



A Semi-Monthly Newsletter of the United Methodist Church of Vista

We are called to be an authentic and accessible
community of God's love.

March communion offering goes to “and Two Fishes”

The March 7 communion offering will help “and Two Fishes” serve the Thursday soup kitchen meals at All Saints Episcopal Church in Vista. Our church is the core support of this ministry both in manpower and finances. Each week between 90 and 100 persons are fed a well-balanced meal with a lunch to take home. Our offering will go toward buying food and paper goods. We have a wonderful group of volunteers; the atmosphere is warm and friendly. Louise Foster is part of the first shift of volunteers that come about one o'clock to help prepare the meal and pack lunches. By 4:45 pm the second shift arrives ready to finish last minute food preparation, to serve, wash dishes and clean up the kitchen and the hall. Bonnie Berumen, Larry Averell, Jean Cole, Nancy Montgomery and Michael, Elese and Katie Newman are part of the second crew. This is one way you can serve the world by spending a portion of your day helping others. Talk with one of our volunteers or just show up at All Saints Episcopal Church on Thursday afternoon about 1:00 pm or at 4:45 pm. The meal is served at 5:30 pm.

Inquirers and membership gathering

Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship of shared worship and learning. We will learn about the nature of God, the wonders of Christianity and the history and beliefs of Methodists. Also you will learn about the United Methodist Church of Vista and get acquainted with some of our members.

You can attend either three Sunday sessions from 3:00 to 4:30 pm (March 7, 14, and 21) or one session on Saturday, March 27 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. You may join at the service of your choice (8:45 or 10:30) on Sunday, March 28.

It is important that you attend either all three Sunday sessions or the Saturday session. If at all possible, please let the church know that you will attend by calling the office at 760.726.0442 or calling Sue Goode (760.726.2160). We need to know if you plan to bring your children so we can plan activities for them.

Cookies for Kairos Prison Ministry

Who doesn't love cookies? Cookies have been an integral part of the Kairos Prison Ministry weekends for the 15 years of our existence at the R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility. There is no substitute for homemade cookies for bringing men into the weekend.

Your response to our appeal for cookies has been incredible! At the last several weekends, generous donations of cookies came in by the thousands. The candidates were blessed by your overwhelming show of love. Your cookies helped open men to the gospel message. These men who have very little and who have been cast aside by society and, in many cases, by friends and family, experience the agape love of Jesus. All because someone cared enough to offer of themselves and bake them cookies.

We are again asking for your continued support. The upcoming Kairos dates are March 18-21. Please bake several dozen (or more) cookies for Kairos. Our goal is 3,500 dozen cookies per prison yard where we will be ministering. Please package the cookies in clear, zip-lock freezer bags (so they may be inspected at the prison). Package no more than two dozen per bag. Freeze these cookies and bring them to the church on either Sunday, March 7 or March 14. Rev. Don Diegelman will pick up the cookies, keep them in a freezer and deliver them to the prison drop off point on March 15.

Every participant in this “cookie ministry” will be blessed. The King will answer, “Truly I say to you: whenever you did this to these little ones who are my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.” (Matt. 25:40).

-Jim Bechtold, Chairman, R.J. Donovan Advisory Council

The Flame

Grace Notes -Rev. George Hooper

When I was a child, my father worked as a mechanical engineer at the Naval Shipyard in Long Beach. On occasion he would bring home his coveralls, which smelled of oil and dead fish. Yes, this is a vivid memory. At other times he would bring home jokes - most of which were equally smelly - which had been photocopied and passed on multiple times. Sometimes you could only barely make out the print, since all the smudges and stray marks got larger with each generation of copy.

Today we have the internet, and when we copy and forward a joke or essay to a friend, the text doesn't degrade (although all too often the subjects are degrading). Still, stray marks and often comments are added as the piece is passed. As such it is difficult to know what the original looked like, or even if the piece was written by the person to whom it is attributed.

So is it with an email I received some time ago. It is entitled "Garrison Keillor on Methodists" and purports to have been adapted from a larger essay by that humorist. I haven't been able to verify if he penned any such essay, but much of it is similar to his writing style. I would guess that other parts have been added by later editors. (Gee, this sounds like I am back in seminary, discussing theories on how the Bible came to be!)

One section of the piece speaks of how the people called "Methodist" like to sing:

"Many Methodists are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony, a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Methodists to sing in harmony. We are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other."

Whatever the genesis of this writing, the author has a good handle on the singing Methodists I have known. It has gained special meaning for me as I hold my children close to my chest while I sing hymns. In my family and in Jesus' church, we love to sing. Singing together unites us and allows us to unabashedly give our praise to God.

Join us Sunday as we sing out our praise to God!

Grace and Peace,
George

Church programming, March 6

We need you! All persons interested in the direction and programs of our Church Family are gathering on Saturday, March 6 at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall in order to vision, schedule and coordinate our church calendar.

Do you have an idea for a new program or class? Do you want to be involved in the planning of Vacation Bible School, Summer Music Programs, Fellowship Dinners? Join us on March 6th! All Committee Chairs and Lay Leaders are encouraged to attend this meeting. See you there!

Viva Ecuador!

What do you know about Ecuador? Did you know that the Panama hat is really an Ecuadorian creation? Mark your calendar for the Friday Night Fellowship on March 12th at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall to learn many wonderful things about this hidden treasure of South America. We have a guest speaker, Lisseth Vega, an Ecuadorian student at Cal State San Marcos and friend of Norm and Luene Corwin. We will have a sampling of authentic Andes Ecuadorian foods as well as our usual "alphabet potluck". Be watching the Sunday bulletins for more details. Note: We are now offering transportation to those who do not drive after dark. Call the Church Office or Peggy Watson, 760-727-9317, so we may coordinate transportation with you.

Lent and Easter Bible Study: Luke and Acts with Pastor George Hooper

Thursdays, now to May 27, 7 pm in Room 204

"Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, ...I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent 'friend of God.'" (Luke 1:1,3, NRSV adapted). The Gospel of Luke and its sequel, the Acts of the Apostles, were written to make sense of the stories of Jesus and His followers. Luke chose to tell these stories in a particular order and perspective, to make them accessible to those who would follow. Come, join us as we explore Luke's account of the life of Jesus and the birth of His church.

Flame Editors

Lenore Averell and Barbara Mitchell

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Next deadline is Friday, March 5, 2010

Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

The Flame (semi-monthly newsletter)

United Methodist Church of Vista

490 S. Melrose Drive

Vista, CA 92081

The Choir—behind the scenes

There are over 50 voices in the choir of various training or with none at all. During rehearsals and on Sunday mornings, we are jam-packed in a choir room that was meant for fewer people. We have three closets full of robes and slots for our music, and all choir members are assigned numbers for their robes to match their music for identification purposes. When members need to go in and out of the closets, you can imagine with over 50 people, there are bottlenecks everywhere! No matter, there is always room for more!

Singing in the choir is like playing on a team with a coach. If we don't play as a team, we do not produce winning sounds. A team is nothing without a coach, and our team would be nothing without the greatest coach of all, Reverend Frank Hallock!

He is a leader who knows the capabilities of each member of his team. His hearing is so tuned, that he knows which section in the choir, sometimes even which person, is off! There are times when we spend a half hour rehearsing one page. He knows that the slightest difference in sound can make a huge difference.

Just singing notes correctly is only a small part of it. Each anthem has an emotion and passion of its own. Pastor Frank takes time during rehearsals to talk to us about why the heart is just as important as the voice in producing the sounds that you hear.

Before we sing an anthem on Sunday mornings, he makes gestures to the choir, such as pointing to his head and his heart, much like a coach sending signals to his team.

Yes, we are a committed hard-working choir, but we are honored to sing for the congregation, but mostly to the Glory of God!

The coach says no need to try out for his team. Just bring your heart!

-Diane Jepsen

Heartfelt Thanks

The prayerful support of fellow Christians and good friends is a marvelous thing when you are seriously ill. Surely this the action of the Holy Spirit!

My thanks to all for the prayers and cards and calls which helped me through my recent surgery.

-Norm Corwin

from the Editors...

Just an FYI to all! We very much appreciate your contributions to the Flame and we certainly hope they will continue. We do our very best to put your article in as you send it, however, we do retain and reserve the right to edit for brevity and or clarity. Sorry—we won't always have time to check with you for every change. Thanks for your understanding.

Congregational Care notes

Is your UMC Vista name badge lost or broken? Congregational Care is offering you the opportunity to replace your name badge with a new one which will be magnetized. See Greg Kim between services to order your new name badge now! He will be in the narthex to take your orders starting February 28 and again on March 7. We hope that everyone will be identified by Easter so that we can greet our brothers and sisters in Christ by name. The cost of replacement badges is \$8.00. That includes the blanks, the magnets, and the engraving.

Youth Group News

- Confirmation class meets on Sundays from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in Room 204 and Fellowship Hall
- UMFY meets on Wednesdays from 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- Learn about Chrysalis on Feb. 27 with other youth!
- District dance at San Carlos UMC on March 6.

Did you know?

- Marie Mounts has traveled to 32 countries since becoming a senior citizen?
- the Confirmation class served dinner at the San Marcos UMC hosting the Interfaith Shelter on February 16? Also, the youth group (mostly parents) helped out at Operation Hope on February 20.

The Church in Connection— from the Persons, missionaries to the Congo

We want to ask you to pray for us as we travel back to the Congo in February. It is a little later than we had planned. Towards the middle of January a neighbor gave us a large amount of computer equipment for our CISCO academy at Mulungwishi. We thank the Lord for His provision. So we went to work packing it and sending part of it to a container leaving soon. The rest we will be taking with us. We also thank the Lord for Lakeridge UMC in Lubbock, TX for their generous gift to help us with the shipping. As soon as we get back, we will be involved with the Masters of Leadership program. Be in prayer for this training session. Two of the visiting professors are heads of institutions in Central African Republic and Burundi. It will be good to have them with us and to share together with our staff common challenges that we face. We also want to praise the Lord for so many of you who responded to the need for the children's education. Money has come in beyond our imagination. All the children signed up will get their education this year, including the three little girls who knelt in our front yard. We thank you for being such a real part in this partnership with the Lord. It can only be done through His grace. So again, we ask you to continue to labor with us in prayer.

Note: We support the Persons through our offerings and apportionments.

Thank you...

Dear UMC Vista:

On behalf of Community Housing Works and its residents, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your contribution to our Holiday Assistance Program. We recognize that such participation takes a lot of your time and energy, and we appreciate all the kind and generous efforts you made in providing for an abundant holiday for a very needy family.

With your help, our sponsors gave over 185 families the experiences of a much brighter holiday season. Your gift of both food and toys helped to create a sense of community caring that otherwise would not have been a reality for many families.

Sue Reynolds, President and CEO

What follows are just three of the actual cards received from grateful families.

I'm really grateful to you for giving us a glimmer of joy and happiness. We ask God to overwhelm you with blessing and happiness. Many, many thanks!

The Ponce family

To all those who gave at UMC of Vista. Thank you so much for blessing us this Christmas. We appreciate all you've done for us. And making our Christmas merry.

Sincerely,
Heidi, Moriah and
Matthew Kleis

Thank you so much for the gifts and gift cards you gave our family. We really appreciate everything you did for us.

Diana Maldonado and kids

Happy "March" Birthdays

David Hendron (3)
Elizabeth O'Toole (6)
Ruth Rockwell (6)
Geneva Christensen (9)
Thomas Bakalar (10)
Marsha Cagle (10)
Trent Hamlin (10)
Evelyn Wyant (10)
Lenore Averell (12)
Diane Biggs (12)
Erin Fraser (12)
Lowanda Thon (12)
Greg Kim (13)
Rollin Grider (16)
Robert Leclair (17)
Benjamin Hooper (21)
Olive May Harris (22)
Curt Phillips (22)
Lance Bodnar (23)
Gerry Duerre (23)
Madelyn Knight (24)
Margene Haase (25)
Seana Wheatley (25)
Don Wirth (25)
Glen Seltzer (26)
Marie Boynton (27)
Ed Christensen (27)
Martha Lindsey (28)
Dottie Nelson (29)
Dick Roos (29)
Beverly Wright (29)
Noel Sheahan (30)
Sue Downey (31)

United Methodist Women Corner

At the recent UMW meeting, Beverly Johnston announced the results of our Unit's 2009 United Methodist Women's District reading program. Certificates were given to:

- Plan 1 (four books minimum - 41 books read): Colleen Duerre, JaDene Dugas, Mary Ann Puterbaugh, Nancy Swenson, Margie Thomson and Tommy Thomson;
- Plan 2 (10 books minimum - 58 books read): Lorraine Bradshaw, Geneva Christensen, Jacque Howard, Alline Piercy and Eleanor Rich;
- Plan 3 (15 books minimum - 31 books read): Lenore Averell and Jerry Cox;
- Plan 4 (20 books minimum - 144 books read): Betty Beck, Beverly Johnston, Rosalyn Kim and Ko Kim;
- No Plan (did not read number of books required in any plan or category but read several books): 28 readers, 57 books.

Our Unit had 45 readers and 331 books were read - the most books read in the San Diego District.

Anyone (men, women and children) can participate in the reading program. You don't have to be a member of UMW. There are a variety of books available in four categories. Just find a book on the UMW shelves in the library, check it out and enjoy!

Pray together for...

Colin Winner, Jane Fischer, Dee Bruszewski, Russ and Lois Townsend, Glen Seltzer (Hospice), Josephine Magdich (Hospice), Dolly Trout, Lee Baldrige, Roger Marshall, Ardis Taylor, Helen Brown, Alice Leclair, Jim Rucker, Billie Carter

The following who are in the military are a part of our church family—Cody Murray, Greg Bergman, Jon Hendron, Bryan Dhondt, Joe Caruso, John Goff, Jerry Jackson, Amanda Jarrard, Manuel Tivar, Gregory Cole

Thought for the Month

When you want to test the depths of a stream, don't use both feet..." (Chinese Proverb)

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Sunday School 9:00 am
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