support Group (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>7 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group 11:45 AM People's Kitchen - leave to serve 5 PM Grande Ringers</p>	<p>8 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 Coffee Hour Esther Circle Baptism of Our Lord Sunday 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>11 OFFICE CLOSED 6 PM Debtors Anon 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR)</p>	<p>12 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10:30 AM Communications Committee 5 PM Grande Ringers 6 PM MS Support Group (MMR)</p>	<p>13 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 11 AM Blue Umbrella 2:00 PM Pastor's Study (MMR) 6:00 PM Pastor's Study (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>14 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group 12 PM Esther Circle (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringer</p>	<p>15 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 1 PM Alzheimer's Care-Givers Support Group (MMR)</p>	<p>16 8:30 AM UMM Breakfast Meeting @ The Mission Inn of Pismo Beach 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal (5:30 PM /u) (S)</p>
<p>17 Coffee Hour UMM All-Church Pancake Breakfast Handbell Sunday 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>18 Church Office Closed 6 PM Debtors Anon 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR)</p>	<p>19 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 3 PM Preschool Board - closed session 4 PM Preschool Board - open session 5 PM Grande Ringers 7 PM JOY Circle</p>	<p>20 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9:30 AM Mary-Martha Circle (MMR) 2:00 PM Pastor's Study (MMR) 6:00 PM Pastor's Study (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>21 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group 2 PM Yellow Umbrella (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers</p>	<p>22 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 6 PM First Aide Certification (MMR)</p>	<p>23 8 AM—12 PM CPR and Defibulator Re-Certifications (MMR)</p>
<p>24 Coffee Hour Board of Trustees 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>25 6 PM Debtors Anon 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR)</p>	<p>26 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 6:30 PM SPRC (P/S) 7:30 PM Charge Conference (MMR)</p>	<p>27 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 2:00 PM Pastor's Study (MMR) 6:00 PM Pastor's Study (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)</p>	<p>28 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group 10 AM Intercessory Prayer Group 5 PM Grande Ringers</p>	<p>29 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>30 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal (5:30 PM s/u) (S)</p>
<p>31 Coffee Hour Church Council 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>						

- The Trustees submitted our budget for 2010 to the Finance Committee of \$46,104. Tom will request from the Finance Committee \$7,000 to be taken from the Pacific Home Fund to cover 2010 repairs. The Parsonage Fund now sits at \$134,000. The increase is small but positive.
- The Nativity scene was under the direction of Hilary Henderson and the Trustees volunteered to set it up.
- The outside doors have been stained and only 1 or 2 are left to be stained on the inside.
- The 6 large lights in the Sanctuary that are above the congregation have been removed and replaced with 120 watt fluorescent lights. The savings in the electric bill should be significant.
- Steve Shrefler has looked at scissor lifts and said they are expensive. Not too many go 40 feet, but they do exist so we are still looking into the idea. The idea of lowering the lights in the chancel area so lights can be changed has been mentioned. This too is being looked into. A new light has been installed by Steve above and in front of the pulpit and Pastor David says much better.
- Larry Wiemers asked for an update on the bus. There is one mechanical change to be done and then painted. We are looking into where to paint and at what cost. Mike Herber said he can drive it to get it painted.
- Don McGuire asked if the intercom is going to be fixed. First we have to define a need and take it from there.
- Norm has repaired the crack in the cement walkway in the patio area. We still need to address drainage on the patio.
- Children's Center is out Friday December 18 and December 19 a painting project will start. We want to paint 2 class rooms and the outside in the patio area. We wanted to do some major electrical work in classrooms but time is not on our side.
- This is Larry Wiemers last meeting on the Trustees and it was unanimously stated what a great presence he has been and will be missed.



**TRUSTEES REPORT
DECEMBER '09**

~Tom Egan, Trustees Chair



ATTENDANCE



**It's not too late to make
YOUR pledge!**

6th	178
13th	175
20th	228
27th	115
Sunday Average =	174
Christmas Eve =	~225

Monthly Goal	\$ 22,220
Received to date	\$ 27,521
Difference	+ \$ 5,301

Thank you all!!



The praise band is a team of worship leaders we call **The Lord's Crew**. This Group leads our Contemporary Worship Service Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM led by Susan Coho. The Lord's Crew meet every other Saturday of each month, unless otherwise stated.

6:30 PM REHEARSAL SCHEDULE
JANUARY DATES
2ND
16TH
30TH
HAVE A BLESSED NEW YEAR!

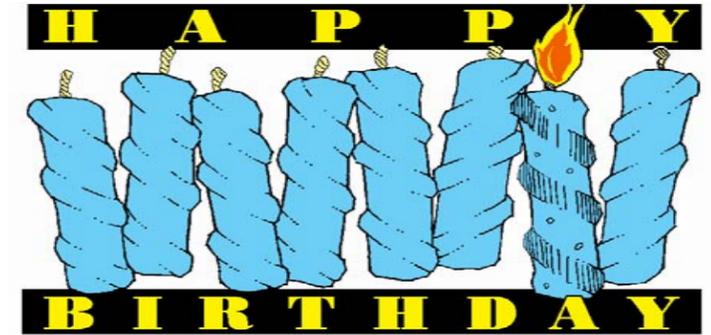


In Revelation 22:16, Jesus says: "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of _____, the bright morning star."

Choose the correct name from the list below:

- A. Isaac
- B. Jacob
- C. David
- D. Solomon

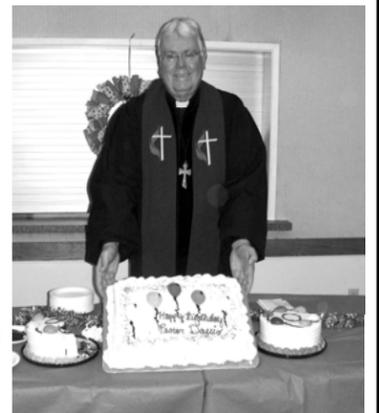
Answer: C



"...and Many More!"

You may have missed this...but, we have to share it with you!

December 2nd, during Advent Study Kick-Off Supper, Pastor David was presented with this personalized jersey from the UM Youth group. As many know by now, his 60th birthday was on November 26th. The Pastor made it very clear that at that dinner the word birthday was not to be mentioned or the birthday song sang. Luckily, we had Caitlyn Herber on the job! She made sure to get around that request...HA! We were able to make him smile and blush by singing a silly kids song (which this reporter cannot remember—nor can the Pastor) after Miss Herber talked in circles being certain not to mention the words birthday and cake. Well done Caitlyn!!!



What a blast and a blessing! Many thanks to the Herbers and the youth group for the special gift. Also a special word of thanks to the Green Umbrella for their work on that delicious dinner.

It was the previous Sunday, November 29th, that the congregation presented Pastor David with a cake and treats to honor this occasion. Yes, Happy Birthday was sung! Sorry Pastor, you can't escape it every time!



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ARROYO GRANDE

Is Hosting First Aid, CPR and Defibulator Renewal Training



Friday Evening and Saturday Morning Renewal Training
Certified Instructor: Karl Blum
 for American Safety Health Institute

Training will be held in the McMillen Room at the First United Methodist Church 275 N. Halcyon Rd. Arroyo Grande

Date for First Aid Renewal Training

Friday, January 22, 2009

Evening 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Date for CPR and Defibulator Renewal Training

Saturday, January 23, 2009

Morning 8:30 AM — 12:00 PM

For More Information contact:

Maddy Quaglino at 481-2223 or Sarah Barber 481-2692



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande Cut and Return with Payment

First Aid, CPR, and Defibulator Training Registration Form

Dead Line to Register: January 15, 2010

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Sign up for: Price

First Aid Renewal 35.00

CPR and Defibulator Renewal 35.00

Method of Payment Cash Check **Payable to: FUMC** **Total:** _____

by Michael Thurman

...After Rain

(or 'You're Gonna Be Amazed') My Interview with Sandra Sawyer



Last month, I scheduled time for an interview with Sandra Sawyer at our church. Our communications didn't work out and therefore we rescheduled. She appeared exactly on time, meeting me on a Tuesday in the Library. There was quiet a bit of rain water dripping from the gutter in front of the door. Before I could warn her, she charged inside but a gush of water let loose and she was 'immersed'. Oh well, this didn't phase her and we proceeded with a delightful conversation (AFTER RAIN), which I hope you enjoy.

I'll preface my story by saying that Sandra is motivated for 'God's work'. She recently was appointed as Director of Adult Education and has been teaching our Women's Bible Study on Sunday mornings.

The rain had scooted away (we could tell by the fewer 'plop-plop' sounds at the Library door.) I got an excited staccato of Sandra's experience during and after college:

1. She was chosen as a professional intern in guidance counseling at MCRD/San Diego;
2. She participated in special training with Family Service Organization;
3. An additional Internship was awarded to this young scholar (as Medical Social Worker of Mercy Hospital in San Diego);
4. She completed all of her requirements and earned a Master of Arts degree from SDSU in 1985.

In between college and community service work, Sandra married her husband Jim in 1966, raised two daughters and was awarded a state license in 1986, the LCSW from California Department of Social Services. Oh yes, she was blessed with two grand-daughters from the family "off-spring" Christy and Sharilyn.

Now, a brief summary of Sandra's experience, training and family background. A "city-born" girl from Philadelphia, Sandra grew up nurtured, and wending her way through high-school. She majored in business courses and excelled in girls athletics. There was a secretary's job which beckoned and her father urged her to accept. Sandra filled some pretty big shoes at a large insurance company across from Independence Hall.

But quite suddenly, the family moved to Southern California on her father's transfer with AT&T. It was to Tustin they relocated and Sandra enrolled at a junior college in Santa Ana. She then entered the world of higher learning placing her emphasis on the field of Psychology and guidance/personal leadership. She discovered her "Life's Calling" as she puts it, from one of her Psychology instructors; namely a Christ-centered, licensed professional counselor.

With scarcely a miscue among junior college allurements and curriculum, Sandra earned an AA degree and focused her energy and zeal toward the opportunities at San Diego State University graduating with a BA degree in Psychology.

Knowing that we were looking at the "hour-glass" running low for my assignment, I asked the following question: "How did you end up at First United Methodist Church?"

Sandra smoothly transitioned to her spiritual-identity with Calvary Chapel in Arroyo Grande. She attended this worship-center; she was immediately attracted to Pastor Steve and Susan Carr; and listen to her enthusiasm regarding a new friend; I met Susan Coho at Calvary Chapel and I felt we were spiritual sisters—on the main line to heaven."

Continued, **RAIN**, page11

★ EXTRA! EXTRA! ★

Men's News

UNITED METHODIST
MEN

An exciting program schedule was the main topic of the United Methodist Men at their monthly breakfast meeting on December 12. In addition to Jean Hubbard's history program on January 16, watch for a sweetheart's breakfast on February 13, a program on climatology by John Lindsey of PG&E on March 20, a golf tournament and more during the spring. Donations of \$300 to the Five Cities Christian Women and \$200 to the Five Cities Homeless Coalition were also approved at the December meeting.

UMM meetings are held at 8:30 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month for a breakfast cost of \$13 at the Mission Inn, 601 James Way, Pismo Beach, unless otherwise announced. Also plan to enjoy delicious church breakfasts of pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs and beverage prepared by UMM on the Sundays of January 17, March 21 and May 16 and served for a price of only \$4 for adults and \$1 for children 12 and under from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in Criswell Hall.

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

Our UMM generally meet on the third Saturday of each month at the **Mission Inn of Pismo Beach at 8:30 AM** for prayer, breakfast, and discussion of various topics pertinent to our community and the world. Check your bulletins or monthly newsletter for scheduled events and/or changes.

Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year

Thank You!



A big "THANK YOU" to all who have helped with the Peoples' Kitchen responsibilities these last two years. All your time preparing casseroles, buttering bread, cutting cakes, dishing up casseroles and salads and smiling at those less fortunate that have come to participate in the meals is much appreciated. I know you will keep up the good work as Chuck and Betty Ashton now take over the responsibilities for our church's involvement in Peoples' Kitchen.

God Bless, *Patti Melsheimer*

WE CAN, Continued from page 10

2. Creating New Places for New People and Renewing Existing Congregations

Leveraging and complimenting the influx of dynamic leadership is the aim of this focus area, ultimately starting new faith communities and renewing existing ones. Energized congregations recapture the Wesleyan spirit. With more than 180 million un-churched people in the United States, making it the third largest mission field in the English speaking world and the fifth-largest globally, partners across the church aim to evangelize the United States. Through this focus area, we will:

*Recruit and provide resources for new church planters to start churches in partnership with annual conferences in the United States; * develop new churches and faith communities in Africa, Latin America and Europe; * ensure new church planters and congregations succeed; train and equip lay and clergy leaders with exceptional online library of best-practice resources on how to plant and grow vital congregations; * provide congregations engaged in revitalization efforts with essential evangelism, stewardship and worship resources; * reach millions of people through a media-awareness campaign.*

SOURCE: UMC Handbook – Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World (2009)

To be continued in next months 2010 Cast-A-Net Publication.

Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year

RAIN, continued from page 5

Still living in Southern California in the 70's and 80's, Sandra branched out from the office-client work, teaching Counseling 101 at a small seminary in Escondido, yet remaining close to the "private-practice" of LCSW. The family criss-crossed to Lexington, Kentucky for an announced retirement within 3 years. Mrs. Sawyer now heard the Lord's call—and it was definitely a call. She affiliated herself with Vista del Mar, a psychiatric Hospital here on the Central Coast, the family's new home.

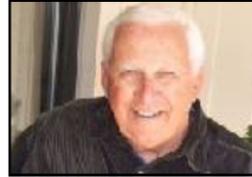
The rest of our interview, dealt with supervision and hands-on leadership which Sandra has demonstrated working here at the church and on the Central Coast. An interesting corollary to the guidance and counseling work came in 1997; "New Life Clinic" arranged with and hired this dynamic, Christ centered councilor to supervise the operation of a SLO ~ office (a BIG, important responsibility, I'm told).

Now because I am running over my word limit, allow me to acquaint our congregation with Mrs. Sawyer's hobbies, talents, ministry projects;

1. She is a quilting –lady, but now her emphasis is on knitting (hats and scarves for women and children) where all the donated garments go to Russia;
2. An avid key-board enthusiast, Sandra plays at home, self taught. Her audience includes husband Jim and daughter Christy and the family's 2 cats.
3. She loves teaching, leading and offering guidance. This encompasses young and old alike.

Obviously we at UMC of AG are recipients of the gifts and friendship of this beautiful disciple. God bless and keep you, Sandra Sawyer, as we journey on this life-path.

Join me in welcoming Sandra Sawyer to our church family.



Together We Can!

compiled by Jerry Smith

Last month's article previewed: "**Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of Jesus Christ.**" I touched on the **FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS:**

Providing a basic overview of what the denomination's key ministries affirmed and adopted at the 2008 General Conference. I plan to be more specific this time around.

I quoted the important words of Bishop Gregory V Palmer, President, and Council of Bishops as he explained our church taking bold steps in aligning together our efforts to embark on a mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and to do so in a very robust way. By understanding and using the four areas of focus in our daily lives that will improve the possibilities of making our mission a successful endeavor for the First United Methodist Church through its global connection.

"Matthew tells us in the Bible: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."* (Matthew 28:19-20a, NRSV)

I believe it worthy to share excerpts from an address by Bishop Mary Ann Swenson at the 2008 General Conference and I quote: "The idea that more is better has become toxic—a turbulent, muddy river polluting our ability to see the abundance God has already given. God's life-giving love and grace overflow and pour into a thirsty world in need of spiritual transformation. However, too often we live as if we had one small cup to receive God's gift. When used faithfully, the cup becomes Christ's vessel for mission and ministry. When it's empty, its purpose is to be filled; when it is filled, its purpose is to be emptied. It receives only so it can pour out."

"As people of faith, we have received a very precious cup. It is the cup, the vessel of the church, and the body of Christ. We not only lift the cup. We are the cup. Our purpose is to have God's life-giving abundance flow through us, pouring out into the world, running over the four corners of the world, transforming the world. We do this when we move beyond the myth of scarcity to the reality of God's abundance. God has poured out everything needed for ministry in this time, in the place and for all the people of God. Let us be the cup overflowing in a thirsty world."

Our Giving Opportunities

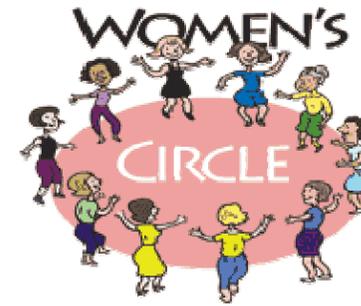
"This is a large work I've called you into, but don't be overwhelmed by it. It's best to start small. Give a cool cup of water to someone who is thirsty, for instance. The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice. You won't lose out on a thing." (Matthew 10:41b-42, the Message)

FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS

"Feed my lambs" (John 21:15c, NRSV)

1. Developing Principled Christian Leaders for the Church and the World

The denomination in the United States faces a crisis in clergy and lay leadership. Our leadership must expand and grow with the demands and expectations of the world. The church must recruit young people for ministry and provide them with the skills necessary to be effective in this new time of opportunity. That includes women and people of color the world over. Similarly, we must offer leadership training for lay people who are in ministry in countless ways. "*Tend my sheep.*" (John 21:16c, NRSV)



- **Esther Circle** January 14th
- **JOY Circle** January 19th
- **Mary Martha** January 20th

Esther Circle meets each month on the 2nd Thursday at **noon** in the **McMillen Room** of our church, continuing their current study on the Native American people.

JOY Circle meets at **7 PM** at a **member's home** on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. They continue a study of Trevor Hudson's book, Questions God Asks Us.

Mary-Martha Circle meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM.



Ladies Get Rowdy at Circle Party!

Our Circles had their Christmas parties with tasty treats and festive fellowship.

Esther Circle had a little extra fun, however. Their White Elephant Gift Exchange got a little nutty (and it wasn't the candy). Some of the ladies who shall remain nameless, but are pictured above, thought of inventive ways to hide gifts they wanted to keep. Yes, that one sweet and *gentile* lady hiding her loot. These ladies can party with the best! **You can join in! See the above dates and times, come on by!**

NEWS & Notes



United Methodist Women

While some organizations start and end their twelve month cycle of meetings in months other than January through December, the United Methodist Women finalize their year in December. Circle groups have their annual Christmas parties, accumulated funds are distributed as prescribed by annual

budget, Circle studies topics are picked for the coming year, directories are updated and reprinted, new officers elected and the 'year' starts all over again. How quickly those years seem to come and go.

The UMW Steering Committee, our church UMW coordinators, has met and the 2009 funds are as follows:

Each Circle group has collected a "sunshine" offerings throughout the year and will distribute those funds. Esther Circle has taken 2 gift cards from the Giving Tree in Criswell Hall for the purchase of a gift for a Foster child. The remaining funds will be donated to the Five Cities Christian Women's Food Bank, People's Kitchen. Mary-Martha has also donated \$100 to the Food Bank.

Virginia Mothes will continue as the UMW chair for another year. Her secretary will be Carleen Minckler with Kathleen Ballagh as treasurer and Susan Potts as the Devotional Leader.

Each Circle will now elect new officers at their meetings.

This year we also have two of our members serving on the Santa Barbara District UMW Board. They are Sally Weitkamp as Vice-President and Virginia Mothes as Secretary. The District Board will hold officer's training workshops on Saturday January 23rd, at the UMC of San Luis Obispo. All of the local church UMW groups are invited to attend. Leaders are encouraged to attend this workshop for orientation.

We, as members of this organization, feel blessed to have been a part of this group and look forward to the coming 2010 year with the blessings and challenges that lie ahead.

For more information on the meeting times of each Circle group, or for any general information, please contact the UMC of AG UMW president Virginia Mothes or our church office.



*Gloria
in excelsis
Deo*